



Photo courtesy Bob Endres

A bear, fresh off its winter rest, visits a pool of water in the area of Eight Mile Mesa Tuesday evening. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, most Colorado bears are active from mid-March through early November.

Pagosa Country sees more record-breaking heat

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

It was warmer last week in Pagosa Country than any other time on record, as the area saw five consecutive days of record high temperatures set from March 18-22.

According to forecasts posted by Shawn Prochazka with Pagosa Weath-

er, a new record high for the month of March was set on Wednesday, March 18, at 74 degrees and again on Thursday, March 19, at 76 degrees. The previous record high for the month of March was set in 1907 and 1940 at 73 degrees.

Record highs for the month continued on Friday, March 20, with temperatures reaching 79 degrees. The previous

■ See Heat A9

Ripping off the Band-Aid: Season two of U.S. 160 reconstruction underway

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners held a joint work session on Monday, March 23, at which the two entities were provided with an update on the U.S. 160 reconstruction project by one of the project's public information officers, Meredith Greene.

Greene started by explaining that season two of the reconstruction project officially kicked off on March 16, though full-time crews have been on-site since March 9.

"Reason being is we have quite a bit of work to tackle this season of construction," Greene said.

She explained that crews have already finished milling the south

■ See Reconstruction A7

RV temporary use permit resolution reinstated by county

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, March 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved Resolution 2026-26 by a split vote of 2-1, reinstating the policy for recreational vehicle (RV) temporary use permits (TUPs).

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that the BoCC initially adopted Resolution 2021-89 in 2021, adopting an interim policy regarding RV TUPs.

He noted that the interim policy "was extended several times and expired" in June 2023.

Gonzalez also explained that the BoCC considered the matter at its regular meeting on Feb. 17, when it was presented as a possible amendment to the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LURs).

He mentioned that the county's planning commission had put forth a potential land use code update to

address RV living in the county.

The LUR amendment was tabled at that time, with the general discussion noting that the code update should be deferred to next year as the county finishes up a new community plan update "which would likely influence long-term land use code updates," Gonzalez explained.

He went on to explain that because of the LUR update being deferred for at least a year until the community plan update is finished, "there was a desire to bring [the resolution] up as a one-more-time interim policy extension of what was previously done in 2021."

Gonzalez indicated that another one-year extension of the resolution would get the county to a point to "do a real land use code update" in early 2027.

He then explained that there were two items being presented for viewing and discussion: the original resolution from 2021 and the newly

■ See Resolution A7



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Summer-like temperatures lead to summer-like crowds along the San Juan River Tuesday, with recreationists taking advantage of the spring runoff to kayak and the geothermally heated water for some warm-water fun as others strolled along the river. The Pagosa Springs area saw five consecutive days of record high temperatures set from March 18-22.

Correction

In the March 19 issue of The SUN, the article "Commissioners adopt wildfire code, table decision on other building codes" stated the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners approved Resolution 2026-27, adopting the 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (CWRC),

along with amendments to snow load requirements for manufactured structures.

Only the CWRC was adopted with that resolution. No amendments for snow load requirements for manufactured structures were adopted.

The SUN regrets the error.

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Fire burns 2.3 acres in Chimney Rock area

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A fire burned 2.3 acres on Saturday, March 21, in the area of Chimney Rock.

According to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), the fire was located approximately 1 mile up County Road 917 (Cabazon Canyon Road). It was announced at about 3:10 p.m.

Local residents were put on pre-

evacuation notice, according to the agency, which also announced that crews had suppressed and reduced the fire's spread toward structures.

By about 4:30 p.m., the fire measured at 2.3 acres, with crews completing hand line and hose line around the fire.

The ACSO announced shortly after 5 p.m. that the pre-evacuation notice had been lifted and crews were con-

tinuing to "firm up" containment lines.

Shortly before 6 p.m., the agency announced that Archuleta County Road and Bridge was also on scene with 8,000 gallons of water.

At 7:15 p.m., the ACSO stated the fire was contained for the evening and crews had demobilized.

It added that a hand crew would be on scene the following morning to assist with mop-up operations.

The following morning, the ACSO announced the containment lines held overnight with no forward growth on the fire, and that two Archuleta County water trucks were on the scene with a total of 8,000 gallons of water along with the hand crew.

On Tuesday, Archuleta County Emergency Management Commander Roy Vega explained the wildfire was a

■ See Fire A10

Judge vacates upcoming trial for Running Iron Ranch case

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

On March 17, Sixth Judicial District Court Judge Justin Fay signed an order vacating the upcoming trial for the lawsuit between the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the Pagosa Area Water

and Sanitation District (PAWSD) over PAWSD's efforts to sell the Running Iron Ranch.

The lawsuit was initiated by PAWSD in December 2024 in an attempt to obtain a ruling that the three-way agreement between the SJWCD, PAWSD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)

would allow PAWSD to sell the Running Iron Ranch, which is jointly owned by PAWSD and the SJWCD, without the consent of the SJWCD, which plans to build a reservoir on the ranch and opposes the sale.

On March 13, the two boards held a mediation session which resulted in both approving a framework for

a settlement of the lawsuit at March 16 meetings.

On March 17, PAWSD and SJWCD legal counsel submitted a joint motion to the court requesting that it vacate the upcoming trial on elements of the lawsuit, which was scheduled to occur in May.

■ See Trial A9

Opinion

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OUR VIEW

It's time to be ready

It feels like not long ago fire season began when the dry lightning of early summer moved in, with most fire incidents before that small and, thankfully, mostly inconsequential.

That's not the case now.

It seems like earlier and earlier each year we're hearing of large-scale fires across the West, and we know how quickly a small fire — whether started by man or nature — can take off when the conditions are right and put homes and lives in danger.

We've had friends and family in other states have to evacuate on a moment's notice already this spring when record heat met record wind and dry tinder. Nebraska has seen more than 700,000 acres burn so far this spring. And, we've already had some of our neighbors here in Archuleta County fall under pre-evacuation orders due to fire.

Now is the time to be ready.

Make it part of your spring cleaning routine to ensure your home is ready for fire conditions and fire season.

According to the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), just under half of all Coloradans live in the wildland-urban interface

and are at risk of wildfire.

The CSFS and local fire and fire mitigation officials encourage the following actions to prevent wildfire risk:

Regularly clear leaves, pine needles and other debris from your deck, roof and gutters.

Rake and remove pine needles and leaves 5 feet from your home.

Store firewood at least 30 feet from your home, preferably uphill, and never on or under your deck.

Move items under your deck or porch to a storage area.

Prune branches hanging over your roof and within 10 feet of your chimney.

Remove flammable material within 6 vertical inches of your home's siding.

Mow grasses to 4 inches or less within 30 feet of your home.

Clear brush, shrubs and other plants within 10 feet of propane tanks and gas meters.

Screen attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents and wall-in areas below decks and stilt foundations with 1/8-inch metal mesh.

The CSFS, and local officials, also encourage being ready to evacuate in the event of a fire, with the CSFS offering the following tips:

Make an evacuation plan for people and pets.

Prepare a go-bag and disaster supplies kit.

Sign up for emergency notifications from your local office of emergency management.

Ensure home address signs are visible from the street.

Identify at least two ways out of your neighborhood and a safe place for you to go.

Practice evacuating your home with your family and pets.

Create a family emergency communication plan.

We need to be prepared for the worst, and help others do the same.

While we firmly believe we have some of the best fire and emergency managers around, that's not enough. We need to help them do their jobs by doing ours.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the March 21, 1968 Pagosa SUN — **UNIQUE SLOPE TRAVELER** – Ted Dickey, operator of the big pomalift at Wolf Creek Ski Area, created a real eye catcher as well as a convenient method of coming down the slopes when he joined the frame and seat of a bicycle with two ski tips. Dickey uses the ski machine to travel to his job at the big pomalift by riding the small lift and skiing over and also to come down to the bottom at the end of the day.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 26, 1926

The drill at the Hatcher hot water well is daily pounding away and making great headway, having exceeded the 100-foot depth mark at this writing. An artesian flow of warm water was encountered at the 20-foot depth and has been flowing ever since.

C.B. Tacket returned last Friday evening from Sundance, Wyo., where he had been visiting two of his sons, Clyde and Fritz. He also visited a few days in Denver with a brother and sister who he had not seen for 35 years. He learned of their whereabouts by means of the radio.

There will be no town election in Pagosa Springs next month, as no tickets were filled within the allotted time.

Mrs. Mary Conner on Monday purchased the John Brakefield bunch of cattle.

The Chinese Operetta, "The Feast of the Little Lanterns," was given with great success at the School Auditorium last Thursday and Friday nights. The lighting effects and costuming caused many favorable comments.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 30, 1951

A group of citizens and taxpayers gathered at the High School on Monday night of this week to hear reports from committees concerning the need and possible means of a new school building. Several of the different committees were heard as well as the reports of finance and location committees.

It seemed to be pretty well decided that the need for additional classroom space in town and a new building at Pagosa Junction was urgent and should be taken care of as soon as possible. It was also felt that some remodeling was necessary on the present building as well as work on the present heating system.

The committee who investigated in the Chromo-Edith areas felt that the economical solution for that area would be to transport the students to Pagosa Springs and save the cost of remodeling or rebuilding those two buildings. If this is done it will also be necessary to purchase another school bus.

Various types, sizes and plans of buildings were discussed as were possible costs. No accurate figures of cost were available and another meeting will be held to discuss this phase at a later date. The question of financing was also discussed.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 25, 1976

Word was received from Congressman Frank Evans Wednesday that a federal grant in the amount of \$42,700 had been approved for the local district. This grant will be matched by district funds in further improvement of the school recreation complex south of town.

Big game animals are down along the highway in large numbers these days and appear to have wintered well. They constitute a traffic hazard in two ways. At times they are on the highways and at other times motorists pull to a sudden stop to observe the animals without getting out of the lane of traffic. This does create a definite traffic hazard and motorists are asked to pull out of the lane of travel before stopping.

Due to a change in state laws all special improvement districts, sanitation districts, fire districts, etc., will be required to hold an election the first week in May. At that time a complete board of directors must be elected by each district.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
March 29, 2001

The U.S. Census Bureau says percentage wise Archuleta County is the fifth fastest growing county in the state.

But the total population figure for the county is somewhat lower than most had expected the 2000 Census to show. Many anticipated in excess of 10,000 and some saw a distinct possibility of reaching the 12,000 mark.

The county figure represents an 85.2 percent increase from the 1990 total of 5,345 and a whopping 170.1 climb since the 1980 census figure of 3,664.

In what the Denver Post referred to as the "retirement mecca of Pagosa Springs," (the only incorporated community in the county), the 2000 Census pegged the population at 1,591, up 31.8 percent from the 1,207 in 1990. The latter figure reflected a 9.3 percent decline from the 1,331 counted in the town in 1980. That means the 20-year gain was only 19.5 percent. It is interesting to note that, in comparison, the county's school population during the same 10-year period went up from 1,117 to 1,661, an increase of 544, or a little over 48 percent.

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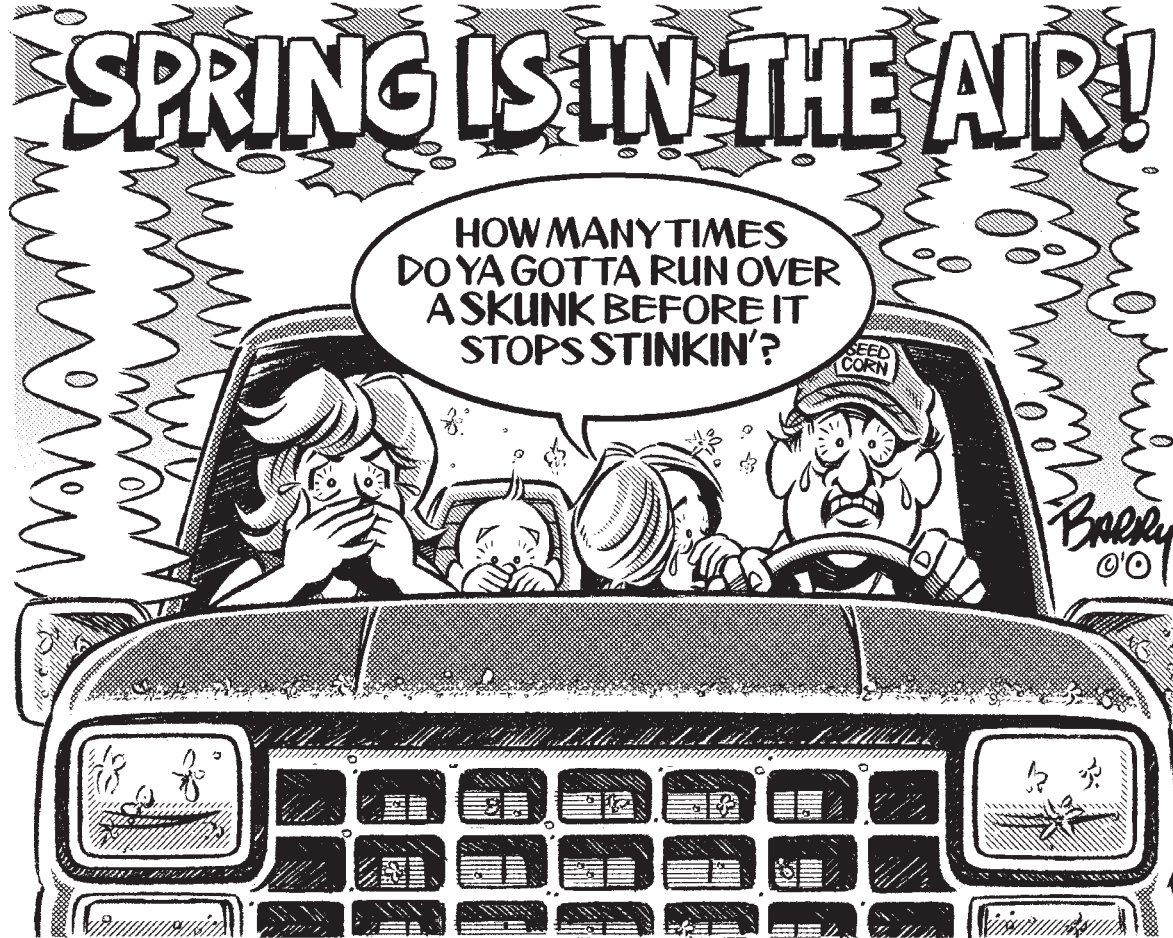


Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation		Moisture	Type	Depth
3/17	66	26	0.00	NA	NA		NA
3/18	74	30	0.00	NA	NA		NA
3/19	76	28	0.00	NA	NA		NA
3/20	79	32	0.00	NA	NA		NA
3/21	77	29	0.00	NA	NA		NA
3/22	74	32	0.00	NA	NA		NA
3/23	67	29	0.00	NA	NA		NA

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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.

Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

I had the opportunity to serve alongside Nicole Pitcher during her time on the Pagosa Springs Town Council, and I strongly support her re-election to the LPEA Board.

Nicole brings a strong work ethic, a thoughtful approach, and a real commitment to this community. She shows up prepared, takes the time to understand complex issues, and puts in the work needed to make informed decisions. She cares deeply about getting things right and serving the people who depend on those decisions.

Having the President of the LPEA Board based in Archuleta County matters, and Nicole makes sure our community has a real voice at the table. That local perspective has helped strengthen coordination between LPEA and the Town of Pagosa Springs, especially in getting the Trujillo Substation permitted. That project is an important investment in our local infrastructure and will play a key role in ensuring reliable electric service for Archuleta County.

Nicole brings steady, grounded leadership during an important time for LPEA, and I'm confident she will continue to serve Archuleta County well.

Madeline Bergon

Trump derangement syndrome

Dear Editor:

TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome) is becoming the norm with many letters to the SUN. One can weekly expect another barrage of: flat-out lies, racist rhetoric, distortions, hysteria, class warfare, unfounded rumors; even non locals spewing their "truths".

This window dressing is typical..."We're nonviolent and peaceful" yet once they open their mouths (per letters) the avalanche of disheveled hatred pours forth. It reminds me of all my years as a pastor counseling/assisting battered women. Almost to a person, one thing remained a constant, the spoken/shouted verbiage was far more painful than the physical abuse. Being repeatedly called, "whores, worthless, stupid, useless, ugly, nobody wants you..." was like a memorized demented mantra.

So, what's being "nonviolent and peaceful" when the heart and waving signs are: hateful, insulting, degrading, not truthful, undocumented rumors, slander, pure gossip, and utterly void of reason? The protesters have a right to protest and I will, when seeing such a display of deranged propaganda, ignore it without shouting hateful words or giving the vulgar middle finger.

The genuine truth is derangement is a danger to a peaceful-thinking society. Be it terrorist mindlessness, dictator-controlled countries, national choking political shutdowns, harsh religions forced upon others via violence etc., it only succeeds when the brain is stuck in neutral. Recently I sadly lost 2 old high school friends because I dared ask for proven documentation, not rumors or slander. Their responses were tragically nuclear, canceling me from their friendship rolls of 50+ years. Is it so hard for some to take the time to critically think and not just react?

