



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 25, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

Area sees record heat, governor stands up Drought Task Force

By Clayton Chaney and Randi Pierce
Staff Writers

Record high temperatures are expected to be set this week in Pagosa Country, following a record high set on Saturday, March 14, at 64 degrees.

According to a forecast posted by Shawn Prochazka with Pagosa Weather, the previous record high for that date was 62 degrees, set in 1995.

Prochazka is also predicting more record high temperatures to have been set Wednesday, March 18 (the high temperature reached was not available by press time that day); today, Thursday, March 19; and tomorrow, Friday, March 20.

Prochazka predicted temperatures being 25 degrees above normal.

Prochazka also notes that the record high for the month of March is 73 degrees, which was set March 19, 1907, and March 23 and 25, 1940.

Warm and dry weather is expected to stick around throughout the weekend and into next week, with Prochazka indicating the next chance for precipitation possibly starting around March 25.

“I still don’t see any good soakings on the horizon, but any moisture is better than none,” Prochazka wrote.

According to the National Weather Service

■ See Heat A8



Crews work on removing the old roadway surface at Lewis Street and U.S. 160 on Wednesday, March 18. The underground utility work at the intersection will include demolition and replacement of the geothermal, water and sewer lines before the intersection is built back with ADA-accessible curb and gutter and concrete paving.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Colorado State Patrol asks for help with hit-and-run

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) is asking the public for assistance with a serious injury hit-and-run crash involving a pedestrian on Wednesday, March 4, near Pagosa Springs.

According to a March 16 press release, “On

■ See CSP A6

Search for missing New Mexico man extends to Pagosa Springs

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The search for 68-year-old William “Neil” McCasland, missing out of Albuquerque, N.M., since Feb. 27, has extended to the Pagosa Springs area, according to Sheriff John Allen of the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) in New Mexico.

■ See Search A8



McCasland

Commissioners adopt wildfire code, table decision on other building codes

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on March 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously voted to table its decision on adopting eight new building-related codes.

Those are the 2024 editions of international codes, including the residential code, building code, energy and conservation code, mechanical code, fuel and gas code, existing building code, property maintenance code, and the swimming pool and spa code.

During the meeting, the BoCC also considered, and unanimously approved, Resolution 2026-27, adopting the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (CWRC), along with amendments to snow load requirements for manufactured structures.

Earlier that day during the BoCC’s work session, the commissioners offered comments on the matters while also raising questions about what building codes are being required by the state, timelines and how the codes will affect construction within the county.

When reviewing the BoCC’s meeting agenda, Commissioner Veronica Medina brought up questions about the swimming pool and spa code, as

well as questions in regard to the roof snow load amendments.

Medina explained that when the codes were originally presented to the BoCC during its work session on March 10, “for me, personally, I didn’t know that we were also going to be talking about, or potentially adopting the international swimming pool and spa code.”

Medina also questioned what the snow load amendments include.

“Those items were not discussed with us previously,” Medina added.

For more information on the March 10 BoCC work session discussion, see the article titled “Commissioners to consider new building code on March 17,” in the March 12 issue of The SUN or at www.PagosaSUN.com.

During the March 17 work session, Commissioner John Ranson explained that he reached out to Mesa County in regard to the new building codes and the CWRC the state is pushing counties to adopt.

Ranson described them as an “unfunded mandate,” adding, “there’s no two-ways about it.”

He mentioned that in conversations with local builders, many are preparing for these codes to make construction costs go up.

Ranson also mentioned that some advice he got from the community

■ See Codes A9



Repair work on a portion of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District’s wastewater system began Monday, March 16, near McCabe Creek in downtown Pagosa Springs. The map shows the area the project is focusing on.



Photo, map courtesy Town of Pagosa Springs

Town decides not to declare sewer emergency

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 17, the Pagosa Springs Town Council, which also sits as the board of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation and General

Improvement District (PSSGID), decided to move forward with a new messaging and communications strategy instead of seeking an emergency declaration.

On March 3, the council had given town staff the direction to

explore what declaring an emergency for the town’s sewer system would look like.

However, Town Manager David Harris explained at the March 17 meeting that “the immediate situation is stabilized,” after staff in-

stalled temporary bypass pumps, making pump stations #1 and #2 operational again.

But, he warned, “We still have significant work ahead.”

An agenda brief on the matter

■ See Sewer A6

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Water districts reach framework to settle lawsuit

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At March 16 meetings, the boards of directors for the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) both approved a framework for the resolution of the ongoing litigation between the districts concerning the Running Iron Ranch.

The litigation, initiated by PAWSD, focuses on whether or not PAWSD has the right to sell the Running Iron Ranch, which is jointly owned by the two districts and where the SJWCD plans to build a reservoir, over the

objections of the SJWCD.

The approval of settlement terms followed a mediation session on March 13 between the SJWCD board and its legal counsel, and PAWSD board members Glenn Walsh and Alex Boehmer, accompanied by PAWSD staff and legal counsel.

The mediation was facilitated by Gene Dackonish of the firm Dackonish and Blake, located in Grand Junction.

At the PAWSD meeting, following an executive session, Boehmer read a statement explaining that the boards agreed on an outline of terms during the mediation session and that the PAWSD board discussed these terms

during its executive session.

He noted that these terms are not final and are subject to approval by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which is a party to the management agreement for the ranch the dispute focuses on.

Boehmer added that, due to the terms not being final, the boards agreed to not disclose them at this time.

“We’re looking forward to cooperating between all the entities to reach a final settlement, at which point the terms will be outlined and then agreed upon after being discussed at an open meeting,” he said.

The board then unanimously

voted to approve the framework.

At the SJWCD meeting, the board also entered executive session to discuss the potential framework.

After exiting the session, SJWCD board president Candace Jones outlined that the boards met for mediation and were able to reach agreement on a framework for ending the litigation.

She stated that the framework is a “step forward” and would lead to a final resolution of the lawsuit if implemented successfully.

Jones stated that the SJWCD would consider a motion to proceed with negotiations along the lines of

■ See Lawsuit A6

Opinion

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HOT MINERAL SPRINGS"



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Date	High	Low	Precipitation	
			Moisture Type	Depth
3/10	59	24	0.00	NA
3/11	63	25	0.00	NA
3/12	62	20	0.00	NA
3/13	63	23	0.00	NA
3/14	64	24	0.00	NA
3/15	55	26	0.00	NA
3/16	58	20	0.00	NA

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OUR VIEW

It's time to get those patient pants back out

In the event you put them away over the winter, it's clearly time to get out our patient pants (or shorts, given this week's temperatures).

Spring is hitting with a bang — we're experiencing record temperatures and low snowpack, prescribed burns are planned for the area, the second full season of the U.S. 160 reconstruction project is underway, and more.

Hopefully the record temperatures will give way to more seasonal temps soon and moisture will find its way to Pagosa Country, but, in the meantime, we encourage everyone to take precautions to help ensure our dry conditions don't give way to fires like other areas are experiencing.

We also need to remember the purpose of the prescribed burns. Smoke from fires isn't fun or pretty, but we thoroughly appreciate the efforts consistently taken throughout the area to keep it in good shape and more manageable in the event a fire begins. We will take the necessary precautions while the smoke is in the air this spring, hoping it means less will be in the air this summer and fall.

A little short-term discomfort can pay

off big when fire hits — something we learned firsthand last year.

We also need to continue to be patient with the ongoing road construction, knowing the end is in sight and remembering the investment being made in our community (and the fact that concrete should be less susceptible to potholes). Not having to dodge potholes while driving through the downtown will be absolutely lovely.

Already this construction season, which only began March 16, we've experienced honking (perhaps the drivers thought those in front of them were just sitting in a line of traffic for giggles and would suddenly be able to move after hearing a honk), drivers cursing at students (adults cursing at children is never OK in our book), drivers trying to cut around stopped cars and more.

Acting and driving like a fool is unlikely to get you where you're going any quicker. We're pretty sure it's more likely to do the opposite, and it might even earn you a personal meet and greet with an area law enforcement officer and a ticket.

Admittedly, we don't love dealing with backed-up traffic, but we realize we were

warned and have had time to plan and allow enough time to take alternate routes.

Does that make it fun or all better? Nope. But, we know the project team is working diligently to do a good job on the project and to finish it in a timely manner, and we will continue to work to be as patient as we can and plan for what we can to make it less frustrating for ourselves.

We'll also continue to make an effort to support our local businesses who are affected by the construction and changes in tourism. We hope you'll join us in that effort.

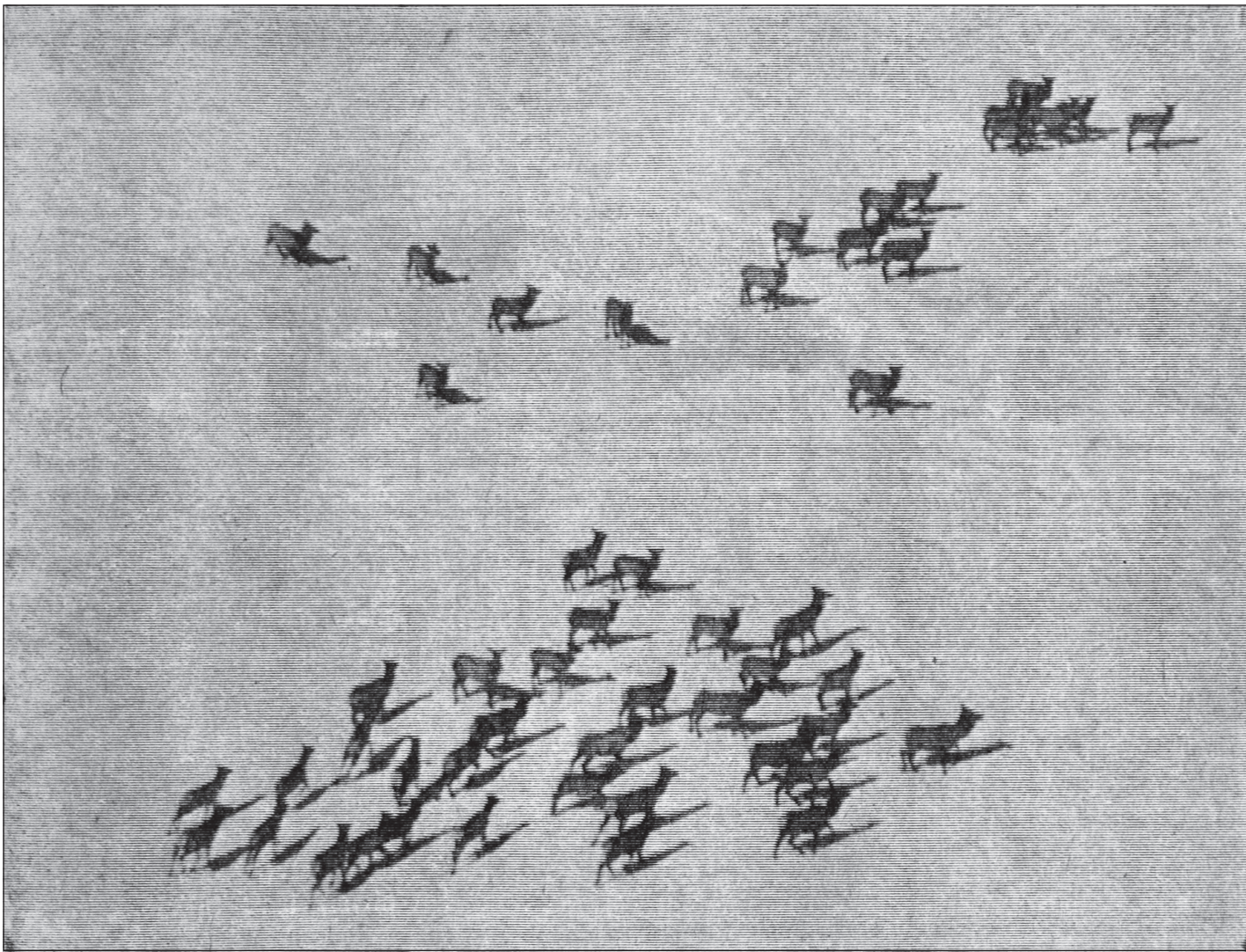
We also encourage drivers to remember that the detours often go through someone's neighborhood. Follow the speed limit and be respectful of the fact you're passing through where people live and children play.

As we have done throughout the project, The SUN will include information on current and upcoming work on the project to help you understand and plan around what's happening. This appears on page A3 weekly.

Like was the case last year, supporting each other throughout this project will be critical to successfully weathering it.

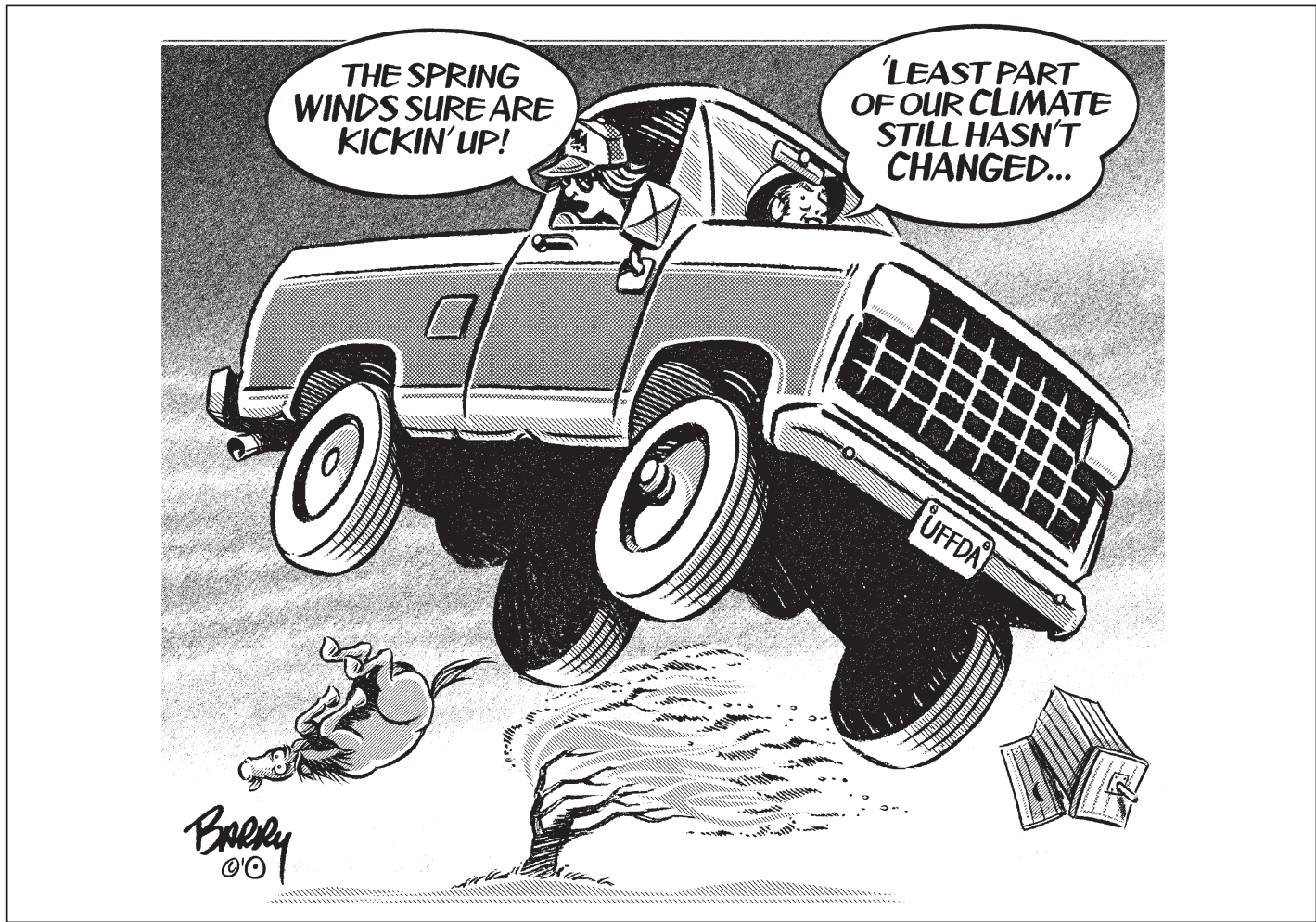
Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the March 26, 1970, Pagosa SUN — PLENTY OF ELK — A large herd of elk, over 250, was sighted recently in the Mill Creek area. This photo shows part of that herd out in the open. The elk appeared fat and smooth and the herd covered a large area. They moved quickly in the light snow and at times presented quite a problem for anyone trying to count them.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 19, 1926

The roads are being dragged and worked from Pagosa to the county line, while La Plata county is doing likewise. In a few days the highway from Pagosa Springs to Durango will be in first-class shape for auto travel.

Francisco A. Quintana, a World War veteran, having served in the 157th (Colorado) Infantry, is seriously ill at his home near Juanita from tuberculosis. A physician was called to his home Wednesday to relieve him and he was found to be practically penniless and in need of financial assistance. He now draws the sum of only \$10 per month in compensation from the government, but his case will be presented to the U.S. Veterans Bureau in Denver for increase or hospital care.

Someone extensively engaged in the hog raising business or otherwise (?) about midnight Tuesday purloined 10 or 12 sacks of cracked corn from the Mat Arnold feed store by breaking into the place. No arrests have been made to date.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 23, 1951

The County Commissioners announced the appointment of a three-man County Fair Commission this week with H. Ray Macht, Woodrow Dunlap and Glenn Kimball being named to the board. Mr. Macht will be the chairman of the group.

The commissioners stated that it was their intention for the committee to draw up a plan for a county fair this fall. The fair committee will meet soon to take up the matter and discuss preliminary data. The commissioners emphasized that those residents on this side of the Divide are welcome to participate in the fair.

This is a big step forward for the agricultural interests of the county and will, with doubt, develop over the years into a very worthwhile project. The Red Ryder Round-Up grounds can be used for the county fair and in a few years it will be as fine a grounds as can be found.

The newly appointed fair board announced this week that a public meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 27 at the court house. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. and the board urges that all interested parties attend.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 18, 1976

The Colorado Division Employment report on unemployment for the past few months shows Archuleta County with 7.3% unemployment in October, 8.5% in November, 10.2% in December, and 12.8% in January. The report showed 111 unemployed in January in Archuleta County. The situation should improve as soon as construction work starts and as soon as weather permits Title X employees to resume work.

Meetings tonight include the Rodeo Association, Democratic Party, Lions Club, and there is also a pee-wee wrestling match at school. Anyone that doesn't have the evening scheduled will not have a hard time finding a place to go.

Automobile license sales in Archuleta County are up 8% over last year, according to County Clerk Felima Gardner. Total sales for all types of vehicles through February 29 of this year were 2218 and last year they were 2059.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 22, 2001

Record-breaking numbers of Spring Breakers flooding ski slopes, hotels and rental shops last week left some in Pagosa Springs gasping for breath.

"Last week was super-swamped," Larry Fisher, owner of Ski and Bow Rack, said. "It seemed like everyone all showed up at once this year, instead of over two weeks. We've made it through though, mentally and emotionally."

The three-day rush for the slopes March 12-14 made ski poles, shoes, skis and snowboards nearly extinct.

Juanalee Park, co-owner of Alpen Haus Ski Center, said the store rented out of poles and came close to renting out of skis last Monday.

"We ran out of snowboards a couple of days, but now they're all back and ready to go," said John Steinert, one of the owners of Juan's Mountain Sports.

That translated into some extreme numbers at Wolf Creek ski area as well.

Rosanne Haidorfer-Pitcher, marketing and sales director at Wolf Creek, said a record-breaking 5,125 skiers hit the slopes March 13. Numbers smashed the previous record, set in December 1998, by 182 skiers.

"Overall on the season we're having a great year," she said. "The snow has been the best we've seen in 10 years."



Letters

Letters to the Editor are printed as received and are not edited for grammar or punctuation, but may have been edited for content or style.

Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for accuracy.

The opinions of letter writers do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

No Kings

Dear Editor:

On March 28, local residents will come together with millions of Americans across the country in a nationwide day of nonviolent protest at the third No Kings National Day of Non-violent Action. Local residents from all walks of life will share a simple message: We don't do dictators or kings in America.

No Kings is a mass, nonviolent movement that has already mobilized millions — from over five million participants on June 14, 2025 to over 7 million people joining 2,700+ events across all 50 states and the District of Columbia on October 18, 2025 — and is growing as communities unite to reject authoritarian power grabs and defend dignity and freedom.

Equality Pagosa is excited to join with other groups organizing the No Kings nonviolent protests across the country including ACLU, American Federation of Teachers, Common Defense, 50501, Human Rights Campaign, Indivisible, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn, National Nurses United, Public Citizen, SEIU, among others.

Join your neighbors at Town Park at 11:00 am on Saturday March 28 to be a part of this national mass mobilization!

All No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to nonviolent protest and community safety to create powerful, peaceful local actions.

Rick Bolhouse

Energy

Dear Editor:

Crude oil is a fossil fuel formed from the remains of microscopic marine plants, algae, and animals (plankton) that died millions of years ago. Natural gas is a fossil fuel formed over millions of years from the buried remains of plants and animals (like diatoms) subjected to intense heat and pressure deep underground. I support the state of Colorado requiring that all new homes be completely electric. Let's stop living in the dinosaur era and live now where we understand the heat and energy from the sun is FREE!! We just need to harness it. Let's stop stripping the world of its ancient remains, stop paying to do so and use our higher intelligence when it comes to our need for electricity. A few weeks ago, Black Hill Energy natural gas sent out an alert that they were shutting off their natural gas to the entire city of Pueblo because of the high winds and high fire danger. Climate change is real; you can boo-hoo it but its effects will return to Pagosa soon with some form of catastrophic event. Instead of living in extraction, let's try and live our best life while respecting nature.

Beverly Compton

LPEA

Dear Editor:

I'll be upfront: the inner workings of LPEA never really interested me, and even if they had... life is busy.

That changed last year when a lack of leadership there cost me \$56,000 and created a problem that will last far beyond my solar warranty.

I bought a property with existing solar panels, and as energy rates climbed I decided to upgrade the system and add battery storage.

The property is zoned both residential and commercial, but for years I had been billed at the residential rate.

When LPEA saw I was planning to expand the solar system, they quietly switched my account to commercial without notifying me.

Months later, after the system had been designed and installed based on residential assumptions, my bill was unchanged. When I contacted LPEA, I was told my account had been switched to commercial. That change increased my base fee, added a demand charge, and eliminated the time-of-day savings that made the solar upgrade worthwhile.

When I asked why I hadn't been notified, I was first told my account had "no marketing emails" enabled —even though they send my monthly bill without issue. Later, I was told a mass email had been sent but mine somehow "didn't go through."

The result is that I tried to invest in cleaner energy, and LPEA made it

financially impossible. Had I known about the commercial change, the system could have been designed differently—or more likely not upgraded at all.

Now I'm paying a \$450 monthly solar loan while my electric bill remains about the same.

