



# Snow and rain fall across region

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Some long-awaited precipitation began falling across Pagosa County on Wednesday, April 1, with higher mountain elevations receiving snow and lower local elevations seeing mostly rain.

As of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Wolf Creek Ski Area had reported 17 inches of new snow, bringing the season total to 190 inches.

According to data entered into the

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network, areas of Archuleta County received anywhere between .4 and .85 inches of rain from March 31 to midday April 1.

Snow was expected to keep falling in the Wolf Creek area throughout the night, with the National Weather Service (NWS) predicting new snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

The NWS is also forecasting a 20 percent chance of snow showers in

■ See Snow A9

# Water, housing and roads discussed at community forum

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Dozens of community members attended a community forum hosted by Archuleta County Commissioner John Ranson at The Springs Resort on Wednesday, March 25.

Multiple county employees were also present, along with representatives from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC).

The event was the second community forum hosted by the county.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that the county will be hosting at least two more community forums, with one on April 13 being hosted by Commissioner Warren Brown at 5 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse at 230 Port Ave.

Ranson offered some opening comments about the state of the country before matters such as wa-

■ See Forum A8



Dozens of community members gathered at The Springs Resort on Wednesday, March 23, for a community forum hosted by County Commissioner John Ranson.

SUN photo/Clayton Chaney



Hundreds took to Town Park and the sidewalks downtown on Saturday, March 28, as part of the nationwide No Kings demonstrations protesting actions of the current presidential administration.

SUN photo/Shari Pierce

# LPEA exits supplier, enters regional energy market

La Plata Electric Association

On Wednesday, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) announced it had successfully completed its energy supply transition, formally departing Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and joining the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization, effective April 1.

With this transition, LPEA expects to achieve an additional 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, while delivering lower wholesale power costs, greater reliability

and increased local control for its members.

“This is a defining moment for our cooperative,” said Chris Hansen, CEO of LPEA. “We’ve built a power supply portfolio that is more flexible, more local, more resilient and more affordable while staying grounded in our mission to serve our members.”

**A board-led decision**

The transition follows a multiyear effort led by the LPEA Board of Directors to secure a more sustainable and cost-effective energy future.

■ See LPEA A7

# Area fire personnel take on two fires in two days

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Area fire personnel tended to two more fires over the last week, one on Sunday, March 29, and the other the following day.

The burns were followed by a temporary burn ban within Archuleta County that was put into place on Monday, March 30, and lifted on Wednesday, April 1.

At approximately 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, the Pagosa Fire Protection District and Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) were dis-

patched to an out-of-control fire approximately 3 miles down County Road 335 (Lower Blanco Road), according to the ACSO.

According to the agency, the first was a little under an acre in size, with crews from the PFPD, ACSO, and Archuleta County Road and Bridge fighting the fire.

The fire was contained at about 3:24 p.m., according to the agency.

The following day, Monday, March 30, at about 1:34 p.m., the local dispatch center received a call from Los Pinos Fire Protection District

■ See Fire A9



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# Water conservancy discusses next steps for grant funding

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

At its March 16 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed progress and challenges in its efforts to obtain grants to fund work on its reservoir project at Running Iron Ranch.

SJWCD board member Charles Riehm explained to the board that the board had “a lot of positives” from the money spent on planning work done by engineering consultant RJH Consultants Inc to prepare the board

to apply for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) grant funds, including increased clarity on steps for obtaining funding.

SJWCD board member Randy Cooper, who was involved in meetings with the BoR, explained that the BoR did not accept the feasibility study created by RJH and identified four areas that need additional work, including studies of the market that would utilize the reservoir, alternative plans for water supply outside of building a reservoir, an economic analysis of these alternatives, and a detailed plan for project implemen-

tation and nonfederal funding for the project.

SJWCD board member Rob Haggberg asked if the board is “anywhere close” to having a plan for nonfederal funding for the project.

Riehm replied that the board would have to prioritize and look at state funding opportunities.

Cooper added that RJH did not believe the board was “screwed” due to these issues and that it had recommended partners for the SJWCD to work with to address these deficiencies.

He recommended that the board

continue using a subcommittee to prioritize issues to focus on and to allocate the efforts of various board members.

Cooper also commented, in response to a question from another board member, that this work had narrowed the cost estimates for the project and made it more feasible for the board to study specific funding opportunities.

Riehm added that the RJH study looked at two specific reservoir sizes — 4,000 and 11,000 acre feet — which narrow the range of estimates.

■ See Funding A7



# Opinion



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HOT MINERAL SPRINGS"



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## Weather data

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|------|------|-----|---------------|------|-------|--|
|      |      |     | Moisture      | Type | Depth |  |
| 3/24 | 73   | 30  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |
| 3/25 | 78   | 35  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |
| 3/26 | 72   | 35  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |
| 3/27 | 69   | 34  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |
| 3/28 | 65   | 28  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |
| 3/29 | 68   | 29  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |
| 3/30 | 68   | 32  | 0.00          | NA   | NA    |  |

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## OUR VIEW

### Celebrating birthdays

This is a big year for our community, state and nation, and numerous celebratory events are already being announced, with more sure to follow. We're already enjoying the look back at history as history continues to be set.

Colorado will be celebrating the sesquicentennial — a fancy term for the dual anniversaries of Colorado and the United States of America.

As History Colorado explains it, "In 2026, the United States will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—our nation's sesquicentennial. At the same time, Colorado will mark the 150th anniversary of our entrance into the Union—our state's sesquicentennial. As the Centennial State, Colorado is the only one who will observe twin anniversaries—our Sesquicentennial."

Beyond that, Pagosa Springs is turning 135 this year and the county is turning 141.

The original petition to incorporate Pagosa Springs was signed by 36 men 1891, with that followed by an election where 38 votes were cast — 26 in favor and 12 against.

The first town election was held on April 7, 1891, and John L. Dowell became the town's first mayor. The town board held its first meeting on April 20, 1891.

Archuleta County was carved out from Conejos County in 1885. The bill to create Archuleta County was introduced in February 1885, with officials meeting to organize the new county in May of that year and the first elected officials taking office in 1886.

This year will also be the 75th Archuleta County Fair, celebrating, in part, our county's agricultural past and present.

Be sure to keep an eye on The SUN, The PREVIEW and www.PagosaSUN.com to find out about all the events planned.

We welcome the opportunities to reflect upon where we came from and the progress we've made (or haven't made) since our town, county, state and nation were founded.

We're also excited about some of the history currently being set.

Our nation is seeking to set history this week and next with the Artemis II space trip, which was slated to blast off late Wednesday afternoon.

If successful, the flight will mean returning to the moon and sending humans farther into space than we've ever been before, among other records. The 10-day mission is set to be the first crewed flight to orbit the moon since 1972 — the days of Apollo — and could pave the way for the planned moon landing in 2028.

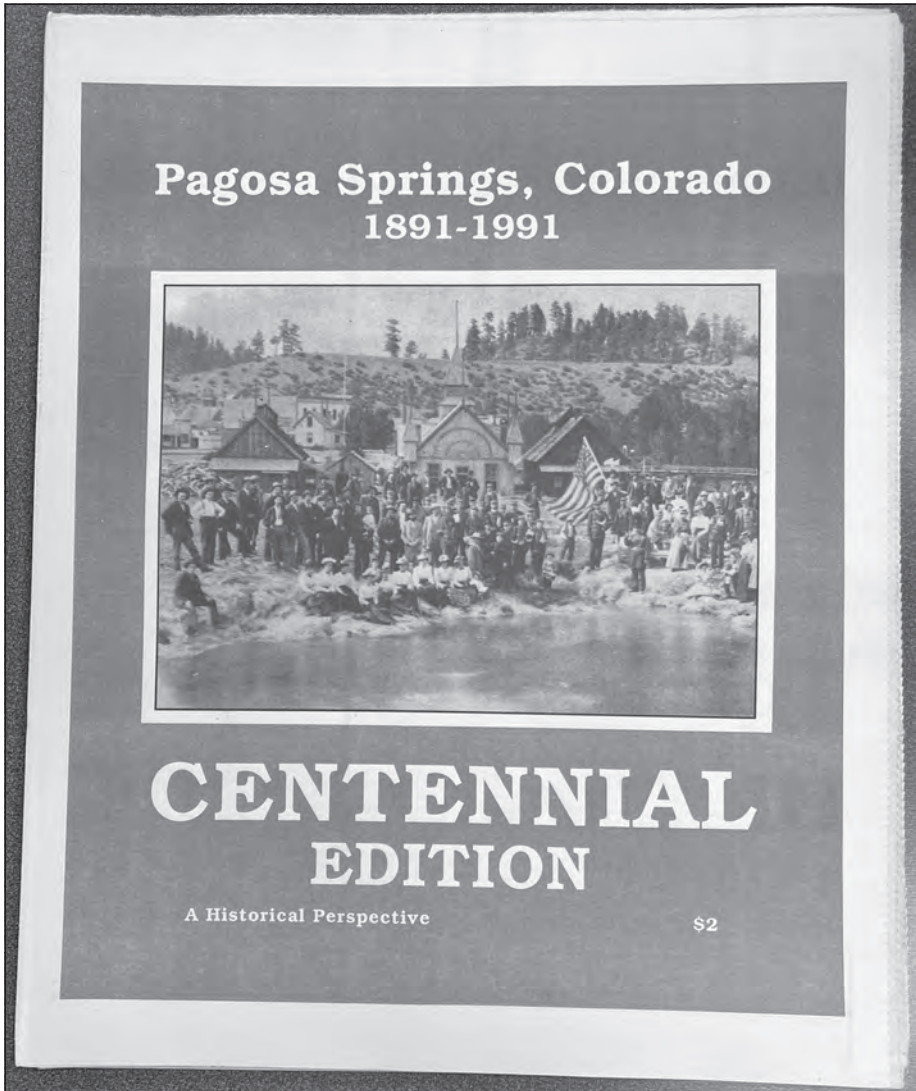
Colorado is also playing a role in the launch, with Colorado aerospace companies taking part in the design and engineering of the spacecraft and a launch vehicle that will help humans venture farther than ever before.

Like the myriad personnel who are working on the Artemis II launch and flight will reflect upon each detail to see what worked and what doesn't with the current flight to make future flights successful, we hope the lessons we've learned over time are apparent in how we're moving forward today and will continue to into the future.

If not, we hope we can all work together to correct course and head into the future as a community, state and nation we can be proud of.

Randi Pierce

## LOOKING BACK



The Centennial Edition was released in April 1991, offering a historical perspective on the 100th birthday of Pagosa Springs' incorporation. The special issue featured stories on early Pagosa Springs; the varied groups of people who have called the area home; the 1885 incorporation of the county; the flood of 1911; and notable people, places and events.

| Archuleta County Commissioners                                                                     |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                       |
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## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

### 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 2, 1926

The Hatcher hot water well has reached a depth of 132 feet and drilling will be suspended until casing has been set. Hot artesian water of 104 degrees has been continually flowing since a depth of 30 feet was reached, but is said to be seepage from the Arlington well. The hot water pool desired is expected to be tapped at about 300 feet.

This county and section has been visited by the heaviest snowstorm of the entire winter this week. It began snowing Wednesday and did not abate until this morning. The water content of the beautiful [snow] is enormous and assures plenty of irrigation water the coming summer season.

C.W. Houser today put on ten head of horses with the county grader and is removing the snow on the highway between the mill and town to prevent delay in the hauling of lumber.

A successful hardtimes party was given by the Freshman class last Friday night. In the early part of the evening a varied program was enjoyed by all. After this, games were played, and prizes awarded to Frederic Cotton and Fern Stauffer for the best costumes. At about ten-thirty refreshments, consisting of orange sherbet and wafers, were served. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing.

### 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 6, 1951

It has been reported that there are only a few odds and ends remaining to be gathered together and the annual will be gone. Mr. Gentry announced that they will have to finish selecting the Pirate and the Lady and a few other minor details and put it in the mail. Then we sit back and hope that they will be back before school is out. Oh well, we do that every year anyway.

Well, the basketball team, the football team and the cheerleaders (plus a few other interested parties) finally got their sweaters and jackets ordered. The representative from Lowe and Campbell of Denver was here on March 29th.

The football boys ordered black leather jackets with wool arms and the basketball boys ordered gold knit sweaters with all the usual ornaments (lettered Pirate across the back, year, etc.) The cheerleaders ordered both jackets and sweaters also. First team cheerleaders ordered gold sweaters and the second team cheerleaders ordered gold jackets.

### 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 1, 1976

As the county heads into an election year it appears that the Democrats have a solid majority in Archuleta County. There are 1420 registered voters in the county, as of February 1, and of that number 717 are registered as Democrats.

The Republicans are in second place with 406 registered voters and unaffiliated voters place third, with 297 without party affiliation. In all cases the number of registered voters should increase before general election rolls around this fall.

1976 is the bicentennial year and various organizations and groups, including state newspapers, are urging that at least 76 percent of the registered voters go to the polls and vote in November.

More snow fell on Wolf Creek Pass last weekend with 22 inches of new snow reported. The snow caused some delays in traffic because of icy conditions, but these soon cleared away. Skiing at Wolf Creek Pass is described as excellent and the snow depth is greater than at any ski area in Colorado.

### 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 5, 2001

Archuleta County's commissioners approved extension of a contract between the county and Pagosa Springs Enterprises Tuesday.

Pagosa Springs Enterprises is the entity responsible for staging the Red Ryder Roundup and is the owner of the property on which the rodeo grounds and Extension Office are located. The contract is related to a minor impact subdivision being used to transfer about three acres of land from PSE to the county. The land included contains the Extension Office plus parking spaces.

When the land transfer is completed, the county will be able to apply for state grants to finance installation of restrooms and connection to the Pagosa Springs Sanitation District sewage collection system. Because it is not a governmental organization, PSE is not eligible for the same grants.

In other business Tuesday the commissioners:

Adopted an e-mail policy stipulating that county employees can only use e-mail for county business and that all e-mail correspondence on county computers belongs to the county.





# 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 James Lane

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for James Lane as the District 1 representative for the La Plata Electric Association.

I have known James for many years, dating back to his high school days, and have watched him grow into a hardworking, thoughtful, and capable member of our community. As a former teacher and longtime area resident, I value individuals who demonstrate integrity, problem-solving ability, and a genuine commitment to serving others. James embodies those qualities.

James understands both the needs of local families and the importance of responsible decision-making when it comes to our electric cooperative. He recognizes that LPEA must provide power that is affordable, reliable, and practical for everyday members. While renewable energy like solar can play a role, it is clear that our energy foundation must be dependable and cost-effective. In our region, that means utilizing the natural gas resources we are fortunate to have right here in the San Juan Basin.

Equally important, James is committed to transparency and accountability. LPEA members deserve clear information, fair rates, and leadership that puts their interests first.

My late husband, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and I always believed in supporting leaders who are grounded, trustworthy, and willing to do the work. James Lane is that kind of leader.

I encourage others in Archuleta - District 1 to support his candidacy.

Sincerely,  
Linda Campbell  
Durango, Colo.