Respectfully,
Stan Counsell

No Kings III

Dear Editor:

Happy No Kings III!

This Saturday members of our community will be joining millions of people at one of over three thousand events across the nation to let the regime know that we deserve more than empty promises, lies and powergrabs!

This president wants absolute power, and is willing to alienate our allies, dismantle our institutions, and hurt all of us to get it. He is sending masked troops into our streets, violating the constitution and terrorizing communities.

This year, the administration's brutality has already killed people including Keith Porter Jr., Renee Good, Alex Pretti, and at least thirty-two others since January 2025.

Not only are our rights being taken away at home, but the president is simultaneously waging an illegal and deadly war abroad where we have already lost 13 servicemen and women and thousands have been killed, including hundreds of children. The current administration has spent billions of our tax dollars on this illegal war and now they're asking for \$200 billion more — all while they tell working families at home struggling with crushing costs, broken health-care, and crumbling schools that there is no money left for any of us.

Governing through fear and intimidation is the opposite of democracy.

Our country does not belong to strongmen, greedy billionaires, or wannabe kings, it belongs to the people.

History is clear: organized nonviolent people-led movements — not force, not one politician — are how we end attacks on our rights and attempts at authoritarianism.

The No Kings III National Day of Non-Violent Action is a reminder that power belongs to the people, and together with our neighbors, co-workers, friends and family, we are claiming it. Join us this Saturday, 11:00am at Pagosa Town Park to stand together against the cruelty, corruption and these abuses of power.

When communities stand together in peaceful non-violent action, intimidation and fear lose their power.

We will remind President Trump and his enablers: America has no kings.

Let's make some noise!

Eli Fox

Voteswagon

Dear Editor:

Are you registered to vote? The Voteswagon from Arboles will be available at the NO Kings March on Saturday, March 28 to register eligible voters. Denny Finn will provide musical entertainment just outside the library beginning around 11:00. The election in November is a most important election and the Voteswagon's goal is to get as many people registered to vote before November. If you are between 15 and 17 years old you can Pre-register to vote in Colorado. Once you turn 18 years old, you can vote.

It can be as easy as scanning a QR code to register. Other means of registration is on-line at GoVoteColorado.gov. Paper registration will also be available. The form can then be returned by mail, by email or in person at the county clerk and recorder of Archuleta County. Voter registrations can also be submitted to the Colorado Department of State Elections at 1700 Broadway, Suite 550, Denver, CO 80290.

A valid Colorado Driver's License, Colorado ID, or the last 4 digits of your SSN will be needed to register. An address where you would like your ballot sent is required. You must be a citizen of the US to register. You must also be a resident of Colorado for at least 22 days before the election that you intend to vote in. You must also not be currently serving a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction. There are other stipulations to those who have been arrested or convicted of a crime that are stated in the requirements page that will be available.

This would also be an opportunity to update your home address if there has been a change since you registered last. An update of your legal name can also be changed with the voter registration form. An update of your party affiliation can also be changed with the form. Also if you have been absent from Colorado due to military service and would like to vote in the upcoming election you can make note of this on the voter registration.

If you would like the experience of being an election judge you may also use the voter registration form to do so. Election judges are always needed during the election cycle.

■ See Letters A4



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

The south side of US 160 (Pagosa Street) has been milled from 1st through 4th streets, and the project team is removing curb and gutter in preparation for grading.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of March 30-April 3

Work activity

- Potholing begins at the Lewis Street intersection in preparation for utility work, and water utility work begins underground at the intersection.
- Crews will prepare the subgrade for pouring concrete on the north side of the 700 block, weather dependent.
- Electric utility work will begin along the north side of the 400 block for lighting.
- The intersection closure at Lewis Street and U.S. 160 remains in place. Please utilize 4th, 7th and 8th streets as an alternative to access businesses along Lewis Street. With the access closure, left-turn signals have been extended at the 4th Street intersection; look for the green left-turn arrow at the northwest corner of 4th and Pagosa Street (U.S. 160).
- 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.
- 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 is 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.

Spring/summer construction season

- First Street and 10th Street will have flaggers positioned to aid motorists and emergency vehicles during construction.
- Work will continue to be contingent upon inclement spring weather events.

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.codtrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

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.

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■ Continued from A3

Come and see the Voteswagon on Saturday. Bring those who need to register to vote. Who knows where the Voteswagon will be next?

Susan Halkin

Stable power vs. higher risk

Dear Editor:

LPEA members should be paying close attention not just to the shift to Mercuria, but also to how rates are being managed in the meantime.

We are being told that prices will remain stable in 2026. What isn't being fully explained is how that stability is being achieved.

LPEA is relying on its "rate stabilization fund," (money typically set aside for emergencies like storm damage, major repairs, and maintaining system reliability), to hold down rates. This money is meant to protect the system during unexpected events, not to mask the true cost of power. This creates the appearance of stability, but it is temporary.

At the same time, LPEA is transitioning to Mercuria, a for-profit global energy and commodities trading firm. That move exposes members to volatile energy markets influenced by global events, including the ongoing conflict involving Iran, which is already driving up energy prices.

In other words, we are using one-time money to soften the impact today while stepping into a future that may be more expensive and less predictable. What happens when that money runs out?

Members deserve transparency about these decisions and the risks involved. With LPEA elections in May, members should consider whether new board leadership focused on responsible financial decisions, reliable power, and long-term stability is needed.

Patrick Hegarty
Durango, Colo.

A matchstick into a powder keg

Dear Editor:

Here we are again. As a nation, we find ourselves marching into a war with no visible horizon and, once again, no end game. From Vietnam to Iraq, from Afghanistan to the instability in Venezuela, we have a history of going into battle that we don't know how to finish or how to leave.

Now, with the escalation in Iran, we are watching that same cycle repeat in a way that puts the entire

world at risk. We need to be honest about how we got here: Our leadership threw a matchstick into a powder keg and it's absurd to think we're able to control how it burns. Was there a brutal leader as their head of state? Yes, but is forcing our will over the globe the answer? What happened to diplomacy? As a veteran, it hurts my soul to see this. President Trump may dismiss "collateral damage" as a necessary cost of power, but we need to be honest: the collateral damage is us. It's the "little guy" down here who pays the price at the pump while the Strait of Hormuz is held hostage, and who watches our neighbors being sent into a conflict that has no clear exit strategy.

We also have to ask a hard question: Where is the Constitution in all of this? Our Founders were very clear—the power to declare war belongs to Congress, not the President. This wasn't a suggestion; it was a safeguard to ensure that no single person could ever gamble with the lives of our sons and daughters on their own. By bypassing the people's representatives, we aren't just ignoring a law; we are dismantling the Separation of Powers that makes us a Republic. When one branch acts without the consent of the others, we are no longer being governed, we are being ruled. We cannot defend freedom abroad by surrendering it at home.

We are told this operation is "laser-focused," but as a veteran, I know there is no such thing as a "quick" mission when you put boots on the ground in a country of 88 million people. You don't just "seize" a powder keg; you become responsible for it. We are trading our stability for maximum uncertainty, and that is a debt our children will be paying for the next 50 years.

Right now, every American citizen is being kept on their heels. This isn't leadership; it's chaos. In times like these, we must find calmness in this chaos. And that calmness starts at home with knowing your neighbor. While the world at the top is shaking, our strength remains in our local communities. When we look out for one another and choose unity over the bickering fed to us by the headlines, we become a foundation that even a "Matchstick" cannot burn down.

Let's hold the line right here in our own backyards. Let's be the neighbors who bring this country back to its senses.

Shawna Snarr

10th Circuit ruling signals end to years of exit fee litigation ahead of LPEA's April 1 transition

La Plata Electric Association

On Tuesday, March 24, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit signaled an end to years of litigation over how exit fees are determined for distribution cooperative mem-

bers, including La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), seeking to leave all-requirements power supply contracts with Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

LPEA has been intervening in the proceedings for more than five years, alongside other distribution cooperatives including Delta-Montrose Electric Association, Mountain Parks Electric and United Power, supporting a fair, transparent and durable methodology for determining exit fees.

LPEA will culminate its two-year contract termination process on April 1.

"This decision reinforces the importance of a fair and transparent exit framework," said Chris Hansen, LPEA CEO. "As we approach April

Trump and Iran

Dear Editor:

Our "Peace President", who started a war in Iran with not one bit of planning besides the initial bombing, is now backing away from his threat to bomb the power plants in Iran, starting with the biggest one. Never mind that targeting civilian infrastructure is a war crime. Crimes don't mean a thing to Donnie, mob boss extraordinaire. He thought twice when his Middle East billionaire buddies started calling after Iran put out a map of all the surrounding power plants they would destroy in retaliation, explaining: "Say goodbye to electricity". Evil or no, Iranians know how to construct a pithy phrase.

I wonder if Pete Hegseth still wants the \$200 billion in additional funds for his war-making. This is on top of the \$900 billion already appropriated in the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act. Remember when \$30 billion was too expensive to provide Americans with health care assistance?

Should we be mad if the Pentagon went on a \$93 billion spending spree in one month at the end of fiscal year 2025 in order to use—or lose—unspent funds remaining at the end of the year? They purchased millions of dollars worth of lobster tails, crab legs, steaks, electronics, high end furniture—including a \$98K Steinway grand piano for the Air Force chief's home—\$50 billion spent in the last 5 days of the fiscal year (thefederalist.com). Does this sound a little like waste, fraud and abuse? With these guys, every accusation is a confession. Maybe by the time this letter is published, the Strait of Hormuz will be open—that wasn't even in the list of ever-changing goals the administration made up as they went along. But Bibi and Donnie both need really big distractions in order to stay out of prison. What a couple of jerks.

Meanwhile, Donnie is getting back at Americans by putting ICE agents in airports, supposedly to assist TSA. TSA workers are deemed essential so they are working through a partial government shutdown without pay and, understandably, some aren't showing up to work. The lines can reach outside the airport. The partial government shutdown is because Democrats will not help pass a budget for Dept of Homeland Security without reforms to ICE. At this writing, Republicans have blocked separate funding for TSA, FEMA, CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), and Coast Guard

9 times.

Obviously, ICE agents don't know how to do their own job within legal limits, let alone do the job of TSA agents, who get months of training and continuing education. Tom Homan says they are guarding the doors which is not a TSA job. Doesn't matter. What matters is "Are you distracted yet?" Distracted from ever higher gas and grocery prices? How about the Epstein files? Have you forgotten about the greedy billionaire pedophiles running the world? Is it even possible there are worse things lurking in those files? Seems likely.

Lee Stoph

Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

Residents of House District 59 deserve capable, experienced leadership, representing Southwest Colorado at the State Capitol. In my view, Naomi Riess is the right person for the job.

Naomi has a deep understanding of the issues that shape our region and our future. From land use and water, to energy development and the relationship between city, county, and state government, she understands how these complex systems and relationships affect the people who live and work in our communities. Just as importantly, Naomi understands that good policy must reflect the needs and priorities of all of the people of Southwest Colorado.

Over the years, Naomi has built strong relationships throughout the District and earned the respect of community leaders, business owners, ranchers and families alike. In my opinion she knows the people, the challenges we face, and how to bring the right voices to the table to find practical solutions.

I have known Naomi for almost 25 years, and during that time we have worked together on a variety of community projects. One that stands out was helping organize After Prom events at Durango High School while our children were students there. Even then, Naomi demonstrated the leadership, dedication, and organizational skills that continue to define her today.

Southwest Colorado will benefit from Naomi Riess's experience, commitment, and ability to get things done. I am proud to support her candidacy for House District 59.

Sincerely,
Lew Webb
Durango, Colo.

This Changes Everything

Easter Schedule 2026

Holy Thursday - April 2
Mass at 7:00 PM at JPPI

Good Friday - April 3
Pilgrimage 3:00 PM (details at ihm.jp2.org)
Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM at JPPI
Liturgy 5:30 PM at JPPI

Easter Masses
Easter Vigil - April 4
8:00 PM at JPPI

Easter Sunday - April 5
9:00 AM JPPI | 11:15 AM IHM

Pope John Paul II (JPPI) | Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM)
353 S. Pagosa Blvd. | 455 Lewis Street

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR Palm Sunday Church Services



Sunday, March 29th | 9:00 AM
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1879 Majestic Drive | Pagosa Springs

IT'S A VICTORY

"It is finished" was a cry of victory!

Jesus' sacrifice was complete and perfect. There is nothing we can do to add to what Jesus did. When we trust Christ as our Savior, His righteousness covers the debt God's law requires of us. That debt was paid in full by the blood of the Lamb.



CENTERPOINT
CHURCH

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.

2750 Cornerstone Dr, Pagosa Springs, 81147
centerpointpagosa.com

Local candidates announced for June 30 primary

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 28, Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta announced the local candidates who have been verified to be on the June 30 primary ballot.

According to an email to The SUN, two candidates' petitions were verified as sufficient for Archuleta County commissioner, District 3: Randy Betts and Veronica Medina.

Archuleta notes the order the candidates appear on the ballot will be determined by a lot drawing.

The following incumbent candidates were also verified: Mike Le Roux (county sheriff), Archuleta (county clerk and recorder), Johanna Tully-Elliott (county assessor), Elsa P. White (county treasurer) and Brad Hunt (county coroner).

Additional candidates could be in play for the primaries, however, with April 24 being the last day to file an affidavit of intent to run as a write-in candidate.

The content for the primary ballot will be set by May 1.

Ballots under the Uniformed And Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act will be sent out beginning May 15, with all other ballots being mailed beginning June 8.

Archuleta notes the last day to affiliate or change affiliation for the primary election is June 8.

randi@pagosasun.com



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

reinforcing the importance of a just and reasonable framework.

The decision represents a meaningful milestone for cooperatives pursuing greater flexibility and local control while providing added clarity and certainty for those navigating the exit process.

YOU'RE INVITED TO EASTER Sunday SERVICE @ 10 AM

But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:24

110 Trinity Ln. - 970-731-5767



opendoor
CHURCH





Marilyn Ann Fitzpatrick

Marilyn Ann Fitzpatrick, age 84, passed away peacefully on March 17, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Pontiac, Mich., and spent most of her life in Ann Arbor, where she built a life centered on love, faith and community. A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music, music was truly the language of her heart. She was an accomplished pianist and found great joy in singing in choirs, especially with the gospel choir One Voice, where her spirit and love of music shone brightly.

She was a woman who led by example, always lifting others up with kindness and unconditional love. Her smile could warm your soul, and she had a gift for making people feel seen, valued and cared for. She had a deep love for animals, especially cats, and found comfort and joy in their companionship.

Her faith in God was a guiding force throughout her life. She was actively involved in Bible study groups and women's retreats, where she formed meaningful connections and lived out her faith in both word and action.

On St. Patrick's Day, her family gathered by her side, holding her hand and singing her favorite songs as she peacefully transitioned. It was a reflection of the love she gave so freely throughout her life.

She is survived by her daughters, Laura Fitzpatrick and Kelly Prudhomme (Mike Prudhomme), and her



beloved grandchildren, Kristen Prudhomme, Matt Prudhomme, Grayson Spangenberg and McKaia Spangenberg, who will carry forward her legacy of compassion, generosity, faith and love. She was preceded in death by her sister, Gwendolyn Thompson.

Her memory will live on in the countless lives she touched, and in the simple but powerful ways she showed what it means to care for others.

Oracio Juan Montoya

D. March 16, 2026

Affectionately known as Johnny (John), Oracio Juan Montoya was a lifetime resident of Pagosa Springs, Colo., growing up with a deep connection to his community. He was born on Nov. 26, 1944, to José Eugenio and Glorificia Montoya.

After graduating from Pagosa Springs High School, he attended Trinidad Junior College. He loved sports and working out. Throughout his life, he held various jobs, one being his time spent working at Jackisch Drugstore. Pagosa Cab was one of the first transportation taxis serving Pagosa and was his baby.

Known for his friendly nature and easy smile, John was truly loved by his community. The many stories shared by those who knew him reflect a life well-lived. His presence will be greatly missed, but his memory will live on through the tales we tell.

John is preceded in death by his parents, José Eugenio and Glorificia



Montoya; his infant daughter, Lena Marie; his son, Jonathan Montoya; and his brother-in-law, Delfin Griego. He is also preceded by his brothers: Joe Martinez, Livie Maestas, Chris, Modesto, Henry, Eugenio, Ross (Levi) and Leonard Montoya; and his sister, Servilia Trujillo.

He is survived by his children: Nathan, Michael (Tava Wilson), Rachel (Eric Chisholm) and Josie (Jake Christner) Montoya. He is also survived by his sisters: Norma (Vicente) Duran, Rosie Griego and Ruth Salinas; and his many beloved grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church on March 28, 2026, at 10 a.m. A eulogy and burial will follow at Hilltop Cemetery. Please bring sturdy seating as seats are very limited.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of life and a meal at St. Pope John Paul II Catholic Church on South Pagosa Boulevard. All are welcome to attend and share their memories.