Utilities shouldn't penalize customers for trying to improve their energy systems.

A longtime friend of mine, James Lane, is running for the LPEA board. I trust him to represent members like me.

Power to the people.

Shera Johnson
Durango, Colo.

Protect public lands

Dear Editor:

During the second week of February I joined a diverse group of outdoorsmen and women visiting congressional offices in Washington, D.C. to express our support for public lands. Meeting with legislators provides them with important insights from hunters, anglers, and other constituents who know the value of our public lands from boots on the ground experience.

One of our topics included misguided efforts in Congress to sell off or otherwise dispose of public lands. Polls show that overwhelming majorities of voters are opposed to selling public lands or transferring them to states.

Recently, the Colorado Senate passed Senate Joint Resolution 26-015, reaffirming our state's commitment to protecting public lands and opposing federal efforts to sell off public lands or silence public input in their management."

Colorado is home to more than 22 million acres of national public lands that provide clean drinking water for communities across the state, support wildlife habitat, and sustain a thriving outdoor recreation economy. In 2023 alone, Colorado's outdoor recreation economy generated \$65.8 billion in economic output and supported more than 404,000 jobs, making up 12% of the state's workforce.

Lawmakers introduced the resolution in response to recent federal actions that weaken long-standing environmental safeguards and limit public participation in land management decisions. Federal agencies have pushed to expedite oil and gas leasing, shorten environmental review timelines, and reduce opportunities for communities to weigh in on projects that affect their air, water and land — effectively removing the public from public lands decision-making."

As hunters, anglers, and conservationists, we stand on the shoulders of giants from past generations, like Theodore Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, and many others. This is our opportunity to show future generations that they too stand on the shoulders of giants, from this generation.

"Great moments are born from great opportunity. And that's what you have here," Herb Brooks (played by Kurt Russell) says to the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team in the movie Miracle. "That's what you've earned..."

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit your letter electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted to editor@pagosasun.com or via the form at www.PagosaSUN.com. Letters must not be in all capitals.

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- include the actual first and last name of the author
- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

Poetry, anonymous letters, letters that are libelous or in poor taste, or that attack a private citizen or business will not be published.

If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition up to three weeks prior to the election.

The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.

This is your time!... Now go out there and take it!" Join us!

David A. Lien
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Trump

Dear Editor:

a few bumper sticker quotes:

"When the Power of Love Overcomes the Love of Power, the World Will Know Peace." Jimi Hendrix.

"We The People means Everyone!"

"Never Forget the Attack On Our Democracy - January 6th."

"Trump Would Burn America to the Ground Just to Rule Its Ashes."

Donald J. Trump's gargantuan ego, his ignorance, arrogance, and bald-faced blatant lies are sickening.

Trump's campaign promise to "drain the swamp" and "be the President of law and order" is a grotesque "hoax". He and his minions are the swamp!

Claiming to "hire only the best people," he's gathered the "worst of the worst" instead. As a dictator, he's surrounded himself with equally greedy, incompetent "leaders" just like him. They're boot lickers, "yes men and women", who obediently bow and scrape to his every self-serving whim.

Trump arrogantly crooned, over and over again for years, that he would get us out and keep us out of endless foreign wars. He bragged that if he had been President, Russia's war against Ukraine would never have happened, and that he would stop it all on "day one" when he entered office. Lies!

He pursues his dictatorial agenda to break our laws and dominate "We the People" from L.A. to Minnesota (Good and Petty killed), plus more "blue" states. Whoever he has on his "enemies list". Speaking of "enemies lists" and law-breaking, Trump makes Nixon look like a choir boy.

Now, Greedy Orange One laps up oil in Argentina and turns his lustful eye to killing the people of Iran to steal their fossil fuels, too. (13 Americans dead). All that and more without following the Constitution or submitting to Congress, which alone has the legal power to declare war.

In the meantime, he stuffs his pockets and those of his family, along with those of the 1% super-wealthy billionaires, and the tech bros. He and they appear to be a plutocracy, those who want to rule through their

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of March 23-28

Work activity

- Pedestrian Crossings: With the new traffic shift there are several locations that no longer have pedestrian barriers where the sidewalks, curb and gutter have been completed. Please pay attention when traversing the roadway and use identified crossings.
- Lewis Street at U.S. 160 is closed to begin underground utility construction.
- Motorists are encouraged to use 4th Street as an alternative to Lewis Street.
- The Lewis Street access closure will be in place until late May/early June.
- Access to North 5th Street and businesses north of the intersection will be available via 4th Street.
- Why will the Lewis Street intersection take several months to complete? Where Lewis Street intersects U.S. 160 is one of the most difficult intersections the project team is working on. The underground utility work includes demolition and replacement of the geothermal, water and sewer lines from the bottom up. The Lewis Street intersection will then be built back with new ADA-accessible curb and gutter and concrete paving.

Pagosa Springs Middle School information

The Lewis Street and U.S. 160 intersection closure will significantly impact drop-off and pick-up traffic at Pagosa Springs Middle School.

Traffic and drop-off changes during closure

- The designated drop-off location on Lewis Street will move from the middle school stairs to the stairs near the district office, closer to the 3rd Street intersection.
- Please use 2nd and 4th streets for student drop-off and pick-up. Please use extra caution at 4th Street and Lewis Street, as many students walk through this intersection.
- Avoid 3rd Street, which is the designated bus route.

How you can help reduce congestion and keep students safe

- Ride the bus. We strongly encourage students who are able to take the bus.
- Carpool with another family to reduce the number of vehicles near campus.
- Students walking to school should use the crosswalk at 2nd Street.
- Please be mindful of school buses and help keep bus routes clear so students can arrive safely and on time.
- Stop before crosswalks, follow all traffic signals and put phones away while driving.

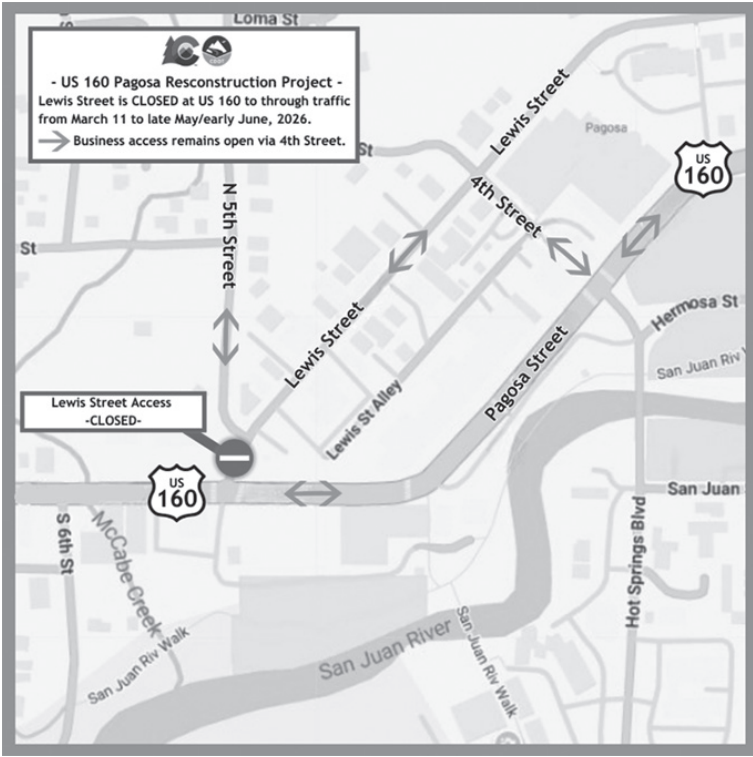
We know this closure may create some inconvenience, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and partnership in helping keep students safe.

ber of vehicles near campus.

Stay informed and connect with the project

- Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.
- Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.
- Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.
- Subscribe to project updates: subscription.cotrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



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■ Continued from A3

elitist wealth. Trump claimed he would lower costs on “day one.” He doesn’t care about that, or you. As always, he is only concerned with his wealth and power. He only wanted your vote. To keep his power. Now he’s ready to kick us all under the bus.

“Aford-eh-beelity” he mocked. Why shouldn’t he? He’s never had to go into a “gro-sur-y” store in his life. He grew up with excessive wealth and has mocked poor people, servants, and soldiers as “suckers and losers”. Because he is hateful, he disdains people, rules, laws, government, and anything that cramps his style.

He doesn’t know you. Can’t relate to the vast majority of human beings. And doesn’t give a flippin’ rip about us ordinary people!

Is Trump’s illegal war increasing your costs, groceries, and housing? Well, get over it. War’s only going to last two more weeks. Then? Easy street! Never-ending lies.

Let’s march together for No Kings Day, March 28th, 11:00, starting at Town Park. Thanks.

Mitch Nielsen

Wars and files

Dear Editor:

Trump made two promises: to keep us out of “forever” wars and to release the Epstein Files.

Now we are in another Middle Eastern war. Why? To distract from the Epstein Files? To distract from our faltering economy? Because Netanyahu knows how to flatter Trump to get him to do what he wants? The administration seems to have no explanation for this war.

The war is costing Americans \$1 billion/day. Meanwhile, 15 million Americans are losing healthcare because of Trump’s policies. Hospitals are closing. Children are going hungry. Food, gas, and most everything else are getting more expensive.

And Trump’s buddy, Putin, is supplying Iran with intelligence to help

them kill American soldiers.

The Epstein Files have still not all been released. Congressmen allowed to view the “unredacted” files say that much in them is still redacted. We know from the released files that the woman who accused Trump of sexually assaulting her when she was 13 received a settlement payment from the Epstein estate. If this is what they’re willing to reveal, what could they possibly be concealing?

The powerful elite continue to escape responsibility for their vile acts. Trump has started another war to distract us.

How many more will have to die? Will there ever be justice for Epstein’s victims?

Make your voice heard! Call/write your representatives. Take to the streets for No Kings 3 on March 28. Vote out Trump’s enablers and put people in office who will hold him and his elitist boot lickers responsible.

Philip Riffe
Hesperus, Colo.

Building codes

Dear Editor:

Dear Commissioners Brown, Medina and Ranson,

With regards to your upcoming decision to adopt the 2024 building code being forced upon us by the State, I must ask you to pose some questions to yourselves as you consider your choice on behalf of the People of Archuleta County.

Ownership of private property is the essence of freedom, the freedom preserved by the Constitution of the United States and the State of Colorado. Land and property ownership is essential for a person’s livelihood and autonomy.

Property rights correlate with higher economic growth, innovation and poverty reduction and is the cornerstones of a free and prosperous society.

Please ask yourselves these important questions:

1. A key question is: If you choose not to adopt the new building code, exactly how much money will the county loose in taxpayer funding / grants from the State? How does that number compare to the financial burdens placed upon the People you serve? Please do the math to answer those questions.

2. Are you aware that the government(s) has caused the housing crisis by over-regulation? That it is the People you serve who suffer? The government(s) created the affordability problem and then attempts to solve the problem it created by stealing even more taxpayer dollars. Fifty years ago, this county had no zoning regulations at all and look where we are now. We’re being told what we are to afford, what is “permanent”, what is “safe”, where we source our water, what utilities we must have, being forced into in new building product experimentation at our own risk. This is called involuntary servitude and is forbidden in this Country.

3. Does this make any sense? The looming 10-20% increase in the cost of building a home in our county will be placed upon the People you serve. And then you plan to confiscate even more money from those same people to combat the lack of “affordable” housing?

4. Ask yourselves, “When will enough be enough”? After they tell you how to heat your home, how to cook your food, how to spend your money? If not now, when? If not you three, then who?

5. Are you upholding your oath to the Constitution(s) by increasing the burdens onto your People?

6. Do you work for the State or do you work for the People of Archuleta county whom you were elected to serve?

7. Is it fair to drag the quasi-governments like PAWSD into the affordable housing business?

8. Have you considered that you DO have an option? The statement “that we have no choice” is not the truth.

I ask each of you to to find the courage and fortitude to uphold the Constitution, stand up for the People, preserve our freedoms and refuse the new building codes so Archuleta County can better survive the attack on housing which is a very basic human need.

Sincerely,
Marybeth Snyder

Highway construction

Dear Editor:

Motorists traveling through downtown have been forced to deal with the largest highway construction project in the history of Pagosa Springs. It’s been challenging for all, a major frustration for some, a significant impact for the businesses, but a vital project for the future of our small community.

I’ve lived here since 1973, arriving in my lifelong home as a very young twenty-year-old. I worked construction, was a local law enforcement officer, and served on the town council. I’m aware of, and have been involved with, numerous road projects. Not only is this the most expensive, it has been planned and is proceeding

better than any I can remember. I’m impressed. For months we’ve been stopped, delayed, and inconvenienced, usually for less than a few minutes. In fact, I’ve occasionally passed through town quicker than before. I hope you can agree that the delays are well worth the benefits of a finished product, done well.

I’m also thankful for the many respectful, patient, and thoughtful motorists who’ve been impacted, locals and others. Drivers have waited patiently for traffic control personnel, machinery, other vehicles, and pedestrians. The vast majority have driven safely and courteously in the construction zone. Very few express their anger, displeasure, and frustration. I’d like to say that about all drivers, all the time.

I’m also impressed by those who are participating in this huge and difficult endeavor. I’ve not seen anyone leaning on shovels, doing nothing. They work hard.

Next time locals, tourists and others, have an opportunity to show appreciation to the construction folks, we should. We can give them the thumb up instead of the one-finger wave. We can also thank them personally when the opportunity arises.

Even with all the changes, I just love this town!

Sincerely,
Don Volger

Disappearing act

Dear Editor:

As a retired Army soldier, I’ve seen my fair share of unpredictable weather, but the current “Early Spring” in Pagosa Springs feels less like a seasonal shift and more like a heist. Somewhere along the way, winter just forgot to punch out.

I look out at my paved driveway and realize I haven’t had to use a snow shovel at all this year. Even my Golden Retriever, Haddie, looks confused; she’s spent the season searching for snow to roll in, only to find the same dry, dormant grass that’s been staring back at us since November. Usually, this time of year involves a 4-wheel-drive battle against the slush, but now it might be a battle against dust.

While a “brown winter” might be gentler on the back and the heating costs, those of us who have been here for a while understand the true expense. We’re swapping snowshoes for fire-wise rakes much earlier than we’d like. Instead of worrying about the river overflowing, we’re watching the peaks and wondering where the runoff has gone. It’s a lovely stretch of sunshine, certainly, but it feels like we’re missing the “deposit” in our water bank account.

In Pagosa, we often expect a cruel joke from the Continental Divide—a blizzard in May or a frost in June. The joke seems to be that there is no punchline. I’ll keep my winter boots by the door just in case the San Juans are simply “reloading,” but for now, I’m watching the fire outlook.

To my fellow residents: enjoy the smooth commutes and dry roads, but maybe join me in a quick “rain dance.” We’ve got a long summer ahead, and the river looks pretty thirsty.

Russ Widener



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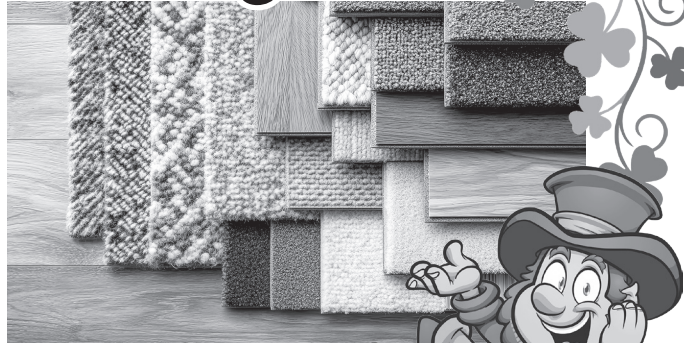
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Obituary

Laura Elguezabal-Hickman

Laura Elguezabal-Hickman, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away peacefully on March 4, 2026, in Durango, Colo.

Born in Boise, Idaho, Laura’s adventurous spirit led her to live in Alaska and Louisiana before finally settling in Pagosa Springs in 2007.

But wherever she went, her trademark warmth followed. In Pagosa, she became a pillar of the community, caring for animals at Elk Park Animal Hospital, opening her doors to travelers at the San Juan Motel and always being ready to help someone get where they needed to go with Pagosa Cab. Her smile could light up any room, and her heart was big enough to embrace everyone who walked through her life.

Laura will be remembered most for the love she shared with her children, the joy she found in her grandchildren, and the companionship of the dogs and horses she cherished.



Her kindness touched countless people in the Pagosa Springs community.

She is survived by her sons, Leikos Grames and Colton Hickman; grandchildren Zane, Ella and Enzo Grames; brothers Tony Elguezabal and AJ Crow; stepfather Kenny Crow; longtime companion Garry Scoggins; and a wide circle of nieces, cousins, aunts and friends who will carry her memory forward.

The impact Laura had on her community and family cannot be measured. Her generosity of spirit, her caring nature and her unconditional love created ripples that will continue to touch lives for generations to come. Though she is gone from this world, Laura’s love, lessons and memories will remain with us forever.

A celebration of life will be held in the late summer/early fall. For more information, please email lauraelguezabal22@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a local animal shelter in Laura’s honor.

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Business

PAWSD approves affordable housing waivers for Community Development Corporation

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a March 12 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted 3-2 to approve capital investment fee (CIF) waivers for five affordable homes the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) is constructing, assuming the people those homes are sold to meet certain income criteria.

The PAWSD board previously voted 3-2 to reject granting CIF waivers for the project, located in the Chris Mountain Village II subdivision, when asked by the PSCDC for them in September 2025. The waivers are approximately \$26,000 per home.

At the March 12 meeting, the board heard a request from Archuleta County, represented by county commissioners Warren Brown and John Ranson, to reconsider providing the waivers.

Brown spoke first to present the request, thanking the PAWSD board for its previous support of affordable housing and noting the county's extensive investments in affordable housing, including donating property for the PSCDC project, funding a remodel of Casa De Los Arcos, supporting the Rose Mountain Townhomes project in downtown Pagosa Springs and other work.

He highlighted that the \$1.9 million grant the county helped secure for the development of roads and infrastructure in Chris Mountain Village II also led to 30 new homes in the area being built by private individuals, providing PAWSD with approximately \$900,000 in fee revenue.

"To me, this isn't about homes," Brown said. "It's about our children's teachers that we discuss at dinner in the evening, our local fishing guide generating revenue to support his or her family but also support our tourism industry, our dispatchers who come home to a safe place after working shift work dealing with one emergency after another, our moms, our dads and our neighbors who we meet standing in line at the local grocery store. They're the ones who live in these homes now. This simply would not have existed, possibly for years, if we hadn't come together to help make Archuleta County a better place to live, to work, to grow and to prosper."

He then asked that PAWSD provide a waiver of the CIFs for the five homes in the current phase of the PSCDC's housing project.

Brown added that these homes would be sold to buyers between 80 percent and 100 percent of the area median income (AMI), which would meet the affordability requirements for Colorado's Proposition 123 afford-

able housing funding that is partially supporting the project.

He noted that the homes represent workforce stability, economic resiliency and "our community's credibility with the state of Colorado."

In response to a question from PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer, Brown stated that the Proposition 123 funding requires that housing be built between 80 percent and 100 percent AMI.

Ranson then spoke, noting the praise that the PSCDC's project has received in the state and the value of the work being done by PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke.

He also highlighted the extensive building occurring in the Chris Mountain Village area and stated his belief that affordable housing projects like this are part of economic development.

Ranson also stated that he would potentially support waivers of county fees if PAWSD requested them in the future for things like dumping items in the county landfill.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges then opened the issue for board discussion.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson spoke in favor of the idea that certain housing projects will not happen without waivers of CIFs and that he favors providing support to projects that serve people below 80 percent AMI.

He noted that the project before the board would likely provide housing for people above 80 percent AMI and commented, "So, I have a hard time subsidizing a relatively well-off family with our customer's fees."

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones spoke in support of providing waivers for projects at 80 percent AMI or below, but that he would have difficulty supporting a project serving people above this threshold, although he noted he did not mean this as a comment on the PSCDC's efforts or to say that its work is not valuable.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh then spoke, noting that he supported granting the waivers last time, but that he would also prefer housing closer to 80 percent AMI.

He also noted that Brown's argument that the PSCDC's work is opening up economic development in the general area was highly convincing.

Walsh suggested that the board should potentially form a subcommittee to discuss a potential arrangement with the county to provide waivers in exchange for forgiveness on county fees or some other benefits.

Tautges spoke, noting that his comments were "a little more generic" and "not real popular."

He praised the work the county, the PSCDC and other entities are

doing in terms of economic development and emphasized the importance of growing the economy and creating new jobs.

He noted that, at a recent meeting, Ranson complained about the county receiving regular requests for money and commented that the county has done a good job with affordable housing.

"But, I would say that's because you're supposed to; it's in your court," he said. "It's not in PAWSD's court. We are a water and sanitation district. People try to make us become a recreation district, a piscatorial district, an agricultural district. We're not."

He noted that PAWSD has also incurred expenses related to other community concerns, like doing testing on fire hydrants in 2025.

Tautges then spoke about his view that the community needs more apartment construction to serve people who will not be able to qualify to buy a home.

He also noted the future expenses that PAWSD faces with regulatory treatment upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant.

"Last year, when we started talking about all of this, the people I hang with, it was... almost overwhelmingly against waivers like this and, for those of you who don't know, the only way we could afford to give these waivers is to enact the water and wastewater surcharges," he said. "That is the piggy bank that pays those, and it was nearly overwhelmingly for the folks I hang with that said, 'No.'"

Tautges commented that there are ways to support others outside of monetary support before repeating his statement that PAWSD is a water and wastewater district.

"It's not in our court," he said. "It is in yours, so you're doing what you should be doing, and you ought to be thanked for it."

Ranson noted that he has been in contact with Archuleta Housing Corporation and other entities on the prospect of developing more rental units in the community.

"Let's get a dozen more behind 'em," Tautges replied.

Boehmer noted that he and Hudson do not frequently agree on affordable housing issues, but that he felt Hudson effectively summed up his feelings on the current situation.

"I don't think that going forward with the [PSCDC] is the best partner for us to work with," he said. "That's my personal opinion. There's been a lot of misunderstandings, a lot of issues that have taken up a lot of staff time, a lot of board member's time, to try and get to the bottom of."

He noted that he supports work in the area and the work Habitat for Humanity is doing building homes in the subdivision.

He added that Lashbrooke should get credit for improvements to the overall subdivision, which PAWSD, Archuleta County and others also contributed to.

"But, going forward, I'm just not interested in working with this partner," he said. "I think it's taking too much of our staff time, and I don't think it's beneficial to our ratepayers at the end of the day. I know that's not a popular opinion, but it is what it is."

Walsh noted that he and Ranson had previously protested PAWSD's fee structure together, prior to Walsh's time on the PAWSD board, and noted that Ranson could potentially request that PAWSD reconsider its fee structure to better account for differences in size between different types of housing and how this might have different impacts on water use.