## Trump

Dear Editor:

A real moment during President Trump's State of the Union speech in February should have really come home to set Americans straight on who we can trust to lead our nation. Pres. Trump had a very simple and pointed question to Congress and Senate members: " please stand up if you believe that your 1st responsibility of the government is to protect the American citizens and not the illegal aliens." Every Republican-Conservative jumped to their feet, USA! rang out! Every Democrat-Liberal-Socialist- Marxist - Islamic, sat on their bottoms, glared very evil. The disgrace of Talib and Omar dispicable! Talib sported a lapel button with vulgarity using the initial "F" against our Pres.Trump. Green taken out, etc. These democrat people hate America, Pres. Trump, all of us who 100% elected him. Worse of all is they hate Judaeo-Christian and our country was established by the only true Creator, Lord God Almighty. This democrat left is seeking to destroy what our God has blessed us with, the greatest country in the world's history. They are seeking to change our culture, the faces of our American citizens, warp our, mutilate our children, families. These democrats are doing everything possible to usher in a radical Islamic regime. When the Dems advertised to the world who that they were protecting and serving those demonic terrorists, and criminals of the worse degree. It could have been your daughter or son, like Sheriden, just walking with friends on an American campus abruptly shot in the face by one these dem Biden invited illegals! Pres Trump pointed his finger at the dems and said, "These people are crazy!!!" Outside, Dems shouting, dancing around in blow up costumes----idiots! Republicans won everything in 2024, by God's grace and prophetic help. Pres. Trump saved our country, with the power of prayer, true Judeo-Christians taking a stand against demonic attack, Godly Americans. This "No Kings" crud, you look crazies, too! What's the point? A bunch of blow up frogs, dinasears, furries, fakes! You are being paid with a budget of 3billion dollars from the likes of Sorrells. Your only agenda is "get Trump". Trump always out-smarts. 47 years Iran has threatened the world, killing millions, thousands Americans. chanting death to America and Israel since 1979. Objective.....

Iran--No Nuclear bombs! Iran had 11 nuclear bombs ready 1 week, to reach Israel, Europe, & USA soon, anialating everything in it's path, everything useless for generations! Pres. Trump is taking care of business! To the liars, Dems, it was an imminent threat! Incidentally, gas and eggs are cheaper than the Biden era, all we got, load of illegals to endanger votes, our lives! This is Christians' most Holy week and giving glory to Almighty God for His gretest gift, our Saviour! We must not be ashamed to speak boldly in masses against the evil around us! Pray, pray, pray, and praise, praise, praise, to our King Jesus Christ for all He has done, doing and going to do for all Jesus has saved! Speak out for the good! "The truth will set us free." and "Righteousness exalts a nation, sin is the reproach to any people." Prov.14:34.

Jan and Tom Carnley

## LPEA's future

Dear Editor:

With April 2nd approaching--what some call "Independence Day" for our local electric co-op to gain control of its own operations---I've thought about this transition for those running businesses here in Archuleta County.

In my business, I look for two things when evaluating a major shift: risk management and local autonomy. For years, LPEA has been tied to a wholesale contract that felt more like a constraint than a partnership, limiting its ability to source power locally and exposing all of us members to rate hikes decided by a distant non-local board.

The move to leave Tri-State isn't just a change in direction---it's a calculated business exit that already shows results. While utilities across the country grapple with 6-7% rate increases, LPEA entered 2026 with flat rates. As a business owner, that kind of predictability is exactly what I look for in leadership.

Furthermore, the recent 10th Circuit Court ruling to uphold a fair exit fee protects our local members from hundreds of millions in "lost revenue" claims that Tri-State tried to impose. It's rare to see a local board successfully go toe-to-toe with a massive regional entity and come out on top for its members.

There is a lot of noise surrounding this election, much of it coming from outside our county lines. When I look at the actual math---stable rates, a successful legal defense of our local funds and a transition toward more local control, the current path looks like a solid business decision.

I'm grateful for the disciplined work the board has done to get us to this point. I'd hate to see us change horses as we're crossing the river into a more independent energy future.

Sincerely,  
Jason Cox

## Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to encourage members of La Plata Electric Association to support the continued service of Nicole Pitcher on the LPEA Board of Directors.

## 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](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com) or via the form at [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://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.

I had the opportunity to work with Nicole at Wolf Creek Ski Area from the 09/10 season through the 16/17 season. As the director of ski patrol, I worked closely with Nicole in her role as the ski area administrator, and during that time I saw firsthand her ability to listen carefully, weigh complex issues, and make thoughtful decisions. These are qualities that will continue to serve her well in her role guiding an electric cooperative that serves thousands of members across Southwest Colorado.

Nicole was the kind of person you could count on for just about anything. In a single day, she might be up on the mountain in a snowcat delivering food, sorting out a workers' comp issue, and then sitting down with the CEO to talk through where the ski area was headed. She could handle the day-to-day work and still keep an eye on the bigger picture.

Wolf Creek is a very dynamic work environment that changes constantly depending on weather and daily priorities. Nicole's ability to think rationally and clearly, while staying calm was an asset when making decisions on present issues or future goals of the ski area. Nicole's has the skill set to have difficult discussions with respect for different viewpoints and a clear focus on what will best serve LPEA cooperative members best over time.

Electric cooperatives like LPEA depend on board members who are willing to engage with technical, financial, and community concerns while keeping member interests front and center. In my experience, Nicole brings that perspective and dedication to the role.

For these reasons, I strongly support Nicole Pitcher continuing to serve on the LPEA Board and encourage fellow members to do the same.

Sincerely,  
Eric Deitemeyer

## No Kings

Dear Editor:

Dear Friends of Pagosa Springs, Thank you for standing up for our democracy and the constitution. My husband and I were at the library parking lot for the No Kings 3 gathering, he playing music in his "VotesWagon" encouraging voter registration and me holding signs of peace and freedom when we saw the crowd of over 400 people marching

■ See Letters A4

# U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of April 6-11

## Work activity

- Crews are wrapping up storm water utility work in preparation for pouring concrete on the north side of the 700 block; this work is weather dependent.

- Excavation continues in the 100 and 200 blocks.

- Water utility work begins in the Lewis Street and U.S. 160 intersection. Crews have been busy doing all the utility locations in the area.

- The intersection closure at Lewis Street and U.S. 160 remains in place for underground utility construction. 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 significantly impacts drop-off and pick-up traffic at Pagosa Springs Middle School.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

U.S. 160 reconstruction crews are wrapping up the north side of 7th Street storm utility pipe installation in preparation for concrete paving.

## Traffic and drop-off changes during closure

- The designated drop-off location on Lewis Street has 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.

## Stay informed and connect with the project

- Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.

- Email the project team: [Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com](mailto:Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com).

- Visit the project website: [www.codot.gov/projects/us-160pagosasprings](http://www.codot.gov/projects/us-160pagosasprings).

- Subscribe to project updates: [subscription.cotrip.org](http://subscription.cotrip.org).



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■ Continued from A3  
up the sidewalk. Flags were flying, people carrying signs and chanting for the preservation of our democracy. The feelings of hope and joy I felt can't be expressed in words. On that little piece of sidewalk, so much acceptance, peaceful and good energy was on display. The cars passing by were 80% or more beeping, waving, giving peace signs and thumbs up. It was BEAUTIFUL ! Yes there were some thumbs down and single finger salutes but the people around me only sent good energy their way.

We can only help each other to a better world. Thank you to the millions of people who showed up for No Kings Day, the largest single gathering to protest discontent in our countries history. I am proud to be standing with you.

Melody Finn

## Response from LPEA

Dear Editor:

At LPEA, we diligently work to support our members in making investments in solar and battery systems, and we believe those decisions should be grounded in clear, accurate information and help available every step of the way. Recent claims regarding a member's solar project mischaracterize both the timeline and the financial impact.

Here are the key facts:

The account in question was mistakenly placed on a residential rate in 2021. LPEA identified and corrected that error in March 2024, nearly a full year before the member applied for and installed a new solar and battery system in 2025. That timing matters. The investment decisions were made under the correct commercial rate structure.

It can be the case that a member's bill does not change substantially after installation. This can be influenced by several factors, including demand charges and the timing and quantity of electricity used during peak hours. System configuration and battery sizing also play a role in how much savings a member ultimately realizes.

Just as important, our team is here to help. LPEA's dedicated Member Services staff are available in person four days a week in both our Durango and Pagosa Springs offices, offering

one-on-one support to help members understand their usage, rates, and energy options. We encourage any member considering solar or storage to connect with us early in the process.

LPEA remains committed to fairness, transparency, and supporting our members in making informed energy decisions. Ensuring accurate information and being available to help navigate it is part of that responsibility.

Sincerely,  
Chris Hansen

La Plata Electric Association CEO

## No Kings

Dear Editor:

Perfect weather, a pleasant and peaceful crowd. I saw new faces and repeat protestors. People stayed well past the scheduled end time.

Best protest sign: "IRAN up your gas prices to \$4 a gallon." Who could disagree with that?

Two observations. Protests weren't smaller; they grew in number. Chama, Bayfield, and Abiquiu hosted their first No Kings rallies last Saturday.

Honks for democracy from passersby far exceeded drivers flipping us the bird, a noticeable shift over the past few months. And with the price of diesel going up even faster than gasoline, our resident rolling coal counterprotesters were absent altogether.

Tariffs, healthcare cuts, and now a war costing taxpayers more than \$1 BILLION a day. Trump's corruption, chaos, cruelty, and costly policies may finally be weighing even on Trumpers.

Candace Jones

## No Kings

Dear Editor:

This last Saturday's "No Kings" freedom march went very well indeed! Throughout all our States and seven continents, people of all parties and beliefs stood together to defend the Democracy we love. It was a gorgeous display of unity, peace, resistance, and joy. Thanks to all!

I am especially grateful to our Pagosa area resistance leaders, participants, and the many who waved, honked, and offered their enthusiastic support, as well as the few who expressed their disagreement. In America, we still have the freedom

to disagree. Diversity is our strength. Way to go, community!

We citizen-patriots love our Country, will fight for law and order principles, and demand equality and justice for all. All tribes, ethnicities, and genders, with no favor or discrimination based on status, income, or how long we've lived here. This is the beauty and real treasure of our American Democracy.

Of course, we have failed and continue to do so. But we press on toward the goal of a more perfect union. It is "We The People" who vote, engaging together in our governance, through our system of electing people who we think will best represent us. Character does matter.

But for now, we have a society where the super-wealthy, powerful few aim to rule over us - an oligarchy. They want to keep their power by diminishing ours. It is the "haves-nots" struggling to provide for ourselves and those we love. If they can keep us uneducated, unhealthy, fearful, and scrambling, then we don't have the knowledge, strength, courage, or numbers to resist this dictator and his evil regime.

We say "No Kings" because in our history and in our social DNA, we know what freedom is! There are no people on earth who want to be controlled and stripped of choice, dignity, self-respect, and freedom. We are not done. Democratic governance must be fought for, guarded, and renewed. Together, we must create an improved version of our Democracy. We have a ton of work to do, and we must work together! We must honor and embrace our differences. That is our great strength, not a roadblock.

We say "No Kings" because Trump, with his evil conspirators, is intentionally plotting against America, aiming to destroy our Constitution and our three coequal branches of government. Greedy Don lusts for wealth and power. He hates anything that brings balance to our lives and threatens his dictatorial single-person rule - his "kingdom".

But really, the king has already ascended his throne. Because he is the king of chaos, king of cruelty, king of confusion. Trump is the dictator of disaster, dictator of disease (along with JFK Jr.), and dictator of disenfranchisement (as he works to dismantle our rights to vote). Trump

is the chief of cheating. The aging Orange One is the "prince of darkness" and the "father of lies."

Friends, let's do good, defend justice, protect underdogs, love our neighbors, laugh, and enjoy our lives - together!

Mitch Nielsen

## Colorado's health care future

Dear Editor:

Last week I attended a local meeting about Colorado's healthcare future, focused on SB25-045 and the possibility of a statewide single-payer system like the one proposed in Amendment 69 nearly a decade ago. The presentation was thoughtful, but I was struck by how familiar it felt. Many of the ideas were the same ones voters considered—and rejected decisively—in 2016.

That doesn't mean the concerns behind those proposals have gone away. Healthcare costs remain one of the most serious pressures on family budgets, small businesses, and mountain communities like ours. In fact, the problem that motivated Amendment 69 has only grown more urgent.

But Colorado has already begun pursuing a different path—one that may prove more practical. That path is the Colorado Option, a reform that requires insurers to offer standardized plans and pushes down premiums through state oversight. It is not single payer, but it is an important step toward bringing healthcare costs under control.

The question now facing Colorado is whether to try another leap toward a sweeping statewide system, or to continue strengthening the tools we already have. There is a strong argument for the second approach.

Large healthcare systems rarely change overnight. More often, they evolve through a series of reforms: better price transparency, limits on excessive hospital charges, standardized insurance plans, and eventually stronger public purchasing power. Each step builds on the last.

Colorado already has the beginnings of such a framework. It gives the state leverage to push back against rising costs while still working within the existing healthcare system. Expanding that leverage gradually—rather than attempting another abrupt overhaul—may offer a more realistic path forward.

For mountain communities like Pagosa Springs, stability in healthcare matters. Hospitals, clinics, and patients all depend on a system that works reliably. Reform should be bold enough to address rising costs, but careful enough not to destabilize care in communities where access to specialized care may require long travel.

The healthcare debate in Colorado will continue, and it should. But if the goal is lasting reform, the path toward single-payer may not be a single dramatic leap. It may be steady progress—strengthening the Colorado Option and building, step by step, toward bringing healthcare costs under control for Coloradans.

John Repko



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*On Good Friday we will have a special evening with an extended full worship set with communion.*



## 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 ihmjp2.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)  
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## David C. 'Chuck' Mitchell

David C. Mitchell, affectionately known as "Chuck," passed away on March 21, 2026, at the age of 63 in Ojo Sarco, N.M. Born on Aug. 7, 1962, in Dallas, Texas, Chuck lived a simple and rich life filled with a passion to enjoy the outdoors and serve others.

Chuck was known for his wisdom, artistic and athletic abilities, and his tremendous work ethic. He found joy in creating with his hands, living off of what God's creation had to offer, and being a positive impact in his community of Ojo Sarco, N.M.

He is survived by his brothers, Tom Mitchell, Dan Mitchell and Drew Mitchell; his stepmother, Cynthia Mitchell; and his dear friends Catherine York and Cameron Cook. He was preceded in death by his father, David C. Mitchell, and his mother, Sharon Mooney Walker.

Chuck will be remembered for his big and loving heart, gentle spirit and natural humbleness. He loved talking about his cherished friends and neighbors in Ojo Sarco. Chuck's memory will live on in the hearts of all who were privileged to know and love him.

A community tribute will be held in Ojo Sarco at a date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ojo Sarco Community Center, 159 County Road 69, HCR 65, Box 99, Ojo Sarco, NM 87527.

## David A. Moreno

David A. Moreno, husband of one, father of five, received his third death certificate on Monday, March 23, 2026. His first death came during Vietnam. His second death — a death to self and being born once more to the light of Jesus — occurred midlife.

Dad was declared dead on July 4, 1969, at 0230 hours. After the Army notified his family, and they went through the grieving process, our dad,



our grandfather, was found to be recovering in a Japanese hospital. He is a Vietnam War veteran and one of the most selfless human beings we know. He entered service to his country via the United States Army in 1968 and served with the 82nd Airborne. He received orders to Vietnam and went there with the Air Cav, a unit with its own choppers. He received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star in Vietnam after being wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade. As kids, we used to feel the metal bits still embedded under his skin. Describing the day he was declared dead, he said, "We went in pairs to trip claymore mines. I was the rifleman covering my buddy. I saw VC about 5 feet from us in the bushes. I told my partner I'll count to three and I'll shoot. At that point all hell broke loose. We were up against an NVA Battalion and didn't know it at the time."