Cremation has occurred. Arrangements are entrusted to Hood Mortuary.

Patrick Ribera

Patrick Ribera, 72, was granted his angel wings, on March 21, 2026, in Westminster, Colo. His last wish was to be surrounded by his family, as he would say, "Happy, joy, joy, happy, happy, joy, joy."

Patrick was born March 17, 1954, to Juan Mauricio and Maxine Ribera in Durango, Colo.

He married and had three children. He was a single father, and his children, along with his grandchildren, were his world.

He graduated from Pagosa Springs High School and continued his education going to vocational school

earning his welding certificate.

Patrick "Prim" held various job titles: welder, roustabout, construction foreman and handyman.

His hobbies included fishing, woodworking, watching and cheering for his Broncos, and spending quality time with his children and grandchildren.

Patrick was preceded in death by his parents, Juan Mauricio and Maxine; infant sister MaryAnna; brother Waldo Gomez; nephew Gabriel Ribera; and granddaughters Angel and Alexis Rose.

He is survived by his children: Sheila, Archie and Veronica; grandchildren: Alicia, Julian, Angelo, Aleaha, Jodacie, Zalexi and Innocence; brothers: Mauricio, Dan, Chris and Val; sisters: Maxine, Ramona, Irene, Arabella and Josephine; and numerous nephews and nieces and great nephews and nieces, godchildren, as well as extended family and friends.

A rosary service will be held April 1 at 9 a.m. at St. Peter and St. Rosa Church in Arboles, Colo.

It will be followed by the funeral service at 10 a.m. Interment will be at the St. Rosa Cemetery in Rosa, N.M., immediately following the funeral service, and a luncheon will be served after back at the church.



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.



Join us for Easter!



PAGOSA
BIBLE CHURCH

Join us for our
Good Friday Service
April 3 at 6pm

Our service will include a time of singing, scripture reading, communion and a short message.

Easter Sunday
April 5 at 9:30 am

Join us after the service for snacks and an Easter Egg Hunt!

970-731-3120
www.pagosabiblechurch.org

PAWSD implements new procedures for 'atypical customer relations'

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a March 12 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed new protocols for addressing what the meeting materials refer to as "atypical customer relations."

PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor opened discussion of the issue, stating that he wanted to see if the board was comfortable with moving forward with recommendations from PAWSD legal counsel Marcus Lock of Law of the Rockies for procedures for handling antagonistic interactions with customers.

The board expressed general support for moving forward with these recommendations, with board member Bruce Jones asking that PAWSD look at ways to create efficiencies in its ability to respond to emergencies while also protecting its staff.

He added that protecting staff needs to be the district's "go to" due to challenges of obtaining and retaining staff.

"I don't want to see our staff leaving because we're not doing what we need to do to protect a safe and appropriate working environment for what services we do provide," Jones said.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson asked what the cost of implementing the recommendations would be.

Connor explained that the phone services involved are already budgeted and purchased for 2026, although he would need to look into its capabilities to record and save incoming calls in the appropriate manner once it is installed.

He stated that staff could set aside calls involved in antagonistic incidents with customers while deleting the remaining call recordings.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer commented that this policy would likely be continuously tweaked

in the future based on staff feedback.

He added that he was willing to move forward with Lock's recommendations and that issues with them could be revisited in the future.

"We need to make sure our staff are being respected," he said. "Everybody has the right to be upset about their water bill, but..."

In response to a question from PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges, Connor stated that the staff only needed direction from the board on the issue.

Jones commented that he would hope that staff would not have to manually delete call recordings and that they would be automatically deleted as more recordings accrue unless saved by staff.

Connor stated that this would be true and that unnecessary recordings would be deleted automatically.

He added that PAWSD currently has the ability to manually record calls, but that staff do not know what they are going to encounter when a call is made, so he would like to have all calls recorded so they can be ap-

propriately reviewed as needed.

Connor stated that these recordings would provide evidence of what happened during calls and would help staff determine if they need to limit a particular customer to email correspondence.

Hudson asked if accounts limited to email correspondence could reach PAWSD by phone in case of an emergency.

Connor stated that these customers could still make emergency calls and that these could be directed to voicemail first, after which staff can listen to the voicemail and contact the customer or determine next steps.

Jones commented that the ability of customers limited to email correspondence to make emergency calls should be explained during the email correspondence, although it should be noted that emergency calls go to a different number than normal calls.

Tautges then commented that Connor had direction from the board to move forward.

"We appreciate this," Connor said. josh@pagosasun.com

Come Celebrate Easter

With Us!

TWO MAIN EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

High School Auditorium

(Kids Easter Egg Hunt directly following second service)

Kids Coloring Contest!

Download coloring page at graceinpagosa.org/EasterKids

Turn in completed coloring page before either main service

Winners recognized & prizes awarded during 10:30 AM service

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2026



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PAWSD tables affordable housing waiver exemption requests

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a March 12 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors considered a request from Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke for an exemption from the PAWSD's affordable housing waiver policy for five homes constructed in 2024.

The PAWSD board previously granted capital investment fee waivers for these homes in 2024, but disputes between PAWSD and the PSCDC emerged about the area median income (AMI) limits attached to the waivers, with PAWSD arguing that the waivers had been granted if the homes were sold to people below 80 percent AMI and the PSCDC arguing that the waivers had been granted for the sale of homes to people within the 80s for percent AMI.

Opening her presentation to the board, Lashbrooke expressed her desire to not "rehash anything" and stated that she wanted to "set the expectations" for the meeting.

"We are here to solve a problem and to stay on topic and not have a personal attack by anyone or anything, and I would just like to stay on the topic and stay on the problem solving and encounter you all to solve the problem of affordable housing," she said.

Lashbrooke then presented the "agreement to disagree" over the differing interpretations of the events of the previous meeting.

She explained that, due to these differences in interpretation, the PSCDC was now in violation of PAWSD's affordable housing fee waiver policy, which states that fee waivers can only be given for homes below 80 percent AMI, for five homes.

She stated that she was requesting an exemption from the policy for these five homes, which she stated had already been sold.

"I am asking for you to honor the intent of the agreement and permit these exemptions," she said.

Lashbrooke noted that she had provided PAWSD with the addresses of the homes, the AMI of the people who purchased these homes and the deed restrictions for them, in addition to other requests from PAWSD.

She added that the homes came in "a little bit over" 80 percent AMI, with some being sold to buyers at 81 percent, 82 percent and 84 percent AMI.

"I'm asking you to honor what our gentlemen's agreement was to waive these fees for phase one, offer me an exemption for those people that came in above 80 percent AMI and agree to disagree," she said.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges clarified that the exemptions had not been given yet and that the properties were technically in arrears.

He added that the board's packet was 226 pages long and questioned if PAWSD received the appropriate documentation to confirm that cer-

tain homes met the requirements, adding that he did not have time to go through the 226 pages of the board packet.

Lashbrooke replied that the board had this information "in plenty of time for this board meeting."

The board, PAWSD staff and Lashbrooke then discussed if the correct information was provided for all homes, with Tautges raising concerns that the information provided was not available and Lashbrooke claiming that it was provided.

Following a lengthy discussion, Lashbrooke clarified that some of the people listed in her documentation were not able to purchase homes, partially leading to the confusion, although additional issues were also raised about variations in the

"We are here to solve a problem and to stay on topic and not have a personal attack by anyone or anything, and I would just like to stay on the topic and stay on the problem solving and encounter you all to solve the problem of affordable housing."

**Pagosa Springs
Community Development
Corporation Executive
Director Emily Lashbrooke**

names of buyers listed on various documents.

PAWSD staff emphasized that these clarifications needed to be made and that they would need to compare documents with Lashbrooke to ensure the buyers were properly identified and that PAWSD could effectively track what accounts they are connected to.

Tautges thanked Lashbrooke for clarifying and proposed that the board needed to table the issue until the documents could be clarified before reiterating that the houses are currently in default.

He added that everyone has to follow the rules and that "we need to treat everybody the same."

"I'm not trying to not follow the rules," Lashbrooke replied, adding that she adhered to every request from PAWSD, even things that were "not required."

"Yeah, and now we're just adding another requirement," Tautges said.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh noted that one of the objections to supporting affordable housing from other board members and staff was that PAWSD would get "dragged into this" and that staff would become "part-time housing

coordinators."

He added, "We really can't have that, and I think that is starting to happen."

Walsh stated that he would like to see a letter of qualification from a state-qualified authenticator and an AMI calculation that could be appended to the deed restriction for the property purchased.

He noted that he is sympathetic to affordable housing and willing to agree to disagree with the PSCDC, although he commented that he would have a different opinion about the situation if the houses were sold to people with higher AMI percentages.

Walsh concluded that he needs "very simple, straightforward documentation for every sale," including the address of the property sold, an authentication letter for the property and a simplified AMI calculation.

He commented that this approach would reduce the number of documents that the board would have to look at when considering requests.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer expressed agreement with Walsh and added that the AMI levels for some properties appeared to have changed.

Lashbrooke explained that the certifier only calculates AMI for a potential buyer and does not know what property they are buying when they complete their certification.

She also stated that she refuses to "touch" the certification documents.

"Right, but you could take that certification and simply make it part of what you submit for that property," Walsh said.

"Well, I could, but I would never do that," Lashbrooke replied. "I would not even manipulate what you asked me to manipulate. I handwrote it because integrity is everything to me. I would not manipulate somebody else's work; that is unlawful."

"Please, you came in here asking for some forbearance and that we not ... exchange insults, and now you're suggesting that I was asking you to commit some kind of fraud?" Walsh interrupted.

Walsh then reiterated his request that a letter certifying the AMI of each buyer be included in the folder for the property that they purchased to clarify the situation.

"I really resent that you kind of took off with charging me with asking you to commit some kind of misrepresentation," Walsh said.

"Well, I just want to be sure you understand that I would never, ever misrepresent somebody else's work," Lashbrooke replied, adding that she felt like this could be perceived as her manipulating someone else's work. "I work very hard for this county, and that's so ethically and morally wrong for me."

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson weighed in, stating that Walsh's suggestion would help PAWSD track the properties and ensure that they are not sold at a profit in the future and to help PAWSD justify its waivers in the future.

The group then discussed ap-

proaches to providing the appropriate information, eventually settling on Lashbrooke providing a letter of authentication for each purchaser and the deed restriction for the home they purchased, which links them to the home they bought.

Lashbrooke commented that she would be satisfied with this process and that this would be a fairly "seamless" process, although she noted that obtaining the specific AMIs for buyers requires additional work since their financial information is protected and requires an additional agreement from the buyer to disclose this information.

Boehmer then raised the possibility that, according to the documentation, Lashbrooke was actually asking for six waivers instead of five.

Lashbrooke stated that she was unsure of whether that was correct or not and would have to examine this issue.

Tautges asked how much money the waivers would cost PAWSD, to which staff responded that the waivers would cost approximately \$160,000.

Hudson asked the board if the board would want to make a decision on the exemption requests or would want to wait until the paperwork is clarified.

Tautges and Boehmer stated that they felt the board would need to have the paperwork clarified before making a decision.

Walsh asked if the board felt that it would "agree to disagree" about the interpretation of the board's AMI policies for these homes and grant the exemptions if the paperwork is clarified as expected.

Hudson and Tautges replied that reflected their opinions on the issue.

Following Lashbrooke providing two "fun facts" about the properties and clarifying the board's request from her, Hudson asked if the board would be comfortable having PAWSD staff communicate the details of the request once clarifications are made.

Board members expressed comfort with this, but, after board member Bruce Jones expressed concerns about questions arising that only Lashbrooke could answer, Lashbrooke agreed to return to discuss the issue with the board when it is considered again.

josh@pagosahun.com



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MLS #824583

The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dogs and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/109-Carols-Curves>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
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Reconstruction

■ **Continued from front**

side of U.S. 160 from the 100 block through halfway of the 400 block on Pagosa Street.

Greene mentioned that once the subgrade is put down, then paving can occur.

“We are getting ready to pour concrete soon, which is very exciting,” she said, explaining that the first concrete pour scheduled for this week will be the mid-block crossing on the 400 block of Pagosa Street.

She then explained that the first “official” concrete pour of the season will take place on April 6 (weather permitting), which will be the north side of the 700 block of San Juan Street, followed by the 100 and 200 blocks of Pagosa Street.

Concurrently, crews will start looking at the 400 block of Pagosa Street, along with the “dogleg” — the corner by the old county courthouse and river overlook parking entrance.

Greene emphasized, “We haven’t forgotten about the 400 block,” explaining there were some “elevation challenges” with the sidewalk on the 400 block the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) worked with town on.

“Which is why we paused some of the work there going into the holidays,” Greene said.

She added that with good weather, “that’s gonna be one of the things we’re tackling here pretty quickly.”

She went on to mention that pouring for the 100 to 300 blocks of Pagosa Street will follow after the 700 block of San Juan Street in early April, noting that the roadway will be poured first and then curb and gutter, followed by sidewalks.

Greene also indicated that she will be back on-site more, working and communicating with business owners to let them know what to expect as paving dates get closer.

She explained that mid-April “is when we are really gonna have to dig in and tackle the dogleg from the middle of the road going out”

She added, “That’s gonna be a bit of a challenge.”

She asked for everybody’s patience as traffic will be cut down to one alternating lane overnight while crews are working on that section.

She mentioned that more messaging will be put out once that time comes, “but that will be anticipated for two weeks.”

She added, “We want to get that section done as much as you want to get that section done.”

Greene mentioned that the theme of April will be, “let us rip the Band-Aid off, please, so we can get all this knocked out before summer.”

She explained that the timing of this portion of the project was chosen to get “all of this heavy-duty stuff done” before Memorial Day weekend.

Green then acknowledged ques-

tions about the Lewis Street she’s received in regard to the timing and expected length of the closure.

“There is every type of utility that needs to be tackled under that section of Lewis that one could imagine,” she said, adding, “It’s very delicate.”

She explained the utility lines cross over and under each other, “and we can’t have the work happen concurrently.”

She described the work as “almost like open-heart surgery,” with each utility specialist coming in one at a time.

“That’s why it will be closed,” she said, noting the hope is to have that intersection open by the end of May.

“Some of the most detailed work that we are taking on is happening right now, pretty much through the end of May,” Greene said, noting that includes the dogleg section and Lewis Street intersection.

Greene also added that CDOT is trying to be “as transparent as possible” and doing its best to keep everyone informed.

Town council member Leonard Martinez asked for clarification on if the goal is to have the entire north side of the roadway paved by the end of May, with Greene carefully indicating that is the goal.

Greene explained that other than one section near the Lewis Street and 5th Street intersection, and some paving in the 500 to 600 blocks of San Juan Street, crews are aiming to have the

Lewis Street access reopened and all of the north side of the roadway paved by the end of May.

Greene explained that the focus right now is getting all of the utility work complete, as the actual paving part of the project is the “easy part” and will only take a few days.

In response to a question from council member Gary Williams, Green explained that crews did not have a large truck sweeper to use over last fall and winter, but that “the intent is to keep cleaning” gravel and dirt in front of businesses.

Commissioner Veronica Medina then asked about potholes on U.S. 160 near 7th Street and if there were any plans to have that fixed anytime soon.

“We are acutely aware of that pothole,” Greene said, explaining that crews have been filling it periodically with millings as hot-mix asphalt plants are not open yet.

She noted that as soon as the asphalt plants are open and running for the season the pothole will be patched.

Greene also mentioned that is just a temporary solution until the concrete paving is finished.

“We’re aware that it’s an issue,” she said.

Mayor Shari Pierce asked about the possibility of opening up parking in the 100 and 200 blocks of Pagosa Street once concrete is poured there.

Greene explained that has been a question internally, as well, noting that it is not her decision, but stated, “I think that could be considered.”

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By Dr. Justin Nylund, DDS
Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

I’m proud to come from a long line of dentists and doctors. I’m the tenth dentist in my family that spans four generations.

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I think we have a dental gene in our family.

I have always loved flying (something also shared by multiple family members). I began learning to fly

Cessnas 152 and 172 at age 17 and earned my private pilot’s license at 19.

I received acceptance letters to Embry Riddle Flight school and scholarships to several liberal arts colleges. My parents thought a career in dentistry would be more successful and offered to pay for expenses. They ended up helping with insurance for three years of school but forgot about their promise to pay for college and dental school (oh well).

My grandfather was my first dentist and he was incredibly kind and compassionate. After he retired, I went to a dentist who held me down to get fillings done. The experience made me cry, and I was afraid of

going to the dentist. I learned from that experience the importance of gentle dentistry. I’m very sensitive to patients who have had a bad experience as I know what it’s like to have pain in your mouth.

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Resolution

■ Continued from front

proposed resolution with an additional section that states that RVs with septic or sewer/utilities connected may be granted an additional 12-month extension.

He noted one thing up for debate was if the commissioners wanted to change the language from “utilities” to specifically stating that the property must be connected to La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) for electricity service, or if other “off-grid” power sources would be acceptable.