Brown then spoke in response to Boehmer's comments, explaining that the PSCDC became involved in affordable housing due to concerns from business owners in 2022 that a lack of housing was impeding their ability to hire and retain employees.

He added that the county and the Town of Pagosa Springs then asked the PSCDC to work on expanding affordable housing.

Brown stated that the project up for consideration is not a PSCDC project, but that the PSCDC is acting as an agent for the county and town.

Following these comments, Tautges then attempted to move on to the next item on the PAWSD board's agenda, but was interrupted by Hudson, who asked him if he wanted to ask for a motion on the waivers since the board did not vote on them.

Tautges then asked for a motion and Hudson moved to grant the CIF waivers for any homes built in the current PSCDC project that are sold to families below 80 percent AMI.

Walsh seconded Hudson's motion, but noted that he does not think "we're going to see them" and suggested that the issue might not be sufficiently mature to vote on.

However, he added that he is supportive of waivers for housing at 80 percent AMI and below.

The board voted 3-2 to approve the motion, with Hudson, Walsh and Jones voting in support, and Tautges and Boehmer voting against.

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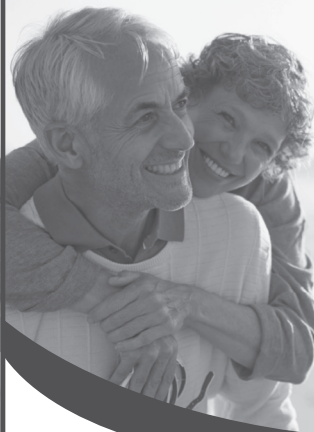
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Town council allocates funding for early child care and education

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On March 17, the Pagosa Springs Town Council decided how it wanted to distribute its budgeted \$88,000 for early child care and education (ECE) funding.

Included in this funding is money "for [child care] centers, in-home day cares, and other programs/services in this realm," states an agenda document on the matter.

Applications from the child care providers were turned in to the town by March 6 and, in total, seven organizations requested funding, totaling \$91,434, the document states, which is more than what the town allocated in its budget for ECE.

The town's criteria for awarding the funding asked the applicants to respond to several questions based on council approved wording and criteria for how it would consider funding.

The town prioritized the following criteria in evaluating the funding requests:

- Expansion or addition of new ECE slots.
- Organizations demonstrating sustainability in provision of ECE services, including recruitment and retention of staff.
- Retention of existing ECE slots.
- Support of organizations aiding families in the local workforce.

• Organizations or centers that have found other ways to be self-sufficient in their funding model.

• Organizations increasing accessibility of ECE to the lower-income and underserved populations of our community.

According to the agenda document, in-home day cares asked for a total of \$9,000, with Teresa's Lil Blessings asking for \$5,000 and Tiff's Lil Cubs Childcare asking for \$4,000.

Early childhood centers asked the town for a total of \$57,394, with Pagosa Springs Head Start asking for \$17,394, Seeds of Learning asking for \$20,000 and Wings Early Childhood Center asking for \$20,000.

Other types of related services asked for a total of \$25,040, with Pagosa Community Initiative asking for \$20,000 and Aspire Medical Services and Education asking for \$5,040.

ECE remains one of the council's top community priorities, along with broadband expansion and support for the community's senior population.

Town Clerk April Hessman passed out a spreadsheet and explained, "We will take the average of the amounts" chosen by each council member for each applicant "to come up with a total for each applicant."

When council member Madeline Bergon noted that her rubric for coming up with her numbers was to

deduct the same percentage, about 3 percent, from all the applicants' requests to bring the total number down to the amount budgeted.

This was a "way to be equitable across the board," Bergon said.

Lindner stated that he "evaluated it a little bit differently," keeping the emphasis on creating new slots, weighing it to give the larger centers, which create more new slots, to get more of the funding.

Council member Leonard Martinez added, "I was impressed with all the applications," which gave "me the sense that in order to do this well it's gonna take a community."

He stressed "the importance of the micro day cares in our community, choosing to fund "Tiff's and Teresa's at the full amounts," adding, "congratulations to all the applicants."

Mayor Shari Pierce also supported the smaller providers at the full amount asked.

Council member Gary Williams explained that he "took more money from Seeds" because it has other means of funding.

After all the final numbers were crunched, Lindner expressed some frustration about the process of how the council allocates the money year after year.

"Even though we have a rubric on how we do this, we all had our own subjective way that we came up with
■ See Funding A6



5:00 PM



Wednesday
March 25, 2026



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Hanging basket season just around the corner

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

It feels like springtime is in full swing, with the spring equinox taking place tomorrow, March 20. Springtime makes me think of Easter and flowers. And, spring flowers mean it is almost time for hanging basket season at the Chamber. Stay tuned for more details coming forward and, in the meantime, enjoy all the birds that are everywhere.

Construction season

The 2026 construction season began March 16 and will run through the end of the year. Paving activities

are planned from March through November. We are at the beginning of the end and everyone, including the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is looking to make this a well-informed and on-time construction season. One of this spring’s biggest impacts will be the temporary closure of the Lewis Street intersection at U.S. 160 from March 16 through the end of May so crews can replace and protect a dense network of underground utilities, including multiple water mains; sanitary sewer connections; large storm drains; and various electrical, fiber, gas and geothermal lines. Only the access from U.S. 160 to Lewis

Street will be closed, with Lewis Street itself remaining open and signed detours via 4th, 5th and 7th streets to maintain access to nearby homes and businesses. Later this spring, CDOT expects “Dog Leg” construction to shift to a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week schedule for about two weeks in mid-April, with traffic reduced to one lane and controlled by flaggers. On-street parking along the project corridor will largely remain unavailable until final pavement markings are completed at the end of the project. Some parking areas, such as the overlook lot, will close in two shorter phases rather than one long shutdown, coordinated with the town and sup-

ported by new signage to other parking options. Holiday timing is also part of the plan. With Pagosa Springs celebrating the America 250-Colorado 150, and hosting Park 2 Park and the Red Ryder Roundup, CDOT expects to pause most work over the Fourth of July weekend, with only limited activity immediately before and after the holiday. Residents and business owners can stay informed through CDOT’s project hotline at (970) 335-9230, the project email — pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com — and the project website at codot.gov/projects/us160pagosaprrings, where they can also sign up for weekly email blasts.

Funding

■ **Continued from A5**

these amounts ... I don’t like it. I never have,” he said. He added, “It’s weird” and “it’s a problem that it’s subjective, and seems not very rigorous” instead of being objective. When Pierce asked him if he had any ideas to fix it, he explained that he had brought the idea of an objective rubric in the past and “we are not following it.” Martinez stated that he did not follow the rubric that closely because it was like “an apple, an orange, and a banana” comparing the different

needs and business models of the different types of child care providers, “so the rubric wouldn’t have worked.” Bergon added, “If we really want to come up with a good scoring rubric, we should bring in the people with boots on the ground to guide us so it’s fair.” Lindner replied, “It’s challenging and I’ve brought it up every year, and it ends up being subjective every year.” Martinez said, “I’d be the one frustrated if it was more mechanical,” with Lindner again stating that each council member was just making their own rubrics and rules.

When a motion was made to approve allocating \$87,949.85 to the applicants, it was supported unanimously by the council. The averaged-out numbers that each applicant will be receiving are as follows: Aspire Medical Services and Education will receive \$4,180; Pagosa Springs Head Start will be awarded \$17,245; the Pagosa Community Initiative will receive \$19,650; Seeds of Learning will receive \$18,831; Teresa’s Lil Blessings will get \$4,762; Tiff’s Lil Cubs Childcare will receive \$3,970; and Wings Early Childhood Center will get \$19,310.

During public comment, Ben Fox, a representative from Wings, noted that “it’s clear there’s a lot of frustration” with the funding process, suggesting that the town “bring in the stakeholders” to reach common ground that works for everyone. He added that there was room “for more intentional conversation,” and that the town should take a “leadership role” in making that happen. He then thanked the council for the funding opportunity “for all these great organizations,” saying that the funding is important to all of them. derek@pagosasun.com

Sewer

■ **Continued from front**

states, “Staff’s assessment is that the immediate incident is stabilized, and we are in an operational stabilization and prevention posture.” It adds, “Regardless of labels, we are moving forward with the work that matters: stabilizing reliability now and advancing the long-term solution.” It further states, “Our message should be clear: this is not a ‘state of emergency,’ but it is a serious infrastructure reliability challenge—and we have a plan.” Since 2015, the town has relied on an uphill wastewater conveyance system that pumps the town’s wastewater 7 miles uphill to the Vista wastewater treatment plant, owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, through a series of pump and lift stations. Prior to this current system being installed, the PSSGID operated a lagoon-based wastewater treatment system. A Roaring Fork Engineering memo states, “This system relies on two high-horsepower pump stations operating continuously to serve the District’s needs.” Since installation, the pumps have experienced repeated failures due to several electrical issues and due to water inflow and infiltration (I and I). The Roaring Fork memo states, “The collection system was inundated with McCabe Creek and San Juan River water and caused lift station overflow and failure events, which needed to be addressed immediately.” Pagosa Springs Public Works Director Karl Johnson explained that after addressing the immediate problems of pump failures, Public Works Department staff have worked tirelessly to stabilize the system and make the town prepared for possible future pump failures by having bypass pumps and backups on hand. The agenda brief states that “the real costs” the town is managing right now includes a \$58,000 per month

rental cost for six bypass pumps, and that “if bypass pumping is needed for a minimum of eight months, the estimated total is \$464,000.” Harris called this “a hard pill to swallow” for the town. Another option, he explained, would be for the town to purchase eight Flygt pumps at around \$1,508,000, with the total “near-term reliability package,” which includes electrical work at \$200,000 and contractor installation at \$400,000, costing in total \$2,572,000. Johnson said that town staff went back “and played detective,” analyzing the system’s components, and found that “some of it has been not the best product selection.” The ultimate goal, Harris explained, would be to get away from the uphill conveyance system and for the town to build a new wastewater treatment plant downtown. The brief states, “Thanks to voter approval of Ballot Issue 2A, we have begun design work for critical pipe replacements and are advancing long-term wastewater planning, including engineering work [for a new plant] with Roaring Fork Engineering.” Harris explained that the revenues from the 1 percent town sales tax increase, which flows into a dedicated sewer fund, would first go toward repairing what the town has called “category 4 and 5” problems with the aging pipe system. Part of this work for critical pipe replacements is currently underway at the McCabe Creek project, where work started on March 16. The McCabe Creek project is addressing the system’s No. 1 source of I and I, which contributes to unnecessary water being pumped and treated, the brief states. Johnson explained that once the entirety of the category 4 and 5 project is complete, I and I in the collection system should be reduced by about 50 percent. This would reduce pressure from land I on the system, allowing the

town to start using the sewer fund to design, plan and build a new plant downtown, currently slated for south of Yamaguchi Park, he explained. Harris noted that as the town gets the wastewater plant project underway, it could temporarily switch to a “package plant,” which would hold the town over until it completes the new plant. The town submitted an application for a discharge permit for the new plant, and the permit application was confirmed to be received by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE.) At this time, “No additional information is requested. The review process is a minimum of 60 days with no updates,” the brief states. Harris explained if the town wants to install a temporary package plant while it’s constructing a new permanent plant, the temporary plant would need to comply with the CDPHE permit. He added that the package plant could be “a cost-effective way to do it,” but that it would take “at least a year’s time” before the town could get that temporary plant installed. The lead time on purchasing the eight brand new Flygt pumps would be faster, six to nine months, Harris explained. If the town chose the near-term reliability package option, which includes the purchase of new pumps, electrical work and pump installation, the town could potentially re-sell those pumps once the new wastewater plant is in operation, Johnson explained. “We could get some money back once we get a new plant,” he said. Regardless of whether the town continues to rent pumps or buy new ones, he explained, “we’d need to cover our bases for a few years” while the town builds a new plant. This is where new town messaging would come in. As the brief describes it, “The Plan” includes messaging about “Stabilization, Prevention, [and a]

New Plant.” The brief describes stabilization as “maintaining operations with bypass pumping where needed; replace pumps and harden electrical systems; continue rapid response readiness.” Prevention is described as continuing “to ask for community help during high-risk periods (conservation steps), and continue targeted fixes that reduce inflow/infiltration and strain on the system,” with the McCabe Creek project being a major part of this. A new downtown treatment plant would be the final phase of this plan. Town staff is asking the council for consistent messaging on this plan, explaining that the system is currently stabilized and continuing to explain the importance of water conservation for the system and that “a long-term solution (a new treatment plant) is underway,” the brief states. Roaring Fork Engineering has estimated that a new plant would take five to seven years to complete, so the current system would need to remain in operation at least until a temporary package plant could be installed, should the town go in that direction. Mayor Shari Pierce asked the council to give staff some “guidance” on if “it wanted to pull back from the emergency declaration” and, instead, move forward with the new messaging strategy recommended by town staff. The council unanimously agreed that it wanted to move forward with continuing to work on the new messaging strategy. Council member Leonard Martinez expressed that “people who love this community,” both visitors and residents, “will help us.” Johnson said, “We need your help,” adding that the town should continue to put out messaging urging people to think about “how much you flush, how long a shower you take.” derek@pagosasun.com

Lawsuit

■ **Continued from front**

the framework and that the SJWCD would also participate in keeping the terms of the framework confidential until a final agreement is reached. “Our goal and we believe the goal of the PAWSD board members is to reach a mutually beneficial resolution for this long running suit over

the Running Iron Ranch,” Jones said. “We look forward to cooperation between the boards to reach a final ... settlement agreement.” She added that the board would consider the settlement agreement in a public meeting once it is finalized. The board then unanimously voted to approve the framework.

CSP

■ **Continued from front**

Wednesday, March 4, at approximately 8:30 p.m., a 46-year-old female was walking southbound on the southbound shoulder of Vista Boulevard just north of U.S. 160. An unknown vehicle was traveling southbound on Vista Boulevard when it struck the female pedestrian. The pedestrian propelled upward and ended up in a drainage ditch off the roadway. The pedestrian was transported to an area hospital for medical treatment.” The CSP notes the ongoing investigation has newly acquired surveillance video footage identifying a vehicle of interest.

“The vehicle is believed to be a newer model, a white Dodge Challenger with front-end damage,” it states. The CSP is asking anyone from the community or traveling through the area who has any information to contact the CSP dispatch center at (970) 249-4392 and reference Case# VC260065. Be prepared to leave your name and contact information for an investigator to contact you.

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Photo courtesy Leo Baughman

The Skyhawk Band, the highest top honor band at Fort Lewis College Honor Band Festival, included two Pagosa Springs High School band students. Seven other Pagosa Springs High School students were honored in the festival's Blue Band.

Archuleta School District bands shine at Fort Lewis College festivals

By Katrina Thomas
Archuleta School District

Student musicians from Archuleta School District (ASD) recently showcased their talents on the regional stage, participating in two major band events hosted by Fort Lewis College.

Both the Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) and Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) programs represented the district with distinction during a busy spring season.

On Feb. 6 and 7, students from grades seven through 12 traveled to Durango for the Fort Lewis Honor Band. This prestigious event brought together top musicians from across Colorado and New Mexico to rehearse and perform under the direction of esteemed collegiate conductors.

The middle school was well-represented by several talented individuals who earned their spots in the ensemble under the guest direction of Spencer Hannibal-Smith from the University of Nevada, Reno:

- Arianna Talamante (clarinet).
- Miles Dempster (alto saxophone).
- Lance Anderson (alto saxophone).
- Micah Tyler (trumpet).
- Kiley Braun (euphonium).

At the high school level, local musicians underwent a rigorous audition process for acceptance.

Seven PSHS students were chosen for the Blue Band, under the direction of Malcolm Jones from University of Connecticut. Special recognition was also given to Kelly Anne Kubelka (flute) and Jackson Cheney (alto saxophone), who were selected for the Skyhawk Band, the festival's top-tier ensemble



Photo courtesy Malinda Burnett

Five Pagosa Springs Middle School band students were awarded the honor to perform in the Fort Lewis College Honor Band in Durango.

directed by Dr. Justin Hubbard, director of bands at Fort Lewis College.

Reflecting on the weekend, local directors noted the immense growth students experience during the event. Despite having only nine hours of rehearsal time over two days, the participants made remarkable musical progress before their final performance.

The musical momentum continued into March as the PSHS Jazz Band attended the Fort Lewis Jazz Festival on March 5.

This adjudicated festival provided students with the opportunity to perform for a panel of four professional judges. The day concluded with an evening concert, featuring the top student ensembles and a special performance

by the FLC Jazz Band alongside the Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band.

"The jazz ensemble, featuring [PSHS performers] Cole, Jackson, Treyson, Brianna, Canaan, Israel, Travers, Benett and Mason, delivered a solid performance," commented Leo Baughman, PSHS music director. "Competing alongside 15 schools from the Four Corners region, the PSHS Jazz Band received '2' ratings in all categories, signifying a high-quality performance."

These back-to-back successes highlight the dedication of the ASD's music students and directors, as they continue to foster a culture of artistic excellence in Pagosa Springs.

The PSMS bands, under the direction of Malinda Burnett, and PSHS

bands, under the direction of Leo Baughman, will complete their performance year by showcasing their work this semester in the combined ASD Combined Band Concert in the PSHS auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on May 7.

3-D printing the past: Students bring 'Lucy' to life

Pagosa Peak Open School

While most second-graders spend their days learning about the present, the students at Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) are currently living 3.2 million years in the past.

As part of an immersive project on fossils and human origins, the class received a visit last week from a world-renowned expert: Dr. John Kappelman.

Kappelman is a distinguished paleoanthropologist known for his extensive work with "Lucy," the famous Australopithecus afarensis fossil discovered in Ethiopia. His visit provided a rare opportunity for students to connect their classroom work with the front lines of scientific discovery.

The project is more than just reading from textbooks. Using technology resources, the second-grade class has been 3-D printing a full-scale model of Lucy's skeletal remains. This process allows students to handle replicas of the bones, examining the same structures that scientists study to understand how early humans walked and lived.

"Dr. Kappelman shared that there were 3-D files of Lucy, and that inspired me to not only request the files for our class, but also raise money through Donors Choose to purchase a 3-D printer capable of printing the files," said second-grade teacher Cyndi Figaro. "I knew 3-D replicas would add to our learning."

To understand how Lucy's size compared to their own, students engaged in a "Gait vs. Height" study. By measuring their own stride (gait) and comparing it to their height, students applied mathematical ratios to Lucy's fossilized footprints and limb bones. This hands-on approach allowed the young scientists to estimate Lucy's stature — roughly 3.5 feet tall — bringing a legendary figure down to a relatable size.



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School second-grader Remi passes around the 3-D printed skull of Lucy, the famous Australopithecus afarensis fossil discovered in Ethiopia.

"We were focused on 'measuring' during math, so that was perfect for tying all of our lessons together," Figaro said.

The visit highlights PPOS's commitment to bringing experts into the classroom and fostering an environment where every student, regardless of their starting point, can engage with high-level math and scientific concepts.

As the 3-D printer finishes the final pieces of Lucy's skeleton, the second-graders aren't just looking at old bones — they are looking at the foundation of human history, guided by the very experts who helped write it.

During Kappelman's visit, students were able to ask questions not only about his work with Lucy, but as a paleontologist and geologist.

Students asked questions like, "Why are Lucy's hands and feet missing?" and "What's your favorite dinosaur?"

Kappelman shared about our local Pagosa geology and opportunities for fossil hunting, and brought in some replicas as well as real fossils.

"When we first started this project I just thought fossils were dinosaurs," said second-grader Avery. "But it turns out fossils can be plants, footprints, humans and imprints of things. And it is so cool that we have a real live paleontologist who worked with Lucy. I like this project because we get real live paleontologists to visit and we are excited to learn from him and show him what we know about Lucy and fossils."

For more information about PPOS, visit pagosapeakopenschool.org.

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Search

■ Continued from front

McCasland was last known to have been at or near his residence in the area of Quail Run Court NE in Albuquerque on the morning of Friday, Feb. 27.

There have been no confirmed sightings or videos of McCasland since, according to the sheriff.

The BCSO released the following timeline: On Feb. 27 at approximately 10 a.m., a repairman was at the residence and interacted with McCasland. At approximately 11:10 a.m., his wife left the home for a medical appointment. At approximately 12:04 p.m., she returned home and McCasland was not there. His phone, prescription glasses and wearable devices were located at the residence. His wife began attempting to locate McCasland and contacted family and friends. At approximately 3:07 p.m., she reported him missing and the investigation began immediately.

A Silver Alert was issued and remains in effect, with Allen explaining during a March 16 press release the alert was

issued due to his age and that McCasland had previously stated he was experiencing a “mental fog,” though Allen declined to disclose further details.

According to a March 12 press release, McCasland is a retired U.S. Air Force general.

On March 16, Allen noted that a search of McCasland’s Pagosa Springs home had taken place over the weekend, with items that were previously identified as unaccounted for located at the Pagosa Springs residence.

Those items, he noted, include a light green long-sleeve button-up outdoor shirt and hiking books, though the sheriff acknowledged he could have more than one pair.

Still missing, he stated, are McCasland’s wallet, a .38-caliber revolver and leather holster, and a red backpack.

During the press release, the BCSO noted McCasland is a “regimented individual” and had preferences for what he would go out hiking in, adding he didn’t have a “vast col-

lection of clothing.”

The BCSO explained in the press conference that the search is taking place in Bernalillo County and his Pagosa Springs residence.

The BCSO further stated investigators also located a gray U.S. Air Force sweatshirt approximately 1.25 miles east of the New Mexico residence on Saturday, March 7.

A press release notes, “The item was collected and processed. No blood was detected during initial processing, and additional analysis is pending. The sweatshirt has not been confirmed by family or friends to be associated with Mr. McCasland; however, it prompted an additional targeted search effort in the area.”

According to the BCSO, there is currently no evidence indicating foul play.

The search, the agency has explained, has included a neighborhood canvass to more than 700 homes requesting security video and information, drone operations,

helicopter support, ground searches, with search-and-rescue teams and K-9 searches.

How to submit tips

The BCSO is asking anyone in the area to check and submit security camera footage from Friday, Feb. 27, and Saturday, Feb. 28, particularly between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. in and around Quail Run Court NE in Albuquerque and routes leading away from the neighborhood.

The BCSO further asks if anyone was in the foothills or on trails in the area Feb. 27 to 28, please review any GoPro or phone footage and submit anything that may help.

Video and photos can be uploaded at berncosdnm.evidence.com/axon/community.

Tips can be submitted by calling the BCSO Missing Persons Unit at (505) 468-7070 or anonymously through Tip411 by texting BCSO and your tip to 847411.

randi@pagosasun.com

Heat

■ Continued from front

(NWS), the high forecast in Pagosa Springs for yesterday, March 18, was 78 degrees.

For today, Thursday, March 19, the high is forecast at 81 degrees with sunny skies and low of 34 degrees and clear skies in the evening.

Temperatures are expected to stay above freezing throughout the weekend in Pagosa Springs as a high of 82 degrees is forecast for Friday, March 20, with a low of 37 degrees and clear skies in the evening.