Sgt. Moreno explained that his favorite time in recovery was when he got to boss around two former Denver Broncos players who were also in recovery. He also drove a general around Washington, D.C., jumped out of airplanes, and was the practical joker of the company in Air Cav school. He bought and sold real estate, had money, then worked as a custodian when he didn't have money. He taught his kids humility in rags and riches, wealth and poverty.

He gave generously to several pet and religious causes, humbly saying, "I don't need money, just my family, a roof over my head and a good meal."

He was about selfless service to his God, country and his family. He loved his brothers and sisters and had a particularly close relationship with Tio Tomas, Uncle Sonny and Aunt Georgia. Through him, his five kids, Shannon Langley (Cowan), Justin, Brandon and Nathan Cowan, and Robin Netzel (Cowan), received a new abuela, tios y tias, y primos y primas de Durango, Pagosa, Spain and Mexico.

David is survived by his equally generous and beautiful wife, Nancy Sue (Bailey) Moreno. She resides with her daughter, Shannon, and attends sporting events to watch her grandkids throughout southern Oklahoma and dedicated herself to caring for her husband in his last few months of life. Yet, her heart is in Pagosa Springs, where she raised her children (her "gold bricks") to become entrepreneurs, writers, nurse, chaplain, trucker, educators, flight attendant, builder, mechanic, biologist, restaurant owners, theologian, and fathers and mothers who raised a new generation to beat the odds of this world through the grit and perseverance taught by David and Nancy. To them both, we are forever grateful and we will cherish good memories, let the not so good fade, and walk in the knowledge that our dad is in the presence of Christ — where he wanted to be, and awaits his favorite preacher, John Hagee, for a heavenly coffee, bowl of papas and green chili, and a good sermon.



## Obituaries

Obituaries up to 500 words are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

**PO Box 9**  
**Pagosa Springs, CO 81147**  
e-mail:  
**editor@pagosasun.com**

*Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.*

## Community news.

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# Business

## Town of Pagosa Springs again receives award from Government Finance Officers Association

Government Finance Officers Association

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Pagosa Springs for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2024.

The report has been judged by an

impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant

accomplishment by a government and its management.

“This award from the Government Finance Officers Association speaks volumes about the quality people we have overseeing the Town’s finances from staff to department heads to Town Council,” Town Manager David Harris wrote in an email to The SUN. “Their efforts promote integrity, transparency, and accountability to the public.”

The town also received the honor last year for its annual comprehensive financial report for the 2023 fiscal year.

### About the GFOA

The GFOA advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and practical research for more than 25,000 members and the communities they serve.

## Beyond the Bottom Line forum set for April 29

By Sandy Douthey

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Pagosa Springs’ business community is gearing up for the Beyond the Bottom Line forum, a key event focused on resilient leadership and long-term growth.

Set for April 29, this gathering offers ideas, tools and local insight for the Pagosa business community.

Organized by the Pagosa Springs

Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, Beyond the Bottom Line offers tools on leadership, staff insurance, cutting-edge technology and community impact.

Tickets are \$50. This ticket price will include a continental breakfast, lunch and one drink coupon at the mixer following the event.

The event will cover better ways to approach workforce and retention,

clearer thinking on business value and growth, practical ways to use AI to save time and increase capacity, stronger leadership, and decision-making and insight into what’s changing locally and how it impacts your business.

There will be breakout sessions focusing on looking at your value proposition, employee health insurance, employee ownership and retirement planning, leadership training, and creative business

practices.

There will also be main sessions covering AI ethics, creative ways to be profitable, updates on community projects and even a session covering “LPEA Electric 101.”

Undoubtedly, this day will be packed with tons of great information. We look forward to you joining us on April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, with tickets on sale at pagosachamber.com.

## Public health board discusses potential ordinance for hot spring pools exemption in health code

By Clayton Chaney

Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of Health (BoH) on Thursday, March 19, the board heard from Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke in regard to a potential ordinance concerning geothermal mineral hot spring pools.

Lashbrooke explained that the topic was being brought forward “because we are trying to preserve the geothermal and hot springs operators that currently exist” in the county.

She mentioned that the county is considering adopting updated building codes being required by the state and that one of those codes is the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

“And there is no provision for geothermal pools at all” in that code, Lashbrooke mentioned.

She then explained that a draft of an ordinance provided by David Dronet, owner of The Springs Resort, is asking for geothermal hot spring pools to be “special category” and not have to adhere to public swimming pool regulations, like chlorine levels “or anything like that.”

She commented that the chemicals that are required to be administered in regular public pools “would really destroy the minerals and everything that are in our geothermals.”

Lashbrooke clarified that the ordinance was being brought up just for discussion during the BoH’s meeting, but that it has been agreed upon by all three hot springs operators in the community.

Jeff Greer, the owner of Overlook Hot Springs, provided public comment on the matter, explaining that he used the state’s former design

and sanitation criteria to design his building.

He also mentioned that all of his tubs are designed for “flow-through.” Greer mentioned that looking at the past history of “successful operation” of hot springs in Pagosa Springs is the best way to predict potential issues.

*Greer also indicated that most hot spring facilities in Pagosa Springs sanitize with flow-through systems and that any tub less than 1,000 gallons has to have a full water exchange every hour, and tubs of more than 1,000 gallons have to have a full water exchange every two hours.*

He commented that being clean “is part of the brand” and that “water quality is our business,” noting that his indoor tubs are cleaned daily and the outdoor tubs are cleaned two to three times per week.

He explained that his staff uses baking soda and vinegar to clean the pools “because all that water returns to the river,” as the goal is to minimize chlorine usage, unless there is a contamination issue.

Greer then compared hot spring codes in the state of California, claim-

ing that mineral pools there that meet a freshwater flow standard do not have to comply with chlorine aspects.

He noted that the state of California has allowed this practice “for years,” and that this exception is “virtually identical to the carve out that we’re asking form the health board.”

Greer also indicated that most hot spring facilities in Pagosa Springs sanitize with flow-through systems and that any tub less than 1,000 gallons has to have a full water exchange every hour, and tubs of more than 1,000 gallons have to have a full water exchange every two hours.

“So, that’s the guidelines that I follow,” he said.

Greer urged the BoH to follow the guidelines that the local hot springs operators have developed that Lashbrooke was presenting.

“This will only affect the public geothermal pools,” Lashbrooke said.

She explained that the operators would be required to clean on a regular basis and keep record of those cleanings, mentioning that the operators do this already.

Lashbrooke added that the goal is for the hot springs operators to not get “lumped into regular pools.”

“This is a full attempt to preserve the natural hot springs that we have here,” she said.

Dronet then provided some background on the origin of the ordinance being discussed, explaining that he sits on the board of a Hot Springs Association of North America.

He explained that the ordinance being presented was developed with guidance of the Hot Springs Association and that this situation is not unique to Archuleta County, as jurisdictions around the country have adopted something similar to create a separate classification for geothermal pools.



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Sunday, April 5th - 10:15 AM

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# Outdoors

## Colorado faces limited water supply after record-low snowpack

By Russ Schumacher  
Colorado State University

Each day during the winter and spring, one of the first things I look at is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) website that shows the current status of the snowpack in Colorado's mountains.

Maybe that sounds like the strange habit of a state climatologist, but I'm far from the only one. Why? Because the snow that falls in our state's mountains will, when it melts in the spring and summer, become a large portion of the water supply for tens of millions of people.

Those people aren't only here in Colorado, but are in other states, tribal nations and Mexico, drawing their water from the rivers that originate in Colorado. Mountain snow is essential for our winter recreation industry, for farms and ranches that grow our food, for drinking water, for ecosystem health and much more.

It hasn't been a pretty sight when I have opened that USDA website each morning this winter. In an average year, our mountains get a lot of snow: In places like the Park Range, the West Elk Mountains or the San Juans, a typical year brings hundreds of inches of snow, carrying more than 40 inches of liquid water. This year, we struggled to get half that. Now, after an unprecedented heat wave in March, the snow is already disappearing quickly.

As of March 25, averaged across 115 stations in Colorado's mountains, the snow water equivalent was just 38 percent of the 1991-2020 average. (The snow water equivalent is the amount of water stored in the snowpack.) This represents the lowest snowpack in more than 40 years — and possibly ever — in Colorado's mountains. Conditions haven't been any better along the Front Range and Eastern Plains, which have also lagged far behind the average amount of snowfall.

There have been other major snow droughts in the past, notably the winters of 1976-1977 and 1980-1981, that threatened the ski industry and resulted in record-low streamflow on some of Colorado's rivers. But this snow season has been unrivaled in its warmth. The first five months of the water year — from October through

February — were Colorado's warmest on record by a large margin. And it's almost certain that it was the warmest March on record as well.

The warmth has been remarkably persistent, as relentless ridges of high pressure have prevented the usual snowstorms from moving into the state. The Fort Collins weather station at Colorado State University (CSU) recorded an astonishing 43 days with a high temperature of 60 degrees F or above during the climatological winter (December through February).

The previous record, from records dating back to the late 19th century, was 22. Starting March 18, Fort Collins had temperatures higher than had ever been observed in March, four days in a row. This was capped by a high of 91 degrees F on March 21; there had never previously been a 90-degree day in Fort Collins before May.

Records for March were smashed across the state and the western U.S., at both low and high elevations. One thing we do as state climatologists is put current conditions into historical context, as usually with some investigation, it's possible to find a past analog to what we're experiencing now. But the intense and prolonged heat has been unlike anything previously observed in March.

This, of course, is occurring in the context of a long-term trend toward warmer conditions, both globally and locally, largely attributable to increases in greenhouse gases. Per data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, nine of the 11 warmest years in Colorado records have occurred since 2012, and Colorado has now warmed by 3 degrees F since the 1890s.

Droughts come and go, and they have always been a challenge in Colorado and the West. But warming is making them more likely and more intense. In other words, climate change is water change.

When above-average temperatures and precipitation deficits stack up over the course of months, we start to see drought conditions develop or worsen. The impacts of drought are wide-ranging and include economic and agricultural repercussions. Farmers and ranchers may face lower crop yields and higher costs of feeding live-

stock. A snow drought like this winter's can reduce outdoor recreation opportunities and hurt the state's tourism industry. Drought years also tend to be years with more and larger wildfires.

Drought impacts can be felt a long distance from where the precipitation deficits occur. For example, southeastern Colorado received decent precipitation this winter, but low snow in the mountains hundreds of miles away near Leadville means less water on the Arkansas River, an important source for farmers in southeastern Colorado.

As each winter progresses, even if the mountain snowpack isn't looking great, we can always look ahead to March and April as the time when big

storms are possible and the deficits can be made up.

Unfortunately, this year has been just the opposite: Instead of much-needed snowstorms, we were in an unprecedented March heat wave that is accelerating the melting of what little snow there is. The chances of getting back into the range of average have dwindled away, and if the weather pattern doesn't turn around in April, we may be headed for uncharted territory for Colorado water.

Russ Schumacher is a professor in CSU's Department of Atmospheric Science; he serves as the Colorado State climatologist and is director of CSU's Colorado Climate Center.



Photo courtesy Allen Domingo

Area resident Allen Domingo takes advantage of the nice weather to catch a bass while fly-fishing on Lake Forest.

## State announces \$8.5 million in wildfire mitigation grants, including for Reservoir Hill

State of Colorado

Colorado's more than 24 million acres of diverse forests provide important benefits including clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, outdoor recreation and more. To protect these benefits and make Colorado forests and communities more resilient to wildfire, Gov. Jared Polis has announced \$8.5 million in Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grants to 35 projects in 24 counties.

Since 2017, the state of Colorado has provided funding to assist communities and groups across Colorado to reduce wildfire risk and promote forest health through the FRWRM grant program, administered by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). This program has awarded funds for a total of 312 projects on more than 30,000 acres to make Colorado forests more resilient and our communities safer.

"Colorado has seen firsthand the devastating impacts of wildfires on our communities. This funding helps us combat wildfires and comes at a time when Colorado is experiencing record low snow levels and severe drought. We know that proactive fire prevention helps keep Coloradans informed, supports our firefighters, protects our forests, and keeps our communities safer and prepared for when wildfires

strike," Polis said.

The FRWRM grant program has a matching requirement, either through cash or in-kind contributions. Award recipients in areas with fewer economic resources, as defined by the social vulnerability index layer within the Colorado Forest Atlas, must match 25 percent of the project total, and all other award recipients must match 50 percent of the total project cost.

The FRWRM grant awards combined with the match commitments result in \$17.6 million dedicated to reducing wildfire risk to communities, critical infrastructure and watersheds as well as building capacity to sustain long-term mitigation efforts.

The funding for this round of FRWRM awards will help Coloradans complete the following activities:

- Create defensible space, reduce hazardous fuels and remove beetle-killed trees in high-risk subdivisions.
- Improve safety along critical evacuation routes, ensuring safe egress for residents and emergency responders.
- Protect critical watersheds and drinking water sources.
- Reduce risk of wildfire to critical water infrastructure, wildlife habitat and community resources.
- Build capacity through education and outreach efforts and support the planning of future fuels reduction

projects.

"Year after year, Colorado communities are showing up, doing the right thing and taking action to reduce the risk of wildfire to not only their homes and businesses, but also in service to their communities and the forest itself," said Matt McCombs, state forester and director of the CSFS. "The FRWRM grant program has proven to be a dependable way to get this crucial forest health work done across the state and help Coloradans learn to live wildfire ready."

For the 2025-2026 round of FRWRM grants, the CSFS received 73 eligible applications. The CSFS had \$8.5 million available for this round of grants and is funding 35 projects.

"Colorado is currently facing unprecedented low snow pack, record high temperatures and a year-around fire season making the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation program even more critical than ever," said Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. "These grants will go to needed projects to reduce the wildfire risk around homes, water supplies and other critical infrastructure, and help create more resilient communities."

These counties received FRWRM funds during this funding cycle: Alamosa, Archuleta, Boulder, Chaffee,

sons at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXFoV1kyBto>.

### Plan your hunt

If you have questions about setting up accounts, planning hunts or applying for licenses, call center agents are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (303) 297-1192. Hunting resources are available at [cpw.state.co.us/hunting/big-game](http://cpw.state.co.us/hunting/big-game).

Be sure to read the "What's New" pages in the 2026 Big Game brochure and the 2026 Sheep and Goat brochure to get a full list of game management unit specific changes for 2026.

Note to hunters: License quotas will not be finalized until the May Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting after staff are finished analyzing data from population surveys.

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## Colorado Parks and Wildlife's big-game draw applications due April 7

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) wants to remind hunters that the deadline to submit a big-game draw application in the primary draw is approaching fast. Submit your application at [cpwshop.com](http://cpwshop.com) by April 7 at 8 p.m. to be eligible to participate.

If you have already submitted your application, CPW encourages you to review your receipt to make sure it was submitted correctly. Corrections are allowed up to the April 7 deadline through your [cpwshop.com](http://cpwshop.com) account.

CPW created a Big Game Application Guide to help hunters through the application process.

Landowners wishing to apply for licenses through the Landowner Preference Program (LPP) must also submit their 2026 applications online through their landowner account. See

the LPP Application Guide at <https://bit.ly/3PAw0NQ> for assistance.

Use the 2026 Big Game brochure as the go-to resource to find hunt codes, regulations and review recent changes for all applicants.

CPW encourages hunters to submit their applications early to avoid complications or delays. Get prepared ahead of time so that if problems arise, CPW staff members have ample time to assist you. View CPW's hunting statistics for information from previous draws to help maximize your draw potential by visiting <https://bit.ly/4tiTcYt>.

An online version of the Colorado Outdoors Preference Point Issue is now available at <https://bit.ly/4bKut07>.