Multiple public comments were then given on the matter, with the first commenter stating she is a resident in Aspen Springs living in a fifth-wheel trailer.

She explained that her property is completely off-grid as LPEA service is not available in her area, also noting that having a septic system installed would cost roughly \$20,000.

“I don’t think it’s fair for our county commissioners, or let alone our government, to tell you how and where and why you can live in an RV,” she said, noting that people are allowed to live in an RV at an RV park without getting a TUP from the county.

She also mentioned that the real issue in her community is residents not cleaning up their properties.

“If you want to do anything in Aspen Springs, have Aspen Springs neighbors clean up their properties,” she said.

The next commenter also stated she is a resident in the Aspen Springs area, mentioning the resolution being considered was much different than the proposed LUR amendment from a month ago.

She asked the BoCC to consider what it wants as the long-term vision for the community.

The commenter acknowledged that “we obviously have an affordable housing problem ... but, realistically, RVs aren’t homes” because they don’t actually add to the permanent housing supply.

She mentioned that the resolution could be good to use as a temporary solution, but as far as offering solutions for the affordable housing issues, “RVs are not it.”

The commenter also spoke about code-enforcement issues, speaking on the county’s permitting system and stating, “I don’t think it’s actually really being that enforced,” and that some parts of Aspen Springs look like an “informal campground.”

“RVs are just not meant for long-term living,” she added.

The following commenter explained that he was asking for the BoCC to completely “do away” with the resolution, describing the county’s actions as “panhandling” by making residents pay a fee every six months for another TUP to live in their own RV on their own property.

“RVs may not be homes to you, but they are to me, and it is my home,” he added.

The next commenter claimed that Archuleta County’s population saw a slight decrease from 2023 to 2024 despite steady growth since 2008.

He then suggested that the county could pursue grants to help facilitate

getting septic systems installed for residents living in RVs.

Another commenter encouraged the county to make code enforcement more of a priority, adding, “I think that it’s probably worth it.”

Commissioner John Ranson spoke on the importance of neighbors’ rights when it comes to nuisance properties.

He also stressed the importance of public input on the matter.

“We really do need your input for decisions like this,” he said, noting that code enforcement was an issue during his first term as a commissioner in 2008.

“I truly believe people are due protection for their properties,” Ranson said, adding that people should also be able to live on their properties how they please in “certain situations.”

He went on to speak about affordable housing solutions, explaining, “My personal belief is that we do need places that people can live more affordably” while also being appropriately zoned.

Ranson stated that he’s “really looking forward to the community plan” to address some of these things, adding, “and I’m also all in favor of figuring out how to enforce,” recalling the Oak Fire in August 2025 and stating that occurred partly “because things weren’t enforced.”

Ranson then described renewing the RV TUP resolution as “kicking the can down the road a little” while the county works on the community plan update.

Commissioner Veronica Medina then offered clarification on the requirement of having to be hooked up to LPEA for electricity for residents wanting an RV TUP.

“That’s not a requirement,” she added.

She mentioned some residents that live in an RV “went the extra mile” to get connected to LPEA and/or install a septic system.

“They went above and beyond what most can do,” Medina said, noting that LPEA service is not possible in some areas of Aspen Springs, and that those who have proper utilities, “maybe then they can have a longer-standing permit.”

Medina then spoke about how the county has regulations it is currently not able to enforce, and yet are trying to come up with more regulations with this resolution.

She went on to explain that when the initial resolution was passed in 2021, part of it stated that the county has been negatively impacted by “unusual forces” like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Medina stated that is not true anymore, as the pandemic is no longer ongoing.

She then mentioned another part of the resolution states that the county’s LURs prevent permanent residency in RVs and limit RV stays to 120 consecutive days per year.

She explained that the county has a regulation and is wanting to amend it, but that the county is not enforcing “the true hazards” such as nuisance properties with health and

safety issues “that are currently in our county.”

Medina then acknowledged another portion of the resolution that states how strict enforcement of this regulation will exacerbate the affordable housing problem.

She noted that there’s been an affordable housing problem for years, asking if it is the county’s job to provide housing.

“I don’t think that’s the county’s job,” Medina said, explaining the “county has tried to help” with donating land for other organizations to create more housing, “but I don’t think it’s the county’s job to spend taxpayers’ money on providing affordable housing.”

She explained it is the county’s job to regulate and enforce codes.

“That’s our job,” she said, explaining that making sure county health and safety issues are addressed. “That’s one of our big issues.”

Medina stated that she did not see how the resolution being presented is current, explaining she would have a real problem with approving it in order to move forward with expanding a regulation she doesn’t think the county should have.

“It’s not fixing anything,” she added, reiterating health and safety hazards are not being enforced.

“We’re more focused on collecting the money and filling out an application so we can check to see if somebody has water and other things,” she said, noting that is important, “but we’re not fixing the real issues.”

She added, “This, to me, feels like a distraction, and we’re not addressing the issues that we should be addressing.”

Commissioner Warren Brown then explained the original resolution in 2021 was taken up in an effort to alleviate some of the community’s housing issues by allowing people to live on their own properties in an RV if they were not able to build a home at the time.

He added that the county’s code enforcement “unless it was a crime, was zero” due to not having code-enforcement officers, vehicles or software needed.

Brown described the setting at the time as the “Wild West” with people doing whatever they wanted on their properties.

He then noted that the county now has code-enforcement officers, but that not everything is currently being enforced.

He added that he’d like to see everything being enforced, “but it’s not possible.”

Brown mentioned the county recently had a nuisance property cleaned up that cost roughly \$50,000 and was a more than eight-year-long process.

He then spoke about properties being hooked up to utilities and that he is “all about alternate forms of energy,” whether that is gas, wind, solar or a generator.

Brown expressed that amending and renewing the resolution would allow for long-term living in RVs.

“Although they’re not designed for long-term living, for some folks this is it,” he said, expressing that the county

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Trial

■ Continued from front

It states that vacating the trial would save court time and reduce legal expenses for both districts since they would not have to prepare for a trial.

The motion also suggests that the SJWCD and PAWSO be required to submit a status report on the progress toward a settlement and the dismissal of the lawsuit every 63 days.

It adds that, if the lawsuit is not dismissed by the end of 2026, that the counsel for the plaintiffs should contact the court and request to schedule a case management conference.

In Fay’s order vacating the trial, he adopted the recommendations for reporting timelines and for a deadline to dismiss the case.

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EMS planning to implement PulsePoint program

By **Clayton Chaney**
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, March 24, Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Deputy Chief Connie Cook provided the board with an update on EMS and the county's participation in the Southwest Regional Emergency and Trauma Advisory Council (SWRETAC).

Part of Cook's update included information about a program called PulsePoint and Heart Safe La Plata, which is a program that is run through the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system that tracks where automated external defibrillators (AEDs) are located around the community.

"It pinpoints where we have AEDs in the community," Cook said, explaining that the program then marries that information with people who are CPR trained within the community.

"They can download the app for free," Cook said, noting that anyone who is CPR certified can sign up and use the app.

Cook explained that if there is someone experiencing a cardiac arrest nearby, the app will notify people, "and if they're close to that AED and that event, they can respond."

According to Cook's update, "Pulse-Point is a 911-connected mobile app that alerts CPR-trained bystanders to nearby sudden cardiac arrest incidents in public places, aiming to initiate care before emergency crews arrive."

Cook mentioned that it has been shown that the quicker treatment can be provided, the better the outcome is for that person's survival.

She explained that the program started out in La Plata County, and the hope is to have it established in Montezuma and Archuleta counties by the end of 2026.

Cook also explained that Heart Safe La Plata is a nonprofit group that was established in the early 2000s that helps "keep an inventory of AEDs located within the community" and offers maintenance on the devices.

That information is then kept and updated with emergency communication centers, Cook noted.

She then mentioned that the PSMC EMS department offers its own CPR training courses.

"We train a ton of people in Archuleta County," she said, explaining how they are instrumental in getting AEDs placed throughout the community. "And, so, bringing these two things together can really have an impact on people's lives."

Cook noted it can impact both visitors and residents.

Cook commented that if just one person's life is saved through this program, that "would make a huge difference."

Cook's update also noted that the app "provides real-time fire/EMS alerts, locates nearby AEDs and improves survival rates by reducing time to defibrillation and CPR."

Cook noted that PSMC has received funding from the SWRETAC to be able to implement the PulsePoint

application.

"We're really excited about it," she added, describing it as a "pretty robust program."

In response to a question from Commissioner Veronica Medina, Cook explained that, right now, no one is managing or keeping track of AED data in the community other than one individual in La Plata County.

She noted that currently it is really the responsibility of the businesses or different organizations that have AEDs to maintain them.

"Right now we don't really have anything in place. That's why this program would be so important," Cook said, explaining the program would help track the life on AEDs, get them placed into businesses and other organizations, and have them integrated into the CAD system all the way through its end of life.

"There's a lot of AEDs out in the community that are probably collecting dust that have expired things on them, and we need a management program," Cook said.

EMS as essential service

Later during Cook's update, she explained that Colorado House Bill 26-1238, recognizing EMS as an essential service, passed the House on its third reading with a 63-0 vote.

Cook explained that many folks might be unaware that EMS has not been recognized as an essential service in the state of Colorado, as only a "handful of states" have done so.

Cook noted that both fire and law enforcement are recognized as es-

sential services in Colorado, "which puts some burden upon the counties to ensure that that service is provided."

She explained that PSMC is the only entity currently providing EMS in Archuleta County and if it becomes an essential service, "that responsibility would fall to the county to ensure that that's provided."

Cook clarified that doesn't mean the county would take over EMS, but that if something were to change and PSMC could no longer provide the service, "the county would then have the responsibility of ensuring that emergency medical services were provided within Archuleta County."

She mentioned EMS is set up differently all across the state, but with it becoming an essential service and the county taking on the responsibility of ensuring the service is provided, that could open up the door for additional funding through the state, "which is also very important, as well."

Cook also commented there is some "pride and ego" involved with having EMS recognized as an essential service.

"If you didn't have EMS in your county, people probably would be a little bit worried about that," she said.

Medina commented, "We're very fortunate that [PSMC] has taken this on," noting that some other counties around the state take on EMS.

"This is absolutely essential service," she said, noting that it is necessary for the community to have and that she has no "heartache" with the bill as it just creates a "safety net" for essential services to be provided to communities.

Heat

■ **Continued from front**
record for that date was 68 degrees, set in 1997.

Prochazka also notes that record high temperatures were set on Saturday, March 21, at 77 degrees, and on Sunday, March 22, at 74 degrees.

Forecast

Warm, sunny and dry weather is expected to continue into this weekend, with chances of precipitation starting Sunday evening and continuing into early next week.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the high for today, Thursday, March 26, in Pagosa Springs is forecast to be 77 degrees with sunny skies. The low is forecast to be 35 degrees with mostly clear skies in the evening.

Similar weather is expected for tomorrow, Friday, March 27, with the high forecast to be 76 degrees and sunny skies. The low is forecast to be 32 degrees and partly cloudy skies in the evening.

For Saturday, March 28, the high is forecast to be 72 degrees with mostly sunny skies, and the low is forecast to be 35 degrees with partly cloudy skies in the evening.

There is a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms forecast for Sunday, March 29, mainly after noon. The high is forecast to be 73 degrees with a low around 36 degrees expected in the evening.

Long-range forecasts also indicate a chance of showers on Monday and Tuesday, March 30 and 31.

With rain expected at lower elevations, the NWS is forecasting chances of rain and snow over the weekend in the area of Wolf Creek Pass area starting on Friday.

For today, Thursday, March 26, the high along Wolf Creek Pass is forecast to be 54 degrees with sunny skies. The low is forecast to be 35 degrees with mostly clear skies.

For Friday, March 27, the high is forecast to be 52 degrees with a chance of rain and snow showers between noon and 3 p.m. The chance of pre-

cipitation is listed at 30 percent, with new precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible. The low is forecast to be 32 degrees with partly cloudy skies in the evening.

A slight chance of rain and snow showers is forecast for the afternoon of Saturday, March 28, with high near 50 degrees. The low is forecast to be 35 degrees with mostly cloudy skies.

Similar weather is expected on Sunday, March 29, with the high forecast to be 51 degrees and a chance of rain and snow showers after noon. The low is forecast to be 34 degrees with a 40 percent chance of precipitation in the evening.

Snowpack

According to data from the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), as of 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, Wolf Creek Pass at 10,930 feet had a snow water equivalent of 12 inches, compared to that date's median of 27.3 inches. That amount is 44 percent of that date's median snow water equivalent.

Snowpack levels are monitored by measuring snow water equivalents, which gauge how much water is held within a snowfield, and are significant predictors of springtime runoff.

The San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan river basins as a whole are listed at 21 percent of its 30-year median snowpack.

The Wolf Creek summit had the second highest current snow water equivalent in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan river basins, and the Upper Rio Grande basin, behind the Black Mesa site with 12.2 inches of snow water equivalent as of press time Wednesday.

Drought

According to the most recent map released by the U.S. Drought Monitor on Thursday, March 19, 100 percent of Archuleta County remains in moderate drought stage, with 22.04 percent of the county being in a severe drought stage. Areas that are in a severe drought stage lie along the eastern border of the county with Conejos County.

Meanwhile, 12.88 percent of the state is in an extreme drought stage, and less than 1 percent of the state is in an exceptional drought stage. That includes portions of Pitkin, Eagle, Summit, Lake and Park counties.

River flows

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as of 11 a.m. on

Wednesday, March 25, the San Juan River in downtown Pagosa Springs had a flow rate of 595 cubic feet per second (cfs). The record high flow for that date was recorded in 2004 at 860 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 1964 at 42 cfs. The median flow for that date is 165 cfs, and the mean flow is 239 cfs.

The Piedra River near Arboles was flowing at a rate of 434 cfs as of 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 24, according to the USGS. The median flow for that date is 339 cfs, and the mean flow is 457 cfs. The record high flow for that date was recorded in 1993 at 1,400 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 1964 at 45 cfs.



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Outdoors

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association announces volunteer orientation

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) invites community members to take part in its annual volunteer orientation, scheduled for April 17 from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church located at 434 Lewis St.

This yearly orientation program welcomes both new and returning volunteers who are interested in helping share the remarkable history, culture and landscape of Chimney Rock National Monument.

Volunteers play a vital role in sup-

porting tours, educational programs and visitor experiences throughout the monument's operating season.

The orientation will provide an overview of CRIA's mission, volunteer opportunities, and the important role volunteers serve in preserving and interpreting this sacred and historically significant site.

Participants will also have the opportunity to deepen their connection to the monument during a volunteer familiarization tour on April 18 from 10 a.m. to noon at Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided visit allows volunteers to experience

the site firsthand while learning more about the programs and tours offered during the season.

Volunteering at Chimney Rock offers a meaningful way to engage with the region's rich cultural heritage while contributing to the preservation of a treasured public land site.

CRIA welcomes individuals who are passionate about history, education, nature and community involvement. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to attend the orientation and learn how they can be part of the upcoming season.

For more information about volunteering with CRIA, visit www.ChimneyRockCo.org or contact the office at (970) 731-7133.

CRIA and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument. CRIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer association that receives no funding from the U.S. government.

Volunteers needed to watch American dippers

By Bob Endres

Weminuche Audubon Society

The Weminuche Audubon Society and the American Dipper Project in Durango will be starting a new research project on the influences to the breeding success of the American dipper, a bird known for its habit of searching for food in icy mountain streams.

Volunteers in the Pagosa Springs area are being recruited to help monitor several known nest sites in the area. Participants will help collect data on stream conditions and observe nesting activity.

The study will examine how macroinvertebrates in the streams, along with the temperature of the air and water, and turbidity of the water affect the ability of dippers to raise

young to the fledgling stage. The findings should shed light on how environmental conditions may be affecting local dipper populations in the Animas and upper San Juan River watersheds.

Those interested are invited to attend an orientation meeting at 1 p.m. on March 28 at the Community United Methodist Church, where teams will be formed and project details outlined.

A riverside workshop is also planned in April to learn how to collect and analyze macroinvertebrates. This project will also be discussed at the monthly Weminuche Audubon Society at 6 p.m. on April 15.

No prior scientific or birding experience is required, but binoculars are a beneficial tool to have available. Come join us if you can.



Photo courtesy Bob Endres

The Weminuche Audubon Society and the American Dipper Project in Durango have announced a new research project aimed at better understanding the influences on breeding success of the American dipper. Local volunteers are being recruited to assist with fieldwork, including monitoring several known nest sites throughout the Pagosa Springs area.

Fire

■ Continued from front

holdover from a controlled burn that was thought to be extinguished, but wasn't.

Vega noted that anyone doing pile burns or controlled burns is asked to make sure burns are fully extinguished, noting those doing the burn could receive a citation if the fire is not fully extinguished.

He further noted that controlled burns are not allowed some days with high winds due to fire danger.

For more on controlled burning within the boundaries of the PFPD, visit www.pagosafire.org/open-fire-permit-fees.

Anyone looking to burn should look up regulations for their area and fire district the property falls in.