Similar weather is expected for Saturday, March 21, with a high of 82 degrees and sunny skies during the day followed by a low of 36 degrees and clear skies at night.

For Sunday, March 21, the high is forecast to be 77 degrees with mostly sunny skies and a low of 35 degrees with mostly cloudy skies in the evening.

Warm and dry weather is expected along the Wolf Creek Pass area over the weekend, as well, with the NWS forecasting highs in the upper 50s and lows staying above freezing.

The high for today, Thursday, March 19, along the Wolf Creek Pass area is 58 degrees with sunny skies. The low is forecast at 39 degrees with clear skies in the evening.

Tomorrow, Friday, March 20, the high is forecast at 59 degrees with sunny skies and a low of 39 degrees with clear skies at night.

For Saturday, March 20, the high is forecast to be 57 degrees with sunny skies. The low is forecast at 37 degrees with partly cloudy skies in the evening and breezy with gusts up to 35 mph possible.

For Sunday, March 21, the high is forecast at 54 degrees with mostly

sunny skies and a low of 34 degrees with mostly cloudy skies at night.

Drought and snowpack

The drought conditions in the area have also worsened, with the U.S. Drought Monitor showing that 100 percent of Archuleta County was in moderate drought as of March 10, up from 47.89 percent of the county being in moderate drought and 100 percent of the county being abnormally dry the previous week.

The drought levels worsened statewide over that time, with 64.04 percent of the state considered to be in moderate drought or a higher drought level.

Portions of the state, totaling 0.83 percent, is considered to be in exceptional drought. Those areas fall in Pitkin, Eagle, Summit, Lake and Park counties, according to the Drought Monitor.

Snowpack also continues to fall below median levels in the region and across the state.

As of Wednesday, the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan river basins sat at 45 percent of the March 18 median.

The Wolf Creek summit SNOTEL site, which sits at an elevation of 10,930 feet, was at 56 percent of the day’s median, while the Upper San Juan site, which sits at 10,140 feet, was at 49 percent of the day’s median.

On Tuesday, due to the record-breaking warm temperatures and low snowpack across Colorado, Gov. Jared Polis activated the state’s Drought Task Force and Phase 2 of Colorado’s Drought Response Plan.

Acting on recommendations from the state’s Water Conditions Monitoring Committee and partner agencies,

the task force will help the state better understand and elevate the local, regional and sector-specific impacts of worsening drought conditions, a press release from the state explains.

“Colorado is experiencing the warmest year so far in our 131-year record, and one of the driest,” Polis said. “Activating the Drought Task Force will help ensure we are protecting one of our most precious resources by closely tracking impacts, supporting communities and coordinating better as we prepare for the year ahead.”

The Drought Task Force, last activated in 2020, brings together senior leadership from key state agencies, including the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Department of Local Affairs, and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, according to the press release.

It further explains that the group assesses drought conditions statewide, elevates local impacts to state leadership, and can convene regional or sector-specific workgroups to gather information and share resources.

“The Drought Task Force allows us to bring together experts from across the state to share information and better understand how drought is impacting communities across Colorado,” said Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Department of Natural Resources. “By coordinating across agencies and with local partners, we can more effectively elevate emerging impacts and ensure communities have the information and resources they need to respond.”

“Activation of the Drought Task Force is critical in light of this year’s

severe drought conditions,” the press release states. “Temperatures since October mark the warmest start to a water year in the Colorado Climate Center’s 131-year record, and statewide snow water equivalent currently ranks among the lowest in more than four decades of records. About one-third of Colorado is experiencing severe drought or worse, with extreme and exceptional drought persisting in parts of the Colorado River headwaters region.”

“Drought does not impact every community in the same way,” said Lauren Ris, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) director. “The Drought Task Force helps the state understand where impacts are being felt the most and elevates those local challenges so we can better coordinate response and support communities across Colorado.”

The press release adds the CWCB’s Water Conditions Monitoring Committee will continue tracking drought indicators including snowpack, precipitation, temperature, streamflow, soil moisture and reservoir storage. If conditions continue to worsen, the governor may move the state into Phase 3 of the Drought Response Plan, which includes an official drought declaration.

San Juan River

As of noon on Wednesday, March 18, the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs was running at a flow of 286 cubic feet per second (cfs), above the median flow for March 18.

The median flow for March 18 sits at 121.5 cfs, with a historical low for the date being 39 cfs and the historical high being 1,040 cfs.

clayton@pagosasun.com

able message signs at COTrip.org or the COTrip Planner app.

In the event of active fire near a highway corridor, CDOT will post real-time updates on COTrip and its social media channels.

State ramping up roadside fire mitigation efforts ahead of high-risk fire season

Colorado Department of Transportation

With Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) meteorologists warning of an above-normal potential for significant fires across much of Colorado, but especially in the mountains and foothills, this summer, the department is taking proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk along the state’s highway network.

CDOT has accelerated its roadside vegetation management program, expanded coordination with partner agencies and put contingency plans in place to protect travelers and communities if fire conditions deteriorate this summer.

“Our highway corridors run through some of the most fire-prone landscapes in the country,” said Bob Fifer, CDOT’s deputy director of operations. “We have a responsibility not only to keep roads open, but to make sure our right of way isn’t contributing to the fire problem. This year, with drought conditions already taking hold across Colorado, we’re moving earlier and working harder to get ahead of the risk.”

Dry, unmowed grass and dense brush along highway shoulders are among the most common ignition points for roadside wildfires.

A spark from a trailer chain, a hot catalytic converter or a vehicle fire can spread rapidly in drought conditions.

CDOT maintenance crews have already begun accelerated mowing, brush clearing and vegetation treatment along high-priority corridors, with a focus on areas identified as elevated fire threat zones by the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

These areas include El Paso/Teller counties to Larimer County, Jefferson to Garfield counties and Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, Dolores and San Miguel counties.

CDOT is also expanding the use of herbicide treatment and mechanical brush removal along road shoulders

in areas where topography and traffic volume increase ignition and spread risk. This creates clear breaks that can slow or stop a fire from spreading into surrounding wildland.

On mountain corridors — including U.S. 160 — vegetation management is being coordinated with federal and local land managers to ensure treatments extend beyond CDOT’s right of way where feasible.

CDOT is an active participant in the state’s emerging multiagency drought response, working alongside Colorado State Patrol, Colorado State Fire Chiefs, county emergency managers and local fire departments to share risk information and align response protocols.

The department’s regional maintenance and operations centers have standing communication channels with local incident management teams and have prepositioned equipment in areas where roadway access could be critical to evacuation or suppression efforts.

CDOT has also coordinated with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to ensure highway closure and traffic management protocols are current for potential fire-related incidents, including rapid deployment of variable message signs, coordination of alternate routes and public notification through COTrip.org and the COTrip Planner app.

CDOT urges all travelers to be aware of heightened fire risk conditions when driving through forested and grassland corridors this summer.

Motorists should never throw cigarettes from vehicles, should ensure trailer chains and tow equipment are properly secured to avoid road contact, and pull over safely onto a shoulder if a vehicle shows signs of mechanical distress rather than stopping in dry grass or fire prone areas.

Travelers can check current road conditions, closures and fire-related restrictions being messaged on vari-

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The project budget is up to \$20,000, and the submission deadline for Round 1 is April 2, at 5:00 PM (MT). To apply, visit <https://mypagosa.org/2026-call-for-artists>

For questions, email: agadomski@pagosasprings.co.gov

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America 250 - Colorado 150 announces Historic Marker Program

America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission announced the launch of a new Historic Marker Program, a signature initiative that will place up to 150 new historic roadside markers across Colorado in recognition of the state's 150th anniversary of statehood and the nation's 250th anniversary of independence.

Developed in partnership with History Colorado and funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the program offers communities across Colorado a unique opportunity to help tell the stories of their own places and people.

Local organizations, historians and residents are invited to identify, research and propose sites for historic markers that recognize important moments where they occurred — expanding the stories currently represented in Colorado's historic marker system and ensuring that more voices and experiences are reflected across the state.

The initiative builds on Colorado's existing network of markers, many of which were installed between the 1920s and early 2000s.

The commission's signature initiative will modernize and expand the system while ensuring that more inclusive stories of Colorado's diverse communities, cultures and landscapes are represented.

History Colorado will lead this effort as a multiyear legacy program, applying its expertise to guide research, review and implementation to ensure the markers accurately and with integrity reflect Colorado's history.

"Historic markers are powerful reminders that history is not confined to museums — it lives in our

communities," said Robin Brown, America 250 - Colorado 150 commissioner. "As we recognize these dual anniversaries, this initiative gives Coloradans the opportunity to bring forward the stories that matter most to their communities and ensure they are shared and remembered for generations to come."

Beginning in 2026, the Historic Marker Program will support the installation of 150 markers that highlight significant people, places and events in Colorado history.

Communities, historical societies, tribal representatives, local governments and organizations are encouraged to submit proposals identifying historically significant sites.

"Something special occurs when you encounter history where it actually happened. It's often the best place to connect with our shared history," said Jason Hanson, chief creative officer at History Colorado. "Colorado's landscapes hold countless stories, and as the Centennial State commemorates its 150th anniversary, History Colorado is proud to support community efforts to share the place-based local stories that shaped our state."

The initiative is funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, a private philanthropic organization based in Syracuse, N.Y., and the nation's leading supporter of roadside historical marker programs.

Through this partnership, the Pomeroy Foundation provides grants that fully fund the fabrication of cast-aluminum historical markers, including the marker, pole and shipping, removing financial barriers and enabling communities across Colorado to share important local stories through durable markers placed where history happened.

"Historical markers help communities tell the stories that define them, bringing local history to life," said Bill Pomeroy, founder and chairman of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. "For more than two decades, the Pomeroy Foundation has fully funded markers nationwide, each held to our gold standard of primary-source research and professional verification. Through our partnership, recognizing Colorado's history, communities have the exciting opportunity to celebrate and commemorate their own stories."

Organizations and communities interested in proposing a historic marker can begin by submitting an interest form and reviewing the required materials on the commission website.

Proposals will be accepted in multiple rounds beginning in 2026 for a seven-year period.

Round 1 proposal timeline

- Project submissions due: April 15.
- Notification of selections: early summer.
- Marker installation begins: late summer.

Proposals will be reviewed through a multistep process designed to ensure each historical marker is accurate, inclusive and supported by the local community.

Community members proposing a new marker submit historical documentation, primary sources and letters of support.

A History Colorado review board — made up of historians, state agency representatives and community experts — will evaluate each proposal for historical significance, accuracy

and feasibility.

Proposals approved through this process will then be forwarded to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for final approval.

Once approved, the foundation will fund the production and shipping of the historical marker, while the submitting organization coordinates installation at the designated site.

Communities interested in participating can learn more, submit an interest form, and review program guidelines at Am250CO150.org, where individuals and organizations can also explore other signature initiatives and find ways to get involved in the statewide commemoration.

About the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commemoration

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is leading Colorado's commemoration of 150 years of statehood and 250 years of American independence in 2026.

Established by Gov. Jared Polis and the Colorado General Assembly, the commission brings together leaders from across the state to guide this historic milestone.

Through its campaign, "The View From Here," the Commission invites all Coloradans to reflect on our shared history and imagine the future, recognizing Colorado's unique legacy as the only state founded on the nation's 100th birthday in 1876.

Working alongside state agencies, regional advisory panel members and local communities, the commission will showcase signature initiatives, educational programs, exhibits and community-led events to inspire statewide engagement.

County weighs options for community plan update

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 10, the commissioners discussed the option of potentially reissuing a request for proposal (RFP) for the county's community plan update project.

The RFP for the community plan update initially opened on Feb. 5 and closed on March 9.

During the work session, County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that a total of three proposals had been received for the project and that the county would begin the review process.

Commissioner Veronica Medina mentioned that, during the county's community forum hosted on Feb. 17, it was brought up that "potentially there was a group of citizens that have the experience and knowledge of how to do a community plan, but because of the way the RFP was written they were not able to submit an RFP for that."

Medina then asked if there was any

"desire" from the other commissioners to potentially put out another RFP that does not include the requirement for applicants to have done a community plan before.

Medina noted that she was not suggesting one particular group of people, but that the BoCC and county manager could possibly put a group together, "so we can have a well-rounded group to do it."

Medina mentioned that it might be more work "on the front end," but that by selecting a local group of constituents, the county might end up saving money on the project, and that having local community experience and knowledge "would be a great insight."

Medina also commented that having local insight would be more helpful in creating an "effective" community plan, rather than a company out of Denver or some other metropolitan area across the country.

"I like your idea, actually," Commissioner John Ranson said in response to Medina's comments.

Ranson also noted that he had pre-

viously brought up the idea of having someone local put together the community plan rather than an outside group "coming in and telling us how the community should be developed."

Ranson then indicated that he is excited for the county's new director of development to start and that he'd like for them to help on this project.

"I'm all about potentially saving some money on it, too," Ranson added, noting it would be an "advantage" to have more local knowledge involved in the community plan update.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that it is not a "hard no" from him.

"But, I think that it needs to be done right," he said.

Gonzalez referred to County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini asking if the county would first need to reject the bids it has already received before going back and opening up the process again to allow for locals to apply.

Brown mentioned that the county has to follow certain requirements in the RFP process, but that if it is opened

up again for locals, he would want to include in the RFP that applicants show "qualifications they could get the job done."

Giovannini explained that processes need to be followed and her guess is that would require completing the current round of RFPs.

She noted the BoCC can always make other decisions such as deciding to not accept any of the RFPs already received.

Codes

■ Continued from front

was to "just say no" to adopting these new codes.

However, Ranson mentioned the county is not in a position to say no, "because the next step is they're gonna tell us that we gotta go all electric."

He added, "And I'm just fed up with Denver."

Ranson commented that it seems like the BoCC is having the same conversation over and over again.

"We really don't have a local decision anymore," Ranson said. "I'm so irritated."

Medina also explained that she recently attended a Club 20 meeting in Grand Junction where county representatives also discussed the impacts of adopting, or not adopting, these codes.

"Most are where we are," she said, explaining that most counties around the state are "fed up" with unfunded mandates.

Medina also mentioned that one county has indicated it will adopt the CWRC but not enforce it.

"That doesn't mean it's the right thing to do," she said, explaining that particular county does not have a building code or building department staff.

She noted that another county is trying to delay adopting the CWRC by doing "groundtruthing" in order to evaluate their risk area.

Medina mentioned that a handful of other counties have said "hell no" to adopting the CWRC.

"It is very frustrating for so many counties," she said.

Building Official Randy Betts responded to questions from the BoCC indicating that the county has until April 1 to adopt the CWRC and until July 1 to start enforcing it.

He noted that "we do have until July" to adopt the other international building codes.

Betts also noted that the BoCC could table adopting the other international building codes for now, but that new round of codes will likely be published in July and if the county does not adopt the codes before a new round is released, then it will be pushed to adopt the newest series of codes, which includes a carbon-neutral mandate — meaning new construction would have to be built with all electric appliances.

Ranson asked what the penalties are if the county chooses not to adopt the CWRC, with Betts indicating the county might get a "slap on the wrist" from the state.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini added that her understanding is that if the county does not adopt the codes then "it would take away a lot of grant opportunities."

"Unlike some counties, we really need to do something this year," she added.

Betts reiterated that the county has more time before it needs to adopt the international building codes and that he was suggesting the county adopt the state's wildfire resiliency code because the state code gives jurisdictions the ability to tailor it specifically for their community.

Ranson also asked about the risk of having to go to an all-electric code, with Betts explaining that would not happen as long as the county adopts the international building codes by July 1, before the new round of codes comes out.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that the county can take some more time before adopting the international codes, but that the CWRC is being "force-fed," whether the county likes it or not.

Ranson then asked if the county could adopt the CWRC and not enforce it.

Betts responded by stating that enforcement of the CWRC would not

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Outdoors



EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS



Photo courtesy Cindi Galabota

Archuleta County Master Gardeners practicing their pruning skills during a recent workshop at the Southwestern Colorado Research Center.

Tips for the science and art of pruning fruit trees

By Cindi Galabota
SUN Columnist

I recently had the opportunity to take a small group of Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Master Gardeners to Yellow Jacket to the Southwestern Colorado Research Center for a fruit tree pruning workshop. The weather was brisk and a perfect day for hands-on learning.

The Southwestern Colorado Research Center (SWCRC) has been committed to agricultural research for the benefit of its regional growers for over 40 years. It is a 155-acre research farm located 15 miles north of Cortez in Yellow Jacket. Research is conducted on a variety of crops, including alfalfa, beans, wheat, sunflowers, sorghum, cover crops, hemp and emerging specialty crops.

A three-acre research and demonstration orchard was established in 1991 and is jointly maintained by CSU Extension-Dolores County, CSU Extension-Montezuma County and the SWCRC.

Presently, evaluations are ongoing with 75 different fruit tree varieties, including 21 field apples, 43 trellised apple varieties, two apple varieties planted in a “super high density,” five peach varieties, four pear varieties and three plum varieties. Also being studied are one raspberry variety and 14 grass varieties.

The orchard has 600 visitors each year, including people picking apples at you-picks, school tours, educational workshops and Master Gardener events.

Pruning fruit trees isn’t just a science — it is an art. Timing and consistency are certainly important factors that go into pruning a fruit tree, but your management goals and personal styles are also vital components to consider.

Light pruning starts the first season a tree is planted and intensifies as the tree ages.

Pruning should be completed during the winter months, and March is the best time to prune trees in our area. Pruning must be completed before the buds on your tree begin to swell. Bud swell marks the transition of dormant buds to active growth as temperatures rise. Some indicators for bud swell are increased bud size, color changes and softening texture. Summer corrective pruning is advisable, but no pruning should occur after Aug. 1.

Proper care of your tools is important when pruning fruit trees. You should sterilize all equipment before each use with 91 percent isopropyl alcohol. Bleach can be corrosive on your equipment. Sterilizing is important to protect your trees from diseases.

Some general rules for pruning are:

- Remove broken or misplaced branches.
- Remove congested or crossing branches and twigs.
- Leave branches and twigs that are growing out, not up, and are not rubbing against other branches.
- Prune the top portion of the tree more heavily than the lower portion.
- Make sure your pruning cuts are always flush and smooth, never cut flat so water can accumulate in the cut. This can cause disease.



Photo courtesy Cindi Galabota

From left to right, Anna Schneider, Sharon Dickson and Jane Weitzel, with workshop leaders Maddie Stevens and Gus Westerman at the Southwestern Colorado Research Center. The research orchard is behind them.

- Avoid limb-tearing and bark-peeling.
- Remove all root suckers and water sprouts.
- Prune young trees (seasons two through four) lightly, concentrating on tree form.
- Prune mature trees more heavily, emphasizing form and fruit production potential.
- Trees that have not been pruned for three or more seasons will require rehabilitation pruning. This process takes at least three seasons and should not be rushed.

Right now is the ideal time to prune your fruit trees, and CSU Extension has reliable, research-based information and resources to help you with your gardening and landscaping needs.

To learn more about pruning fruit trees, visit extension.colostate.edu or email Cindi Galabota at cindi.galabota@colostate.edu.

Resources:
Fernandez, D. (n.d.). Updated by Westerman, G. (n.d.). The Art Of Fruit Tree Pruning. <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by CSU Extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

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Seed potatoes and seed onions are for sale. Place your order today for Colorado certified and non-GMO seed potatoes. Five varieties of potatoes are available.

Order by April 30 and pick up your potatoes May 12, 13 and 14 at the CSU Extension Office. Visit archuleta.extension.colostate.edu or call (970) 264-5931 to learn more and place your order today.

Learn to can jam

Learn to can raspberry jam on April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at CSU Extension office. The cost is \$25 per person/couple for

one jar of jam.

Learn to can dandelion jelly on May 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension office. The cost is \$25 per person/couple for one jar of jam.

Learn up-to-date canning recommendations, food safety and high-altitude adjustments in a fun, safe environment.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension building, generally on the third Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

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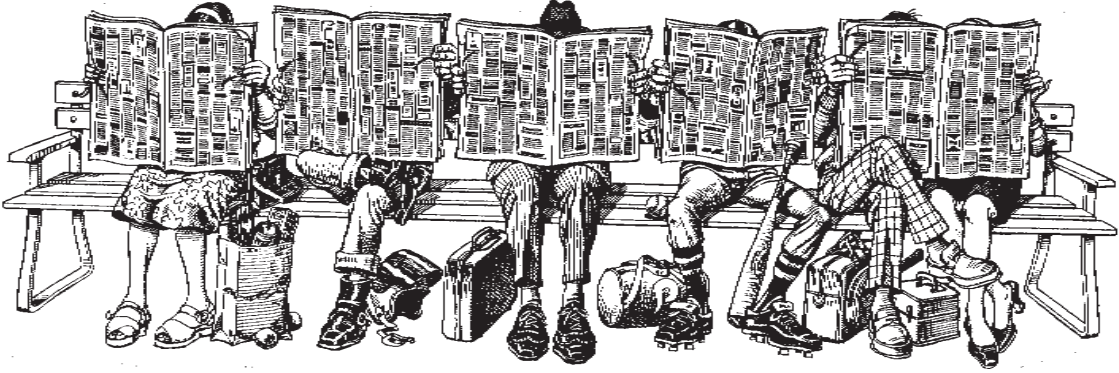
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Sports



TRACK

Pirates log strong finishes at Bayfield meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team competed in Bayfield at the Bayfield Invitational 1 last weekend.

Before the meet, the team voted on this year's leadership, according to coach Connie O'Donnell. Creede Dozier, Colton Lucero and Milo Deitemeyer will lead the boys' squad, while Madison Stretton and Lexi Campbell lead the girls' squad.

Those five athletes had immediate impacts in Bayfield on Saturday, March 14.

"The new captains immediately made their mark at the latest meet," wrote O'Donnell in an email to The SUN. "Creede Dozier put on a dominant performance, winning both the long jump and triple jump, taking third in the high jump, and anchoring the winning boys' 4x100 meter relay. Meanwhile, Lexi Campbell hit personal bests in the 100-meter dash and triple jump, anchoring two relays that featured a young core of freshmen and sophomores."

There was a myriad of first-place finishes and personal bests at the meet.

On the boys' side, Jonathan Baker placed eighth in the boys' 100-meter dash with a time of 12.22 seconds. Hudson Mazur placed ninth with a time of 12.37 seconds, Alex Pacheco placed 11th with a time of 12.38 seconds, Jeremiah Dean placed 12th with a time of 12.39 seconds, Milo Deitemeyer placed 21st with a time of 12.64 seconds, Garrett Mote placed 26th with a time of 12.73 seconds, Xavier Sanchez placed 29th with a time of 12.77 seconds, Daniel Kinsley placed 44th with a time of 13.48 and Chatwin Pickering placed 49th with a time of 14.04.