For a good overview of what's in store, watch CPW's "What's New" video for the 2026 big-game sea-

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## Funding

### ■ Continued from front

SJWCD board member Joe Tedder commented that the market studies, alternative plans and economic analyses for these alternatives would have to be done before nonfederal money would be committed, potentially presenting a hindrance to the completion of the project.

Tedder suggested that the board determine how to move forward with these priorities with RJH as quickly as possible to ensure that federal funding does not go away in the meantime.

Cooper explained that it is “too late” for the SJWCD to apply for the grant that it had planned to apply for given the work that needs to be done.

SJWCD board president Candace Jones commented that the board has frequently discussed elements of the steps that the BoR raised and that the board needs to “press ahead,” both for the benefit of the district and the overall community.

She added that the board would also need to build a holistic understanding of what needs exist and what funding sources are available.

Riehm commented that setting concrete goals and projecting “positive movement” would be key to moving forward.

Jones commented that the board needs to be prepared for the possibility that additional federal funding will become available in the future and to be ready to apply for it.

Cooper commented that moving forward on the items that the BoR suggested is easier due to them having detailed criteria and steps to follow.

“What we’ve always been lacking is the knowledge of what information to get to that next point,” Tedder said. “Now, we’ve got it.”

The board then discussed the balance of moving projects forward while not exhausting the district’s financial reserves and its ability to match grants.

Riehm commented that, if the district had been ready to apply for the grant it was attempting to obtain this spring, its project would have qualified to receive funding and would have fit the grant criteria.

*“What we’ve always been lacking is the knowledge of what information to get to that next point. Now, we’ve got it.”*

**SJWCD board member  
Joe Tedder**

SJWCD board member John Kappelman asked why the items that the BoR felt were missing were left incomplete if RJH indicated that they were already aware they would be issues.

Cooper explained that the district did not have the capacity and community relationships to complete certain items, like a new water demand analysis, in the allotted time and was compelled to use older and less-complete work.

Jones commented that this application process was a learning opportunity and a chance for the district to find out what information it might need in the future.

She added that the district was aware that the chances of succeeding with the grant were small.

Cooper commented that the areas the BoR requested more information for will likely also be areas of interest for any other funding partner.

Cooper and Jones also clarified that the process was intended to secure funding for additional engineering, not for construction, and was highly dependent on how the SJWCD’s project compares to others.

Kappelman emphasized that the district needs to know what information another potential funder might require and to be prepared with that information, even if it differs from that requested by the BoR.

Cooper reiterated that the questions asked by the BoR would be basic questions asked by other funders, as well.

Jones commented that RJH could also help with determining what information other funders might need.

Tedder questioned if the board could move forward with working with RJH to gather the necessary items for three analyses requested by the BoR to avoid wasting time.

Cooper commented that he would like to have the board authorize board members to work with RJH to develop a request for proposal to do the work requested by the BoR.

Riehm added that the board should ask RJH about its opinions on what work should be prioritized

before making a final decision.

SJWCD board member Bill Nobles commented that the board has made significant progress on the project and that filling the gaps identified by the BoR will help it prepare for new opportunities in the future.

Cooper also explained, in response to a question, that the district’s previous water demand studies were not sufficiently detailed and did not include things like detailed analyses of potential water use customers and potential public barriers to the project moving forward.

Tedder commented that he believes that the board should move forward with a proposed water study to get a more concrete analysis of water demand in the community and the need for the reservoir.

Jones stated that Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs are also now interested in water supply due to new community planning requirements.

Cooper added that the board was aware of the potential deficiencies in the water demand study, but that it gained new and highly detailed guidance through the BoR grant process.

He also expressed satisfaction with the progress the board had made through the grant submission process.

Tedder reiterated his desire to not delay on moving forward with the process.

Jones concluded the discussion by stating that the board would consider next steps at its April 20 meeting once it has had more time to gather cost and budget information.

*josh@pagosasun.com*

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## LPEA

### ■ Continued from front

“This is exactly why we made the decision to leave,” said board president Nicole Pitcher. “I was proud to be part of that board vote, and we’re already seeing it pay off for our members with lower costs, stable rates and a cleaner, locally controlled power supply.”

### Lower costs and rate stability for members

Through its new power supply strategy and participation in SPP’s competitive wholesale market, LPEA expects to realize more than a 10 percent reduction in wholesale power costs. These savings allow LPEA to hold base rates stable for 2026, even as broader power supply costs across the region have increased.

“Affordability is a long-term commitment,” Hansen said. “This transition gives us the tools to manage costs responsibly while continuing to improve service.”

### Part of a broader cooperative movement

LPEA joins a growing number of electric cooperatives that have successfully transitioned away from Tri-State to pursue more flexible, locally responsive energy strategies, including:

- Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

(New Mexico) — departed in 2016.

- Delta-Montrose Electric Association (Colorado) — departed in 2020.

- United Power (Colorado) — departed in 2024

- Mountain Parks Electric (Colorado) — departed in 2025.

Additional cooperatives have provided unconditional notice of withdrawal over the past several months:

- Chimney Rock Public Power District (Nebraska).

- Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association (Nebraska).

- Roosevelt Public Power District (Nebraska).

- Jemez Electric (New Mexico).

- Wheat Belt Public Power District (Nebraska).

### Strengthening reliability and flexibility

By joining SPP, LPEA gains access to a broader, multistate energy market and transmission network enhancing reliability, improving efficiency, and increasing long-term flexibility.

As part of SPP’s regional system, LPEA will:

- Strengthen reliability through access to a larger grid and more diverse energy resources.

- Optimize power costs in real time through competitive wholesale markets.

- Maintain local control over resource decisions and rates.

- Support future growth through coordinated regional transmission planning.

“This move gives us access to tools and flexibility we simply didn’t have before,” Hansen said. “It strengthens reliability today and positions us for the future.”

### Looking ahead

This transition marks a new chapter for LPEA — one focused on local control, innovation and long-term value.

Members can expect continued investment in local energy resources, expanded programs to manage energy use and costs, and a system designed to adapt to the region’s evolving needs.

“We are building the future grid for Southwest Colorado,” Hansen said. “And we’re doing it in a way that puts our members first.”

### CommunityPowerX set for April 23

To help members better understand what this transition means for reliability, costs and the future of the grid, LPEA will host CommunityPowerX: The Regional Energy Future Forum on April 23 at the Durango Arts Center.

The public event will bring together regional energy leaders to discuss the future of the grid, how new energy resources work together and what members can expect in the years ahead.

“This transition is just the beginning,” Hansen said. “CommunityPowerX is an opportunity for members to ask questions, hear directly from experts and be part of the conversation about our energy future.”

Members are encouraged to attend. Additional details and registration information are available at LPEA.coop.

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



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## Forum

### ■ Continued from front

ter, housing and road concerns were discussed, with community members given the chance to ask questions.

Ranson described the turnout for the community forum as “tremendous” and expressed that the point of the community forum is to get feedback from the community.

Ranson then explained that over the past year, “we went through quite a bit of management change at the county,” noting that a new manager and attorney were hired.

He indicated the county has also hired a new planning and development director, who started last week.

“We also had turnover in the Building Department,” Ranson added.

He explained the county hired a new building official, Randy Betts.

“I do understand we can’t get stuff done if we don’t have a good team,” Ranson said, emphasizing the importance of teamwork. “We just got to keep these people.”

Ranson also commended the county’s Finance Department, noting the county is \$1.5 million in the “positive” on its 2026 budget.

He then indicated that the BoCC is prioritizing finding additional funds to allocate toward road projects and maintenance.

“I think it’s all of our hope that we can move that money toward the road situations,” Ranson said

Ranson then mentioned he really believes the county is “poised to do some great things,” and that the county wants to hear from the community.

“It’s your money,” he said.

Ranson also spoke about how it is the people in the county who make a difference, commending work done by the PSCDC in the housing sector, and other areas of the community.

He then explained that one of his main priorities for this year is to find an extra \$1 million to save in the county’s budget that could be put toward road projects, noting that a potential raise to the county’s lodging tax could increase funding for those projects.

“I try not to make promises that I cannot keep, but I will promise everybody here that in my remaining three years we will have more money contributed and allocated directly to roads,” Ranson said.

### Water

Former PAWSD district manager Justin Ramsey provided informa-

tion on the district’s Snowball water treatment plant that is now up and running, and producing “clean and legal” water.

He also indicated that all of the district’s reservoirs are full, though with a “grim” snowpack this year, the district will likely enter drought restrictions early.

“We’ll probably go into drought restrictions really early this year,” he said.

Questions about an extra reservoir were then asked, with audience members asking why the district may not need another reservoir, though it anticipates early drought restrictions.

*“I try not to make promises that I cannot keep, but I will promise everybody here that in my remaining three years we will have more money contributed and allocated directly to roads.”*

**Archuleta County  
Commissioner  
John Ranson**

Ramsey responded by explaining that, no matter what the district does, the biggest reservoir it has is the snowpack.

More questions about adding another reservoir came up, with audience members stating that low snow-packs may become the new normal for the area.

Ramsey explained the district is planning to add a new pipeline from Stevens Lake to transfer water into Lake Hatcher.

In response to a question about leaks within the district’s infrastructure, Ramsey explained that the district is currently losing about 400 gallons per minute through leaks.

He mentioned that PAWSD is “constantly fixing” those leaks, noting that “there was no oversight” in the late 1960s into the ‘70s throughout the district, which led to poor construc-

tion and poor materials being used.

He noted that he used to teach a college municipal engineering course, “and I could teach a class on how not to do things” based off of work that was done around the district more than 40 years ago.

Ramsey commented that the district’s bigger leaks have been repaired and “right now we’re dying from 1,000 little cuts.”

One audience member then asked about potential alternate water sources, such as wells, with Ramsey responding that most of the wells in the community do not have great water quality.

He also mentioned that PAWSD is looking at other water sources, such as buying more senior water rights.

The audience member indicated that “there’s lots of water” that can be accessed by wheels, adding that he’s unsure why “that little silver thread called the San Juan River is the only source for water for Pagosa.”

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini asked how our local area compares to other areas across the state, with Ramsey indicating, “I think we’re doing well” and that the district has a “diverse menu” of water rights.

Questions about water use and development were also asked, with Gonzalez explaining that those elements will be included in the county’s upcoming community plan update.

“That will absolutely be part of it,” Gonzalez said, noting it “is a state-mandated update.”

Ranson offered a comment on the matter of water use and if that is considered with new development being proposed.

“It has played into some of our decisions recently,” he said.

### Housing

Housing Coordinator Jeff Sams provided some information on area median income (AMI) and what those numbers look like for the county.

He explained that, based on figures from 2024, a two-person household in Archuleta County would need to earn \$75,400 annually to be at 100 percent AMI.

He indicated that would mean an affordable home for that household would be \$238,000, or spending \$1,800 on a rental property.

He also mentioned that the county needs 1,316 affordable housing units by 2035 “just to keep up,” and that

there is a current shortfall of 362 units.

In response to a question from the audience, Sams mentioned that there are many people in the community crammed into tight living quarters, with some even living in their cars.

“We do have people living in their cars,” he said.

Ranson offered a comment on the matter, bringing up “unfunded mandates” the county is dealing with.

“We’re dealing with these unfunded mandates almost every meeting coming down from Denver,” he said, noting the state is short on its budget and that is being passed down onto counties.

He commented that the county has “very little control over” some of the stuff getting passed down, “but we’re fighting it.”

He added, “We’re not gonna lay down.”

Gonzalez noted that the Board of County Commissioners will be discussing the proposals received for the upcoming community plan update at its next work session and regular meeting, which are scheduled for April 7.

### Roads

Public Works Director Mike Torres spoke about the state of the county’s Road and Bridge Department.

He noted the county has more than 400 miles of dirt roads and 60 miles of asphalt roads to maintain.

Torres mentioned that he started as public works director in 2023 and “stepped into quite a mess.”

He also explained that “this year we were faced with quite a budget cut.”

Gonzalez clarified that the “budget cut” did not entail an actual cut to the annual budget for road and bridge, but that the commissioners over the past few years have “very consciously” spent reserve funds to get road projects completed.

He explained that the reserve fund is now at a point where it is no longer possible to keep drawing from it to supplement road project funds.

Torres noted that the budget for capital projects and maintenance in 2023 was \$7.6 million, \$5.6 million in 2024, \$4.7 million in 2025 and \$2.4 million for 2026.

Torres commented that an increase in the county’s lodging tax could help generate more funds for the Road and Bridge Department.

*clayton@pagosasun.com*

something.”

Wilson also mentioned that during the October 2025 flooding events, the Public Health Department had conversations with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment about cleaning and testing, “and we have nothing in place that would make [hot springs operators] do that in those types of things.”

Wilson noted that the operators perform testing, noting they want to operate well.

BoH member Jessica Cox asked if there would be any potential downside in adopting the ordinance before the county adopts any other codes.

Brown mentioned that he’d like to have the county’s legal team assess everything before considering anything for adoption.

Foss commented that her thought on the matter is, “Our community has come to us and asked us to look at this” and therefore the BoH should consider it.

Medina commented that it would be appropriate for staff to continue to investigate more on the process.

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## Ordinance

### ■ Continued from A5

asked how this ordinance would fit into the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, with Lashbrooke indicating that it would supersede the international code.

Brown then noted that the hot springs businesses currently reside within the Town of Pagosa Springs, asking if the town may need to approve the ordinance as well.

Lashbrooke commented that going to the town would be the next step.

“We would seek to have approval from both,” she said, explaining she was starting with the county due to it running the local public health department.

In response to questions from Brown and Commissioner Veronica Medina, Lashbrooke explained that the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code regulates the design, construction, alteration and maintenance of pools, and does not differentiate between geothermal or mineral pools.

“So, all pools would be treated as public pools with this new code,” Lashbrooke said.

BoH member Stacey Foss described the proposed ordinance as a “preemptive move” to protect what is

already being done in the community before anything gets “overdefined.”

Public comment was given by Angel Stahr, owner of Healing Waters, who expressed that she is in support of the ordinance to carve out a special designation for hot spring geothermal pools.

Dronet offered clarification on how the MAHC works, explaining that it would not need to be a town ordinance as only the Public Health Department would need to approve it, adding that the actual construction of the pools is a different building code matter.

“But the treatment of water ... that is a health department matter,” he said.

Brown commented that it would still ultimately go before the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for final approval.

Brown then asked if the BoH could direct staff to continue to move forward with the ordinance and have it brought back to the BoH at a later date for consideration.

Medina explained that the BoCC recently tabled its decision on adopting a number of new building codes, including the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

Medina commented that the In-

ternational Swimming Pool and Spa Code was not explained to the BoCC, saying, “We may or may not adopt it.”

She then asked if the ordinance being proposed would still be necessary if the county decides not to adopt the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

Public Health Director Ashley Wilson commented that some exploration on that would be needed.

Medina then asked if it would be Wilson or the attorney, Cathleen Giovannini, looking into that.

“Because I think there’s some defined duties that I think have been maybe overstepped — I think some of us are not staying in our lane,” Medina said.

Wilson commented that the MAHC has been brought up from the county’s Water Quality Department in the past.

She mentioned that some of the things such as approval power in regard to water testing “lie with this board and the Public Health Department first to determine if they feel like this poses enough of a public health risk to then pursue and create

something.”

Wilson also mentioned that during the October 2025 flooding events, the Public Health Department had conversations with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment about cleaning and testing, “and we have nothing in place that would make [hot springs operators] do that in those types of things.”

Wilson noted that the operators perform testing, noting they want to operate well.

BoH member Jessica Cox asked if there would be any potential downside in adopting the ordinance before the county adopts any other codes.