Crews from the ACSO, Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD), Los Pinos Fire District, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, U.S. Forest Service and Archuleta County responded over the course of the fire.

Fire danger

"As of right now, we have no reason to be in a fire ban," Vega said, adding that officials will continue to assess conditions moving forward as fuels are drying out.

He noted that while things are a lot drier than typical at this time of year, the top surface is dry, but the other fuels still have moisture.

As of Wednesday, March 25, the U.S. Forest Service rated fire danger for the San Juan National Forest at low.

randi@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Crews work to contain a 2.3-acre fire on Saturday, March 21, in the area of Chimney Rock.

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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:
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Sports

BASEBALL



Pirate Taylor Wells slides safely into third during the first of the Pirates' two wins over the Dolores Bears on March 9. Wells picked up four hits and four RBIs on the day.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirates pick up two more wins in home opener

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

Despite coach Jon Wells calling this year a rebuilding season, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team took a 6-3 record into spring break after defeating Dolores in both games of a doubleheader last week.

The Pirates hosted the Bears on Thursday, March 19, for a doubleheader, making it the second and third times the two teams have seen each other this season after the two teams played to open the season.

Before the games, Wells explained he told his team that he believed they were the better team and he expected them to win both games, and they did just that.

The Pirates won the first game 16-11 and the second game 11-1.

In the first game, the Pirates held a 6-0 lead after two innings, but gave up 10 runs in the top of the third behind some free passes and mistakes defensively, noted Wells.

Heading into the sixth inning the Pirates found themselves down 11-8 with only six outs left.

The Pirates, however, proved they only needed three, scoring eight runs in the bottom of the sixth to take 16-11 lead.

Closer Zach Pouyer shut the door in the top of the seventh and the Pirates took game one.

The Pirates had 11 hits in the match-up.

Taylor Wells went 3-for-5 with three RBIs and three doubles, Sebastian Gonzalez went 2-for-4 with three runs, Pouyer went 2-for-5 with three RBIs and a double, Dylan Dempster went

2-for-4 with two RBIs, Noah Bellina went 1-for-4 with a triple and Aaron Sowle went 1-for-3 with an RBI.

Braylon Landry toed the rubber to start the game and pitched a shutout through the first two innings. He ran into trouble in the third, which gave way to Kaeden Iguchi coming in-relief. The two combined to give up 11 runs (six earned) on four hits while walking 10 and striking out two.

"The boys, being who they are, didn't quit and found a way to tighten up on defense and score the runs needed to come from behind in that game," Jon Wells said. "So, that was another good come-from-behind win for us."

In the second game the Pirates got out to a quick 10-0 lead after three innings and rolled on their way to a run-rule victory after five innings behind timely at-bats and a great game on

the mound from Taylor Wells, noted the coach.

Taylor Wells pitched five full in-
■ See Baseball A12

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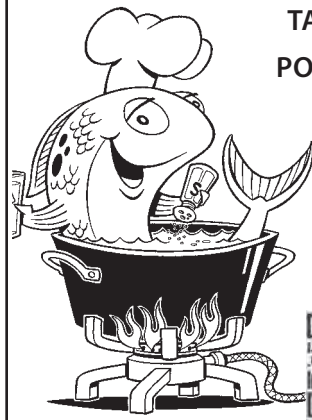
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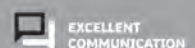
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Soccer

Lady Pirates to return to action Monday, March 30

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

During spring break, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team isn't practicing, but the team will jump back into action early next week with a game against Del Norte on Monday, March 30.

"You know, there's some voluntary stuff, but I'm mostly leaving it on the athletes," said coach Trevor Gian. "It felt like being able to have a game there on that Monday was gonna be just as good, if not better, than any practice we could have."

The Lady Pirates rescheduled the Del Norte game earlier this season and Gian, along with the help of Athletic Director Chantelle Jordan, decided that Monday would be the best time to move the game to.

They will take on the Tigers at 4 p.m. in Del Norte on March 30.

The Tigers are 0-1 on the season. The Lady Pirates own a 1-1 record.

Gian has emphasized early this season that the girls have been lacking on-the-field reps.

"Obviously, I know it's a game, and we wanna win it," he said. "We wanna

have a good result there. But, the benefit of getting on a full-size field in a game situation will help us go forward for the bulk of that season."

The week's action doesn't stop with Monday's action in Del Norte.

On Thursday, April 2, the Lady Pirates will travel to Telluride to take on the 2-2 Miners, and then they'll host the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers, who are 0-1 on the season, on Saturday, April 4.

The Lady Pirates' matchup with the Miners will kick off at 4 p.m., with their home matchup against the Panthers beginning at 11 a.m.

Despite not having as much preparation and practice as Gian would've liked before the start of the season, he noted he is excited to get out on the pitch and play, especially with the bulk of the season coming up in April.

"You know, it's tough to have two games, take a little bit off, but I think every game we're hoping to utilize it and improve," he said. "Anything on the field helps us right now, on a full-size field."

Gian stated he is hopeful that this upcoming week will help the Lady Pirates prepare for their busy April.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Track

Pirates slated to return to action at Pine River Invitational Saturday

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

Following a short hiatus for spring break, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team will be returning to action at this weekend's Pine River Invitational in Bayfield.

Spring break is taking a significant toll on the amount of kids that will be able to attend the meet though, according to assistant coach Curtis Nehring.

Of the 90 plus kids on the roster, only between 25 and 30 will be able to make the meet, Nehring explained.

Most of the athletes who are planning on attending the meet have been attending voluntary practices this week, he indicated. Jumpers, runners and throwers alike have gotten time with their respective coaches throughout the week in order to stay sharp.

Regardless, the athletes who are able to make the meet will be competing and looking to leave the meet with personal best times, jumps or throws.

"I know we've got some of the intermediate-distance and long-distance kids that are looking to put up

some [personal records] this week," Nehring said.

Nehring is the throwing coach for the team.

He noted he believes that Emile Schneider and Aidan Vega both have a chance to set a personal record this weekend in both the discus and shot put after a really good week of practice.

On the girls' side he also emphasized that Liana Vega and Mallory Morton have the potential to set personal records this weekend after each girl had a strong week at practice, as well.

"This is kind of our last sort of dust-off meet where everybody is going to start kind of getting into the groove," Nehring said. "They've blown off the rust in the last couple of weeks. It's my first real barometer on what we're looking like and what we need to work on and all that sort of thing."

After this weekend, the whole team will be back for the Abel Velasquez Invite at Ignacio on Saturday, April 4.

The Pine River Invitational will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, at Bayfield High School.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Baseball

■ Continued from A11

nings, giving up just one run (zero earned) and two hits while striking out four and walking one.

Pouyer, Gonzalez, Angelo Medina and Sowle all had a multihit game, as well.

Pouyer went 2-for-4 with two RBIs, Gonzalez went 2-for-2 with three runs, Medina went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and Sowle went 2-for-2 with an RBI and a double.

Taylor Wells finished the game 1-for-3 with an RBI double, Kasen Limebrook went 1-for-1 with an RBI and a run, and Dempster went 1-for-1 with a run.

"[I] kind of told them that we can't wait to score our runs this game because we might only get five innings in," Jon Wells said.

"Even though we run-ruled them 11-1, the sun was starting to set, and I don't know how much of the game we would have left anyway. The boys did a great job of kind of shutting them down and getting that win quick in that game."

Through the first nine games of the season, the coach emphasized how impressed he's been with Sowle, one of the team's captains and its everyday catcher.

"He is just — he's super tough back there and never complains about being tired or anything," the coach said. "So, he's a huge, huge piece of us defensively behind the plate."

Jon Wells also mentioned that Dempster has started the season off strong behind the plate and has been a big piece of this team's success early in the season.

The Pirates now have a break with spring break this week and won't play again until Tuesday, April 7, when they host Sanford for a double-header.

This week, the coach is hosting optional practice for the players who want to get extra work in during the break.

The team will then be back for regular practice starting the week of March 30.

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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)

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Public Notices

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: 2026C030014
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 filing in the blanks and not changing anything else on the form.
Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 143h day of March, 2026.
by Ralph A. Cantafio, #16280
Published March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293664)

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Mineral County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, to review amendments to the Mineral County Zoning Regulations pertaining to the addition of the Wildfire Resilience Code to the Mineral County Zoning Regulations. The public meeting will begin at 4:30 pm and will be held in the Commissioner's meeting room in the Mineral County Courthouse at 1201 N Main, Creede, CO 81130. A virtual option for attendance is available. A meeting link will be posted on the Mineral County website, mineralcountycolorado.com. A copy of the Draft Amended Zoning Regulations can be found on the Mineral County website, mineralcountycolorado.com, with other meeting information in the Upcoming Events. Public comment is welcome. Written comments can be sent via email to countyadmin@minoccolo.com or mailed to the attention of the County Administrator at PO Box 70, Creede, CO 81130, by EOB on Monday, April 6, 2026.
Published March 26 and April 2, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (294681)

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION

STATE OF COLORADO)

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN and particularly to the electors of the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Pagosa Springs Home Rule Charter and the Municipal Election Code, the municipal election of the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, will be held on Tuesday April 7, 2026 A.D. between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The corporate limits of the Town of Pagosa Springs shall constitute one precinct. The election shall be conducted as a mail ballot election. The ballots will be mailed to the eligible electors of the Town no earlier than 22 days prior to the election and no later than 15 days prior to the election. The drop-off location for the delivery of mail ballots and receipt of replacement ballots shall be located at the Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Boulevard, in the Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, which shall be open Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning at least 22 days prior to the election day and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on election day.

In order to vote in the election, an elector must be eighteen (18) years of age as of the day of the election, be a citizen of the United States of America, be registered with the Town Clerk or Archuleta County Clerk, not be in prison, and have legally resided for at least twenty-two (22) days immediately preceding the election in Colorado within the municipal limits of the Town as of the date of the election.

The questions to be voted upon at the election are as follows:

MAYOR

Shari Pierce ☐

TOWN COUNCIL

Gary Williams ☐

Madeline Bergon ☐

Ballot Question A

Shall the Town of Pagosa Springs Home Rule Charter be amended to make the maximum fines and jail sentences, for violations of Town ordinances and regulations to the maximum permitted pursuant to Colorado state law, as set forth in Ordinance No. 1024 (Series 2026)?

Yes ☐

No ☐

BALLOT ISSUE B

SHALL TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS DEBT BE INCREASED UP TO \$3 MILLION WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$4,605,297.95, WITHOUT IMPOSING A NEW TAX OR INCREASING EXISTING TAXES, IN THE FORM OF A FLOOD IMPACT LOAN FROM THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD WITH LOAN FUNDS TO BE USED SOLELY FOR COSTS OF REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH DAMAGES TO THE TOWN'S PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAUSED BY THE OCTOBER 2025 FLOODING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DAMAGES TO:

- ROADS
- BRIDGES
- CULVERTS
- TRAILS
- SAN JUAN RIVER FISHERIES HABITAT IMPROVEMENT
- SAN JUAN RIVER RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS
- SAN JUAN RIVER CHANNEL SEDIMENTATION;

WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SUCH DEBT SHALL BE A GENERAL FUND OBLIGATION OF THE TOWN, LIMITED TO ANY FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE GENERAL FUND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SALES TAX AND PROPERTY TAX REVENUES, AND WHICH MAY BE EVIDENCED BY BONDS, NOTES, CONTRACTS OR LOAN AGREEMENTS; AND SHALL THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH DEBT BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Town of Pagosa Springs

By:

April Hessman
Town Clerk

Published in: Sun Newspaper
Published on: March 26, 2026

Published March 26, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293954)

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On Friday, March 20, approximately 450 kindergarten through fourth-grade students at Pagosa Springs Elementary School showed off their talent in five distinct grade-level spring concerts and an art showcase.

County approves application for grant to provide three-phase power in Cloman Park area

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved Resolution 2026-23, authorizing the submission of an application for the 2025 state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Forest Health Timber Products (FHTP) three-phase power project for an existing

sawmill and forest products business in Cloman Park.

According to the meeting's agenda, the CDBG program is a federally funded program administered by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

"The program supports rural Colorado counties and municipalities by funding projects that improve community infrastructure and economic conditions for low- and moderate-income residents," the agenda states.

The agenda also notes that the grant application being considered will request \$350,000 of CDBG funds for FHTP.

During the meeting, County Manager Longinos Gonzales explained that the matter came up as a request at a previous BoCC work session, and the county has been working to get infrastructure improvements in the Cloman Park area.

"This benefits everybody," Gonzalez said, explaining that three-phase

power lines would be extended closer to where the county needs them while reducing the overall cost to the county.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that this is a "great opportunity" for the county with a public-private partnership.

"I think that's the only way we're going to get things done in this county is through those private and public partnerships, so thank you," Medina said.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Colorado drivers can clear the roadway after minor crashes

Colorado State Patrol

The Colorado State Patrol is reminding motorists that remaining stopped in active traffic lanes after a minor crash is dangerous and often unnecessary.

Colorado law allows drivers involved in minor crashes to move their vehicles to the shoulder or to the nearest suitable location, out of traffic, as soon as it is safe to do so.

What is a minor crash?

Colorado defines a minor crash as an incident without serious injuries, fatalities or suspected impairment.

Colorado is a no-fault state, meaning drivers do not need to wait in a

traffic lane for law enforcement to arrive and determine fault following a minor crash.

By moving vehicles to the closest, safe location, motorists can prevent secondary crashes; reduce congestion; and protect themselves, tow operators, and first responders.

"Our primary goal in moving the involved vehicles is not about convenience, but safety," explained Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "We want to avoid a secondary crash and the risk posed to every person at that scene from oncoming drivers."

In both 2024 and 2025, Colorado

State Patrol troopers were struck by vehicles while directing traffic or covering crashes on Colorado roadways.

Eleven troopers were hit in 2024, and 10 more were struck in 2025. These incidents highlight the very real danger created when crashes or disabled vehicles remain in active travel lanes.

"Every minute a roadway remains blocked increases the risk to motorists, first responders and anyone working to keep traffic moving safely," stated Packard. "Drivers can help reduce this risk by moving their vehicles out of traffic after minor crashes when it is safe to do so. Clearing the roadway helps prevent secondary crashes and

protects the lives of those responding to help."

If you are involved in a minor crash, where no one is seriously injured and impairment is not suspected, follow these steps:

- Turn on hazard lights.
- Move your vehicle out of traffic as soon as it is safe.
- Get yourself to a safe location.
- Contact law enforcement once you are clear of the roadway.

Once vehicles are relocated, motorists should provide law enforcement with a description of the vehicles involved and the location to which they have been moved.



Photos courtesy Connor Thomas and Katrina Thomas

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

‘The Little Mermaid’

April 8-11 • Pagosa Springs High School auditorium



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Take a dive under the sea with Pagosa Spring High School’s ‘The Little Mermaid’ April 8-11

By Jessica Parker
Pagosa Springs High School

Hello from the Pagosa Springs High School Theatre Department. We are so excited to present this year’s musical, “The Little Mermaid.”

This is a title that you may recognize from the classic Disney movie, “The Little Mermaid.”

Although this show is very similar to the Disney classic, it is a slightly modified version written by Doug Wright and inspired by the book written by Hans Christian Anderson.

We are so excited to present this musical to you. This show is going to be a colorful, magical and family-friendly experience we hope everyone in our community will enjoy.

We thank you all for your support through our various fundraisers and hope you will come to watch our performances.

Our theater program has had a recent success with “The Wizard of Oz.” We hope that “The Little Mermaid” becomes just as much of a success. With our biggest cast yet, a cast of 48 people, and a crew of five people, we cannot express how excited we are for the number of our youth who are participating in this show. We hope



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 in the school’s auditorium.

we continue to have such numbers in the future.

We want to thank all of the students for their time and commitment to our program, all of the parents for their support, and many drives to and from home.

We would also like to thank all of our directors and volunteers, Krisha Doocy, Leo Baughman, Elizabeth Baldwin, Emily Lavengood, Morgan Vining and everyone else who is

volunteering to help us put on an amazing show.

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. All performances will be in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

We can’t wait to see you under the sea.

Jessica Parker is a 10th-grade student at Pagosa Springs High School.

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Retro Cats, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Soul Fire, 7 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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SUN

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San Juan Stargazers to begin focus on recent discoveries

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The James Webb Space Telescope's recent discoveries will now be the main program topic for the San Juan Stargazers' monthly meetings, except when we have guest speakers.

Tom Hanchet will speak in June.

For several years, the San Juan Stargazers have been using seven different Great Courses on various aspects of astronomy as a resource for our monthly educational meetings.

We recently completed a Great Course entitled "Experiencing Hubble—Exploring the Milky Way." Ann Marie Kemp spent much time every month summarizing a 20-page published explanation in the Course Guidebook into a one- to two-page summary given to each person at our programs. (Thank you, Ann Marie. You can see how much she learned doing this.) Many members had a notebook to keep and organize these sheets.

Our next meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. with the big parking lot and convenient side door into the kitchen. (The main doors to the sanctuary are locked.) The meeting will be on Thursday, April 2, and will begin at 6 p.m. with our social hour for visiting and snacks.