Baker placed fifth in the boys' 200-meter dash with a time of 24.60 seconds. Gage Sams placed eighth with a time of 25.46 seconds, Vincent Fish placed 12th with a time of 26.15 seconds, Koen Pitcher placed 17th with a time of 26.43 seconds, Desmond Murphy placed 21st with a time of 27.15 seconds, Jaiden Jones placed 26th with a time of 27.56 seconds, Ethon Dang placed 32nd with a time of 27.98 seconds and Kinsley placed 33rd with a time of 28.03 seconds.

Elijah Julian placed seventh in the boys' 400-meter dash with a time of one minute, 00.36 seconds and Murphy placed eighth with a time of 1:02.21.

Rylan Ash placed sixth in the boys' 800-meter run with a time of 2:14.90. Weston Sweet placed 10th with a time of 2:21.58, Connor Thomas placed 11th with a time of 2:22.89, Julian placed 12th with a time of 2:22.94, Eli Nehring placed 20th with a time of 2:38.95, Kieran Kurz placed 22nd with a time of 2:42.26 and Isaac Hanto placed 24th with a time of 2:55.79.

Ash won the boys' 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:50.99. Kurz placed 11th with a time of 5:51.93 and Hanto

placed 15th with a time of 6:09.73.

"Rylan Ash won the 1600 as a freshman," wrote O'Donnell. "He did not run a personal best, but close to one. He is right on track for an outstanding season."

Sweet placed seventh in the boys' 3,200-meter run with a time of 11:36.83. Thomas placed eighth with a time of 11:55.52 and Nehring placed 10th with a time of 12:53.98.

Jeremiah Jones placed third in the boys' 110-meter hurdles with a time

"The girls' team showcased their depth in discus with a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place sweep in what was an extremely long and drawn out event. Girls' discus was still competing even after the track events were finished."

Coach Connie O'Donnell

of 17.19 seconds. Fish placed sixth with a time of 20.09 seconds, Jaycub Carter placed eighth with a time of 21.29 seconds, Zyan Souza placed ninth with a time of 22.11 seconds and Jaiden Jones placed 11th with a time of 22.55 seconds.

Jeremiah Jones placed third in the boys' 300-meter hurdles with a time of 44.55 seconds. Carter placed eighth with a time of 50.63 seconds, Souza placed ninth with a time of 52.10 seconds and Dang placed 10th with a time of 59.22 seconds.

The Pirate squad won the boys' 4x100-meter relay with a time of 44.76 seconds and the 4x200-meter relay with a time of 1:37.66.

"We will be looking to get even faster as they refine handoffs in the coming weeks," wrote O'Donnell.

Jeremiah Jones won the boys' high jump with a jump of 6 feet, 4 inches. Creede Dozier placed third with a jump of 6-4, Sams placed fourth with a jump of 5-10, Deitemeyer placed fifth with a jump of 5-10 and Pitcher placed sixth with a jump of 5-6.

Dozier placed first in the boys' long jump with a jump of 20-10. Dean placed third with a jump of 19-10.25, Mazur placed fourth with a jump of 18-11.75, Fish placed 10th with a jump of 17-8.5, Carter placed 14th with a jump of 16-9.5, Sanchez placed 16th with a jump of 15-7.5, Murphy placed 17th with a jump of 15-6, Souza placed 21st with a jump of 14-2 and Kinsley placed 26th with a jump of 11-10.5.

Dozier won the boys' triple jump with a distance of 42-9. Jeremiah Jones placed third with a distance of

40-6.5, Pitcher placed seventh with a distance of 34-11 and Pickering placed 12th with a total distance of 32-1.5.

"Jeremiah Jones won the high jump with a personal best and placed in both hurdles and triple jump," wrote O'Donnell. "Jones and Dozier combined for a total of 56 points for the team."

Emile Schneider placed second in the boys' discus with a throw of 125-7. Aiden Vega placed sixth with a throw of 111, Lincoln Butler placed 19th with a throw of 85-7, Quintin Cheykaychi placed 30th with a throw of 65-8, James Beaudry placed 32nd with a throw of 64-7 and South Dozier placed 34th with a throw of 60-1.

Schneider placed third in the boys' shot put with a throw of 38-2. Vega placed ninth with a throw of 34-6, Butler placed 17th with a throw of 30-6, South Dozier placed 30th with a throw of 25-5.5, Cheykaychi placed 33rd with a throw of 23 feet and Beaudry placed 38th with a throw of 20-0.5.

On the girls' side, Campbell placed third in the girls' 100 with a time of 13.34 seconds. Ahrianna Martinez placed 12th with a time of 14.05 seconds, Abigail Foss placed 14th with a time of 14.26 seconds, Molly Washburn placed 16th with a time of 14.38 seconds, Bentley Briscoe placed 17th with a time of 14.85 seconds, Brynn Looper placed 20th with a time of 14.96 seconds, Annaliese Hinger tied for 21st with a time of 15.11 seconds, Aliana Hoffschneider placed 25th with a time of 15.20 seconds, Darria Fiorenza placed 26th with a time of 15.22 seconds, Katie Baker placed 29th with a time of 15.31 seconds, Hannah Stretton placed 40th with a time of 15.96 seconds, Nevaeh Evans placed 41st with a time of 16.11 seconds, Kylie Coleman placed 44th with a time of 16.29 seconds, Mikaila Anderson placed 47th with a time of 16.47 seconds, Italia Pereyra placed 54th with a time of 18.74 and Samantha Abraham placed 56th with a time of 19.36 seconds.

Nina Wood placed eighth in the girls' 200 with a time of 28.51 seconds. Martinez placed 13th with a time of 29.65 seconds, Washburn placed 15th with a time of 29.78 seconds, Foss placed 16th with a time of 29.87 seconds, Hinger placed 22nd with a time of 32.20 seconds, Looper placed 26th with a time of 32.43 seconds, Fiorenza placed 27th with a time of 32.58 seconds, Hoffschneider placed 29th with a time of 32.85 seconds, Katie Baker placed 31st with a time of 33.19 seconds, Quinn Howard placed 32nd with a time of 33.35 seconds, Stretton placed 33rd with a time of 33.77 seconds, Coleman placed 38th with a time of 34.98, Anderson placed 43rd with a time of 36.33 seconds, Pereyra placed 48th with a time of 40.47 seconds and Abraham placed 49th with a time of 44.40 seconds.

Clara Kurz placed ninth in the girls' 800 with a time of 3:01.43 and Lucia Rivera placed 11th with a time

of 3:13.02.

Clara Kurz placed seventh in the girls' 1,600 with a time of 6:42.51 and Dawson Iverson placed 16th with a time of 8:41.93.

Rivera placed third in the girls' 3,200 with a time of 15:39.94.

The Lady Pirate relay teams placed second in the 4x100 with a time of 53.64 seconds and first in the 4x200 with a time of 1:52.56.

Veda Deitemeyer tied for fifth in the girls' high jump with a jump of 4-6. Iverson placed 13th with a jump of 4 feet.

Wood placed first in the girls' long jump with a jump of 15-6.5. Looper tied for ninth with a jump of 13-1.75, Katie Baker placed 15th with a jump of 12-4, Howard placed 20th with a jump of 11-4.75 and Stretton placed 21st with a jump of 10-11.5.

Campbell placed second in the girls' triple jump with a total distance of 34-4.

Malorie Morton placed first in the girls' discus with a throw of 102 feet, Lina Vega placed second with a throw of 97-8 and Makaela Denton placed third with a throw of 93. Paisley Lister placed 17th with a throw of 52-6, Raleigh Iverson placed 19th with a throw of 51-11 and Charlie Barraza-Haymaker placed 30th with a throw of 43-3.

"The girls' team showcased their depth in discus with a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place sweep in what was an extremely long and drawn out event," wrote O'Donnell. "Girls' discus was still competing even after the track events were finished."

Morton placed fifth in the girls shot put with a distance of 27-5.5. Liana Vega placed sixth with a distance of 27-3.5, Raleigh Iverson placed 12th with a distance of 23-7, Lister placed 15th with a distance of 21-11.5, Denton placed 16th with a distance of 21-9.75 and Barraza-Haymaker placed 24th with a distance of 18-7.

"It was nice to have some of our veterans back," wrote O'Donnell. "After playing in basketball playoffs last week, they seemed to not have any trouble switching up their mindset to the track and to the field. They all competed very well."

The Pirates next meet will be the Pine River Invitational in Bayfield on Saturday, March 28, as the team takes some time off during spring break.

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BASEBALL

Pirates go 2-2 over week, to host Bears March 19

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team capped off a busy weekend last Saturday, playing four games in two days.

The Pirates played doubleheaders in back-to-back days, the first against Cedaredge on Friday, March 13, and the second against North Fork on Saturday, March 14.

The Pirates split both doubleheaders, losing the first and winning the second against Cedaredge and winning the first and losing the second against North Fork.

The boys were up and on the bus by 7:30 a.m. on Friday to drive five hours to Cedaredge for the first two games. The Pirates lost the first game 8-3.

Coach Jon Wells explained he felt that, due to the long bus ride, the boys came out a bit flat in the first of the two games.

Through the game's first two innings there was no score, with the Pirates then opening the third with three runs.

Heading into the bottom of the fourth the Pirates held a 3-0 lead, but Bruins scored five in the frame and

took the lead.

The Bruins scored three more runs across the next two innings and held the Pirates scoreless for the rest of the game for the 8-3 win.

"It once again points to just their no-quit attitude, and their positivity and their knowledge that they're never out of the game. And so I was really proud of the boys."

Coach Jon Wells

Despite their "flat" performance, Wells indicated he was pleased with the way that Braylon Landry threw the ball as the starter. It was his first start of the season after coming over from the basketball team.

Landry threw three and two-thirds innings, giving up two hits and five runs, zero of which were earned. He also struck out four and walked four

batters.

The Pirates logged five hits across seven innings.

Aaron Sowle had the only multihit game for Pagosa Springs, finishing 2-for-3. Taylor Wells finished 1-for-2 with an RBI and a walk, Noah Bellina finished 1-for-2 with a walk, and Zach Pouyer finished 1-for-3 with a run and an RBI double.

After the loss, the boys had the opportunity to split the doubleheader with a win in the next game. The Pirates did just that, flipping the script and winning the second game 8-4.

"What I told them after the game was that was a complete game for them all around," Jon Wells said.

The Pirates scored in the first four innings to take an 8-1 lead heading into the fifth. The Bruins put up a three-spot in the fifth to make it an 8-4 game, but never got closer than that as the Pirates were able to shut them out the rest of the game.

Taylor Wells started on the mound and gave up seven hits and four earned runs in six innings of work. He walked three batters and struck out 10. Pouyer came in to close the game, pitching a scoreless seventh with two strikeouts.

■ See Baseball A13



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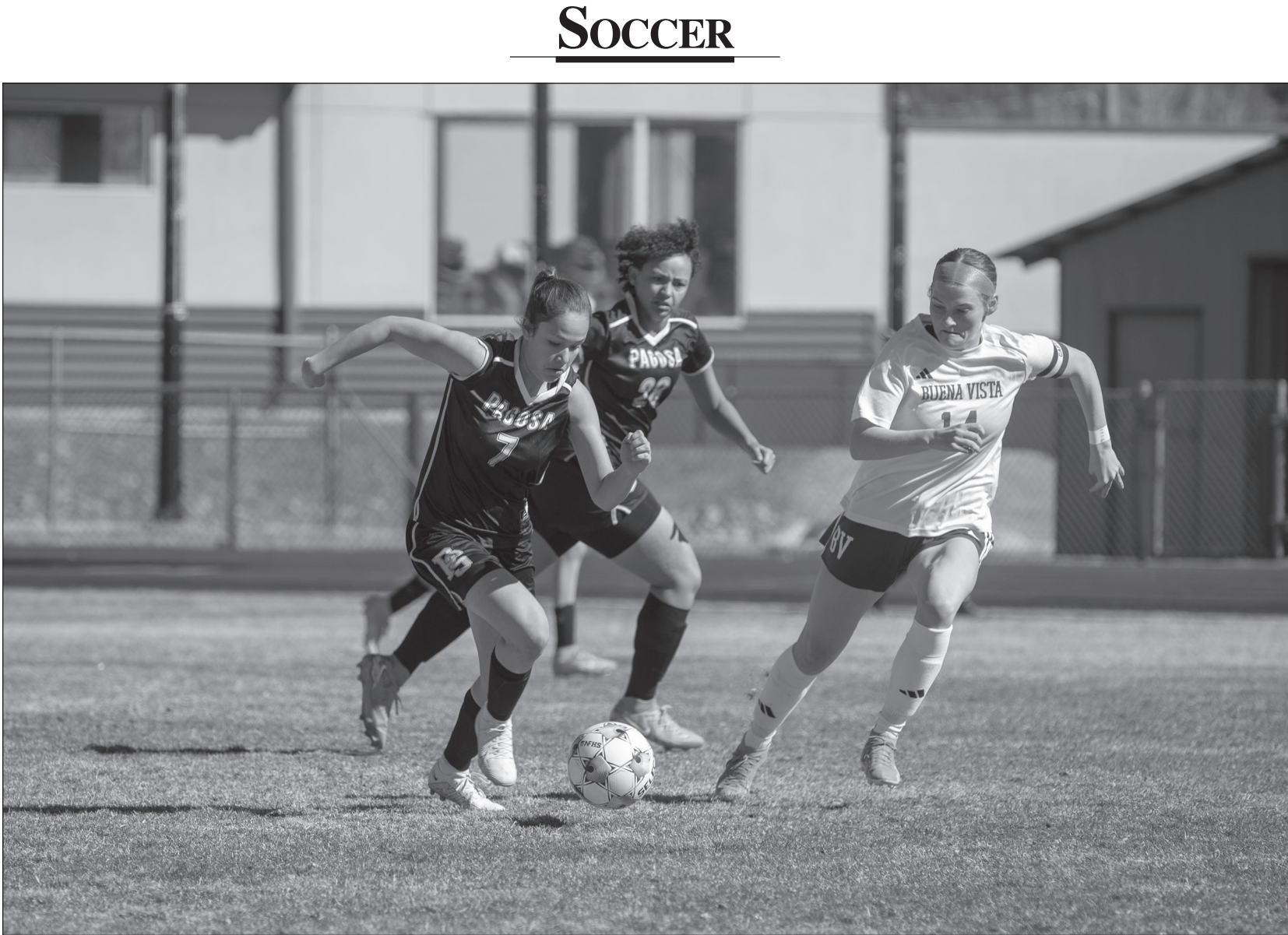
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Lady Pirate Ximena Garcia pushes the ball forward past a Buena Vista defender while teammate Terriana Cage provides support during the matchup between the teams on Saturday, March 14. The Lady Pirates fell to Buena Vista after opening the season with a win, leaving them with a 1-1 record.

Lady Pirates go 1-1 to open season

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team kicked off its season with a 10-0 win last week over Ignacio.

After two weeks of practices and walk-throughs, the Lady Pirates finally opened their 2026 season against Ignacio on Thursday, March 12.

The girls won 10-0 in their first action on a full-size field all season.

Coach Trevor Gian emphasized that he was impressed with the effort and the attitude of the girls in the game.

Terriana Cage led the Lady Pirates in the 10-goal effort with four. Tatiana Monterroso had a hat trick and an assist in the match. Xyra Belarmino, Ximena Garcia and Baylee Davis each scored a goal as well.

“There were some really great things offensively, pass, and defen-

sively some good things, and a lot of stuff we can definitely work on,” Gian said.

On Saturday, March 14, the Lady Pirates hosted the Buena Vista Demons.

Gian stated he knew that the Lady Demons would be a tall task heading into the game, and they proved to be just that.

Pagosa Springs lost 10-0 to Buena Vista.

“Buena Vista was pretty much exactly what I thought they would be — very technical, athletic, big, fast, great through the middle, aggressive to the ball,” Gian said.

The girls started a little flat and allowed the Lady Demons to score seven goals in the first half, noted Gian.

Despite the slow start, Gian emphasized that he was very impressed with how the girls were able to switch gears and begin to compete with

Buena Vista late in that first half and into the second half.

He indicated he felt that the girls contested some shots, played more physically and really just started fighting.

“If we’d have started the way we finished, I think we’d find a little bit different result in that game,” he said.

After the game, Gian explained told the girls that even though the loss hurts, it is a lesson and it teaches them how to get better.

The season is still very young and Gian indicated he knows his team will continue to improve.

The Lady Pirates won’t play their next game until Monday, March 30, when they travel to Del Norte.

In the meantime, the girls will continue to work in practice to get better every day, according to the coach.

During their extended break, Gian

noted he wants to work on physicality, stringing possession together through different passing combinations, keeping shape, set pieces and being first to the ball.

“I know it’s a game and the results matter, but it’ll give us a chance to get on a full-size field in a competitive atmosphere and start getting prepared for that crazy busy April,” Gian said of the Del Norte game.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Baseball

■ Continued from A12

On offense the team finished the game with 14 hits. Five Pirates had a multihit game.

Sebastian Gonzalez went 3-for-5 with a double, two RBIs and a run. Bellina went 2-for-5 with a double, two RBIs and two runs. Angelo Medina went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a double. Dylan Dempster went 2-for-4 with one RBI and a run. Pouyer went 2-for-5 with a double and a run.

Kaeden Iguchi went 1-for-1 with a run, Sowle went 1-for-4 with an RBI, and Taylor Wells went 1-for-4 with a run and a walk. Jonathan Moncada earned two walks.

“Our main focus was defense and executing on the plays that we need to make outs on, and I was really proud of the boys that they did that game,” the coach said. “We didn’t allow free runners, free bases [and] free runs defensively.”

Jon Wells indicated he told the team that the way they played in their second game against Cedaredge should set the standard for how they play the rest of the season.

The Pirates were back in action on Saturday against North Fork.

The boys came out and won the first game 18-15 despite the arms on the team wearing thin, noted the coach.

The Pirates found themselves down 5-1 after the first, but worked themselves back into the game. After shutting the Miners out in the third and fourth innings the score was 6-5 and the Pirates went into the fifth with a one-run deficit.

Both teams put up four-spots in the fifth inning and then the Miners extended their lead to two with a one-run sixth inning.

The Pirates exploded for nine runs in the top of the seventh to take an 18-11 advantage.

The Miners scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh, but their comeback bid was cut short when Pouyer came into the game with two gone and got the game’s final out.

Despite running out of pitching, Jon Wells stated he was pleased with the

resiliency the boys showed, particularly in the top of the seventh inning.

“Having to enter that last inning down and putting up nine runs on a team was fantastic,” he said. “It once again points to just their no-quit attitude, and their positivity and their knowledge that they’re never out of the game. And so I was really proud of the boys.”

The four arms that threw for the Pirates combined to give up 15 hits and 13 earned runs in the game. They walked a combined nine batters and struck out seven.

Offense was a different story, with the Pirates tallying 13 hits in the game. Five boys finished the game with two hits each.

Taylor Wells finished 2-for-4 with an RBI, a run and a double. Gonzalez finished 2-for-5 with an RBI, two runs and a double. Moncada finished 2-for-4 with three runs and three RBIs. Dempster finished 2-for-4 with three runs and one RBI. Sowle finished the games 2-for-3 with one run, on RBI and a walk.

Bellina finished 1-for-4 with an RBI double and a walk. Pouyer finished 1-for-6 with an RBI double and two runs. Iguchi finished the game 1-for-3 with two runs and an RBI.

The Pirates closed out the weekend with one last game over North Fork.

The coach emphasized that going into the game the boys were tired and he was all but out of arms to throw. The result was an 18-16 loss at the hands of the Miners.

The Miners jumped out to an early 10-3 lead after two innings. The Pirates pulled to within one after putting up one run in the third and five in the fourth, but the Miners added five more in the bottom of the fourth.

The Pirates pulled back within two with four runs in the top of fifth and tied the game with three more runs in the top of the sixth, but the Miners put up two runs in the home half of the sixth and shut out the Pirates in the top of seventh for the 18-16 win.

The Pirates’ arms combined to give up 13 hits and 18 runs, 12 of which

were earned. They walked nine batters and struck out two.

On offense, the Pirates notched nine hits.

Taylor Wells reached base and scored in all five of his plate appearances. He finished with two hits, two walks and a hit by pitch. Gonzalez went 2-for-4 with an RBI, four runs, two walks and a double. Dylan Dempster went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and a run.

Bellina went 1-for-5 with a run and a RBI, Moncada went 1-for-4 with a walk, and Sowle went 1-for-4 with an RBI double. Medina walked three times and was hit by a pitch, reaching base in four of his five plate appearances.

“Pitching was definitely a factor, but more than anything they were running on empty at that point and doing their best, but I think the weekend just kind of caught up to us a little bit as well,” said Jon Wells.

Regardless of the result of the final game, the coach explained was proud of the boys’ performance and for going 2-2.

Today, Thursday, March 19, the Pirates will host the 2A Dolores Bears for a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m.

The Pirates beat the Bears in their first game of the season, and Jon Wells noted he expects the Pirates to beat them in both games this week.

The Pirates are 4-3 on the season, while the Bears are 0-3.

“I believe we’re the better team,” he said. “I believe we’re set up to win the games, and we have to take care of those games that we are expected to win.”

The expected starters for the two games will be Taylor Wells in the first game and Landry in the second game.

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Expressions dancers shine, show growth in Farmington competition

By Suzy Halterman
Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

Growth and artistry were on full display as the Expressions Competitive Dance Team, part of the Pagosa Springs Dance Academy, competed in its third main season competition in Farmington, N.M., on March 14 and 15.

The weekend offered dancers the chance to demonstrate not only their technical skills, but also the creative performance qualities they have developed throughout the season.

Although dancers perform the same routines throughout the competition season, each event features a different panel of judges who provide new perspectives and feedback. Judges often bring their own professional expertise and artistic backgrounds, highlighting different aspects of a performance and helping dancers refine their technique and artistry as the season progresses.

Expressions dancers earned numerous high scores and special judges' awards during the weekend.

Company director Lesley Peck said the team has experienced significant growth since the company began five years ago. At that time, many dancers were competing in novice divisions, but, in recent years, the team has increasingly moved into more competitive divisions and continues to earn placements and awards.

She noted that competition feed-

back has played an important role in helping dancers grow both technically and artistically.

Company co-director Courtney Luke added that competitions can also be inspiring for dancers and teachers, providing opportunities to see choreography and performances from other studios and bring new ideas back to their own training.

Many of the dancers on the awards stage said their favorite part of competing was "having fun with friends."

Executive Director Katrina Thomas noted that while the dancers put in significant effort to develop technique and artistry, the competition experience also fosters growth in character.

Through the process, dancers build teamwork, confidence, respect for each other and themselves, and resilience. Not every moment of training or competition is "fun," but standing on stage and performing alongside teammates allows them to experience joy, camaraderie, and pride in their accomplishments, making the hard work fun and worthwhile in the end.

Expressions dancers performed 27 routines over the weekend, including solos, duets, trios, small groups and large-group numbers.

Many received high adjudication rankings and earned top-10 placements in their respective competitive divisions, reflecting the continued growth of the studio's competitive

program over the past several years.