Brown mentioned that he’d like to have the county’s legal team assess everything before considering anything for adoption.

Foss commented that her thought on the matter is, “Our community has come to us and asked us to look at this” and therefore the BoH should consider it.

Medina commented that it would be appropriate for staff to continue to investigate more on the process.

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# Colorado’s hands-free law linked to 4.7 percent drop in distracted driving, preventing 600 crashes statewide

Colorado Department of Transportation

New data shows Colorado’s hands-free law is helping reduce distracted driving and improve safety on the state’s roads.

A one-year analysis by Cambridge Mobile Telematics (CMT) used data from millions of driving trips in Colorado. Data collected through smartphone apps and cellphone sensors found that distracted driving in the state declined 4.7 percent from 2024 to 2025 and dropped 8.3 percent in the first month after the law took effect.

CMT estimates this reduction helped prevent nearly 600 crashes, more than 400 injuries and six fatalities statewide.

Colorado State Patrol (CSP) data also shows encouraging safety trends.

In 2025, troopers investigated 3,778 crashes involving inattentive drivers — a nearly 9 percent decrease from 2024.

Enforcement is making a difference.

In 2025, CSP issued 216 percent

more citations for drivers using an electronic device while driving compared to 2024.

“The increase in citations shows that troopers are actively enforcing Colorado’s hands-free law and holding distracted drivers accountable,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the CSP. “But enforcement alone isn’t the goal — we want drivers to change their behavior. When drivers keep their hands off their cellphones and their eyes on the road, everyone is safer.”

As Distracted Driving Awareness Month begins, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is reminding drivers that even small distractions behind the wheel can have serious consequences.

Colorado’s hands-free law makes it illegal for drivers to hold or handle a cellphone or other mobile device while driving, stopped in traffic or at a stoplight. Drivers must have a hands-free accessory to make calls or send messages.

The law includes exemptions for individuals reporting emergencies,

utility workers, code enforcement officers, animal protection officers, first responders and individuals in parked vehicles.

“Colorado’s hands-free law is helping change habits, but it only works if drivers commit to it,” said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. “When you’re behind the wheel, nothing on your phone is more important than getting everyone home safely.”

CDOT encourages all drivers to use hands-free accessories such as dashboard mounts, Bluetooth systems or built-in vehicle technology such as Apple CarPlay or Android Auto to stay compliant with the law and keep their focus on the road.

“Colorado’s results show that hands-free laws work. In the first year alone, distracted driving fell, preventing hundreds of crashes and injuries,” said Tim Vogel, general manager of public sector at CMT. “Even modest reductions mean fewer drivers looking at their phones and more attention on the road, which directly saves lives. With the

ability to measure these changes in near real time, states can clearly see what’s working and where to go further. We’re proud to support policymakers with data on the behaviors that lead to crashes, and we believe expanding hands-free laws will continue to drive meaningful progress in making roads safer.”

According to CDOT data, distracted driving continues to be a significant safety issue in Colorado.

It has been the third leading contributing factor in traffic crashes, and experts say it is often underreported, since officers must rely on drivers or witnesses to admit distraction.

Penalties for violating the hands-free law start with a \$75 fine and two license suspension points for a first offense. First-time violators can have the charge dismissed if they provide proof of purchasing a hands-free accessory. Repeat offenders face higher fines and additional license suspension points.

For more information on the hands-free law, visit [codot.gov/handsfreeco](http://codot.gov/handsfreeco).

## Snow

■ Continued from front

the Wolf Creek area for today, Thursday, April 2, with a high of 35 degrees. Patchy, blowing snow is expected from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with wind gusts as high as 45 mph.

The low for today is forecast to be 24 degrees with a 30 percent chance of snow showers in the evening and wind gusts as high as 50 mph.

There is a 40 percent chance of snow showers continuing on Friday, April 3, with a high forecast at 32 degrees and wind gusts as high as 40 mph. The low is forecast to be 15 degrees with mostly clear skies in the evening.

For Saturday, April 4, the high is forecast to be 40 degrees with sunny skies. The low is forecast at 23 degrees with mostly clear skies in the evening.

Similar weather is expected on Sunday, April 5, with a high forecast of 41 degrees and sunny skies. There is also a 20 percent chance of snow showers after noon. The low is forecast to be 23 degrees with mostly clear skies in the evening.

For the Pagosa Springs area, a freeze watch and freeze warning was issued for Wednesday night into Thursday morning, April 2.

Mostly sunny skies are expected

in town with a forecast high of 60 degrees. The low is forecast at 27 degrees, and the NWS has also issued a freeze watch lasting into Friday morning, April 3.

The high forecast for Friday is 55 degrees with sunny skies and a low forecast of 17 degrees with mostly clear skies at night.

For Saturday, April 4, the high is forecast at 62 degrees with sunny skies. The low is forecast at 24 degrees with mostly clear skies in the evening.

For Sunday, April 5, the high is forecast at 64 degrees, with a slight chance of rain showers after noon. The low is forecast to be 27 degrees with partly cloudy skies in the evening.

The cooler weather follows what might have been the area’s hottest March on record.

According to Pagosa Weather’s Shawn Prochazka, Pagosa Springs had 10 daily record highs in March — March 1, 14, 18-22 and 24-26.

In an email to The SUN, Prochazka notes the area hit a new high temperature of 79 degrees on March 20, beating the previous March high of 73 degrees.

“Climatological data for Pagosa Springs is not broken down year to year so I can’t say definitively that

this is our warmest March, but with 10 daily record highs and a new monthly record 6° higher than the previous record, it’s a safe bet that this was our warmest March on record,” he wrote.

### River flows

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, the San Juan River in downtown Pagosa Springs had a flow rate of 755 cubic feet per second (cfs).

That reading is up more than 150 cfs from the previous week’s reading of 595 cfs.

The record high flow for April 1 was recorded in 1986 at 1,230 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 1977 at 53 cfs. The median flow for April 1 is 203 cfs and the mean flow is 282 cfs.

The Piedra River near Arboles was flowing at a rate of 440 cfs as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, according to the USGS.

That reading is up slightly from the previous week’s reading of 434 cfs.

The median flow for April 1 is 450 cfs and the mean flow is 523 cfs. The record high flow for April 1 was recorded in 1986 at 1,850 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 1977 at 63 cfs.

### Snowpack

According to data from the Natural Resource Conservation Services, as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, Wolf Creek Pass at 10,930 feet had a snow water equivalent of 8.2 inches, compared to that date’s median of 28.4 inches. That amount is 29 percent of that date’s median snow water equivalent.

Snowpack levels are monitored by measuring snow water equivalents that 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 just 9 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 11.3 inches of snow water equivalent as of press time Wednesday.

[clayton@pagosasun.com](mailto:clayton@pagosasun.com)

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## Fire

■ Continued from front

concerning a grass fire on County Road 988 in Arboles, according to the ACSO.

An update states units from Los Pinos, the ACSO, PFPD and Southern Ute Indian Tribe Bureau of Indian Affairs responded to the fire, which was estimated to be four or five acres.

The fire was contained just over an hour after the call was received, the update indicates.

On Wednesday, April 1, Archuleta County Emergency Management Commander Roy Vega noted both

fires were human-caused burns that got out of control.

The afternoon of March 30 also brought a temporary fire ban, with the ACSO announcing that, effective immediately, it was putting a temporary burn ban in effect all agricultural and permitted burns within Archuleta County.

“Due to the current conditions, particularly [sic] forecasted wind events, we are shutting down the agricultural and permitted burn process for an abundance of safety,” the announcement states.

On Wednesday, April 1, the ACSO announced the ban had been lifted and burning operations could continue in line with Archuleta County Ordinance 18-2017 and Pagosa Fire Protection District, Los Pinos Fire District permit conditions.

Vega noted Wednesday that, while Wednesday’s rain would lower fire danger for a couple of days, it will dry out very quickly if more rain doesn’t follow.

On Wednesday, fire danger for both the upper and lower elevation zones of the San Juan National Forest was listed as high.

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# Charter school announces expanded electives options for 2026-2027 school year

Pagosa Peak Open School

Next school year, the middle school experience at Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) is getting a major upgrade.

The school has announced a significant expansion of its “specials” program, designed to give students more agency, more variety and more opportunities to discover their passions.

From the arts and world languages to unique physical education offerings, the 2026-2027 school year will offer a more customizable schedule for PPOS middle-schoolers, as well as expand on exposure for fourth- and fifth-grade students.

PPOS is broadening student cultural and artistic horizons by introducing two highly requested programs:

- **Orchestra:** Students will now have the chance to pick up a bow and explore string instruments during the school day with The Pagosa Strings Orchestra Lead Payton McIntyre. This program will focus on technical skill, ensemble performance and musical theory; and will include performances. McIntyre started the Pagosa Strings after school program at PPOS in the fall of 2025, which is open to all students in the county. Next year her program will expand into the school day for PPOS students.

- **Spanish:** In an increasingly global world, PPOS is excited to offer formal Spanish language instruction. Students will build foundational communication skills and explore the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world with PPOS's third-grade teacher, Paola Hasbun. Hasbun is a native Spanish speaker and has previously taught Spanish. She's excited to offer this option for our middle school students for the 2026-27 school year.

While the arts remain a cornerstone of PPOS curriculum, next year middle school students will see choir in the rotation, in addition to other specialized areas.

Students who find their voice through singing will now have a dedicated space to perform and grow as vocalists.

The school is excited to welcome



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School students will have expanded electives options for the 2026-2027 school year.

Samantha Walker, a K-12 certified music teacher and choir director, to the team to lead this programming.

In addition, Walker will be taking on music instruction for the K-5 crew.

At PPOS, physical education will be as diverse as students' interests. Next year, the school is moving beyond traditional gym class to offer specialized choices for the 6-8 cohort.

Some highlights include:

- **Golf:** Students can learn the precision, patience and etiquette of the links.

- **Wrestling:** For those looking for a high-intensity challenge, wrestling will offer a focus on strength, agility and discipline.

- **Hockey:** Students will develop teamwork and fast-paced coordina-

tion through our new hockey offerings.

“We know middle school is a critical time for identity formation. By offering electives, we allow students to take ownership of their learning. Whether they want to master a violin concerto, learn a second language or perfect their putting stroke, these new options ensure that every student can find another reason to be excited about their schedule,” said PPOS School Director Emily Murphy. “Our goal is to create an environment that feels like a bridge to the future where students aren't just following a path, but helping to pave it.”

For more information about PPOS, visit [pagosapeakopenschool.org](http://pagosapeakopenschool.org).

## Annual Ag Leadership Grants open for 2026

Colorado Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is now accepting applications for the 2026 round of the NextGen Ag Leadership Grants, which provide up to \$25,000 per project to support leadership development opportunities for Colorado's emerging food and agriculture leaders.

“By supporting the development of emerging leaders, we are investing

in Colorado's future with an eye towards collaboration and innovation to create a more resilient agricultural system,” said Michele Meyer, senior program manager of CDA's Markets Division. “Through CDA's NextGen Ag Leadership grants, organizations can get funding to provide leadership skill development. These leadership programs give the next generation of agriculturalists the skills to join the state's long heritage of agriculture and ensure its future.”

Organizations and educational institutions serving Colorado's emerging food and agriculture leaders are eligible to apply for grant funding, which will not be awarded to individuals. Applications should be for projects that support Coloradans' careers in food and agriculture and prepare them

to become industry leaders. Targeted projects with smaller budgets (\$5,000 to \$10,000) are encouraged.

Applications must address one or more program priority areas:

- Develop individual leadership or entrepreneurial skills;
- Enhance organizational leadership and capacity building; and
- Create educational or training opportunities.

Preference will be given to applications that address the first priority area.

Applications will be accepted through the online application form until 5 p.m. on April 24.

More information about the program can be found at [ag.colorado.gov/nextgen](http://ag.colorado.gov/nextgen). If you have additional questions, please reach out to [cda\\_nextgen@state.co.us](mailto:cda_nextgen@state.co.us).

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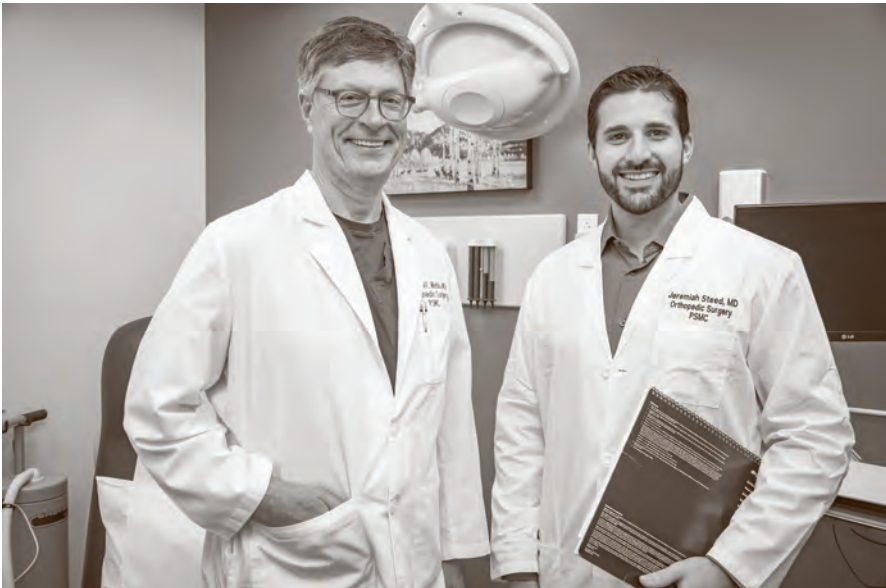
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## Application process for Family Violence Justice Fund grants open

Colorado Judicial Department

The Colorado Judicial Department has opened the application period for fiscal year 2026-2027 grants from the Family Violence Justice Fund.

The grants provide funding to Colorado nonprofit organizations that help low-income people who are experiencing family violence.

Successful grant recipients must have experience providing legal services, including legal representation, to eligible persons in areas such as protection orders, divorce, legal separation, child custody, child support or other judicial actions where legal services are necessary to protect the client's interests related to family violence.

Grants are awarded to qualifying organizations based on a geographic, need-driven formula that considers the number of low-income individuals who may require services in each county or city across the state.

Funding available for the upcoming grant cycle is anticipated to be \$2.1 million. In fiscal year 2025-2026, 16 organizations received grants totaling \$2.1 million.

Application links, rules and other information about the grant program may be found at [coloradojudicial.gov/financial-services/family-violence-justice-fund-grant-program](http://coloradojudicial.gov/financial-services/family-violence-justice-fund-grant-program).

Applications must be received through the Office of the State Court Administrator's grant management system, AmpliFund, by 5 p.m. on April 30. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please direct questions to Family-ViolenceJusticeFund@judicial.state.co.us.

2026

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# Sports

## BASKETBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Eight Pirate basketball players were recently garnered Intermountain League (IML) and other honors for their work on the basketball court over the winter season. From left to right are Jeremiah Jones (IML honorable mention), Creede Dozier (IML first team), Duke Ketchum (IML honorable mention), Adelyn Hittle (IML first team), Amber Snarr (IML honorable mention) and Kaila Limebrook (IML first team and Colorado Coaches of Girls Sports all state). Not pictured are Ximena Garcia (IML honorable mention) and Ty Richey (IML first team).

## TRACK

### Pirates win seven events at Pine River Invitational

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team was back in action on Saturday, March 28, at the Pine River Invitational in Bayfield.

Because spring break wasn't officially over, the entire team wasn't able to make the meet, but the athletes who did make the trip to Bayfield let their performance speak for themselves, noted assistant coach Curtis Nehring.