At 7 p.m. our program will begin. Great Courses does not have a published program yet on the James Webb. We believe they are working on one. Until then, Joan Mieritz will be creating the programs. Mieritz made the comment a few years ago that James Webb discoveries would be keeping her alive for many extra years to come.

Please do not think that she will be lecturing for 1.5 hours. She was never that kind of teacher. She is totally enjoying this project and will do the best job possible to have interactive teaching.

This month we will begin with a 40-minute space ride created by the European Space Agency as if we are passengers on the Webb Telescope. It is wonderful. We travel through deep space with all its wonder, but slowly so we don't feel sick. We will flow from one amazing sight to the next.

When we've traveled enough and want a change, we will study together the various sights we have seen. We may compare the views from the Hubble with the views from the Webb. We will study what makes each location significant and unique. There will be time for questions, discussions, breaks and surprises.

The room is large, as is the big-screen TV. We will move from the tables to chairs in front of the screen and it will be as dark as possible. I'm hoping it will be exciting and, of

course, educational, since it is some of the newest information available. It should be as great of an experience as possible being in a building in Pagosa Springs on planet Earth. You do have to contribute your imagination and enthusiasm.

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive

a regular hard copy of Reflector Magazine, which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. That makes it so you don't belong to a small-town-sized club, but to a national club with thousands of members and wonderful active

■ See Stargazers on next page

SPRING CLEANING SALE

For two weeks (March 23-April 4)
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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Like in “Beauty and the Beast,” local young performers will join the Thingamajig Theatre Company summer cast for “Fiddler on the Roof” this summer. Auditions are set for April 4.

Open audition for Thingamajig’s ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ to be held April 4

By Laura Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company is excited to invite young performers (ages 7–14 presenting) to audition for our professional production of “Fiddler on the Roof” — a part of our 2026 summer rep season.

All auditions will be at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Auditions will be held on Saturday, April 4, with vocal appointments scheduled

between 2 and 3:30 p.m., followed by a short dance call at 3:30 p.m.

All audition details—including what to prepare, production dates and the sign-up link for audition slots — are on the website pagosa-center.org.

Some of these roles will be double cast to accommodate scheduling. Please bring a firm schedule of summer conflicts from June 12 through Aug. 29 on a typed document with dates and times of conflicts.

The story of “Fiddler on the Roof” centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia.

The show will run from June 26 through Aug. 29 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Calling all artists

Show us how you create your art, be a part of the 2026 Pagosa Springs Artists Studio Tour

Open Studios Tour is August 21-23, 2026

Sign up before April 30 to participate
Visit www.studiotourpagosa.com for more info

REGISTER ONLINE

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

Stargazers

■ continued from previous page opportunities with competitions, awards and money rewards.

To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family. Also ask about our new “Service” membership.

You can join the club at any of our meetings or on our website. Check

out our continuously changing website, sanjuanstargazers.org, with new information and spectacular photos.

We hope to see you for this exciting and educational program. We can be your connection to our extraordinary universe, and we want to help you learn as much as possible so you are appropriately amazed.

Holy Week

at Restoration Fellowship
March 30th – April 3rd • 6-7 PM each evening
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Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County seeking pickup truck for jobsite

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is gearing up to build the last four houses over the summer in 2026 to complete our "15 Homes in 5 Years" campaign.

We've built 11 homes since 2022, providing school teachers, public employees, hospitality and service workers affordable homeownership opportunities.

Urgent truck need on jobsites

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is currently seeking the donation of a late model work truck to support construction and jobsite logistics.

A truck donation will help transport tools, materials and volunteers, reducing operating costs and keeping build projects on schedule.

The truck's market value can be deducted as a charitable donation when the vehicle is used by Habitat Archuleta. Please call the Habitat office at (970) 264-6960 with any questions about how to donate.

Spring cleaning and getting rid of old vehicles

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta



Photo courtesy Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

As it gears up for it's 2026 build season — set to include building four homes to complete its "15 Homes in 5 Years" campaign, Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is seeking the donation of a pickup truck for its jobsites.

County is encouraging community members to donate any old vehicles through Habitat for Humanity International's Cars for Homes program to support its local affordable housing

mission.

Donors can begin the process online or by calling the Habitat International vehicle donation hotline ■ See Habitat on next page

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One-time application fee of \$15 per child
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One-day drop in fee \$30 per child (upon availability) includes morning and afternoon snack
Weekly registration required.

For more information, call (970) 264-4152, ext. 521

PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

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Coloradans encouraged to apply for Low-income Energy Assistance Program through April 30

Colorado Department of Human Services

Even as Colorado closes out its warmest winter on record, the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) is reminding residents that the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) provides critical benefits far beyond basic heating bills.

With the application deadline of April 30 approaching, eligible Coloradans are encouraged to apply now to access long-term energy savings and assistance with emergency home repairs.

While the 2025-2026 season saw record-smashing temperatures across the state, home energy remains a significant expense. LEAP helps vulnerable Coloradans pay a portion of their winter home heating costs, freeing up household budgets for other essentials like groceries and rent.

Perhaps more importantly, a LEAP approval unlocks secondary benefits, including weatherization services and emergency furnace repair or replacement.

“When I finally decided to take advantage of LEAP’s weatherization services, the results were life-changing,” said a LEAP client from Garfield County. “The audit resulted in a new furnace, sealed windows and doors, and better insulation. My energy bills have dropped by nearly half, and my home is much safer.”

To date, more than 105,000 Coloradans have applied for LEAP this season. However, an estimated 80 percent of eligible residents still do not take advantage of the program.

Eligible families can expect to receive between \$200 and \$1,000 in energy assistance depending on the type of heating fuel, household income and other factors.

“Many people think they shouldn’t apply because the weather has been mild, but LEAP is about more than just a onetime payment,” said Maria Hopps, LEAP interim supervisor. “Between weatherization and emergency furnace support, we are helping families make their homes more efficient and safer for the long term. If you think you might be eligible, don’t wait for a cold snap — apply now.”

To qualify, Colorado households must have an income up to 60 percent of the state median income. For a family of four, this equates to a monthly gross income of \$6,938 (or \$83,256 annually). Additionally, applicants must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or as part of their rent and have at least one household member who is a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident.

How to apply

- Online: Visit cdhs.colorado.gov/leap to apply via the CO PEAK system.

- Phone: Call the HEAT HELP line at (866) HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) to have an application mailed

■ See Assistance on next page

Habitat

■ continued from previous page

at (877) 277-4344. Staff or representatives will ask for basic vehicle information, including make, model, vehicle identification number (VIN) and current mileage, then help schedule a pickup time.

Most donations are picked up at no cost to the donor, and vehicles don’t need to be running.

Tax benefits for donors

Donating your vehicle can offer valuable tax advantages in Colorado.

As a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Habitat for Humanity provides documentation needed for tax purposes. If the vehicle sells for more than \$500, donors may generally deduct the full selling price. If the vehicle sells for \$500 or less, donors may deduct the fair market value of the vehicle, up to

\$500 — though donors should consult a tax professional to determine how this applies to their personal situation and Colorado tax filings.

Within 30 days of the vehicle’s sale, donors receive a written acknowledgment with the sale price and details needed to support a charitable deduction on federal and Colorado returns.

About Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County partners with families, volunteers and donors to build affordable homes in Archuleta County. Through affordable mortgage opportunities and community engagement, Habitat Archuleta helps strengthen families and community.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
Palm Sunday
Church Services



Sunday, March 29th | 9:00 AM
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1879 Majestic Drive | Pagosa Springs

www.PagosaSUN.com

Come Celebrate Easter

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TWO MAIN EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICES

9:00 AM

10:30 AM

High School Auditorium

(Kids Easter Egg Hunt directly following second service)

Kids Coloring Contest!

Download coloring page at
graceinpagosa.org/EasterKids

Turn in completed coloring page
before either main service

Winners recognized & prizes awarded
during 10:30 AM service

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This Changes Everything

Easter Schedule 2026

Holy Thursday - April 2
Mass at 7:00 PM at JP II

Good Friday - April 3
Pilgrimage 3:00 PM (details at ihm.jp2.org)
Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM at JP II
Liturgy 5:30 PM at JP II

Easter Masses
Easter Vigil - April 4
8:00 PM at JP II

Easter Sunday - April 5
9:00 AM JP II | 11:15 AM IHM

Pope John Paul II (JP II) | Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM)
353 S. Pagosa Blvd. | 455 Lewis Street

More than a meal: Archuleta Food Summit invites community to help shape future of local food

Healthy Archuleta

What if a single morning could help shape the future of food, small business and community connection in Archuleta County?

On April 18, community members are invited to gather at Pagosa Springs High School from 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 2026 Archuleta Food Summit, a hands-on, interactive event designed to bring people together around one shared question: What does a stronger local food

system look like for our community?

Hosted by Healthy Archuleta, this year's summit centers on the proposed Archuleta Community Food Hub and Food Hall, a project designed to support local farmers and ranchers, create opportunities for food entrepreneurs, expand access to healthy food, and strengthen the local economy.

But this isn't a typical conference. Participants will move through an interactive food hub experience, where the vision comes to life

through conversations and interactive stations led by local growers, producers, food businesses and community leaders.

From shared commercial kitchens and food business incubation to composting, community gardens, and innovative growing systems, attendees will explore how the food hub could operate day-to-day and serve the community for years to come.

The morning includes a community breakfast, a panel on food and the rural economy, and a farm-to-table lunch featuring locally sourced ingredients.

During lunch, participants will join small-group discussions to share ideas and help identify priorities that will directly inform the next phase of the food hub project.

A \$10 registration fee helps cover the cost of meals for all participants. Whether you grow food, run a business, want to start something new or simply care about the future of Archuleta County, your voice matters.

To learn more and register, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html.

Come be part of the conversation and help grow what's next for Archuleta County.

WHIPS to hold monthly luncheon March 31

By Nancy Ford

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their monthly luncheon on Tuesday,

March 31, at 11:30 a.m. at Victor's Sushi Cuisine.

The cost is \$20 cash, and all women are welcome. We must have you RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Sunday evening, March 29.

Assistance

■ continued from previous page to you.

• In-person: Visit your local county Department of Human Services office.

LEAP is a federally funded program that helps eligible Colorado families, seniors and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs.

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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.

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April 3 at 6pm

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Easter Sunday
April 5 at 9:30 am
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But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:24

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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 27

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.
Maundy Thursday Divine Service. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
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 Chief Service. Noon, Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
Good Friday Pilgrimage. 3 p.m. Details are available at ihmjp2.org.
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 Liturgy. 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., Centertown Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive.
Good Friday Service. 6 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive.
Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

Saturday, April 4

Blessing of the Easter Baskets. Noon, Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Easter Vigil. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
Easter Vigil. 8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunrise Divine Service. 7 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.
Eucharist with Instrumental Music and Flowering of the Cross. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal

■ See Services on next page



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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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A gift to never take for granted

By Olivia Gaddis
Special to The PREVIEW

Sometimes I try to imagine what it must have been like for God the Father to turn His face away from Jesus on the cross.

I feel like that fact is something that I have not seen discussed often.

How it must have felt to see your one and only child bearing the weight of all the hatred and sin in all the world, to see your child so burdened that you can no longer look at them.

And how it must have felt for Jesus? God is always watching us, always caring for us, and Jesus must have felt His Father turn away.

We perhaps can't feel it, but God's presence is with us at all times. He is like the warmth of summer, not

A Matter of Faith

appreciated enough until the chill of winter sweeps it away.

So many of the most beautiful things in life are the things we appreciate afterward: A parent's discipline or a newborn's cry. Seemingly oppressive at the time — much like how God's Grace can feel to our worldly bodies — but seen afterward as they truly are: a gift.

I never want to take that gift for granted. I want to always have the capacity to appreciate that gift. The gift of peace, of prayer and the ability

to share those blessings.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

Easter Season Services

■ continued from previous page

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.

Easter Celebration Service.

9 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. A service by Grace in Pagosa.

Easter Sunday Service.

9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive.

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 a.m., Open

Door Church, 110 Trinity Lane.

Easter Day Divine Service.

10 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56

Meadows Drive.

Easter Sunday Service.

10:15 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive.

Easter Celebration Service.

10:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. A service by Grace in Pagosa.

Easter Sunday Mass.

11:15 a.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St.



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Catholic Community

The Pagosa Catholic Community’s annual Good Friday Pilgrimage will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 3. Anyone is welcome to join.

New starting time, location announced for Good Friday pilgrimage

By Caleb Monroe
Pagosa Catholic Community

“Whoa there, pilgrim.”
I can still close my eyes and hear John Wayne so characteristically speak those words.
Of course, from childhood I had an idea of what a pilgrim was. They were the men on the Mayflower with tall black hats, white shirts and brass-buckle shoes. Still to this day, I don’t know why the Duke referred to anyone as a pilgrim. There sure wasn’t anyone who looked like those men and women who landed at Plymouth Rock in any of his movies.
To the social detriment of America, John Wayne passed away in 1979. Has anyone been called a pilgrim since? Do they still exist? In the words of Baloo the Bear, “You better believe it.”
While they don’t only appear in old west movies or sport stylish outfits of the 17th century, millions of pilgrims exist. Not just in America, but throughout the world.
Plainly put, a pilgrim is someone who undertakes a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place for religious, spiritual or moral significance. Christian men, women and children have been undertaking journeys like this for centuries. In the Middle Ages, pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Canterbury and Rome were common.
Just like they did in previous centuries, these sights still draw large numbers of Christians seeking to undertake the journey, joining with it prayer and devotion, and growing

closer to God. One of the more popular pilgrimages in modern times is the Camino de Santiago. A 490-mile journey undertaken on foot from Saint Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain.
While long journeys to far away and foreign lands may or may not be everyone’s cup of tea, there are opportunities closer to home to lace up your walking shoes and join other Christians in a pilgrimage. Combining with it prayer and purpose, remembrance and devotion, and, at the end, growing closer to God.
Every Good Friday, the Immaculate Heart of Mary/Pope John Paul II Catholic Church leads a local pilgrimage that is open to all. The pilgrimage follows U.S. 160 for approximately 4 1/2 miles, ending at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Boulevard. Along the route, there are locations to rest, rehydrate and use the restroom.
This year, due to construction, the April 3 pilgrimage will start at 3 p.m. from the parking lot downhill from Motel SOCO. In addition to the new start location and new start time, shuttle service will be provided by the church in cooperation with Archuleta County Mountain Express Transit. Pilgrims may park at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church and be shuttled to the starting point. The shuttle will leave the church at 2:20 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.
Come out and join fellow Christians as we make a pilgrimage honoring and recalling our Lord Jesus Christ as He carried His cross to

calvary. It is an excellent opportunity to partake in prayer and devotion,
■ See Pilgrimage on next page

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The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dogs and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.
To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/109-Carols-Curves>

1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$850,000
MLS #822945
2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.
To tour this home go to: <https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>

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The Colorado150: 150 films to be presented for 150 years of Colorado History

DenverFilm

As a part of Colorado's sesqui-centennial summer celebration, plans have been announced for The Colorado150 (CO150), a film series highlighting the most notable films with Colorado ties that were set, shot or featured top-line talent since 1876.

Beginning in June, more than 30 independent, community-based venues throughout Colorado, including Pagosa Springs will screen a selection from the best 25 films Colorado's helped produce since the late 19th century, as chosen by Colorado film programmers, theater managers, creative district administrators and other industry professionals.

In addition, Colorado film fans

Pilgrimage

■ continued from previous page

all the while growing closer to God this Easter.

For more information about the 3 p.m. pilgrimage, 4:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross immediately following the pilgrimage or the 5:30 p.m. Good Friday service, please visit ihmjp2.org or call the Parish Office at (970) 731-5744.

will be able to help fill in the list of the top Colorado 150 movies by voting for their favorite Colorado-related film at colorado150film.com.

The Colorado150 will also showcase short films, music videos, and presentations from filmmakers, artists, critics and other Colorado creative workers prior to each screening.

"Colorado has been the backdrop for some truly iconic films — 'The Shining,' 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,' 'True Grit,' and the stories keep coming," said Denver Film CEO Kevin Smith. "Film is one of the most powerful ways we connect, reflect, and celebrate who we are, and there's no better time to do that than Colorado's 150th anniversary. At Denver Film, we're thrilled to support this statewide celebration that not only honors our film history but shines a spotlight on the incredible stories being told by today's local filmmakers. We hope this inspires a new wave of creativity and reminds everyone that Colorado is and always has been a

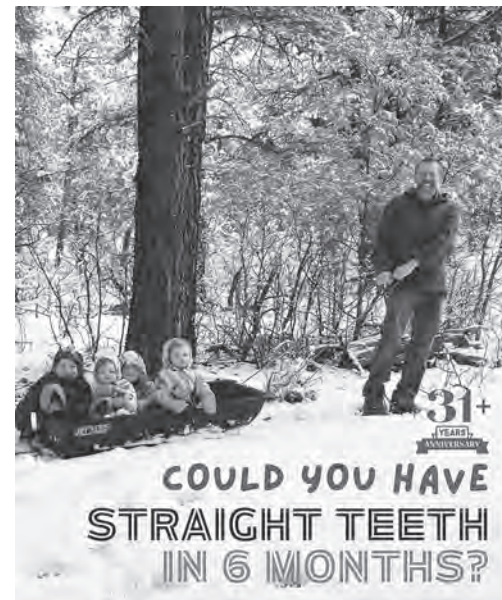
great place to make movies."