First-place overall solo awards were earned by Avery White for her self-choreographed solo, Camellia Bellina and Paige Rogacki.

Other dancers earning top-10 solo placements in their divisions were Merick Halterman (fourth), Lily Peck (fifth), Sophie Martinez (seventh), Avonlea Thomas (ninth) and Lily Rogacki (10th).

Group routines also earned impressive results, with top-10 placements for "Art of Noticing" (second), "It Takes Two" (second), the full-company routine "Footloose" (second), "Anything You Can Do" (third), "Hopeless Romantics" (third), "Schuyler Sisters" (third) and "Aftermath" (fifth).

Seven routines received special judges' awards recognizing standout elements of performance.

Soloists White, Bellina, Peck, and Leela Simpson were honored, along with the duet of Sophie Martinez and Penny Peck, and the group dances "The Art of Noticing" and "Footloose."

The studio also received a Studio Superlative Award recognizing innovative concepts across its routines.

Community members will have the opportunity to see many of these performances at the Pagosa Springs Dance Academy Spring Recital on May 2. The Expressions Competitive Dance Team will attend its final competition of the season March 27-29.

Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

Expressions Company dancers perform "The Art of Noticing" at the Starquest Dance Competition in Farmington, N.M., taking home the Ethereal Elegance award and second place overall.

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Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2026-001

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On January 8, 2026, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s) Craig Waller
Original Beneficiary(ies)/Security Service Federal Credit Union
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt Security Service Federal Credit Union
Date of Deed of Trust December 02, 2019
County of Recording Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust December 05, 2019
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 21907315
Original Principal Amount \$336,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance \$294,271.21
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations thereof **THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**

LOT 583 IN TWINCREEK VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD NOVEMBER 5, 1973 AS RECEPTION NO. 78739
Purported common address: 48 Balfour Ct, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 05/07/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 3/12/2026
Last Publication 4/9/2026
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 01/08/2026
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
/s/ Elsa P. White
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Steven Bellanti #48306
McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369-6122 Attorney File # CO-25-1031352-JH
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
Published March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (285193)

COUNTY COURT, ARCHULETA CO, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiffs: Gisel Moncada and Yasmin Moncada, v.
Defendants: Justin Travis Fowler, and All Persons Claiming an Interest in the Manufactured Home Located at 514 Echo Lane, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, Case Number: 2026CO30014
Attorney: Ralph A. Cantafio #16280
Name: Cantafio Law P.C.
Address: 1927 Market Street, Unit 1A
Denver, CO 80202
Phone Number: (970) 819-2371 Fax Number: none
E-Mail: ralph@myralphlaw.com
Attorney Registration: #16280

AMENDED SUMMONS
To the above named Defendant(s): Take notice that 1. On April 28, 2026 (date) at 8:30 AM (time) in the County Court of Archuleta, Colorado, if an answer is not filed, the Court may be asked to enter judgment against you as set forth in the Complaint.
2. A copy of the Complaint against you and an answer form which you must use if you file an answer are attached.
3. If you do not agree with the complaint, then you must either:
a. Go to the Court, located at 109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 at the above date and time and file the answer stating any legal reason you have why judgment should not be entered against you, OR
b. File the answer with the Court before that date and time.
4. When you file your answer, you must pay a filing fee to the Clerk of the Court.
5. If you file an answer, you must give or mail a copy to the Plaintiff(s) or the attorney who signed the complaint.
6. If you do not file an answer, then the Court may enter a default judgment against you for the relief requested in the complaint.
7. If you want a jury trial, you must ask for one in the answer and pay a jury fee in addition to the filing fee.
8. If you want to file an answer or request for a jury trial and you are indigent, you must appear at the above date and time, fill out a financial affidavit, and ask the Court to waive the fee.
X By checking this box, I am acknowledging I am filling in the blanks and not changing anything else on the form.
Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 14th day of March, 2026.
by **Ralph A. Cantafio, #16280**
Published March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293664)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradocourt.gov).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of February 2026, for Archuleta County.
2026CW2 Archuleta County, Application for Conditional Water Rights (Surface). Applicant: Floyd McKee, PO Box 1732, Arboles, CO 81121. Structure: Crazy Annie (ditch). Legal Description: In the SW1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 12, Township 34N, Range 5W, N.M.P.M., UTM. Coordinates: Easting 292239, Northing 4120818, N.A.D. 83, Zone 13. Source: Buckskin Nailor Ditch WDD 7800513, tributary to Piedra River. Appropriation Date: 7/11/1974. Amount: 2.0 cfs Conditional. Use: Irrigation, Fire, Wildlife. See Applications for further details. (9 pages including exhibit)

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of April 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradocourt.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer
Published: before March 31, 2026
Published March 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293663)

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON APRIL 7, 2026
Brian Watter of 84 Ranch has requested a GENERAL VARIANCE regarding ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS, at 6252A US 84, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLVAR-25-095). The property is zoned AG RANCHING. Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to planning@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Adjustments on April 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 368 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting in person only.
Published March 19 and April 2, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293955)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Kenneth Ray Ball
Case Number 2026 PR 30007
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before July 6, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published March 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (291571)



Photos courtesy Gene Tautges

The annual Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry continues. The Friday meal fundraiser at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church will continue through March 27, with the event offering both drive-through and indoor dining from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The notices you see on this page include important information from local governmental bodies and attorneys that may be of interest to you. These notices can include information about public hearings, property assessments and changes in assessment, assumed names, name changes, claims notices, public meeting dates and financial statements.

Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon*

Bring your legal advertisement or public notice to our offices at 457 Lewis Street, or email to legal@pagosasun.com

*Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks. Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.



The Blotter

Items listed in The Blotter report where an alleged incident occurred and the nature of the incident. Readers should not assume employees or owners of a place of business or a parking lot reported as the scene of an event are involved as perpetrators of the incident.

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
March 2 — Criminal mischief \$300 to \$1,000 private, domestic violence, information only, Dayspring Place.

March 3 — Information only, Lopez Road.

March 3 — Criminal mischief M, information only, no location listed.

March 3 — Information only, Boulder Drive.

March 4 — Information only, Oakridge Drive/Hummingbird Place.
March 4 — Agency assist, Port Avenue.

March 5 — Agency assist, San Juan Street/Colo. 151.

March 5 — Information only, Ranchland Drive/Crooked Road.

March 5 — Failure to comply, Harman Park Drive.

March 5 — Information only, Metro Drive.

March 6 — Agency assist, Talisman Drive.

March 6 — Harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat, Harman Park Drive.

March 6 — Speeding 10-19 over limit, driving under the influence of alcohol, Village Drive.

March 7 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, U.S. 160.

March 7 — Agency assist, information only, Edinburgh Circle.

March 8 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, Dyke Boulevard.

March 8 — Dog at large, information only, Cloman Boulevard.

March 9 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, failed to display valid registration, Indian Land Road.

March 9 — Information only, U.S. 160.

March 9 — Warrant arrest, Spruce Circle.

March 9 — Disorderly conduct-petty, reckless driving, Harmony Drive/Trails Boulevard.

March 9 — Information only, no location listed.

March 9 — Warrant arrest, Colo. 151.

March 9 — Assault in the third degree, false imprisonment, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Steven's Lake Road.

March 10 — Warrant arrest, Cloman Boulevard.

March 10 — Lost/found property, County Road 600/North Pagosa Boulevard.

March 11 — Information only, U.S. 160.

March 11 — Agency assist, South 10th Street.

March 12 — Warrant arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard.

March 12 — Cruelty to animals-neglect/mistreatment, North Pagosa Boulevard/Cloman Boulevard.

March 13 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), unsafe or defective vehicle, West U.S. 160.

March 14 — Domestic violence, harassment-strike/shove/kick DV, Ranger Park Drive.

March 14 — Warrant arrest, South 10th Street.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

March 9 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

March 9 — Fail to yield to oncoming traffic while make a left turn, owner operated vehicle or permitted vehicle to be operated without insurance, South 10th Street.

March 9 — Disturbance, South 5th Street.

March 9 — Harassment/repeatedly insults/taunts/challenges, Country Center Drive.

March 10 — Information only, Great West Avenue.

March 11 — Stalking-emotional distress, Talisman Drive.

March 11 — Theft of rental property/obtains property without consent, Lewis Street.

March 11 — Violation of protection order-criminal, North 8th Street/Lewis Street.

March 11 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

March 11 — Alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, County Road 600/U.S. 160 and Alpha Drive.

March 11 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, South 10th Street.

March 12 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Rosita Street.

March 12 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, Country Center Drive/South 8th Street.

March 13 — Third-degree criminal trespass, East Pagosa Street.

March 13 — Harassment/repeatedly insults/taunts/challenges, South 9th Street.

March 14 — Information only, Oren Road.

March 14 — Violation of protection order-criminal, South 8th Street.

March 14 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Eagle Drive.

March 14 — Reckless driver, Hot Springs Boulevard.

March 14 — Remained in park/rec facility between dusk and dawn, Pagosa Street.

March 15 — Menacing-misdemeanor, East Pagosa Street.

March 15 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court:
Judge Anthony D. Edwards

No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Feb. 25 — David Scott Christy, violation p/o-criminal, three years probation, fines and costs — \$2,072.50.

Feb. 25 — Wyatt Wagner, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$163.50.

Feb. 25 — Andrea Theresa Burch, controlled substance-unlawful use, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,169.50.

Feb. 26 — Yuhán R. Contreras, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Feb. 26 — Eloisa M. Lucero, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.

Feb. 26 — Bobby K. Tuller, controlled substance-possession Schedule I/II/III/, 18 months probation, 30 days jail suspended imposition, fines and costs — \$2,091.50.

Feb. 26 — Tonio James Warren, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 60 hours community service, two years probation, fines and costs — \$2,238.83.

Feb. 26 — Jeryd Caler, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$83.

Feb. 26 — Valerie N. Gallegos, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Feb. 26 — Melissa R. Johnson, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$98.50.

Feb. 27 — Manuel Victor Arvizo, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Feb. 27 — Cherese Bergman, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$72.50.

Feb. 27 — Blaine P. Allison, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 27 — Justin Armstrong, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Feb. 27 — Steven E. Begay, pedestrian-drunk on highway, fines and costs — \$83.50.

Feb. 27 — Arthur Boyd Bradley Jr., speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 27 — Shawn L. Burnett, burning without a permit, fines and costs — \$334.

Feb. 27 — Bryant F. Castellano, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Feb. 27 — Mariann Ernst, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Feb. 27 — Jerry M. Gallegos, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.

Feb. 27 — Autumn C. Inez, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Feb. 27 — William P. Holstein, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Feb. 27 — Amber Marie Rosario, burning without a permit, fines and costs — \$184.

Feb. 27 — Rhonda Clark, turning improperly, fines and costs — \$140.

Feb. 27 — Shelby Renee Davis, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Feb. 27 — Austin Farias, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 27 — Fredy Leonel Tuncifuentes, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Feb. 27 — Walter D. Valencia, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Feb. 27 — Cindi A. Varnell, fail to yield right of way/left turn, driver's license-instruction permit violation,

fines and costs — \$223.50.

Feb. 27 — Christon L. West, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Feb. 27 — Stephen David Wilkes, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Feb. 27 — Steely Jadeanne Ingham, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Feb. 27 — Casey Hubbard, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Feb. 27 — Brayden Dale Keller, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Feb. 27 — Laura K. Roark, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$120.

Feb. 27 — Kathleen Sue Kemmerling, passed when prohibited, fines and costs — \$135.

Feb. 27 — Katelyn Sammons, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Feb. 27 — John M. Flowers, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Feb. 27 — Amanjeet, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Feb. 27 — Kristen Nicole Henderson, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Feb. 27 — Juan D. Torrez, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$314.50.

March 3 — Tanner Neil Anderson, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

March 4 — Megan Lee Thompson, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$868.50.

March 5 — Trevor Peterson, driving ability-impaired-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 24 months probation, 20 days electronic surveillance, fines and costs — \$2,568.50.

March 9 — Melis Salihovic, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.

SPRING CLEANING SALE

For two weeks (March 23-April 4)
everything in the store will be

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(There will be no Bag Sale or 20% Tuesdays during the Spring Cleaning Sale.)

Community United Methodist Thrift Store
427 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Pedestrian fatalities on the rise

Colorado Department of Transportation

Last year was one of the deadliest years on record for pedestrians in Colorado. In 2025, 127 pedestrians were killed on Colorado roadways, which is about double the number killed just 10 years ago. Pedestrians now account for nearly one-fifth of all traffic fatalities in the state.

With the recent transition to daylight saving time, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is highlighting a specific seasonal danger: darker morning commutes.

While the shift brings more evening light, the sunrise now occurs an hour later, leaving many pedestrians, school children and bicyclists in the dark until the sun is fully up. Additionally, as the weather warms up, more people are walking, running and cycling in the evenings.

With this data and the shift in daylight in mind, CDOT has launched a new campaign reminding motorists to slow down and exercise extra caution, particularly in neighborhoods and urban areas, to ensure the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

"The disturbing rise in pedestrian fatalities is not just a statistic — each one could be any of us, crossing the street over the course of our day," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "When you're behind the wheel, respect traffic safety laws and be mindful that doing so can save lives."

New data reveals a sobering trend: pedestrian fatalities in Colorado rose by 98.4 percent from 2015 to 2025.

More than 70 percent of pedestrian deaths happen after dark.

As Coloradans begin to spend more time outdoors this spring, CDOT urges the public to follow these essential safety tips:

- For drivers: Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, use extra caution in residential areas, never drive impaired or distracted and remain extra vigilant in dark conditions.
- For pedestrians: Use marked

crosswalks, follow "Walk" and "Don't Walk" signals, and remain alert.

To help reverse the trend of pedestrian and cyclist injuries and fatalities, the state is prioritizing better-connected bike lanes, improved crosswalk visibility and more robust pedestrian-focused signal timing.

Learn more about bicycle and pedestrian safety at codot.gov/programs/bikeped.

K.I.D.S. DAY CAMP!

K.I.D.S. = Kickin' It During Summer
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WHAT WE WILL DO!

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RESOURCES

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Register at the Ross Aragon Community Center beginning April 1st

Camp runs Monday, June 1 through Friday, July 31
Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Scheduled activities run 9 am - 3 pm each day

One-time application fee of \$15 per child
Weekly camp fee \$130 per child, \$90 per each additional child in the same household
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For more information, call (970) 264-4152, ext. 521



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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Welcome, spring





Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Since January, 48 local high school students have been singing, dancing and working to bring “The Little Mermaid” to life. Performances are set for April 8-11.

Local students to make a splash in ‘The Little Mermaid’

By Krisha Doocy
Pagosa Springs High School

Hold onto your seashells: Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) and San Juan Mountain School students are diving headfirst into “The Little Mermaid.”

Since January, 48 local students have been dancing, singing and acting their fins off to bring this under-

water adventure to life.

But it’s not just the performers making waves — creativity is bubbling up from all corners of the schools. The Art Department whipped up colorful puppets crafted by PSHS students, while the wood shop built sets that would make King Triton proud. That’s right — this musical is a full-team effort, from stage to sea.

Audiences can catch all the fun April 8 through 11 at 7 p.m., with a special matinee on April 11 at 2 p.m. Whether you’re a fan of catchy songs, spectacular dance numbers or just want to see a giant crab on stage, this is one show you don’t want to miss.

Grab a seat, hold your nose and get ready for a tidal wave of talent and fun — singing, dancing and maybe a little splashing guaranteed (on stage only).

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open Mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Two Hand Touch, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock ‘n; Rebels, 7 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jacques Grant, 5 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Santana Garcia, 5 p.m.

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End of Life Education to hear about emergency medical response March 19

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

The program for End of Life Education will be presented today, March 19, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

Please enter from the parking lot. The emergency medical response team for Pagosa Springs Medical Center recently added a new staff member, Andrew Spangler, focusing almost solely on education.

He will be speaking to the public at two of our meetings — on March 19 and April 16.

His comments will be for senior citizens, but he will also include material for the general public sharing what they need to know about emergency education. That is why everyone is invited to attend. Knowledge about an emergency medical program is beneficial to everyone.

If you are deciding whether or not to come to this meeting, there are a few questions you can ask yourself: Have I signed a do-not-resuscitate form? Do I know consequences of having or not having that form? Have I ever called 911? Do I know what they can do?

We will have another new speaker at End of Life Education on April 30. He is Brad Hunt, our Archuleta County coroner.

State laws have changed and the coroner must be more involved in every death call. We tried to have the coroner come several years ago, but he had to cancel due to the emergency nature of his work. Hunt promised

that we will be his No. 1 priority on April 30 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

It might turn out to be the most important thing you do on that day. If you ever need to work with him, it can be beneficial to have met him and know what to expect. He is diligent.

These will be three emotionally challenging programs, but with caring and sensitive people working

together, we can handle almost anything.

If you come, please be prepared for a challenge. You may get to practice asking for help. We have several medical doctors and several counselors who have been part of End of Life Education in the past. Plus, there are other amazingly caring people at

■ See Education on next page



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Colorado secretary of state announces ‘I Voted’ digital sticker design competition open to all Colorado high school students

Colorado Secretary of State’s Office

This week, the Colorado Secretary of State’s Office announced a new “I Voted” digital sticker competition open to all Colorado high school students.

“The digital ‘I Voted’ sticker is an opportunity for high school students across Colorado to engage with our democracy and show off their artistic skills,” said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. “I’m excited to see the designs Colorado high schoolers will come up with to encourage voter participation amongst voters.”

The winning sticker design will be sent to voters via BallotTrax once they have voted in the upcoming General Election. It will also be featured on the secretary of state’s website, media channels, press releases, in media coverage and as part of digital effort to encourage people to vote across the state.

Staff from the Colorado Secretary

of State’s Office will present the award during an assembly at the artist’s school.

Contest rules

- All entrants must be 13-18 years old and enrolled in a Colorado high school or Colorado home-school program.
- All artwork submitted must be that student’s original work; no stock or borrowed images may be used.
- Entries must include the words “I Voted.”
- Artwork must be nonpartisan.
- Entries may be created on paper or digitally.
- Paper entries must be either scanned or photographed clearly for submission.
- Digital and paper files must be under 1GB, and must be a .pdf, .png, .jpg or jpeg.
- If the winner submitted artwork created on paper, the Colorado Secretary of State’s Office will provide a pre-paid envelope for the artwork to

be mailed for image processing to create the digital image, if necessary. The artwork will be returned to the artist after processing.

- Entries will be used for social media and other marketing materials for the Colorado Secretary of State’s Office.

- All entries must be received by Sept. 4.

Additional contest details

The “I Voted Digital Sticker contest website, which includes the “I Voted” sticker template and submission form, is www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/votedSticker/contest.html.

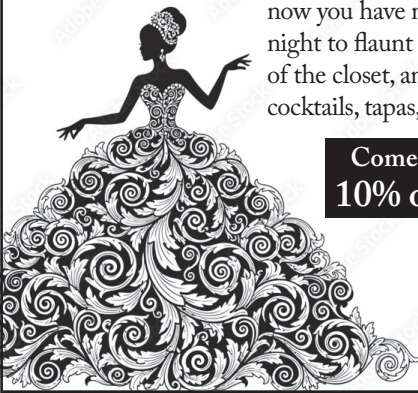
Winners will be determined by committee in the Colorado Secretary of State’s office.

LADIES NIGHT at Faire Society!

“Nowhere to Wear It”
April 2, 5p-8p

You bought that super fancy/hot/cute outfit, but now you have nowhere to wear it! Tonight’s the night to flaunt your stuff, girl! Pull it out of the back of the closet, and join us for an evening of dress-up, cocktails, tapas, coffee beverages, and more!

Come dressed to impress and get
10% off all wine and beer!



117 Navajo Trail Drive
Suite A

Education

■ continued from previous page our meetings.

We will also discuss what other speakers we want to have this year. Should we have speakers from one or both of the funeral homes and the crematorium?

There will be some options for getting details about Colorado’s end-of-life laws that have very specific rules that must be followed. It is great having such laws to help us, but you must be prepared with information. What else would you like to learn about?

I hope to see you there for a great learning experience and something that you will find to be most helpful. We almost always find that we are more capable and stronger than we ever thought we were. We will be learning a great deal at each of these programs.

Trustworthy.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100



Hosted by
Commissioner John
Ranson

Interactive Community Forum

🕒 5:00 PM

📅 Wednesday
March 25, 2026

📍 Ponderosa Meeting Room
The Springs Resort
323 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs

DISCUSSION & INSIGHT

- Review of Feedback from February’s Community Forum
- Lodging Tax
- Community Plan
- Water Concerns
- Your Ideas & Concerns

invites you to join us for our

Easter Bash & Egg Hunt!

on Saturday, April 4th
622 Park Avenue

Egg Hunt: 11 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Activities: noon-1:30



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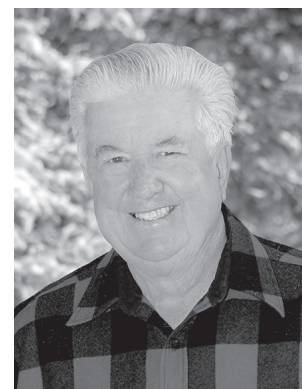
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\$1,698,000



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\$1,600,000



203 Yeoman Drive
\$1,500,000



300 Peterson Ridge Court
\$1,250,000



300 Ranch Place
\$1,124,265



11643 & X County Road 600
\$1,039,000



295 Loma Vista Court
\$930,000



381 Northlake Avenue
\$825,000



318 Silver Circle
\$810,000



23 Fawn Court
\$799,999



2015 Shenandoah Drive
\$790,000



111 & 106 Pineview Court
\$763,000



756 Hatcher Circle
\$750,000



438 Lakewood Street
\$749,000



960 County Road 335
\$709,000



661 West Log Hill Road
\$698,000



68 Valley Court, Durango
\$690,867



195 Wilderness Drive
\$680,000



54 Lakewood Street
\$665,000



279 Crocket Circle
\$659,000



304 Cimarrona Circle
\$650,000



155 Pike Drive
\$649,000



81 Laguna Place
\$644,500



34 Holly Tree Circle
\$637,527



108 Saturn Drive
\$627,500



500 Caddy Circle
\$624,000



32 Ermine Court
\$570,000



118 Saturn Drive
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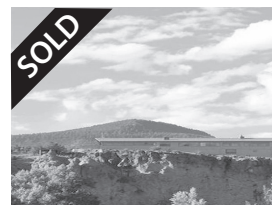
690 Antelope Avenue
\$535,990



1273 N Taylor Circle, Bayfield
\$520,000



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\$515,000



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302 Talisman Drive
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818 Hills Circle
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331 Evergreen Drive
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89 Valley View Drive
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582 Meadows Drive
\$330,000

X County Road 359
\$300,000

28 Bridge Drive
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X County Road 359
\$267,500

1210 Roush Drive
\$249,000

4410 County Road 359
\$235,000

532 Old Sawmill Circle
\$194,750

1056 Roush Drive
\$193,000

415 Oakbrush Street
\$185,000

152 Hawthorne Drive
\$175,000

370 Alpine Drive
\$172,000

776 Quien Sabe Street
\$160,500

177 Oak Hill Drive
\$160,000

149 Aztec Drive
\$130,000

270 Hilltop Drive
\$85,000

462 Circle Drive
\$65,000

537 Hills Circle
\$65,000

822 Hills Circle
\$60,000

470 Lucas Boulevard
\$60,000

80 Sandstone Court
\$59,500

310 Sundown Drive
\$55,000

359 Hidden Drive
\$45,000

1085 Hills Circle
\$45,000

23 Cottonwood Drive
\$41,000

1458 Trails Boulevard
\$41,000

1480 Trails Boulevard
\$41,000

587 Santino Place
\$40,000

135 Evergreen Drive
\$39,890

735 Doc Adams Road
\$35,000

75 Sundown Circle
\$35,000

536 Doc Adams Road
\$34,500

90 Harry's Court
\$32,500

553 Crooked Road
\$32,000

74 Aspen Road, South Fork
\$30,000

376 French Drive, South Fork
\$30,000

83 Fireside Street
\$27,000

124 Susan's Place
\$24,000

346 Shirley Drive, South Fork
\$24,000

120 Lake Street
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1446 Crooked Road
\$17,490

719 E Stollsteimer Road
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Pagosa Creation Care gathering to discuss ‘Bird Conservation Across the Divide’

Community United Methodist Church

Pagosa Creation Care will be meeting on Thursday, March 26, in the Community United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Please enter through the side door next to the parking lot.