The team had 17 top five finishes across both the girls and the boys, including seven individual champions, at the meet.

"We had a lot of families that made track a priority and came back a little bit early so their kids could come to the meet, which is a big deal," said Nehring. "[It] just goes to show you the support that the kids have beyond just their own desire to get in and compete."

Xavier Sanchez kicked off the meet for the Pirate boys with a 14th-place finish in the boys' 100-meter dash with a time of 12.59 seconds.

Sanchez placed ninth in the boys' 200-meter dash with a time of 25.51 seconds and Gage Sams finished 11th with a time of 26.05 seconds.

Rylan Ash placed third in the boys' 400-meter dash with a time of 56.20 seconds.

Ash won the boys' 800-meter run with a time of two minutes, 11.05 seconds, and Eli Nehring placed 16th with a time of 2:35.25.

Eli Nehring placed seventh in the boys' 3,200-meter run with a time of 13:13.67.

Jeremiah Jones won the boys' 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.96 seconds. Jaiden Jones placed sixth with a time of 20.72 seconds, Jaycub Carter placed seventh with a time of 20.75 seconds, Zyan Souza placed eighth with a time of 21.47 and Vincent Fish placed ninth with a time of 21.88 seconds.

Jeremiah Jones won the boys' 300-meter hurdles, as well, logging a time of 43.14 seconds. Carter placed

fourth with a time of 51.13 seconds, Souza placed fifth with a time of 51.72 seconds and Jaiden Jones placed sixth with a time of 52.13 seconds.

*"We had a lot of families that made track a priority and came back a little bit early so their kids could come to the meet, which is a big deal. [It] just goes to show you the support that the kids have beyond just their own desire to get in and compete."*

Assistant coach  
Curtis Nehring

Jeremiah Jones won the boys' high jump with a jump of 6 feet, 5 inches, for his third individual championship of the meet. Sams placed fourth in the event with a jump of 5-9 and Milo Deitemeyer placed sixth with a jump of 5-7.

Fish placed sixth in the boys' long jump with a jump of 17-1.5, Sanchez placed eighth with a jump of 16-7.75 and Carter placed 11th with a jump

of 16-1.75.

Jeremiah Jones placed second in the boys' triple jump with a total distance of 39-11.25, and Deitemeyer placed seventh with a total distance of 35-11.50.

Emile Schneider took first overall in the boys' discus with a throw of 127-3. Aidan Vega placed third with a throw of 115-2 and Lincoln Butler placed ninth with a throw of 91-8.

Schneider also took first in the boys' shot put with a throw of 39-8. Butler took sixth with a throw of 36-6 and Vega placed ninth with a throw of 34-9.5.

On the girls' side, Abigail Foss placed seventh in the girls' 100 with a time of 14 seconds. Bentley Briscoe placed 19th with a time of 14.96 seconds and Kylie Coleman placed 31st with a time of 16.28 seconds.

Foss also placed fifth in the girls' 200 with a time of 29.26 seconds. Coleman placed 23rd with a time of 34.62 seconds.

Dawson Iverson placed 15th in the girls' 1,600-meter run with a time of 9:57.15.

Annaliese Hinger placed sixth in the girls' 100-meter hurdles with a time of 23.71 seconds.

Veda Deitemeyer placed 12th in the girls' high jump with a jump of 4-7, and Iverson placed 17th with a jump of 4-1.

Hannah Stretton placed 17th in the girls' long jump with a jump of 11-7.75.

Malorie Morton won the girls' discus with a throw of 106-9. Liana

Vega placed third with a throw of 91 feet, and Raleigh Iverson placed 21st with a throw of 58-5.

Liana Vega placed second in the girls' shot put with a throw of 29-9, Morton placed third with a throw of 29-3.25 and Raleigh Iverson placed 21st with a throw of 19-8.5.

The Pirates will be heading to Ignacio on Saturday, April 4, for the Abel Velasquez Invitational, which is set to begin at 9 a.m.

The Pirates will be limited to five athletes per event, noted Nehring, but the team will be ready.

Apart from a couple of students who will be attending a Future Business Leaders of America event on Saturday, the team will have a majority of its athletes back for the meet, Nehring explained.

"It'll still be an excellent meet for us," said Nehring. "I think the kids just worked their butt off. I can't really express that enough. They work so hard, [and] it's hard not to achieve when you're working that hard."

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**EQUAL HOUSING  
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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.

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### Dementia Support Group

Second Friday of every month: 10:30 a.m.-noon  
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*You're invited!*

This group is for Caregivers, Family members, or Loved ones who have someone in their lives diagnosed with dementia. We will provide protective oversight for your loved one while you attend the group. If you would like to know more about this disease and find out what's ahead, please join us. You are not alone.





## Soccer

### Lady Pirates improve to 2-1 on season with win over Del Norte

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team picked up a win in its first game back from spring break and moved to 2-1 on the season.

The Lady Pirates traveled to Del Norte to take on the Tigers on Monday, March 30, winning 4-2 behind a couple of late second-half goals.

“I’m proud of the resiliency they showed,” said coach Trevor Gian. “We’re going to have to kind of play with that heart and that mentality that, no matter what, we don’t give up. And I love that we got a chance to see that.”

The girls fell behind 1-0 early in the game after Del Norte scored on a

quick counter-attack.

The Lady Pirates got two goals back late in the first half.

Gian emphasized that the Lady Pirates played with more purpose and effort at the end of the first half.

The girls started off hot in the second half, noted Gian, but they were unable to put the ball in the back of the net.

“We did a good job of, again, creating opportunities,” he said. “I mean, pretty wide open looks, you know, one-on-one with a keeper, getting behind the defense [and] 18- to 20-yard kind of open shots. Again, [we] just weren’t able to finish.”

The Lady Pirates found themselves tied with the Tigers again after they netted their second of the game.

Tatiana Monterroso and Ximena Garcia found a way to break the tie, combining on a breakaway goal that was scored by Garcia as the Lady Pirates reclaimed the lead.

They were able to add one more goal as Xyra Belarmino scored on a penalty kick after Del Norte got called for a handball in the box.

“A little more stressful than I was hoping, to be honest,” Gian said. “I thought maybe we could have gone up three, four nothing pretty quick in the early part of that first half, which would have changed a few things. But, again, all in all, a successful outcome. Getting the win is really nice.”

The Lady Pirates had 30 shots in the game, but just 14 of them were on goal, Gian noted.

The Lady Pirates will travel to Telluride on Thursday, April 2, and then finish the week off with a home match against Montezuma-Cortez on Saturday, April 4.

Action in Telluride will begin at 4 p.m., while Saturday’s matchup will begin at 11 a.m.

Gian noted he wants to work on finishing, being first to the ball, attacking the ball out of the air and set pieces like goal kicks and corners before the games later this week.

“I’d like to see us building off of what we learned on Monday,” Gian said. “But at the end of the day, we’re going to have to sort of have that mentality as we go through the season that no team’s too big for us. We’re not going to quit on the field.”

## Baseball

### Pirates ready to return to action with home doubleheader

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Spring High School Pirate baseball team hasn’t played since March 19, but coach Jon Wells has the boys prepared for their first doubleheader back.

The Pirates will be back on their home diamond on Tuesday, April 7, for a doubleheader against Sanford.

The games will begin at 3 p.m.

The team’s last action came against Dolores almost two weeks ago, but the boys continued to work over spring break, according to the coach.

Through a combination of volun-

tary practices, workouts and at-home fitness, the boys didn’t fall behind while on break, he indicated.

The Pirates resumed their regular practices on Monday, March 30, and will look to be back in mid-season form by the time Sanford comes to town, the coach noted.

This week the Pirates will work on their control of the strike zone and getting their timing back at the plate specifically, along with a host of other things, he added.

“I expect our boys to be at least 60 percent in throwing strikes,” Wells said. “And as a team right now, we’re in the 50s. So, concentration on strike

throwing is No. 1, you know, in order to eliminate those free base runners.”

The boys will also be working on their plate approach, with Wells wanting the team to be smart batters.

“If we’re ahead in the count, you know, we’re looking for that one pitch that we can drive,” he said. “If we’re behind in the count, you know, we’re protecting the plate, making sure that we’re staying alive, fouling off pitches if needed.”

Sanford currently sits at 4-3 on the season and has three more games before they travel to Pagosa Springs on April 7.

The Pirates own a 6-3 record on

## Troopers share common top citation and crash causes of new drivers

Colorado State Patrol

Earning a driver’s license is a milestone moment in many people’s lives, and for good reason. A new driver gains independence, but with this privilege comes responsibility.

The Colorado State Patrol sees motorists of every age while enforcing traffic laws and responding to crashes. So, what do the newest drivers seem to struggle with the most?

Looking at citation data from the Colorado State Patrol for last year, troopers ranked the top five most common infractions for drivers aged 16-21.

The top three were significantly higher than the remaining categories.

1. Speeding 10-19 mph over the posted limit — 3,690.
2. Speeding 25-39 mph over the posted limit — 2,861.
3. Careless driving — 1,671.
4. Not wearing or improperly wearing a seat belt — 887.
5. No proof of insurance — 860.

“Driving is a learned, complex skill requiring education, practice and effort,” explained Col. Matthew C.

Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “If you are involved with over-seeing a permit holder earning their required hours, please take this role seriously. Instill good habits from day one and help the next generation do better when it comes to safety.”

Moving on to crash data from the Colorado State Patrol for 2025, troopers investigated over 720 at-fault crashes by drivers aged 16-21. The top causal factors for these crashes were:

1. Distracted driving.
2. Speeding.
3. Lane violations.
4. Following too close.
5. Animal-involved crashes.

#### House Bill 24-1021

On April 1, House Bill 24-1021 will take effect and will apply to all permit and license applications received on or after Jan. 1, 2027.

As a refresher, this new law requires anyone under 18 to complete a 30-hour comprehensive driver’s education class approved by the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR).

New drivers over 18 must complete either the 30-hour driver education course or a four-hour prequali-

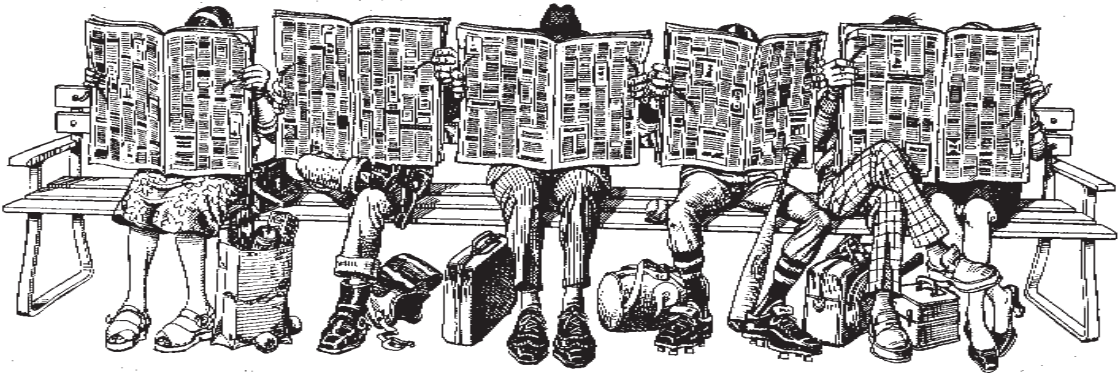
fication driver awareness program approved by the DOR.

“Driving isn’t about pressing pedals, it’s about scanning the environment, anticipating hazards and making split-second decisions,” stated Packard. “Starting off as a new driver can be stressful, but with knowledge and experience with a caring coach, we can make a real difference on our roadways.”



Go Pirates!

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- Check out the curriculum
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- Enroll for 2026-2027 school year

Pagosa Springs Elementary School  
**April 8, 2026 • 5-6 p.m.**

In order to enroll, students must be 5 years old by 10/1/2026

## Public Notices

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

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On January 8, 2026, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records. Original Grantor(s) Craig Waller Original Beneficiary(ies) Security Service Federal Credit Union Current Holder of Evidence of Debt Security Service Federal Credit Union Date of Deed of Trust December 02, 2019 County of Recording Archuleta Recording Date of Deed of Trust December 05, 2019 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 21907315 Original Principal Amount \$336,000.00 Outstanding Principal Balance \$294,271.21 Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations thereof **THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. LOT 583 IN TWINCREEK VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD NOVEMBER 5, 1973 AS RECEPTION NO. 78739 Purported common address: 48 Balfour Ct, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.** **THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.**

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

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

COUNTY COURT, ARCHULETA CO, COLORADO  
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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

#### AMENDED SUMMONS

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

by Ralph A. Cantafio, #16280  
Published March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293664)

#### FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON APRIL 7, 2026

Brian Watier of 84 Ranch has requested a GENERAL VARIANCE regarding ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS, at 6252A US 84, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLVAR-25-095). The property is zoned AG RANCHING. Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to planning@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Adjustments on April 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting in person only.  
Published March 19 and April 2, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (293955)

#### 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)

## PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

### Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon\*

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

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





## The Blotter

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

**Archuleta County Sheriff's Office**  
March 19 — Information only, East U.S. 160.

March 19 — Agency assist, Eagle Drive.

March 19 — Agency assist, Eagle Drive.

March 20 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Cattle Trail Place.

March 21 — Trespass warning, East U.S. 160.

March 21 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Aspenglow Boulevard.

March 23 — Cruelty to animals-neglect/mistreatment, dog at large, Handicap Avenue.

March 23 — Speeding 25-39 over limit, Echo Lake Road.

March 24 — Information only, Starlight Place.

March 24 — Agency assist, Kelsey Circle.

March 24 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

March 24 — Warrant arrest, Pinon Causeway.

March 25 — Death investigation, Haystack Circle.

March 25 — Reckless driving, Jennifer's Place/Ute Drive.

March 25 — Agency assist, warrant arrest, Pagosa Street.

March 27 — Alcohol-under 21-possess/consumption, assault in the third degree, false imprisonment, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Bayview Circle.

March 27 — Disorderly conduct-fighting in public, information only, East U.S. 160.

March 27 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

March 27 — Stalking-emotional distress-protection order violation, violation of protection order-criminal, violation of protection order, Colo. 151.

March 28 — Agency assist, Eagle Drive.

March 28 — Operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.

March 28 — Menacing-felony-aggravated-nonfamily-weapon, reckless endangerment, criminal mischief \$1,000 to \$2,000 private, third-degree criminal trespass, Brook Drive.

March 28 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Buttercup Drive.

**Pagosa Springs Police Department**

March 16 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Country Center Drive.

March 20 — Second-degree burglary-forced entry-nonresidence, South 8th Street.

March 20 — Warrant arrest, Lewis Street.

March 21 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

March 22 — Careless driving, South San Juan Alley.

March 22 — Trespass warning, San Juan Street.

March 22 — Lost/found property, Hermosa Street.

March 23 — Theft \$1,000 to \$2,000, U.S. 160.

March 23 — Information only, U.S. 160.

March 24 — Lost/found property, Pagosa Street.

March 24 — Agency assist, North 8th Street.

March 25 — Runaway, San Juan Street.

March 25 — Criminal mischief, South 5th Street.

March 25 — Fraud, Apache Street.

March 25 — Violation of protection order-criminal, South 9th Street.

March 25 — Agency assist, Hot Springs Boulevard.

March 25 — Warrant arrest, North 7th Street/Pagosa Street.

March 26 — Driving under restraint, operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, stop sign-fail to stop, Talisman Drive.

March 27 — Abandonment of motor vehicle, Great West Avenue.