As part of the CO150 project, the CO150 website also hosts a list of nearly 700 films Colorado has contributed to American cinema history since 1876 — the first, and most comprehensive, catalog of its kind to date.

The CO150 site also spotlights an updated calendar of CO150 screenings and locations of film screenings across Colorado, where film buffs may connect to the venues or participating organizations themselves to purchase tickets.

Film lovers in Colorado and beyond are encouraged to visit the CO150 website and subscribe to the regularly updated CO150 media channels here and here for film-related stories, interviews, screening locations, dates and times. Tickets may be purchased by following the outside links listed on the CO150 venues page and reserving seats with participating theaters and locations.

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Photo courtesy Justin Nylund, DDS

Justin Nylund, DDS, with Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs, comes from a long line of dentists.

A legacy of excellence and empathy

By Dr. Justin Nylund, DDS
Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

I'm proud to come from a long line of dentists and doctors. I'm the tenth dentist in my family that spans four generations.

My great grandfather graduated from Northwestern Dental School in 1898. My grandfather graduated from Northwestern in 1943. My uncle graduated from Northwestern in 1971, I graduated from University of Texas in 2009 and my cousin graduated from Northwestern in 2010.

I think we have a dental gene in our family.

I have always loved flying (something also shared by multiple family members). I began learning to fly Cessnas 152 and 172 at age 17 and earned my private pilot's license at 19.

I received acceptance letters to Embry Riddle Flight school and scholarships to several liberal arts colleges. My parents thought a career in dentistry would be more successful and offered to pay for expenses. They ended up helping with insurance for three years of school but forgot about their promise to pay for college and dental school (oh well).

My grandfather was my first dentist and he was incredibly kind and compassionate. After he retired, I went to a dentist who held me down to get fillings done. The experience made me cry, and I was afraid of going to the dentist. I learned from that experience the importance of gentle dentistry. I'm very sensitive to

patients who have had a bad experience as I know what it's like to have pain in your mouth.

I'm committed to helping all of my patients at Black Diamond Dental achieve their highest possible oral health while ensuring a pain-free experience. I have gratefully learned from my grandfather and great

grandfather about complicated dentistry, dentures and partials. More importantly, I've learned values, ethics and morals. I look forward to serving you.

Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN sponsored content program called Spotlight.



BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs.

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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

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 Conservation 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.

Tuesday, March 31

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 latest in vets benefits, vets news

and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., Victor's Sushi Cuisine. The cost is \$20 cash.

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

All women are welcome. An RSVP to (970) 946-1895 is required by Sunday, March 29.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Teen Advisory Group. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Be a voice at your library. Build leadership skills, mentor others and plan programs that interest you. Snacks will be provided. For ages 12-18.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, April 1

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa

Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

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.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary

School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.

Thursday, April 2

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.

Online Author Talk. Noon, virtual. "On Mission: The History of US Women Astronauts" with Smithsonian Air and Space Museum Curator Emerita Valerie Neal. Go to the library's website, www.pagosalibrary.org, to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

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.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by an educational presentation at 7 p.m.

Friday, April 3

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://cefc-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

Saturday, April 4

Trash Bash. 10 a.m., downtown Pagosa Springs. WomenConnect invites women to help with a community cleanup. Gloves, trash pickers and bags will be provided. Compete for prizes for creative costumes and more. For more details, email pswomenconnect@gmail.com or text (214) 415-2952.

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.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer. 11 a.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs vs. Montezuma-Cortez.

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the cinnamon teal.

In breeding season, it's difficult to confuse this male duck with bright cinnamon-red plumage with anyone else. He is a relatively small duck with a long, somewhat spatulate, black bill and red eyes. Females have the same long, black bill but are mottled gray-brown and have dark eyes. In flight, both sexes display a sky-blue shoulder patch on their open wings. In late summer, when the males molt out of their bright summer colors, they resemble females and, even for experts, both sexes become difficult to distinguish from related blue-winged teals.

The cinnamon teal is a western species of freshwater wetlands. In North America they breed in Great Basin and Intermountain West regions, with the majority wintering in Mexico. A separate, distinct population lives in South America. In our area they show up in late February and stay into September.

They are most often found feeding at the edges of shallow wetlands with rushes, sedges and reeds. Here they dabble at or near the water's surface for seeds, aquatic vegetation, zooplankton and insects. They often swim forward with heads partially submerged, straining food from the water through their large bills. They may feed socially in a line, with the second bird taking advantage of food stirred up and brought to the surface by the first.

Females build a nest over water that is concealed on all sides and from above by wetland vegetation. To thwart detection by predators, she approaches the nest indirectly through tunnels in the vegetation. The male guards the female and the nest through most of the incubation period, longer than many other species where males typically depart once the eggs are laid.

Cinnamon teal are one of the least abundant dabbling ducks, in large part due to a massive loss of wetland habitat within their western range. Partners in Flight includes them on their Watch List Species of birds with steep population declines.

Purchasing a \$25 federal duck stamp is a cost-effective method of helping wetland wildlife. More than 98 percent of the money raised from sales goes to help acquire wetlands and conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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**OVER
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What is a weed?

By Ethan Proud
PREVIEW Columnist

Weeds are an ambiguous class of plants, as there is no official definition of what weeds are regarding specific species.

The typical feature of a weed is that a human doesn't like it where it is currently growing. Certain native plants can be considered weeds just as well as invasive or non-native plant species.

Milkweed, a native plant, is largely regarded as a weed when growing in a pasture or hay meadow, but when grown in a pollinator garden or wild landscape they are beneficial plants.

Non-native and invasive plants are trickier as many of our horticultural and agricultural plants are introduced and desirable.

Russian sage is planted in many yards around Archuleta County and hailed in xeriscaping and is native to Asia. The spiny tumbleweed, Russian thistle, thrives in drought conditions and yet no one would be willing to plant it in their yards.

Invasive plant species share characteristics such as: high seed production, methods of long distance dispersal, long seed viability and are introduced to a region by humans.

Whorled milkweed and Canada thistle can be compared as a native and invasive species, and both can be considered weedy. Both plants have wind dispersed seeds and spread by rhizomes. Whorled milkweed will not outcompete plants in the same way that Canada thistle does, but it is highly toxic. Many ranchers and hay producers will manage milkweed because of its toxicity. Canada thistle is classified as a noxious weed in Colorado and many other states.

"Noxious weed" is a legal defini-

Extension Viewpoints

tion meaning that a plant is required to be managed in a certain area. In Colorado, all landowners both public and private must manage noxious weeds on their property.

The list is comprised of about 70 plants, which are divided into A, B, and C sub-lists. A is the highest management priority and C is the lowest. While noxious does mean toxic, when discussing "noxious weeds," it does not denote toxicity.

Getting back to defining a weed in your own property, if it's not a noxious weed, it's up to you to decide. Your property goals will likely dictate what plant is considered a weed. If you want a lush turf lawn (not recommended in our arid climate), then everything other than the single species of grass planted is a weed. If you want a natural, native prairie-type of lawn, then native wildflowers and multiple grass species will be desirable, while non-native and invasive plants will be considered weeds.

Archuleta County Weed and Pest is your local resource for managing noxious weed populations and controlling other pests.

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

■ See Viewpoints on next page

WomenConnect announces Trash Bash cleanup event

By PJ Miller and Christa Chagra
WomenConnect

Spring is in the air and, as the snow recedes, it's time to give our beautiful town a little TLC.

Calling all moms, daughters, grandmas and girlfriends: Join us for Trash Bash 2026 to help us freshen up our beautiful mountain home.

This day is about more than just cleaning — it's about celebration. All women of every age and stage are welcome. Form a team, grab your costumes and compete for prizes. Don't have a costume? No worries — we have plenty of tutus and shiny wigs available for you to borrow.

The details

Trash Bash will be Saturday, April 4. Meet downtown at 10 a.m.

We will provide gloves, trash pickers and bags.

We'll work together as a group to clear garbage along the riverfront. Once finished, we'll move to another downtown location in need. (Note: For safety, we will not be cleaning along the highway.)

Compete for awesome prizes for creative costumes and a variety of "trash-related" awards. An after-party will be held at Black Bart's Brunch.

A celebration of community

Moms, if you're looking for a meaningful morning out with your daughters, this is a great opportunity to share the importance of stewardship. It's not a chore — it's a celebration of our community.

For more details, please email us at pswomenconnect@gmail.com or text (214) 415-2952.

We'll see you on April 4.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Corrin or Stone
- 5 Scalp misery
- 9 Big picture?
- 14 Leave, slangily
- 15 Goofs up
- 16 Oscar-winning rom-com of 2024
- 17 Has the wrong effect
- 19 Metric volume
- 20 Type of campaign
- 21 Repeating
- 23 NPR fan
- 25 ____ Paulo, Brazil
- 26 Bump on the tongue
- 29 Claim
- 31 Ginger ____
- 32 Lackadaisical sorts
- 37 Parisian picnic spot
- 39 Jules of sci-fi fame
- 40 Trendy sandwich
- 41 Alias
- 44 Texter's "I think ..."
- 45 Press a garment
- 46 Most embarrassed, maybe
- 48 Baseball stat
- 50 Scatter, as a crowd
- 53 Hidden
- 55 Muppet Sam, for one
- 59 Part of an EGOT
- 60 Springtime prank victim
- 62 Find out
- 63 Created a web
- 64 Some may be fragile
- 65 ____ Park, Colo.
- 66 Mass number
- 67 Slangy denial

DOWN

- 1 Trails off

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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41				42						43		44		
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48	49			50		51	52							
53			54							55		56	57	58
59						60			61					
62						63				64				
65						66				67				

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- 2 Hat-tipper's word
- 3 Cheese nibblers
- 4 Acid neutralizer
- 5 Oahu garland
- 6 Bent out of shape
- 7 Largest Greek island
- 8 German steel city
- 9 Tropical woe
- 10 Academic credit
- 11 Cooking device
- 12 Performance place
- 13 Key ____, FL
- 18 Clothing trim
- 22 Coupon user
- 24 Neighbor of Croatia
- 26 Bearded Smurf
- 27 Woeful word
- 28 Longhaired feline
- 30 FYI cousin
- 33 Coffee holder
- 34 Percussion instrument

- 35 NFC West team
- 36 Parking place
- 38 Mongrel dog
- 42 Contemporary people
- 43 50's Ford flop
- 47 Overwhelm with noise
- 48 The Sorbonne, e.g.

- 49 Thorny bunch
- 51 URL character
- 52 Full of energy
- 54 Be concerned
- 56 Belinda Carlisle, for one
- 57 Rollercoaster feature
- 58 Otherwise
- 61 Quaint lodging

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	H	A	B		F	E	T	A		C	A	R	I	B
T	O	P	E		A	V	I	D		A	B	O	D	E
L	O	O	M		M	A	L	A	P	R	O	P	O	S
A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T		R	E	V	E	L	S
S	H	A	R	I		S	I	M	I	L	E			
		L	E	S	T		N	A	M	E	A	B	L	E
A	M	Y		P	U	D	G	Y		S	L	E	E	K
R	E	P	L	E	T	E		E	N	S	L	A	V	E
M	E	S	O	N		A	A	R	O	N		R	I	D
S	T	E	T	S	O	N	S		R	E	I	D		
				H	A	N	S	O	N		S	C	O	R
G	Y	R	A	T	E		C	A	U	S	E	W	A	Y
N	O	U	R	I	S	H	I	N	G		A	N	T	E
A	U	D	I	O		B	A	C	H		G	O	E	R
T	R	Y	O	N		O	L	E	S		E	N	D	S

Honoring Public Service

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

I grew up in a European household. My parents were post-war immigrants to America, members of the worldwide diaspora that occurs after every major war.

And, as with all immigrants to a new country, they never quite fit in. They adored the easygoing nature of Americans and their extraordinary idealism, and having suffered through war as children they were forever grateful for the security America provided to their family.

They made sure my sister and I understood what we owed this country in return. We were expected to use whatever gifts we were given toward the common good.

And so it is no surprise that my sister and I both entered public service, she as a psychiatrist, me as a librarian. Our work has brought us great satisfaction, no doubt the reason that we are both still working past retirement age.

Make no mistake, there are many days when that alarm goes off that I wish I was retired, but when that first patron walks through the door each morning, I know the library is where I belong. I have seen the impact of a public library over and over. And I have met exceptional people along the way.

This past week, we lost a dear friend and co-worker unexpectedly.

Jeanne Hanson Colburn embodied everything good about public service. She was consistently kind to everyone who walked through our doors, extra patient with people confused by technology, ready to

Library News

help anyone who needed it. She fed homeless dogs and bought them warm vests to help them through the winter. She knew everyone's name. Jeanne was excited to see this library expand because she knew with a bigger building, we could do so much more to support our community.

Libraries do change lives, and Jeanne changed ours. Thank you, Jeanne. You will always be in our hearts.

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.pago-salibrary.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.

■ See Library on next page

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Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

programs, resources and services offered by CSU Extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

Seed potatoes, seed onions for sale

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 all the latest food safety preservation practices. Call (970) 264-5931 to register today.

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.

Check out the online option on our website, archuleta.extension.colostate.edu.

Join the fair board

Join the Archuleta County Fair Board and make history. Be a part of preserving the rich heritage and timeless tradition of the Archuleta County Fair and help plan the 75th anniversary Fair in 2026.

You'll contribute to an annual tradition that brings our community together, supports local agriculture and creates lasting memories for generations to come. To learn more, contact Tonya Steadmon at tsteadmon@archuletacounty.gov or (970) 264-5931.

Library

■ continued from previous page
Thanks so much for your help.

Construction update

So much is changing so quickly. Our roof is finished, blue siding is transforming the exterior, stucco is under way, 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 late August, the two portions will be combined into one big, beautiful building. Our grand opening is tentatively set for Labor Day weekend.

Follow us on Facebook for periodic pictures of progress.

Collecting for local food banks

If you have an extra can or two of food you can share, or some dried food in sturdy packaging, please bring it to the library. Our local agencies will pick up and distribute the food where it's needed.

Tax forms and booklets available

Pick up Colorado tax forms and booklets, as well as federal 1040 and 1040A forms and instructions.

Tax help is still available by appointment. Contact Kathy at (970) 553-9150 or kathy.taxhelp@gmail.com to make an appointment.

GED by appointment only, citizenship classes added

If you are working toward your general education degree or a high school equivalency exam, if you're working toward your U.S. citizenship test, or if you could use a tutoring session to help you with your educational goals, give the library a call at (970)264-2209 and we'll connect you with our instructor.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

The Ruby Sisson Library has free Colorado Parks passes for checkout that include a backpack with nature guides, binoculars and fun activities. Reserve yours today.

Meet us out in the community

Now that we have much less space for our operations and no meeting rooms during construction, several of our regular activities and special events are happening in other locations.

Please check the listings in this column and on your library's website, pagosalibrary.org, for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly calendars at the

library or check the website, www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar, so you don't miss any of the free programs, events and activities available to you and your family.

Online author talks

Our free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in April with new authors.

Sign up to watch live or shop the archives to watch to later. Get started at pagosalibrary.org/adults.

Thursday, April 2, at noon will feature "On a Mission: The History of US Women Astronauts" with Smithsonian Curator Emerita Valerie Neal.

April 14 at 5 p.m. will feature "On Writing Action-Packed and Suspenseful Spycraft" with Brad Taylor.

Conversational Spanish

Our popular Conversational Spanish group continues on Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free, friendly group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

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.

Family storytime

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Elementary school tutoring

Free after-school tutoring for first through third grades takes place on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is required because of limited space, so call your library now at (970) 264-2209 to enroll your child.

This invaluable tutoring involves one-on-one and small-group help for math, literacy, writing and spelling.

Note that because of construction at the library these sessions will take place at the elementary school.

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.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources. No appointment is needed, but

■ See Library on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU

			9	5	7		4	
	6					3		
2							5	
		2					8	
			3	6	9	2		
6					1			
			8		6			
1						4		
3				2	5			

Level: Intermediate

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!

3	9	6	4	2	5	8	1	7
1	2	8	7	9	3	4	6	5
4	5	7	8	1	6	9	2	3
6	3	9	5	1	8	2	4	7
5	8	1	3	6	9	2	7	4
9	3	2	5	7	4	1	8	6
2	4	9	6	3	8	7	5	1
7	6	5	1	4	2	3	9	8
8	1	3	9	5	7	6	4	2

ANSWER:

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!

The final garage sale

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

“The Final Garage Sale” sounded too final. Now, everything seems to be — the final visit with old friends. The final words we want to be remembered by. The final wishes we hope for. And, the final resting place for all our treasure.