We will start with a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Herb Grover, an active member of the Weminuche Audubon Society will speak on “Bird Conservation Across the Divide.”

Volunteers from the Weminuche Audubon Society in Pagosa Springs have contributed to a number of bird surveys and educational programs supporting bird conservation efforts in areas surrounding Pagosa Springs and at national wildlife refuges in the San Luis Valley.

As the context for this work, it is important to recognize that, with the exception of some waterfowl species, bird populations across North America and beyond have declined by more than 25 percent over the last century.

For the past three years we have contributed to shorebird surveys at the Monte Vista and Alamosa national wildlife refuges. Many of the bird species we observed there are in population decline but are being helped by careful management practices at these and other federal and state refuges.

Other citizen science projects our members have contributed to include the annual Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society, a survey of American Dipper nesting sites along the San Juan River and a forest bird monitoring project taking place in the San Juan National Forest. The findings of these studies affirm continent-wide trends in declining population numbers of many bird species.

These results will be reviewed in more detail, along with the accomplishments of several complementary citizen science projects and educational outreach programs. Overall, the efforts and achievements of volunteers in these programs reflect an impressive level of dedication to conservation biology and environmental stewardship that is widely recognized across our region.



Photo courtesy Herb Grover

On Thursday, March 26, Dr. Herb Grover, a member of the Weminuche Audubon Society, will present “Bird Conservation Across the Divide” at Pagosa Creation Care.

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PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION WITH GEOTHERMAL HEATING PANELS

The Public Arts Committee is seeking professional artists or artist teams to design and install a new public artwork at Centennial Park. This highly visible installation will serve as a sculptural screen to soften existing EV charging stations and utilities while celebrating Pagosa Springs’ identity as a Geothermal Campus. Artists are encouraged to create a site-responsive work incorporating Town-provided geothermal heating panels and reflecting the community’s rich geothermal heritage.

The project budget is up to \$20,000, and the submission deadline for Round 1 is April 2, at 5:00 PM (MT). To apply, visit <https://mypagosa.org/2026-call-for-artists>

For questions, email:

agadomski@pagosasprings.co.gov



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The Archuleta Food Summit on April 18 will highlight the importance of fiber-rich foods, among other topics relating to local food and community health.

Photo courtesy Health Archuleta

Fiber-rich foods and local agriculture to be highlighted at Archuleta Food Summit

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is inviting community members to the 2026 Archuleta Food Summit on April 18, where local food and community health will take center stage.

One focus of the event will be the importance of fiber-rich foods, such as vegetables, legumes and whole grains, which support digestion, heart health and disease prevention.

Many Americans consume less fiber than recommended, increasing risks for conditions such as heart disease and diabetes.

Locally grown foods, including peas and leafy greens, are excellent sources of fiber and nutrients that support gut and cardiovascular health. Some of these local foods

will be featured in the food summit’s delicious farm-to-table lunch. Although early in the growing season, the lunch will feature local produce from greenhouses, grow domes and hydroponic production alongside local mushrooms and meat.

During the summit, participants will take part in an interactive simulation of the proposed Archuleta Community Food Hub and Food Hall to explore how local farms could connect with restaurants, markets and families.

Registration is open for the day’s event, and we encourage folks to register early.

For more information and to register, please visit our website, <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html>.



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O Lord, and our hearts are restless
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New wine and new wineskins

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

One of the most gratifying times I enjoy each week is teaching the Bible to a group of Zoomers.

One of the students, 30-year-old Josh, sat heavy with the weight of the world, confused and devastated at what he sees in his young life. He said, “I don’t know what I think of the Old Testament and Israel anymore.”

I said, “Josh, I understand. We have to look at the bigger story. In August 2024, three weeks flat on my back in the hospital, God said He was resetting my clock. I believe He has reset my clock for you. I have words for you that are relevant for today. These are words that I haven’t heard all the days of attending church. Stick with me. You will grow accustomed to the taste of this new wine.”

In the hospital, God said, “Things are set in heaven. The noise of the earth is the reaction to it. Write from the things that are done in heaven, not the noise of this earth.”

Since then, I have learned to hear new and wonderful things. Some sound like heresy and you might want to run me out of town on a rail. But what I’m serving you is new wine in new wineskins.

Those words done in heaven will be spoken before they become real to

Artist’s Lane

the hearing or seeing. They must be received in faith. So, as I write, many times, a thought or concept will be hard to hear, much harder to write, but I have purposed to write what the Lord is saying to me. He has always proved to be truthful. I can trust the words I hear.

One of the other students said, “I’m loving this new knowledge. But, it’s so deep, it’s hard to understand.”

“It’s because you are trying to hold new wine in old wineskin teachings. Old wineskins are the way we used to hear God’s word. Today, it’s not church as usual.”

Gen Z and millennials now lead older generations in church attendance. They are hungry to hear. They are thirsty to drink. They are not easily satisfied. That’s good. They have an uncertain future staring them in the face. They will not be satisfied by the tickling of their ears.

I have spent many hours before the Lord. It is hard to put a new word from heaven together in a tidy message or article for people to under-

stand. But, it is necessary.

The Barna Group states, “Church leaders will need to reimagine discipleship pathways, relational connections and volunteer engagement in ways that resonate with a younger majority.”

I say, “Whoa. Hold the phone. What about the message?”

I contend that reorganizing church activities is not going to cut it for these young people who have seen more in the last few years than we have in our whole lives. They are thirsty for new wine. It’s not a new truth, it’s what Jesus is saying: “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29, NKJV).

That day is here. I used to think Jesus was saying that we had to wait until heaven to taste this new wine. No, Jesus is in heaven and He is drinking it new with us in His Father’s kingdom on this earth.

Then He spoke a parable to them: “... And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved” (Luke 5:37, 38).

I said to the Bible study student,

■ See Lane on next page

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR Palm Sunday Church Services



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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold Action Sunday

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will engage in Action Sunday, held the fourth Sunday, March 22, at 10:30 a.m.

We have been reading and engaging in ways to deeper our understanding of mutual aid through "Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection" by Deepa Iyer.

This workbook-style read focuses on roles we all participate in when doing the work of building beloved community.

The final section — "For Now, and For the Long Haul" — poses questions vital to the sustainability of the ecosystems related to social justice

work: "How can we sustain ourselves and build capacity for now and for the long haul?" It offers practices for maintaining individual and collective well-being.

Come to learn and join in work that connects rather than burn out. We will also have an opportunity to put action to issues we care about by writing postcards. This simple practice helps us express our values and engages us more deeply to live those values in the wider world.

The UU Fellowship space is available for adjacent groups to meet in what we call our Community Hub.

The Tara Meditation Group is held Sundays at a new time, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and Qigong practice is on Monday afternoons. The Wise and

Wakeful Circle will meet Saturday, March 28, at 10 a.m. This open group is a time of connection, mindfulness and engaging in community.

The fifth Sundays are set aside as a day of rest. Therefore, there will be no services Sunday, March 29.

For more information, check out the website PagosaUU.org for our current monthly newsletter and more.

The fellowship space is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak.

We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to "Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good," and gather together in active hope.

Lane

■ continued from previous page

"The reason why it is hard for you to understand, you're used to how the old wine tasted and you think it's better. Jesus says it this way, 'And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better'" (Luke 5:39).

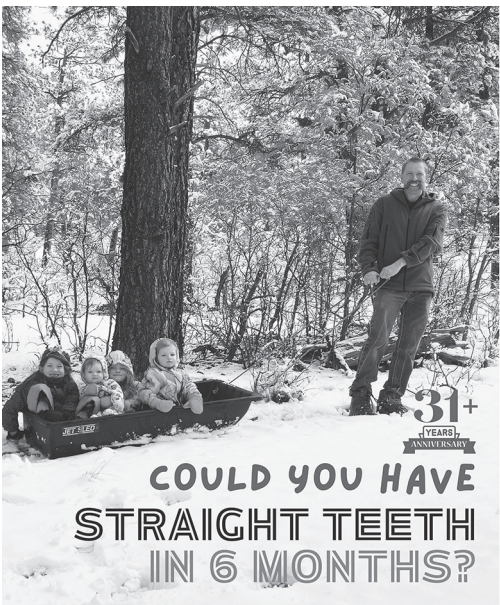
As I continued with the teaching, I said, "I can't go back to teaching about old wine. Once I tasted wine from the kingdom, I can't be satisfied with anything else."

Final brushstroke: Let this new wine breathe. It's alive. Don't put a straightjacket on me yet. I'm not

bending to how it used to be. The Lord won't let me. Stick with me. I love you too much to pour you a glass of old wine.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, March 19

Ruby's Writers Guild. 8:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Dolores.

Friday, March 20

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. 4:30-6:30 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Both dine-in and drive-through dining will be available. The cost of the meal is \$15 and is a fundraiser for the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus.

Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers Binoculars Star Party. 8:15 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Bring a pair of binoculars and dress warmly to view deep-sky objects. Meet near the pickleball courts.

Saturday, March 21

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. All quilters and wanna-be quilters are welcome. Social hour is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. For



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more information on meetings and classes, email pagosapiecemakers@gmail.com.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.grief-share.org.

Interpretive Hike: Snow Science and Social. 10 a.m.-noon, Lobo Trail winter parking lot. Learn about forest ecology, watersheds, climate change and the future of snowpack in the San Juans win the San Juan Mountains Association. Snowshoes, bonfire and hot drinks provided. Leashed dogs welcome. The hike is free, but registration is required at sjma.org/events.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Monday, March 23

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

American Sign Language Class. 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church,

209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County: Mondays in March. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Community Initiative art studios, 550 B Hot Springs Blvd. Learn more about the application process, required documentation, income guidelines, key deadlines and more. For more information or to RSVP for child care, contact Habitat Archuleta at (970) 264-6960 or email volunteer@habitatarchuleta.org.

Tuesday, March 24

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Uncle's Bar and Social Club, 56 Talisman Drive #8C.

Online Author Talk. Noon, virtual. "America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis" with author Shoshana Walter and special guest host Barbara Kingslover. Go to the library's website, www.pago-salibrary.org, to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County. 5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, March 25

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Thursday, March 26

Ruby's Writers Guild. 8:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

Pagosa Creation Care. 5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Dr. Herb Grover will speak on "Bird Conser-

vation Across the Divide."

Friday, March 27

Free Kids Clothing Exchange. 1-7 p.m., Open Door Church, 110 Trinity Lane. Shop and swap. For more information, call Amy at (719) 440-4305 or visit facebook.com/pagosaminicloset.

Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry. 4:30-6:30 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Both dine-in and drive-through dining will be available. The cost of the meal is \$15 and is a fundraiser for the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus.

Saturday, March 28

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Monday, March 30

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

American Sign Language Class. 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County: Mondays in March. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Community Initiative art studios, 550 B Hot Springs Blvd. Learn more about the application

process, required documentation, income guidelines, key deadlines and more. For more information or to RSVP for child care, contact Habitat Archuleta at (970) 264-6960 or email volunteer@habitatarchuleta.org.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

Photos courtesy Jenny Heckman
Scene ... celebrating St. Patrick's Day with St. Patrick's Episcopal Church on March 14. The church held its annual St. Patrick's Day Festival, which again featured the "world's shortest" St. Patrick's Day parade and more.



Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Bob Endres

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the American dipper.

You're near a clear, cold mountain stream or river when you hear a loud song of bubbly trills. Your eyes search the bushes and trees for this cheerful songster when movement near the water's edge catches your eye. It's the American dipper, North America's only aquatic songbird.

Both sexes of this medium-sized, round-bodied bird are colored slate gray with some brown tones around the head. They would blend right into the equally gray river rocks were it not for their constant up-and-down bobbing motion. In fact, some researchers believe that this characteristic movement of the dipper serves as a kind of communication used by the bird to announce, "Here I am," in the noisy stream environment it inhabits.

Several adaptations allow this bird to survive and feed in cold waters sourced from snow melt. Among them are a low metabolic rate, extra oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood and an extra-thick feather coat. A large preen gland produces an oily wax that the dipper spreads to waterproof its feathers. Dippers are almost never seen away from water, following cooler temperatures upstream in summer and moving downstream when ice covers the water in winter.

American dippers feed on the larvae of aquatic insects that are often found in the oxygenated cascades, riffles and waterfalls of fast-flowing streams. Dippers are good swimmers that dive from a rock headfirst into the water. Short, strong wings assist them in swimming underwater or paddling across the top, and long legs with sharp claws allow them to walk across the bottom in search of prey. Nostril flaps block out water, and a transparent third eyelid and enlarged eye muscles help them focus underwater. They are able to stay submerged for up to 15 seconds.

A dipper pair builds a dome-shaped nest of moss, grass and leaves on inaccessible vertical surfaces over water, under bridges and in culverts. Since 2021, Pagosa volunteers have monitored the nesting success of American dippers on local rivers. Volunteers for the current season are being recruited now. See the related article in The SUN for information on the project and how to join. You will fall in love with this bird.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



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Easter Season Services

Following are the Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter services that were submitted to The PREVIEW. Events may be submitted to editor@pagosasun.com.

Friday, March 20

Stations of the Cross. 5 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.
Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, March 25

Stations of the Cross. 4 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St. With rosary.

Friday, March 27

Stations of the Cross. 5 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.
Stations of the Cross. 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Stations of the Cross. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, March 28

Palm Sunday Mass. 4 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday Procession and Worship. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Palm Sunday Church Service. 9

a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1879 Majestic Drive.
Palm Sunday Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Holy Week for Children. 9:15 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Palm Sunday Procession and Worship with Choral Music. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Palm Sunday Mass. 11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

Monday, March 30

Holy Week Service. 6 p.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.

Tuesday, March 31

Holy Week Service. 6 p.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.

Friday, April 1

Holy Week Service. 6 p.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.

Thursday, April 2

Soup and Bread Supper. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Maundy Thursday Worship with the Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altar. 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Holy Week Service. 6 p.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.
■ See Services on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Melville captain
- 5 Crumbly cheese
- 9 West Indies native
- 14 Hit the bottle
- 15 Diva anagram
- 16 Dwelling place
- 17 Textile machine
- 18 Out of place
- 20 Fender bender, e.g.
- 22 Whoops it up
- 23 Lewis with Lamb Chop
- 24 Blind as a bat, e.g.
- 26 For fear that
- 28 Worthy of mention
- 32 Youngest March sister
- 34 Like babies' legs, often
- 36 Smooth and glossy
- 37 Filled to the gills
- 39 Put into servitude
- 41 Subatomic particle
- 42 Baseball great Hank
- 44 Free (of)
- 45 Cowboy hats
- 47 "American Pie" actress Tara
- 49 "MMMBop" band
- 51 Get the point
- 54 Whirl about
- 57 Raised road
- 59 Like healthy food
- 61 Start the pot
- 62 Part of a TV feed
- 63 Composer who had 20 children
- 64 Active one
- 65 Use a dressing room
- 66 Bullfight cheers
- 67 Means justifiers

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
23						24		25						
		26			27		28					29	30	31
32	33			34		35				36				
37			38					39	40					
41						42	43					44		
45					46				47		48			
				49				50		51			52	53
54	55	56					57		58					
59						60					61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

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DOWN

- 1 Traveler's aid
- 2 1989 film, "Turner and ____"
- 3 End of the world
- 4 Drag through mud
- 5 Notability
- 6 Cowgirl Dale
- 7 On a slant
- 8 Dentists' org.
- 9 Negligence
- 10 First and foremost
- 11 It may be skipped
- 12 Matinee ____
- 13 Harry's First Lady
- 19 ____ and proper
- 21 Exemption
- 25 Film mogul Louis B.
- 27 Boy king of Egypt
- 29 Approach rapidly

- 30 First name in jeans
- 31 Barely managed, with "out"
- 32 Something to take up
- 33 Face up to
- 35 College bigwigs
- 38 Ladies' man
- 40 Hide-hair link
- 43 Not the mixing kind
- 46 Addition column
- 48 Cooling-off period?
- 50 "Eraserhead" star Jack
- 52 Like most movies
- 53 Observers
- 54 Small winged insect
- 55 Part of BYOB
- 56 Sean Astin football movie
- 58 Sounds of disgust
- 60 "Industry" network

Answers to Previous Crossword:

L	A	S	S		A	M	B	L	E		S	C	A	M
E	D	N	A		M	A	L	A	Y		L	O	N	E
N	O	O	N		I	N	A	D	E		Q	U	A	T
D	R	O	M	E	D	A	R	Y		U	N	L	I	T
S	E	P	A	L		M	E	S	S	A	G	E		
				R	A	J	A		H	A	S		S	P
B	I	M	I	N	I		N	I	G	H	T	C	A	P
A	K	I	N		T	R	O	P	E		R	E	N	E
B	E	S	O	T	T	E	D		L	E	A	D	E	D
Y	A	M		E	E	L		D	Y	A	D			
		A	V	E	R	A	G	E		C	E	C	U	M
L	E	N	I	N		T	O	W	N		H	O	U	S
E	V	A	N	S		V	I	L	L	E		F	R	E
G	A	G	E		I	N	L	A	W		F	I	R	E
O	N	E	S		E	G	Y	P	T		S	A	S	S



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Invite everyone to celebrate the greatest demonstration of God's love!

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3rd - 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 5th - 10:15 AM

Come early for coffee, refreshments and family fellowship.

CENTERPOINT CHURCH

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Easter Season Services

■ continued from previous page

Holy Thursday Mass. 7 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Friday, April 3

Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday. Noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Good Friday Pilgrimage. 2 p.m., starting location to be announced.

Stations of the Cross. 3 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Stations of the Cross. 4:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Good Friday Service. 5:30 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Holy Week Service. 6 p.m., Restoration Fellowship, 264 Village Drive.

Good Friday Service. 6 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone

Drive.

Saturday, April 4

Blessing of the Easter Baskets. Noon, Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Easter Vigil. 8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, April 5

Eucharist with Instrumental Music and Flowering of the Cross. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Easter Sunday Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Eucharist with Choral Music and Flowering of the Cross. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225

S. Pagosa Blvd.
Easter Sunday Service. 10:15 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive.

Easter Sunday Mass. 11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.

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Pagosa Community Initiative’s family resource center seeks to empower Archuleta County families

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

The family resource center (FRC) at Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) operates as a vital community hub in Archuleta County, providing family-centered services to promote stability, child well-being and long-term self-sufficiency through resource navigation, emergency aid, referrals, parenting support and goal-based family development.

Part of a statewide network supported by the Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) in Denver, PCI’s FRC delivers strength-based, prevention-focused programs that adapt to local needs while building proven protective factors against child abuse and neglect.

The FRCA offers training, guidance and evaluation to its 30 member centers across Colorado, ensuring effective partnerships that connect families to essential supports.

Core services at PCI’s FRC

Located at 550B Hot Springs Blvd., PCI’s Family Services Department helps residents facing challenges by offering:

- Resource navigation and referrals: One-stop access to community partners for housing, food, child care, health care, mental health and more.
- Emergency and concrete assistance: Urgent aid like food pantries, diapers and programs such as Adopt-A-Shelf for sustained family support.
- Parenting and education programs: Free support groups, workshops on family strengthening, posi-

tive parenting behaviors, problem-solving and resiliency.

- Family development: One-on-one, family-driven goal setting where participants prioritize needs like transportation and crisis resources, leading to stronger social connections and nurturing relationships.

These services emphasize family expertise in their own lives, with FRC staff acting as local community navigators to foster safe, healthy environments.

Proven impact on rural communities

The FRCA evaluations show FRC participants gain improved parenting skills, increased emotional support, better crisis access and enhanced child relationships — critical in rural areas like Archuleta County.

PCI complements this with out-of-school programs, adult education and family advocacy, established as a nonprofit in 2022.

Contact PCI at (970) 585-6461 or visit www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org/family-services to connect.

As an FRCA member, PCI invites all Archuleta families to build resilience together.

Support PCI’s largest fundraiser: Second Chance Prom

These services rely on community

backing, especially through PCI’s biggest annual event — Second Chance Prom 2026: A Night in Hollywood on May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center (451 Hot Springs Blvd.).

This glamorous fundraiser features auctions, entertainment, a cash bar and appetizers to raise \$45,000 toward family programs, with tickets and sponsorships available via www.givebutter.com/PCIProm2026.

Holy Week

at Restoration Fellowship
March 30th – April 3rd • 6-7 PM each evening
264 Village Dr.

Join us for a meaningful week of worship, communion and reflection as we remember the final days of Jesus and prepare our hearts for Easter.

On Good Friday we will have a special evening with an extended full worship set with communion.



SUDOKU

					1	6	4	7
	2						5	
	4	3			8			
		2		5				4
1	7		4			9		
9		4		8	2		7	6
				6			1	8
	3					5		
8	1		2				3	9

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	3	7	5	4	2	9	1	8
2	9	5	6	1	8	7	3	4
8	1	4	3	9	7	5	6	2
9	7	3	2	8	1	4	5	6
5	2	9	6	3	4	8	7	1
4	8	1	7	5	9	2	6	3
1	6	2	8	7	5	3	4	9
3	5	8	4	9	6	1	2	7
7	4	7	9	1	6	4	7	5

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‘Dopamine Kids’ offers tips for change in a dopamine-overloaded society

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

Several years before the pandemic, scientist and journalist Michaeleen Doucleff began to notice that her naturally calm demeanor had changed.

She couldn’t fully relax on the weekends. Even when visiting magical places like the beach, far from her job or other responsibilities, there was a “constant hum of anxiety” preventing her from fully enjoying the moment. “What’s next?” kept running through her mind. She ate past the point where she was full, she didn’t feel comfortable away from her phone. She found herself arguing on social media. This was not who she was. What had happened?