March 27 — Suspicious activity/vehicle, Hot Springs Boulevard.

March 27 — Criminal mischief M, no location listed.

March 27 — Driving under restraint, expired registration, West U.S. 160/Aspen Village Drive.

March 28 — Reckless endangerment, speeding 25-39 over limit, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, 14th Street/U.S. 160.

March 28 — Disturbance, Eagle Drive.

March 28 — Disturbance, Eagle Drive.

March 28 — Information only, North 5th Street.

March 28 — Assault in the third degree, San Juan Street.

March 28 — Assault, Talisman Drive.

March 29 — Assault in the third degree, false imprisonment, criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, North 5th Street.

March 29 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, Village Drive.

March 29 — Theft-\$750 to \$2,000 other (includes gas), Loma Street.

**Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**

March 17 — Alexangel Castillo, disorderly conduct, fine and costs — \$135.

March 17 — John Young, criminal trespass, four months probation, fine and costs — \$135.

**Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**

March 13 — Samuel S. Weil, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs

— \$198.50.

March 17 — Kyler M. Espinosa, nuisance exhibition-motor vehicle exhaust, fines and costs — \$136.50.

March 20 — Nash G. Loewen, Registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

March 20 — Joshua Barnette, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.

March 20 — Glenn Robinson, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$35.

March 20 — Darryl C. Zito, nuisance exhibition-motor vehicle exhaust, fines and costs — \$171.50.

March 20 — Landon Seth Scoggins, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

March 20 — Daniel J. Aitken, speeding 10-19 over limit, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$349.50.

March 20 — Jonathan Enoc Osorio, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

March 20 — Tyson J. Muir, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

March 20 — David Montoya, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

March 20 — Edward Medina, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$314.50.

March 20 — Michael Steven Long, pedestrian enter traffic, fines and costs — \$81.

March 20 — Po Wei Chan, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

March 20 — Christian Archuleta, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$107.50.

March 25 — Adrian Granillo-Villa, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$138.50.

March 27 — Michael Joseph Casaceli, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.

**Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**

March 20 — Logan Ray Treat, driving under the influence, 10 days jail, 48 hours community service, 24 months probation, 15 days electronic surveillance, fines and costs — \$2,520.50.

**6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**

No report.

## Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs announces community grant applications now open

By Terri House

Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is now accepting applications for community grants, providing local nonprofits and public entities an opportunity to support projects that strengthen and serve the Archuleta County community.

These grants, typically ranging from \$100 to \$5,000, are made possible through Rotary's local fundraising efforts and are intended to support clearly defined projects that create lasting community impact. Rotary's focus is on funding initiatives that are ready to be implemented and that align with Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self."

In recent years, the Rotary Club has updated its grantmaking process to better reflect its growing community impact. The streamlined process emphasizes transparency, stewardship of funds, and efficient use of time for both applicants and Rotary members.

"We want to make it easier for organizations doing important work in our community to apply," said Jenelle Syverson, club president. "Our goal is to improve how we give, ensuring Rotary funds are put to work quickly and responsibly for the benefit of our community."

Grant decisions are based primarily on a written application. Applicants are asked to describe the purpose of the grant, anticipated community impact, how funds will be used within

12 months, and how the project aligns with Rotary's values and areas of focus. Finalists may be invited for brief presentations, though most decisions are made through the written application process.

Eligible applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or qualifying public entities that serve Archuleta County.

The grant application, along with eligibility requirements and submission deadlines, is available on the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs website, [PagosaSpringsRotary.org](http://PagosaSpringsRotary.org).

Through its grants and service projects, Rotary continues its longstanding commitment to investing in the health, education, vitality and future of the Pagosa Springs community.

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# preview

## ARTS & LIFE

# Build Pagosa Annual Dinner and Auction

5:30 p.m. • April 17 • Ross Aragon Community Center



Photo courtesy Build Pagosa





Photo courtesy Build Pagosa

The Build Pagosa Annual Dinner and Auction, which helps support career and technical education locally, is set for April 17. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

# Building the future: Annual auction to celebrate career and technical education students

Build Pagosa

In today’s rapidly evolving economy, the path to a successful career does not always begin with a four-year degree.

Here in Pagosa Springs, career and technical education (CTE) is reclaiming its place as a cornerstone of the

high school experience.

CTE is a rigorous, hands-on educational model that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational skills. It provides students with a direct bridge to the workforce, offering industry-recognized certifications and real-world experience.

■ See Auction on next page

## Live Performers

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

**Friday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** The 13th Hour Band, 7 p.m.

**Saturday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Escape the Badlands, 7 p.m.

**Monday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.

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# Thank you

The Knights of Columbus would cordially like to Thank the community and visitors for their support of the 30th year of our Lenten Fish Frys. Net proceeds will support community non-profits in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. We hope to see you next year.

Sincerely,  
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# Auction

## ■ continued from previous page

We are proud to offer a diverse range of career pathways, including hospitality, catering and culinary arts; building trades; agriculture, food and natural resources; computer science; transportation, automotive and fabrication; and health sciences.

As these programs continue to grow, local nonprofit Build Pagosa — which works in partnership with the school district — is preparing for its most important night of the year: the 2026 Annual Dinner and Auction on April 17.

## Investing in the classroom

The primary goal of the upcoming auction is to raise the vital funds necessary to support student and teacher programming throughout the year. While the school district provides the foundation, Build Pagosa steps in to help meet any additional needs.

Proceeds from the event go directly toward:

- Advanced tooling and materials: Ensuring students work with the same equipment they will find on a professional jobsite.

- Curriculum support: Funding industry-aligned materials that keep pace with modern technology.

- Teacher resources: Supporting the educators who bring decades of trade experience into the classroom.

By funding these immediate needs, Build Pagosa ensures that every student has the resources to turn a spark of interest into a career.

## Vision for growth: the regional workforce center

While the April fundraiser focuses on the current school year's needs, local support also bolsters the momentum for Build Pagosa's long-term vision: the regional workforce center (RWC).

Funded through donations and grants, the RWC represents a community-driven investment in the future.

With architectural planning now underway, the RWC aims to solve a growing problem: the CTE programs have become so popular they are running out of space.

Once realized, this facility will

serve as a regional workforce development hub — providing a space for student learning during the day and continuing education opportunities on the evenings and weekends.

## Celebrate student success on April 17

The annual dinner and auction at the Ross Aragon Community Center is the community's chance to see what our local students have been up to.

The event features both live and

silent auctions showcasing student-built projects.

The event will be at 5:30 p.m. on April 17. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

By attending, community members aren't just buying a ticket to a dinner; they are investing in a student's future career and bolstering our local economy.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.buildpagosa.org](http://www.buildpagosa.org) or email [director@buildpagosa.org](mailto:director@buildpagosa.org).

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“River Reflections” by Kathie Disner. Disner will speak on composition at the Pagosa Springs Photography Club’s April 8 meeting.

# Pagosa Springs photography Club to hear about composition at April 8 meeting

By Andy Butler

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

At the April 8 meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club, club member Kathie Disner will speak about composition.

The meeting will be held at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St. Feel free to arrive anytime after 6 p.m. to socialize; the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Photography club meetings are open to the public.

Disner is an oil and watercolor painter, and photographer based in the Pagosa Springs area. She initially purchased her first SLR camera to capture images of her artwork for shows and competitions, but it quickly became an indispensable creative tool. Today, she integrates painting from life together with digital photography to design her compositions. Much of her work is rooted in realism, particularly still lifes that explore the tension between delicacy and danger. She also draws on her wildlife photography to create paintings with a more impressionist style.

Disner will be talking about the principles of composition in historical artwork and how those principles apply to modern photography and editing to take us beyond the “rule of thirds” to achieve more creative images.

All photographers are encouraged to attend. No matter your experience level, you will learn tips about composition that will improve your photography.

Club members may bring up to five recent images to share and discuss with the group following Disner’s presentation.

This meeting will also be available on Zoom. Club members will receive the Zoom link via email, and if you’re not on the list, you can request it by emailing [abutler@mac.com](mailto:abutler@mac.com).

## Join us for photography adventures

A great way to improve your photography is to connect with others who share your passion.

The photography club offers a great opportunity to learn from others. The club has both programs and fun outings to help photographers of all skill levels grow.

Membership is just \$25 a year (\$35 for families). You can download a membership form from our website ([pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/](http://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/)) and send it in with your payment (the form has all the details), or you can bring it to a club meeting.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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# San Juan Stargazers to begin focus on recent discoveries

By Joan Mieritz  
San Juan Stargazers

James Webb Space Telescope discoveries will be the main program topic for the San Juan Stargazers' monthly meetings except when we have guest speakers. Tom Hanchet will speak in June.

The next meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be Thursday, April 2, at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

There is a parking lot and convenient side door into the kitchen. (The main front doors to the sanctuary are locked.) The meeting 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. Until there is one, Joan Mieritz will be creating a program and mostly finding professionally made programs. There is so much information available from the James Webb. It is committed to sharing everything it discovers.

Mieritz made the comment a few years ago that James Webb discoveries would be helping keep her alive for extra years. She will not 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 "deep-space ride" created by the European Space Agency as if we are passengers on the Webb

telescope. It was first presented on Christmas Day 2025. You may have seen programs like this in the past where you keep going and going and going through space. This one is fantastic seeing sights taken by the James Webb Space Telescope.

We will 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. Some scenes are totally new, but many have never been seen with the Webb's infrared telescope and camera. 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 sharing information, questions, discussions, breaks and surprises.

The room is large and has a big-screen TV. We will move from the tables to chairs in front of the screen and it will be dark. I'm hoping it will be exciting and of course educational, since it is some of the newest information available about our amazing universe. 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 when joining the club. Make sure that we have your mailing address to get the magazine.

The Astronomical League makes it so we do not just belong to a small-town-size club, but to a national astronomy club with thousands of members and wonderful active opportunities and competitions, awards and rewards.

To join both groups and get an excellent magazine, check at the meeting or go to our website. Also ask about our new "Service" membership.

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

I 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.

# 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.

Invite everyone to celebrate the greatest demonstration of God's love!

**Good Friday Service**  
Friday, April 3rd - 6:00 PM

**Easter Sunday Service**  
Sunday, April 5th - 10:15 AM  
Come early for coffee, refreshments and family fellowship.

**CENTERPOINT CHURCH**  
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centerpointpagosa.com

# 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

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# 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



# Rise Above Violence celebrating 30th Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Rise Above Violence

Rise Above Violence is celebrating our 30th anniversary, and our 30th Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Our theme: “30 Years of Impact, Leading the Way to End Violence.”

Since our inception, Rise has been diligently at work to serve survivors of sexual harassment, abuse and assault. Our work was rooted in the long history of the anti-sexual violence movement.

One of the earliest documented instances of an anti-rape effort can be traced back to 1866, when a group of African American women testified before Congress, reporting that a mob of white men had gang raped black women during the Memphis Massacre. Sixteen-year-old Lucy Smith testified that seven white men, including police officers, broke into her home and raped her and her friend, Frances Thompson. Both young women, along with other survivors, testified before

Congress. Despite extensive testimony and evidence, their perpetrators were not punished, justice not served.

The movement began to gain traction in the 1940s and ‘50s alongside the civil rights era. In 1944, Rosa Parks, best known for her famous bus boycott but not as widely known was her activism in anti-sexual violence work, founded the Committee for Equal Justice to combat sexual violence against Black women. The first rape crisis center was founded in San Francisco in 1971, and SAAM was first nationally observed in 2001, though Rise was already observing it years prior.

In recognition of this year’s SAAM, lampposts downtown and along the uptown walking path will be decorated with teal ribbons, the official color for raising awareness during April.

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners are expected to issue proclamations highlighting the importance of dedicating this month to support survivors and demonstrate

the community’s commitment to their well-being.

Rise will also be hosting a new Denim Day event this year, still encouraging everyone to wear denim and share their best denim looks on Instagram and Facebook (don’t forget to tag Rise), but Rise will also be hosting a special screening of the film “North Country” at the Liberty Theater on Denim Day, April 29, at 6 p.m. This film depicts a true story of single mother who endures severe sexual harassment and retaliation, ultimately leading her to file one of the first class-action workplace sexual harassment lawsuits in U.S. history.

Rise is proud to be a part of the history of and an active contributor to the anti-sexual violence movement, bringing awareness of SAAM to Pagosa Springs. Please join us in celebrating survivors, their courage and their resilience. Rise will continue this work as long as it takes, leading the way to end sexual violence.

To find out more about SAAM and the awareness activities you can be a part of around town, visit [www.riseaboveviolence.org](http://www.riseaboveviolence.org).

## TARA Community Center to offer free class to celebrate America’s 250th birthday

TARA Community Center

Are you interested in finding out more about the framework that created the Declaration of Independence?

If so, join us on Tuesday, April 7, and Tuesday, April 14, for a two-day course offered by Patriot Academy.

The class is entitled “Rebuilding Liberty” and our teacher will be Jim Shepherdson.

This video class is packed with details of how the Founding Fathers created the document that has lasted more than 250 years.

The class will run from 6 to 8 p.m. and will be a potluck, so bring your favorite dish to share and make your way to the TARA Community Center, 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

For more details, contact (970) 883-2363.



### Trinity Anglican Church

*“For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” Christ has defeated death!*  
Join us in worship of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter Sunday @ 10am.

Also: Maundy Thursday service @ 5pm;  
Good Friday service @ 7pm; and  
Easter Vigil, Saturday at 8pm.

246 Harman Park Dr. • [trinityanglicanchurch.org](http://trinityanglicanchurch.org)



### 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 [ihmjp2.org](http://ihmjp2.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



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

## 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](http://graceinpagosa.org/EasterKids)

Turn in completed coloring page before either main service

Winners recognized & prizes awarded during 10:30 AM service



1044 Park Avenue  
970-731-6200  
[graceinpagosa.org](http://graceinpagosa.org)



# Archuleta County celebrating National Public Health Week

**By Ashley Wilson**  
Archuleta County Public Health Department

The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is proud to join communities across the country in celebrating National Public Health Week April 6–12.

This year’s national theme, “Ready. Set. Action!” calls on all Americans to recognize the vital role public health plays in our daily lives and to take collective action toward a healthier future.

For more than 150 years, public health achievements — from health prevention services and clean water to safer workplaces and improved nutrition — have added decades to life expectancy in the United States. This year’s theme invites us to look back at this progress and look forward to the steps needed to strengthen the systems, science and community partnerships that keep us all healthy.

“Public health contributes to our community’s safety and well-

being,” said Ashley Wilson, director. “Whether it is providing prevention services through our clinic, helping community members navigate the complicated medical and insurance systems, or supporting families with nutrition resources, our department is dedicated to taking action every day. National Public Health Week is a chance for us to share that work with the people we serve.”

As part of the “Ready. Set. Action!” campaign, ACPHD invites the community to see public health in action at a local open house on Tuesday, April 7, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at 502 S. 8th St.

This event is a unique opportunity for residents to meet the dedicated Public Health staff and learn about the diverse programs offered in Archuleta County.

Attendees can explore information on:

- Environmental health: water quality and retail food programs;
- Family health services: supporting maternal, child and individual wellness;

- Emergency preparedness: ensuring our county is ready to respond to health threats;
- Community programs: Navigating local health resources and preventative care;
- Meet our partnering dental provider.

**About ACPHD**

The ACPHD is dedicated to protecting, promoting and enhancing community health across Archuleta County through access, prevention and partnership for all residents and visitors. We know that good health doesn’t just happen — it is built through intentional action.

As we embark on our third year of operation, we continue to look forward to building programing that meets the needs of our community.