This week, I visited my lifetime friends in Clovis, N.M. Betty and Robert Lucero have been married 77 years. And during those years, they have acquired treasures and memories.

During my visit, one of our topics of conversation was about our junk. The week before, I received an article from Betty’s son, Eli Lucero. He wrote about his mother’s worry about a final garage sale. His words are much more elegant than mine. He reached into his mother’s heart and wrote how her things were sacred because they were hers. Not for value in dollars or cents, but the value it brought to her in her lifetime.

‘Mom’s Treasures’

By Eli Lucero

My mother has begun to worry about the final garage sale. Not the sale itself, but what comes afterward, the strangers’ hands, the 50-cent stickers, the quiet negotiations over the things she spent a lifetime caring for. Pieces she polished with patience, lifted carefully from cabinets, washed and returned again and again through the slow rhythm of decades.

She never thought of them as objects. To her, they were small vessels

Artist’s Lane

of beauty, and she believed beauty deserved to survive. The years have made the lifting heavier now. Dusting and carrying have become a daily negotiation with gravity. But she still tends them with the same quiet care she always has. These objects were her vocabulary for beauty, and she could not bear the thought of them falling silent.

One morning I found her standing at the table with a piece of crystal she had taken down from the cabinet, a tall compote dish, cut glass catching the light. She had set it out for breakfast, though it had rarely been used that way. I recognized the gesture for what it was.

A quiet test. A way of asking whether the thing still mattered. I had brought a bottle of Windex with me from helping with an apartment turnover. Practical, chemical, the opposite of how she would have done it. I picked it up and began to polish the crystal.

She set another piece down. I polished that, too. We didn’t say much. The table slowly filled with crystal catching the light, and she said only, “I wonder what that’s used for.”

I asked Google. “Fill it with fruit. It’s a fruit bowl.” So, the next time I went to the store, I gathered color the

way a painter gathers paint. Blackberries dark as wine. Strawberries still wearing their green crowns. Blueberries with that deep dusk-blue that only seems to exist in late summer.

I made Greek yogurt. I made her
■ See Lane on page 21

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HEALTHY SELF

THE BENEFITS OF A PLANT-RICH DIET PART-1



If given the option to drink from the fountain of youth and regeneration, would you?

That fountain is within your reach and involves a plant-based diet and regular exercise. Today’s research excerpt further investigates the dietary ‘fountain of youth and regeneration’ along with its benefits.

In a 72-week study published by Neal Barnard, M.D., president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, people with type 2 diabetes followed either a low-fat vegan diet or a moderate-carbohydrate plan. Both groups lost weight and improved their cholesterol.

When people who didn’t complete the study or had medication changes were omitted from the study analysis, there was a significantly greater decrease in A1C and LDL (bad) cholesterol in the vegans.

A study of nearly 100,000 members of the Seventh-day Adventist church, which promotes a vegetarian diet, showed that the vegetarians had a lower rate of type 2 than non-vegetarians. “The closer people follow a vegan diet, the more they stay at a healthy weight and prevent type 2,” says Michael J. Orlich, M.D., assistant professor of preventive medicine at Loma Linda University in California. Orlich was involved with the study. Not eating red and processed meats may help prevent type 2 even without factoring in body weight. Two long-term, ongoing studies by the Harvard School of Public Health tracking nearly 150,000 health care providers showed that people who ate an additional half serving of red meat daily for four years had a 50 percent higher risk of developing type 2. Cutting back on red-meat intake by more than a half serving a day reduced this risk by 15 percent. “Study after study has tightly linked eating a plant-based diet with decreasing a number of chronic diseases—type 2 diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer’s, and certain cancers,” says Sharon Palmer, RD, dietitian and author of The Plant-Powered Diet (The Experiment, 2012). The common denominators are chronic inflammation and insulin resistance. Both problems, which are interrelated, appear to diminish with a plant-based eating plan. Studies indicate that vegetarians also tend to practice other healthy behaviors, like not smoking, being physically active, watching less television, and getting enough sleep.

Source: “Should You Go Vegetarian? The Benefits of a Plant-Based Diet for People with Diabetes.” By Hope Warshaw. <http://www.diabeticlivingonline.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

“He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth” Psalm 104:14

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Library

■ continued from previous page

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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.pago-salibrary.org and choose Search the Catalog at the top of the screen.

New fiction

- “Jigsaw” is the 41st novel in Jonathan Kellerman’s Alex Delaware series, featuring psychologist Alex Delaware and Detective Milo Sturgis as they investigate two seemingly unrelated murders in Los Angeles that turn out to be connected, forcing them to solve a complex and deadly puzzle.

- “The Director” by Daniel Kehlmann is a historical novel based on the life of Austrian film director G.W. Pabst exploring his moral compromises while making films for the Nazis after fleeing to Hollywood.

- “Between the Clouds and the River” by Dave Mason is a tale of time, friendship, family and war.

New large-print biography

- “Paul Newman: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man” is a memoir of compiled interviews with the actor.

- “Jackie: Public, Private, Secret” is a new biography of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis by J. Randy Taraborrelli.

New nonfiction

- “Arctic Traverse: A Thousand-Mile Summer of Trekking the Brooks Range” is winner of the National Outdoor Book Award.

- “How to AI” is by Wall Street Journal technology columnist Christopher Mims.

- “The Glass Constellation: New and Selected Poems” is from Arthur Sze, poet laureate of the United States.

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G V P P S O C I L Y F U N C T I O N L U
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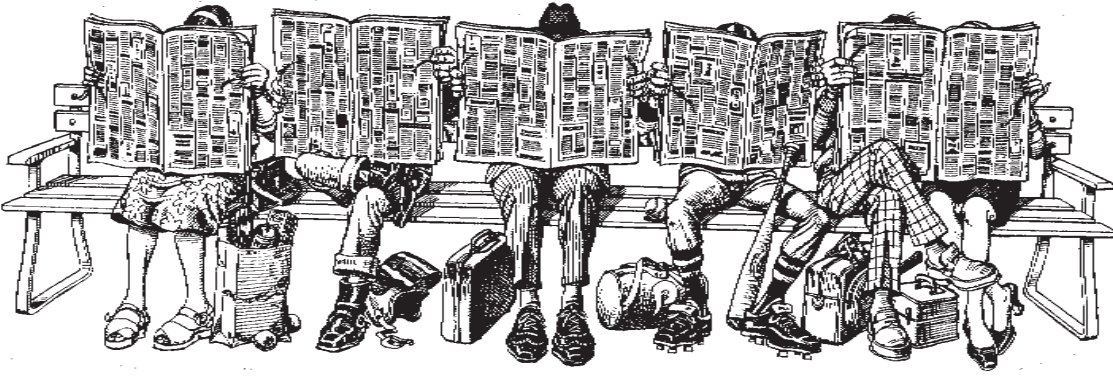
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March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

March is recognized as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing awareness about one of the most preventable forms of cancer.

For seniors, this observance serves as an important reminder to prioritize regular screenings.

Colorectal cancer often develops slowly and without noticeable symptoms in its early stages, making routine testing such as colonoscopies essential for early detection.

Health experts recommend that adults over age 50 or earlier for those with certain risk factors talk with their health care providers about screening options. Detecting the disease early greatly improves treatment outcomes and can even prevent cancer by removing precancerous polyps.

For older adults, staying proactive about health can make a significant difference in quality of life. Regular screenings, maintaining a balanced diet rich in fiber, staying physically active and knowing family medical history are all important steps in reducing risk.

Lane

■ continued from page 19

favorite angel cream cheese — the one with mascarpone and powdered sugar — and I pushed it a little further, adding malt powder, whole milk, condensed milk, until it became something soft and lingering, something meant to be dipped and enjoyed slowly. By then I was already well past her approval.

My mother is strong-willed and practical. She has spent more than 80 years walking faithfully with her Creator — quietly, steadily, rarely asking for anything in return. She has never been drawn to extravagance. Expensive fruit and elaborate dips are not things she asks for.

But I am stubborn in my own way. I believe the Creator who made the stars and the moon and the impossible red of a raspberry did not make such beauty for it to be ignored. I believe we are meant to notice it. To celebrate it. To live within it with gratitude.

So, I filled the crystal. We sat down to supper together. The fruit rested in the bowl like something promised long ago, colors gathered and held inside the glass as if the vessel had been waiting its whole life for this one simple purpose.

And then we heard it. A car horn outside. Strangers had arrived. They had found a letter.

It had surfaced at a Catholic church, the church where my parents' story first began and, somehow, through a chain of quiet providence, it had made its way back.

Forty-one years traveling. Forty-one years waiting. Arriving on Jones Street at the very hour when an artist

Senior News

While the idea of screening may feel uncomfortable or easy to delay, it is one of the most effective ways seniors can protect their health and independence.

Taking action during March not only raises awareness, but also encourages seniors and their families to have important conversations about prevention, ultimately helping to save lives.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn 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

■ See Senior on next page

son had finally filled his mother's crystal with the color it had been made to hold.

My mother opened it. And she wept. There are moments when a room grows still enough that you realize something sacred is happening. No one explains it. You simply feel the weight of it settling into the air.

For more than 80 years she has lived her life in quiet faithfulness. Through churches and fellowships, through seasons of joy and seasons of hardship, she has carried that faith the way a vessel carries water faithfully, carefully, without drawing attention to itself.

And perhaps that is the mystery of all of it. We do not always know why we keep things.

The crystal saved from the cabinet. The careful polishing year after year. The reluctance to let beauty disappear into cardboard boxes and garage sale tables.

It can look like simple attachment. Like holding onto objects against the march of time. But, sometimes, the objects are waiting. Sometimes they are holding space. Waiting for the day when grace arrives in a form no one could have predicted. A letter long lost, a moment long delayed. A quiet recognition that faithfulness has been seen all along.

The compote still sits on her table now. She knows what it is for. Filled with color, just as it was meant to be. Quiet faithfulness, perhaps it should not surprise us that the Creator remembers His vessels. Sometimes it simply takes a lifetime for the answer to arrive.

Final brushstroke: Friendships, memories and treasures. As we reach our final days, we hold each of these with great care. They represent our lives, who we are, and how we lived life.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
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.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom

On the second Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., join the “Tappers,” who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Senior Center.

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ruby’s Writers Guild

The Ruby’s Writers Guild meets

on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

Tai chi chih

Tai chi classes are on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.

Tai chi chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Friday, April 24, 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.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

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 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.

Monday, March 30 — Greek gyro on pita with tomatoes, cucumber, onion, tzatziki sauce, lemon orzo salad, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, March 31 — Caribbean codfish tacos, tortilla, black beans, coconut rice, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, April 1 — Italian sausage and cannellini bean soup, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt, and milk.

Thursday, April 2 — Beef stroganoff with mushrooms over egg noodles, lima beans, dinner roll, garden salad, Waldorf salad and milk.

Friday, April 3 — Smoked tempeh chili, honey cornbread, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

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.

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■ See Senior on next page

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100 years ago this month: historical events from March 1926

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of March has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in March 1926:

- The first volume of the Great Greek Encyclopedia is published on March 1. The encyclopedia would ultimately contain 24 volumes featuring 280,000 articles, and 37,000 images, paintings and maps spread out across 23,000 pages.

- After a six-day trial, Anthony Bimba wins an acquittal in a Brockton, Mass., courtroom on March 1. Bimba is the last person in the United States to be charged with the crime of blasphemy.

- Assistant Secretary of War Hanford MacNider formally rejects New York watchmaker Oscar M. Lazarus' offer to design and install a wristwatch on the Statue of Liberty on March 2.

- Zizi Lambrino files a lawsuit against Prince Carol of Romania on March 4. The lawsuit claims Lambrino, who is seeking 10 million francs, was still legally married to the Prince and entitled to financial support for herself and their son, Carol Lambrino.

- The government of French Prime Minister Aristide Briand falls after failing to pass a financial bill on March 6.

- The first wireless trans-Atlantic telephone call is made from New York to London on March 7, which also marks the 50th anniversary of the patenting of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell.

- Bertha Knight Landes becomes the first woman to be elected as mayor of a major American city on March 9. Landes defeats incumbent Edwin J. Brown to become the mayor of Seattle.

- The first issue of the science fic-

tion magazine Amazing Stories hits newsstands on March 10.

- Éamon de Valera resigns as the leader of Sinn Féin on March 11. De Valera had proposed a motion for the party to have representation in the bicameral parliament of the Irish Free State and the Parliament of Northern Ireland, but ceded leadership when the measure failed.

- The Savoy Ballroom opens on the famed Lenox Avenue in Harlem on March 12.

- Aviator Alan Cobham completes the first voyage by air from the British colony of South Africa to Great Britain on March 13. Cobham lands at Croydon and is welcomed by King George V.

- The cartoon character "Reddy Kilowatt" is introduced in an advertisement for the Alabama Power Company on March 14.

- British driver Henry Segrave reaches a speed of 152.33 miles per hour in Southport, Lancashire, England, on March 16, breaking the record for the fastest speed for an automobile.

- Czechoslovakia Prime Minister Antonín Svehla and his cabinet resign on March 17. The mass resignations occur after Svehla was unable to get parliamentary approval to raise wages for government employees.

- Chinese government troops shoot and kill 47 unarmed protesters on March 18. The tragedy becomes known as the March 18 Massacre. The protesters were speaking out against unequal treaties with foreign powers.

- On March 18, Second Lieutenant of the U.S. Army John Sewell Thompson becomes the first American military officer executed in peacetime. The 25-year-old Thompson was hanged at Fort McKinley in the Philippines after being convicted of murdering his teenage fiancée.

- The New York Police Department arrests seven members of the

Whittemore Gang on March 19. The arrests mark an end to a string of bank and jewelry robberies committed by the gang.

- Kálmán Tihanyi of Hungary receives a patent for the charge-storage television tube on March 20.

- More than 100 people are killed when the Brazilian passenger ship Paes de Carvalho catches fire and sinks in the Amazon River on March 22.

- A manifesto drawn up by Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in April 1914 is published on March 28. Ferdinand, who was assassinated in June 1914, had planned to transform the Austro-Hungarian Empire into a nation of self-governing states, but was killed before ascending to the throne.

- The U.S. government grants permission to two breweries to make 3.76 percent alcohol "malt tonic" on March 29. The finished product could be sold at drug stores without prescriptions.

- Despite previous assertions that it would close down the colonial prison on Devil's Island, the French government ships 340 convicts to the island on March 30.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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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.

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PROTECT YOUR CAR, GENERATORS, solar panels, house, whatever. EMP protection from The Sanctuary. You install or we can. (970)264-2592.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? 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.).

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

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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.

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.

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR NEEDED. Full time /part time /summer job. Please send resume or work history to frontend@pagosalandcompany.com.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED. Full time /part time /summer job. Assorted Duties. Please send work history to frontend@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.

HELP WANTED

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.

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LEAD HVAC INSTALLER. 3-plus years experience preferred installing duct work, equipment and maintaining systems. Must be able to work in tight spaces like crawl and /or attic. Universal EPA certified. Also, looking to hire an apprentice. Area Best Heating & Cooling, (970)946-6314, office@areabesthvac.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.

OLD WEST SPIRITS is now hiring part time. \$16.50 to start. Contact Braeden at (308)830-2623.

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.

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- Oversee distribution of the weekly newspapers
- Assist editorial staff, proofreading

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- Assist the sales team with supporting and servicing local advertisers with scheduling ads, creative/design, collections and other responsibilities as needed
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What we're looking for

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- Collaborative supportive team
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Send your email or letter of interest directly to
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SEVEN STATES HAVE BANNED CHEM-TRAILS. 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.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full-time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO, additional sick time, and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$16.50 - 17.00 DOE. Apply for the Animal Care Specialist role online <https://pagosahumane.org/> or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

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.

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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.

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HUGE YARD SALE. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 7a.m. Come one, come all. 375 S. 9th Street.

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LARGE SALE. Moving to studio apartment. 590 Prospect Blvd. Saturday the 28th 9 to 3, Sunday the 29th 9 to 1. Look for pictures Friday afternoon on Facebook. 54-piece wildlife ovenware dish set, canisters and all. Women's Carhartt pants, Pendleton shirts and jackets, Solomon shoes, raft and tubes for rafting, Coast Guard life jackets, vintage office desk (no nails), quality clothes, China cabinet, king-size oak bed with Sleep Number mattresses, pictures and much more. Sunday most items half price.

NES ESTATE SALE coming March 28 -29 in Pagosa /Arboles area 10a.m. -3p.m. at 19275 B CO-151, Pagosa Springs. This sale has so many professional woodworking tools, shop tools, crafting supplies, living room and kitchen items, farm/ tractor equipment, building materials. So much to see here! Photos on NESestatesales.com.

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COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

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.

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.

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2 BEDROOM DUPLEX available beginning May. Garage, porch, laundry. Pet and smoke free. Includes water sewer \$1600 month, first last full (970)946-0118.

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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. \$3000/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)946-3856.

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.

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