The pandemic was Doucleff’s wake-up call. Life was no longer a guarantee, and she was determined not to live the years she had been granted in a perpetual state of anxiety. As a parent, she knew her young child needed her to do better. And she needed to find a way to not only shelter her child from her own erratic behavior, but to prevent her child from the same fate.

The result is a new book, “Dopamine Kids: A Science-Based Plan to Rewire Your Child’s Brain and Take Back Your Family in the Age of Screens and Ultraprocessed Foods.”

Doucelff’s findings center on the naturally occurring “molecule of motivation,” dopamine.

“For the first time in history,” Doucleff writes, “we are inundated with dopamine surges inside our brains, pulling us to technology and ultraprocessed foods like magnets.”

This imbalance affects not only adults, but children, and is a direct factor in the rising anxiety levels in our youth.

Doucelff prescribes a four-week plan toward building sanctuaries for conversation, focus, sleep and adventure as a buffer to our dopamine-overloaded society.

Parenting has changed, and you need new tools to confront the modern forces that make your child anxious and unhappy. “Dopamine

Library News

Kids” may be just the prescription you’ve been looking for.

To reserve “Dopamine Kids” or to explore other similar titles, start at our website catalog link at www.pagosalibrary.org/ or give us a call at (970) 264-2209.

Matching grant funds needed

We are furiously submitting grant applications to fully fund our new library construction project, but the target keeps moving.

Water has been the main culprit, but hidden concrete pylons and old retaining walls in the parking lot also cost us lots of money to remove.

This month a faulty sump pump in the old crawl space released unwelcome water. The fix involves piping a new sump pump to the other side of the building’s exterior — an expensive job.

You may remember we won funding last year from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in the amount of \$840,000. DOLA is willing to provide us with up to \$160,000 in supplemental funds, but we need to match the grant dollar for dollar.

Donations in any amount will help us leverage these state funds. You can donate online at www.pagosalibrary.org/donate-to-the-library-foundation, write a check to the Ruby Sisson Library Foundation or drop some cash in the conscience jar next time you visit the library.

Thanks so much for your help.

Construction update

So much is changing so quickly. Our roof is nearly finished, blue siding is transforming the exterior, and the drywall is up inside.

There will be a big transition in late June as we switch sides. We’ll

transfer service to the new section while the old section gets a facelift. In mid-August, the two portions will

■ See Library on page 21

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I	T	E	S	P	Z	Y	L	S	N	R	V	N	T	T	G	Y	H	L	D
A	C	I	I	W	E	C	N	A	N	E	T	N	I	A	M	U	I	G	E
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AIRING
DECLUTTER
DEEP-CLEAN
DETOXIFY
DISINFECT
DONATIONS
DUSTING
FRESH
HOME
LABELING
LAUNDRY
MAINTENANCE
MINIMALISM
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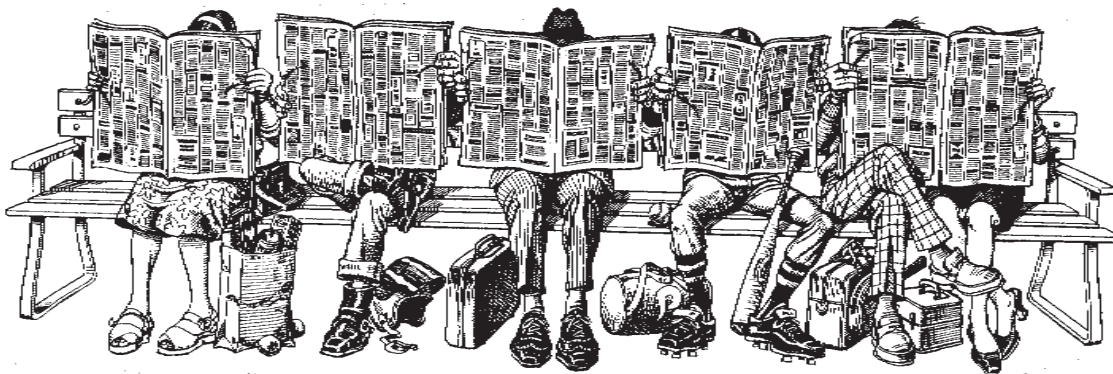
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Library

■ continued from page 19

be combined into one big, beautiful building. Our grand opening is tentatively set for Labor Day weekend.

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Pick up Colorado tax forms and booklets, as well as federal 1040 and 1040A forms and instructions.

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Online author talks

Our free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in March with new authors.

On March 24 at noon will be "America's Failed Response to the Opioid Crisis" with author Shoshana Walter and special guest host Barbara Kingsolver.

Watch live on Zoom or via a recording later this month.

For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Ruby's Book Club

Ruby's Book Club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating

between fiction and nonfiction titles.

Our April title, "The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise" by Colleen Oakley, is a novel about an unlikely friendship between 21-year-old college dropout Tanner and 84-year-old Louise, who go on a cross-country road trip after Louise's past as a jewel thief catches up with her.

Anyone is welcome to attend the book club.

During construction, it takes place at the new Harman Park Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive, next to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

Writers Guild

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for support, guidance, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

During construction the group will meet at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enter through the left side of the building.

English as a second language classes on hold

We're pausing our ESL classes for a few months. They will resume this summer.

New books collections brimming with interesting titles

For a full list of new titles and to reserve your copy, go to www.pagosalibrary.org and choose Search the Catalog at the top of the screen.

New nonfiction

• "Medicare 101" by Kimberly Lankford is an essential primer on

the government health care program.

• "Screen-Aware Early Childhood: A Realistic Approach to Helping Young Children Thrive in a Digitally Complex World" from Teachers College Press introduces the Screen-Aware Framework for Early Childhood, or SAFEC.

• "The Good Building Book: Principles of Efficient, Functional and Sustainable Design" provides practical design methods to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.

New fiction

• "Best Offer Wins" is described as "a tale of blackest comedy, spiraling obsession, and ultimate horror."

• "Discipline" by Larissa Pham is a debut novel about passion and revenge.

• "One Ordinary Man" by Steve Vesce is a historical novel based on the life of Harry Hopkins, U.S. commerce secretary who directed the New Deal.

New large print fiction

• "Until Our Time Comes" by Nicole M. Miller is a novel of World War II Poland.

• "All That is Hidden" is the newest Molly Murphy mystery from Rys Bowen.

• "The Antidote" by Karen Russell follows a prairie witch whose body serves as a bank vault for people's memories.

New nonfiction in large print

• "The Power of Thank You" is a new perspective on Christian living from prolific author Joyce Meyer.

• Melinda Gates tells all in her newest memoir, "The Next Day, Transitions, Change, and Moving Forward."



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Spring is in the air: tips to make the change in seasons easier

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

As winter gives way to spring, the change in season can bring both excitement and challenges for seniors. Warmer temperatures, longer days and blooming landscapes often encourage people to spend more time outdoors and become more active.

However, seasonal transitions can also affect seniors physically and emotionally. Changes in weather can aggravate arthritis and joint pain, while fluctuating temperatures may impact those with respiratory or heart conditions. Additionally, the shift in daylight and routines can disrupt sleep patterns or cause fatigue as the body adjusts.

To make the transition into spring easier, seniors can take a few simple steps to stay healthy and comfortable.

Dressing in layers helps manage changing temperatures throughout the day, while staying active with light outdoor activities such as walking or gardening can improve mood and mobility.

It is also important to stay hydrated, maintain regular sleep routines, and check in with health care providers if seasonal allergies or health concerns arise.

Community resources like the Archuleta Senior Center can also help seniors stay engaged by offering social activities, meals and support services that make the season more enjoyable and help reduce isolation.

Senior News

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmonsohn takes place on Mondays from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon

Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Friday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox's Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, March 19 — Salmon with creamy herb sauce, broccoli, quinoa rice pilaf, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, March 20 — Cobb salad with chicken, avocado, bacon, blue cheese, tomato and egg; broccoli cheddar soup; and ciabatta bread.

Monday, March 23 — BBQ pulled pork sandwich, broccoli, coleslaw, blueberry cobbler, garden salad, fruit

and milk.

Tuesday, March 24 — Korean beef with rice, sauteed snap peas, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, March 25 — Butter-nut squash ravioli with sage butter, wilted spinach and onions, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Thursday, March 26 — Tuna salad on avocado, pita chips, macaroni salad, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, March 27 — Fried chicken with country gravy, peas and carrots, biscuit, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

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WHY IS FIBER SO IMPORTANT?



The jury is in regarding fiber.

The question is, are you getting your fair share?

Fiber occurs naturally in certain foods. If you are not eating those foods, perhaps you should begin. Increase your knowledge and intake of fiber with the help of today's research excerpt.

Do you consume enough fiber each day? If you are like most Americans, then you probably consume about 10 to 15 grams of fiber a day. Unfortunately, this is just not enough.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), we should actually be eating anywhere from 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day.

What exactly is fiber? Fiber is the element in plants (like fruits, vegetables and whole grains) that our bodies do not digest. Fiber is different from most foods that we eat in that, unlike most foods which are absorbed and digested, fiber is not absorbed or digested. It actually passes quickly through your digestive tract, mostly intact, and it is not broken down like other foods.

The fact that fiber is mostly left intact is a good thing as it creates bulk which aids in moving stool and harmful carcinogens through the digestive tract. Without enough fiber in your diet, you will have irregularity, constipation, and sluggishness. Insufficient fiber can also increase your risk of colon cancer, as well as other serious health issues.

Because fiber helps to move stool through your digestive tract and colon, it actually helps to prevent colon cancer as it keeps your colon clean and healthy.

Other health benefits of fiber include reducing the incidence of heart disease, lowering cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose levels and inflammation, and even weight loss. Fiber can help with weight loss because it creates a fullness within your intestines that helps you to eat less.

There are two kinds of fiber: soluble and insoluble. According to the Mayo Clinic, "Soluble fiber dissolves with water and creates a gel-like substance that helps to lower blood cholesterol and glucose levels."

Insoluble fiber, on the other hand, "absorbs water which adds bulk to your digestive tract and helps to move things through quickly."

Source: "Why Is Fiber so Important?" By Jodi Sawyer. <http://www.doctoroz.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

"And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:12

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINK-ING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30 Men's Tuesday 5:30 Ladies Friday 11:30a.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12 noon. Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only: Zoom ID 858319763 password 754234. 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Call Kathi (970)946-1482, or central office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS, INSPECTIONS. 35+ years experience. Call Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning mitigation, and lawn care. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

WEST CO, CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES. Services include but not limited to: siding, roofing, decks, fencing, windows, interior/ exterior renovation, custom mill work. Call (970)698-1362 to make your next idea a reality.

HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions in the hot springs, bodywork, massage, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy — supports brain /nervous system, Qi gong, somatics — resolves trauma. (970)903-5309. (970)844-0645.

HELP WANTED

\$25 /hr -plus STARTING. Experience preferred. Will train. Are you energetic and friendly? Join our team and learn to become a highly valued dental assistant at San Juan Dental. Resume in person or email info@pagosa.dentist.

BE OUR NEW PS FROYO MANAGER. PS FroYo is looking for a friendly, dependable Manager to lead our team and help create a fun, welcoming experience for our customers. If you enjoy working with people, staying organized, and being part of a supportive community — we'd love to hear from you. Every swirl supports adults with developmental disabilities in our community. Full time, including nights, weekends and holidays when required, \$40k annual (\$19.25 hourly). Please email: executive@aspenshousepagosa.org.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CDL DRIVER /YARD ASSOCIATE. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring a CDL Driver / Yard Associate. This is a full-time position. Duties include deliveries, loading /unloading trucks, and helping customers. Requires the ability to drive a stick shift and have a Class B endorsement. We offer paid time off, medical, dental, vision, prescription, 401(k) and Profit Sharing. Please apply at Ponderosa Lumber 2435 Eagle Dr. (970)731-4111.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



Full-time and Seasonal

MULTIPLE POSITIONS • MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS

Starting at \$17 per hour, dependent on experience.

Weekends and holidays required.

Benefits include discounts, paid time off, profit sharing and more!

Apply in person. Applications available on www.terrysace.com

Terry's ACE SUPPLY
Pagosa Springs, CO

Terry's ACE
525 Navajo Trail Dr.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is expanding our crew. Hiring framing, concrete and general laborers. Paid holidays, end of the year bonuses, paid time off. 8 a.m. -5 p.m. schedule, year round work. Send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com or swing by our office at 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application. Pay DOE. \$20+ per hour.

COLORADO ROCK & DIRT EXCAVATION is seeking a qualified Heavy Equipment Mechanic to diagnose, repair and maintain diesel engines and related equipment. Applicant to provide their own tools. We offer competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package, including 401K and paid time off (PTO). Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or contact (970)264-3478 for additional information.

DENTAL ASSISTANT wanted. We will train you. We work hard and make a great living serving our patients. We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off, beautiful facility, modern equipment, excellent pay, 401k, Get the satisfaction of helping people. E-mail resume to office@pagosasmiles.com.

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR NEEDED. Full time /part time /summer job. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED. Full time /part time /summer job. Assorted Duties. Please send work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

GOODMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE is looking for a sales associate, Saturdays required. Sales associates must be friendly and self-motivated. Ask about our benefits and employee discounts. Come pick up an application at 402 Pagosa Street.

HOMETOWN INSURANCE is looking to fill a part time receptionist /administrative assistant position to add to our existing team. This position will turn into a full -time position late Summer. Prior experience is required. Must be detail oriented, able to multi -task and be proficient in Google Calendar, Docs, Sheets, Excel, Word and Adobe. Excellent phone and typing skills are a must. Our ideal candidate will have a friendly and warm personality while being professional, responsible and motivated. A customer -oriented approach is essential. Send resumes with references to info@hippsllc.com.

JAND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LINE COOK POSITION OPEN. The Keyah Grande Guest House is hiring a part -time line cook (\$20 /hour) for our new fine dining restaurant. Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/ personal time, performance -based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

OFFICE ASSOCIATE/
SALES ASSISTANT
(HYBRID ROLE)

Full-time, Monday to Friday

\$20-\$25/hour, depending on experience

Are you an organized, proactive multitasker who loves keeping operations running smoothly while supporting a fast-paced sales team? We’re looking for a dynamic office associate/sales assistant to fill an important role at The Pagosa Springs SUN.

WHAT YOU’LL DO:

Office associate

- Oversee day-to-day front office operations and maintain a productive work environment
- Customer service — answering phones and taking care of walk-in customers
- Oversee distribution of the weekly newspapers
- Assist editorial staff, proofreading

Account management

- Assist the sales team with supporting and servicing local advertisers with scheduling ads, creative/design, collections and other responsibilities as needed
- Help generate leads and appointments for the sales team

What we’re looking for

- Strong organization and communication skills
- A problem-solver with a positive can-do attitude
- Ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines
- Strong grammar, spelling and typing skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office/Google Workspace
- Experience in administration or sales support is a plus (but not required if you learn quickly)

Why you’ll love working with us

- Collaborative supportive team
- Opportunities for growth and skill development
- A role where your work truly makes a difference
- Competitive salary + benefits

Send your email or letter of interest directly to
CEO Jim O’Rourke at jorourke@ourourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

an O’Rourke Media Group company

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA ROOTER IS HIRING a full-time technician. Duties include driving a remote control camera into wastewater lines to inspect condition. Willing to train, pay depends on qualifications. For more information, call (970)946-3692.

Email
classads
@pagosasun.
com to submit
your classified.
PagosaSUN.
com

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SECOND RANCH HAND, Superior Stables, Pagosa Springs, CO. Perform tasks associated with breeding, birthing, gentling and halter training of Gypsy Vanner equine stock. Identify and catch horses in fields, affix halters and lead ropes, lead into barn and tie securely. Groom horses. Clean stalls. Strip stalls and disinfect floors, walls and surrounding areas for broodmares. Sweep barn aisles, stall areas, and ceilings. Maintain /clean water troughs and buckets. Handle feeding activities. Hold horses for farriers and vets and administer routine intra-muscular injections. Assist in gentling young horses in preparation for sales. Help maintain equipment, assist with mowing and weeding. Clean around barns. Load trucks with bales of hay and sacks of grain and feed weighing up to and including 60 lb. and lifting to a height of 5 ft. Workers must demonstrate common sense and awareness of safe equine handling procedures, i.e. no running in barns, shouting, abusing horses, leaving gates /stall doors /feed rooms open or smoking in and around barns, sheds and hay storage. Operate tractors and field equipment under supervision, painting and repairing farm buildings, fences and similar tasks. Remove snow around property, maintain heat tapes and trough heaters, and de-ice water troughs. Begin work early when fields may be wet with dew or roads covered in snow. Temps range -5 to 100 F. Work requires repetitive movements and extensive walking. Should be physically able to do the work required w/ or w/o reasonable accommodation. Must be on call for up to 24 h /day, 6 d /week. Saturday work may be required. Must be able to lift /carry 60 lbs. Req exp 6 months in job offered. \$36,504/y. Contact management at SuperiorStables. Recruitment@gmail.com

SEVEN STATES HAVE BANNED CHEMTRAILS. One is Florida, penalty is 20 years in prison and \$100,000 fine. Wow, 25 other states officially moved to ban “stop” chemtrails atmospheric geoengineering. Colorado is not one of them. We are looking for volunteers to help us end chemtrails. A good website is Wigington for more info. Contrails disappear in 5-7 minutes, chemtrails stay forever and that is what you see in the sky. Please help. Call (970)264-2592.

THE SANCTUARY IS LOOKING for a housekeeper and someone to do outside work. Flexible hours, friendly people and the use of our amenities. (970)264-2592. Phone recorder doesn’t work, call until you reach us.

TWO MECHANICS NEEDED ASAP in Dulce. Flexible hours, friendly shop, plenty of work. (970)585-4508.

AUTOS

1973 FJ40 and 1988 Toyota 4Runner for sale. Call for details, (970)507-0142.

2017 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT PREMIUM. One owner, garaged, extra clean, 105,000 miles, 4WD. Reduced to \$25,000. Call (970)749-4012 or (970)749-4016.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD SALE. The Dump Truck special is back. Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$500. Pine mix. Only while supplies last. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

FREE TO GOOD HOME. Kohler, jetted bathtub, light ivory color, motor and fittings, all fixtures and plumbing, 60” x 60”. Clean and in great condition. Call for info /pics, in Pagosa, (512)627-8288.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

>> Place Your Classified Ad

All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them."

~ Michael Gamba

www.RMREALTYANDRENTALS.COM



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Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com

117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.

LONG TERM
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MID TERM

150+ SW Colorado
Property Owners Served
19+ Years. Mortgage &
Real Estate Exp
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



FOR SALE

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG \$2,800. Home raised, vet checked. Crate/ dog door trained. References. Great foundation in place. Angie (970)314-3583.

YARD SALES

MUST MOVE: STORAGE UNIT ITEMS from knickknacks to furniture. 80 Bastille Drive #60. 8a.m. to noon. Friday, March 20.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

BEAUTIFUL, COLORADO RUSTIC DECOR BUILDING for rent. This large space has six separate spaces divided with barnwood and metal trim. Located in the River Center. Next to Summit Ski Shop. Parking in both front and back of office. Visionary Internet is available. Call (970)946-1981.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

LARGE COMMERCIAL -INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PRIME RETAIL SPACE available May 1. 620 sq. ft. \$1,350 per mo. 1st and last month plus \$1,000 deposit. Must pass background check, no smoking, no pets. 190 Talisman Dr. C-1 Call (970)903-3942.

PROFESSIONAL PRIVATE OFFICE for rent \$565/mo. 13' 4" x 15' 11" Includes water, sewer, heat, Wi-Fi, trash service, common area & snow removal. Contact Angelene at Hometown Insurance with questions or to schedule a showing. Call (970)264-4321 or email angelene@hippsllc.com.

TWO UNITS IN UPTOWN. 419 and 1,333 sq. ft. —available now. \$1,075 and \$2,300-Utilities included. Best use for office space or retail. Call Gina, (970)880-0910, for more info.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PagosaSUN.com

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM DUPLEX available beginning May. Garage, porch, laundry. Pet and smoke free. Includes water sewer \$1600 month, first last full (970)946-0118.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

EXCELLENT DOWNTOWN LOCATION, 1 bedroom /1 bath, 1,138 sq. ft., loft and separate building. See photos and complete description on Zillow.com 220 Hermosa St. (970)507-0791.

FOR RENT — 2 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 Bath Duplex. Located on E. Golf with patio and 1 car garage. Washer and dryer included. Pets considered. Long term rental, \$1700 /month plus utilities. (303)210-7369.

GREAT VIEWS OF CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT. Any large mobile home with all hookups for long-term lease. \$780 per month plus utilities, (970)883-2600.

LAKEFRONT. 3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH furnished, 1-car garage, deck with Jacuzzi on Pagosa Lake. Stunning views and serene living. \$3500 per month plus utilities and deposit. No pets, no smoking. One-year lease. Available May 1. (970)946-2728.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE who would like to live out of town. Peace and quiet, clean, 1 bedroom, large loft, fenced yard, heated with wood stove and an efficient ETS heating unit, washer /dryer, large deck, no smoking. \$1,700 /month, first month rent, security deposit and half of last month's rent. Will take a pet. Please leave a message, (970)731-2010. Thank you.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

LOVELY NEWLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home on wooded lot. \$3300 /month Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.com.

NEWLY REMODELED 2 BEDROOM in four plex, Pagosa Lake views, covered deck, 800 sq. ft., W/D, dishwasher, 5 minute walk to lake, most utilities paid, \$1,450. Call John (720)960-4910 or Lee (970)946-3896.

ON BEAUTIFUL PAGOSA LAKE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished upstairs unit. No garage. \$1,600 per month, plus utilities and deposit. No pets and no smoking. Available February 5. Long term lease. (817)565-7656.

SHERPA REAL ESTATE is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals or stop by one of our two locations.

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT in downtown with beautiful views. Rent \$1348. Large floor plan, affordable living through tax credit program. Income and eligibility requirements apply. Hickory Ridge Apartments, hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

SWEET REMODELED 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH 1 -car garage home with fenced yard. Visit teampagosa.com or call (970)731-8599 to set up a viewing.

THREE BEDROOM, 1 1/4 BATH, two car garage-Rent \$2,000 plus utilities. First and last month's rent, \$1,000 deposit. Located 374 S. 8th Street. Available March 1st. Call Yvonne at (970)946-4019 or Erlinda at (970)946-6702.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

TIRED OF RENTING? Are you ready to own a home and pay a mortgage you can actually afford? Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is seeking applicants to partner to build in 2027. Join us for an informational meeting about our application process on Monday, March 16th, 23rd, or 30th at 5:30p.m. at Pagosa Community Initiative's art studios at 550B Hot Springs Blvd. Contact volunteer@habitatarchuleta.org or (970)264-6960 with any questions.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

Email us at
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to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



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