For more information about National Public Health Week, please visit [www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week](http://www.apha.org/initiatives/national-public-health-week).

For more information about the open house, contact us at (970) 264-2409.

## 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](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com).*

**Thursday, April 2**

**Soup and Bread Supper.** 5 p.m., St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

**Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar.** 5 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

**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 Service.** 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

**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.

**Self-Guided Stations of the Cross.** Noon-2 p.m., Community United

Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

**Good Friday Pilgrimage.** 3 p.m. Details are available at [ihmjp2.org](http://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., Centerpoint 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.

**Good Friday: Tenebrae ‘Darkness’ Service.** 7 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park 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.

**Easter Vigil: The First Celebration of Easter.** 8 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

**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 Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

**Easter Sunday Service.** 8:15 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

**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 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

■ See Services on next page



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# Pagosa Spring High School to present ‘The Little Mermaid’ April 8-11

By Jessica Parker  
Pagosa Springs High School

The Pagosa Springs High School Theatre Department is 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 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.*



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## Healthy Archuleta exploring supporting food as medicine in Archuleta County

Healthy Archuleta

Across the country, health care providers are increasingly recognizing something communities have long understood: The food we eat plays a powerful role in our health. In Archuleta County, we have been promoting this idea through collaborative work with our partners and community members.

Research consistently shows that diets rich in fruits, vegetables, legumes and whole grains can help prevent or manage chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity. In rural communities, however, access to fresh, nutritious foods can sometimes be limited.

That is one reason that Healthy Archuleta, in collaboration with the community, is exploring the development of the Archuleta Community Food Hub and Food Hall.

The project aims to strengthen connections between local growers, food businesses and residents while expanding access to healthy local food. By creating infrastructure that supports local agriculture and food distribution, the food hub could help bring more fresh produce and locally grown ingredients into homes.

Health care partners are also increasingly interested in how food can support prevention and long-term wellness. When communities improve access to nutritious foods, they are also investing in better health outcomes.

Residents will have an opportunity to learn more about these ideas at the 2026 Archuleta Food Summit on April 18.

The event will bring together growers, local organizations, and community members and leaders to explore the future of Archuleta County’s food system.

The summit will feature an interactive session simulating how the proposed food hub could function, along with a farm-to-table lunch highlighting locally grown ingredients.

To learn more or register, visit <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html>. Please register early to confirm your spot.

Registration closes Wednesday, April 15.

Healthy communities start with strong local partnerships and, often, with the food on our plates. We look forward to connecting with you at the 2026 Archuleta Food Summit.

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## Easter Season Services

■ continued from previous page

**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 Service.** 8:15 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

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





Photos courtesy Seeds of Learning

Seeds of Learning’s new fundraiser, Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories, will feature Nashville Hall of Fame singers/songwriters Jeffrey Steele, Wendell Mobley, Danny Myrick and Megan Linville. The event is set for August.

# New Seeds of Learning event will showcase Nashville and local talent

Seeds of Learning

You’ve been asking, “What could be better than Dancing with the Pagosa Stars?”

Well, here is your answer. Seeds of Learning is excited to announce our new fundraiser, Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories. This new event will be a “can’t-miss” night, featuring Nashville Hall of Fame singers/songwriters Jeffrey Steele, Wendell Mobley, Danny Myrick and Megan Linville.

This awarded-winning group has written songs for some of Nashville’s most talented artists like Tim McGraw, Kenny Chesney, Rascal Flatts, Jason Aldean, Montgomery Gentry and others.

In addition to performances and stories from this group of talented artists, your hometown voices of

Pagosa will compete for this year’s Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice awards in a “Voice” type competition. Contestants, consisting of both duets and solos, will contend for your donation votes and the votes of our Nashville songwriter judges.

This event raises critical funds to support Seeds of Learning’s quality, NAEYC-accredited early learning program.

Mark your calendar for the evening of Aug. 24 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts for Pagosa’s new “can’t-miss” event. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks about this year’s contestants, ticket purchases and other event details.

For information on how you can sponsor this event and attend the VIP pre-event cocktail hour, please email [giving@growingseeds.org](mailto:giving@growingseeds.org).

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If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out  
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Paid for by Veronica Medina for Archuleta County Commissioner Committee



# Pagosa Springs Main Street invites artists to help ‘Color Pagosa’s Past’ for Colorado 150 celebration

Pagosa Springs Main Street

In a town known for its healing waters, mountain horizons and deep-rooted history, Pagosa Springs Main Street is inviting local artists to help tell the community’s story one page at a time.

The Main Street Heritage and Culture Committee has launched a call for artists for “Color Pagosa’s Past: A Colorado 150 Commemorative Coloring Book,” a community art project celebrating Colorado’s 150th anniversary of statehood and America’s 250th anniversary in 2026.

The 28-page keepsake coloring book will feature original artwork inspired by historic buildings, Indigenous heritage, ranching and Hispanic cultural traditions, and natural landscapes and scenes of everyday life in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

“We believe Pagosa Springs has a story worth coloring,” said Kathleen McFadden, Main Street coordinator. “This project honors our past while inviting the next generation to connect with our shared history in creative and meaningful ways.”

Five thousand copies of the commemorative coloring book will be printed and distributed free through-

out the community beginning in August through local schools, the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, the Pagosa Springs History Museum, community partners and participating downtown businesses.

Archuleta County residents age 18 and older are eligible to apply. Artists of all experience levels are encouraged to participate.

Selected artists will create bold black-and-white line art pages designed for coloring and printing. A full-color version of the artwork is optional and required only for artists who wish to be considered for the cover feature.

Cash prizes will be awarded: first place, \$300 and cover feature; second place, \$200; and People’s Choice Award, \$200.

Initial artist submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. on April 16. Selected artists will be announced April 22, with final artwork due May 29.

Artists may choose from a curated list of subjects, including the Pagosa hot springs bathhouse, Chimney Rock National Monument, ranching heritage, river scenes and historic downtown storefronts. Applicants may also suggest an additional Pagosa Springs-themed subject for consideration.

The project is part of the state-wide Colorado 150 initiative, which encourages communities to reflect on their history and the stories that shape their future.

“We are excited to involve our arts community in creating this commemorative keepsake in celebration of the unique history of our place,” related Mayor Shari Pierce, chair of the Heritage and Culture Committee. “Through this project, we hope to help children understand the community around them and what makes it special.”

“This is more than a coloring book,” McFadden said. “It is a snapshot of who we are, our places, our traditions and our landscapes, captured through the creative lens of local artists.”

Full application details and submission information are available at <https://bit.ly/ColorPacket>.

The artist submission form is available at <https://bit.ly/ColorPagosa>.

For more information, contact McFadden at [Kat@PagosaSpringsCDC.org](mailto:Kat@PagosaSpringsCDC.org) or (970) 264-3023.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

Community members are invited to join the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS) Community Band for its annual spring concert, which will be held on May 16. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, April 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the high school band room, continuing every Sunday thereafter until the concert.

## Community band seeking musicians for spring concert

By Michelle Chapman  
Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS) Community Band is preparing for the annual spring concert, which will be held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium at 7 p.m. on May 16.

We will start rehearsals for this concert on Sunday, April 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the high school band room, continuing every Sunday thereafter until the concert.

Our talented conductors, Leo Baughman (also known as the high school band director), Malinda Burnett (our amazing middle school music program director), Anika Borders (the ever-patient elementary school music program director) and Suzanne Hill (retired music director, flautist and pianist) will lead us in celebrating American and especially Coloradan composers.

The PSIMS is a 501(c)(3) organization with the mission to bring music into the lives of the people of Pagosa Springs. Our motto is “Music for Life.”

Music enriches the lives of the audience as well as the performers. We support music education in the community by welcoming all brave souls who have an instrument they “used” to play or the desire to pick up a new one.

## Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to meet April 4

By Keena Carstensen  
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, April 4.

We will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in the fellowship hall.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a group work session to go through our genealogy/history books that were housed at the library before the renovation

If you don’t have an instrument, contact us at [pagoasaspringsIMS@gmail.com](mailto:pagoasaspringsIMS@gmail.com) and we may be able to hook you up with one to get started with.

Last summer Burnett loaned me a clarinet since I couldn’t play my violin after a shoulder injury. Now I’m playing my own clarinet for Pagosa Springs High School’s “The Little Mermaid.” Don’t miss it.

Our performances are always free and we love to provide them for you. We gratefully accept donations at our concerts, through Colorado Gives Day (look up PSIMS), and through annual sponsorships. Donations go toward operating expenses, music purchases, scholarships for our high school graduates continuing in music, and strengthening music education in Pagosa Springs.

This past year we awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to local students and supported the high school music department with a \$1,000 grant for instrument maintenance and support.

Here in Pagosa Springs we are blessed with a strong music program all the way from elementary school through high school. Music opens the mind. It strengthens the brain at all ages, resulting in higher IQ and sharper thinking as we age.

The Merit School of Music lists many benefits for playing music all

through your life, including that the development of positive attitudes learned through music-making — such as confidence, independence, perseverance, leadership and personal responsibility — prepare you for life-long success. If you don’t believe me, check out [meritmusic.org](http://meritmusic.org) and read more for yourself, and come support your community band.



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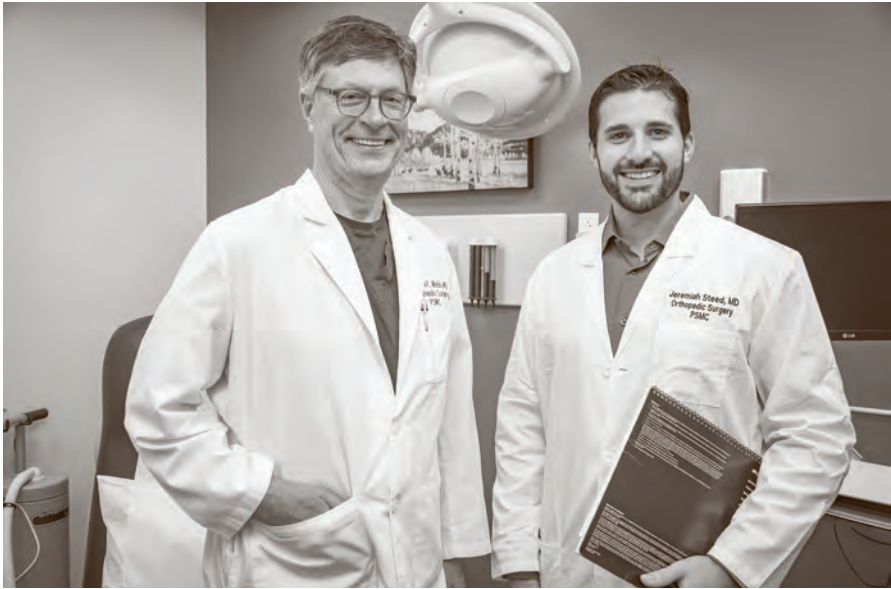


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## Four nonprofits to benefit from 19th Hole Concerts

By Rachel Rosenthal

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has selected the four local nonprofits that will benefit from this summer's 11th annual 19th Hole Concerts at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

Each organization addresses a unique need of the community and will be highlighted at one of the concerts held in June. This year's recipients are Aspire Medical Services and Education, Pagosa Community Initiative, Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership and Wings Early Childhood Center.

The 19th Hole Concerts are community fundraisers that feature local musicians and local nonprofits each Thursday evening in June from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club. The cover charge is a \$10 donation which supports the four nonprofits.

Corporate sponsors cover event expenses, allowing all proceeds at the end of the series to be pooled and distributed equally to the featured organizations. The collaborative approach to concerts is vital to their success. Last year's concerts raised \$2,500 for each participating organization.

Aspire Medical Services and Education provides prenatal care and education for families with children ages 0-3 in Archuleta County. Funding from the 19th Hole Concerts grant will be used to support its free parent/child education program, which has seen a significant increase in the number of local families seeking support and connection in our rural community.

The Pagosa Community Initiative provides out-of-school programming for youth through trauma-informed practices. Funding from the 19th Hole will support expanding access

to scholarships for youth to attend its summer camps, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent children from accessing safe, enriching and therapeutic programming during the summer months.

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership is dedicated to collaborative on-the-ground watershed restoration in the Upper San Juan River Basin. In October 2025, historic flooding along the San Juan River underscored the river corridor's vulnerability and the need for long-term watershed resilience and infrastructure protection. Funding will support project planning, partnership coordination and community engagement to advance watershed health and sustainability.

Wings (Archuleta County Education Center) is an early childhood education center serving children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. The center serves up to 75 children and is the only licensed infant care provider within 50 miles of Pagosa Springs. Funding will support Wings in sustaining its infant and toddler programs and services.

"The Archuleta Committee is proud to support local nonprofits through the 19th Hole Concerts grant," said Marcy Mitchell, current chair of the Archuleta Committee. "Thanks to so many community members attending our concerts each June, we have raised a total of \$85,000 for local nonprofits through the concert series."

As a community facilitator, the Community Foundation works to increase resilience and success for nonprofits while maximizing effective grantmaking for philanthropists to make Southwest Colorado a better place to live.

### Concert schedule

- June 4: Wings Early Childhood Center. Bob Hemenger will play Dixieland, jazz, blues, soul and pop.

- June 11: Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership. The Jackson Mountain Ramblers will play country, folk and pop.

- June 18: Pagosa Community Initiative. Outlaw Firm will play country, blues, folk-rock and TexAmericana.

- June 25: Aspire Medical Services and Education. Bo DePeña will play Americana and country.

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## Preview Calendar

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

### 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.pagosallibrary.org](http://www.pagosallibrary.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.

**San Juan Outdoor Club.** 6 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. There will be a short potluck snack social beginning at 6 p.m. At 6:30

■ See Calendar on next page

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# Preview Calendar

## ■ continued from previous page

p.m., Jessie Krebs will give a presentation on the five basic needs of a survivor — signaling, personal protection, sustenance, navigation and health — and how to use them to design a survival kit for any situation.

## 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://cef-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](mailto: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](http://www.griefshare.org).

**Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society.** 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. There will be a short meeting followed by a group work session.

**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.

## Monday, April 6

**Women's Fellowship.** 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

**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.

## Tuesday, April 7

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 9 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.

**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.

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

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball.** 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Sanford.

**Tween Baddie Buddies Book Club.** 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. For ages 11-14. Snacks will be provided.

**Archuleta County Public Health Department Open House.** 4:30-6 p.m., Archuleta County Public Health Department, 502 S. 8th St. Meet the staff and learn about programs offered in Archuleta County.

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

**'Rebuilding Liberty' Class.** 6-8 p.m., TARA Community Center, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles. Offered to start celebrating America's 250th birthday. For more details, contact (970) 883-2363.

## Wednesday, April 8

**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.

**Archuleta County Republican Women.** Noon-1 p.m., Boss Hogg's Restaurant.

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

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

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

**Legal Clinic.** 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via 20-minute phone appointments. Registration opens April 1 and space is limited. Registration is required. Call (970) 264-2209.

**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.

**Pagosa Springs Photography Club.** 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Kathie Disner will speak about composition.

**Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'The Little Mermaid.'** 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

**Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158.** 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

## Thursday, April 9

**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 Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer.** 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs vs. Alamosa.

**Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'The Little Mermaid.'** 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

## Friday, April 10

**Who We Play For Heart Screenings.** 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School. Free heart screening.

■ See Calendar on next page

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# Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**  
ings will be offered to eighth-graders. Register at [www.whoweplayfor.org/heart-screening-registration](http://www.whoweplayfor.org/heart-screening-registration). Call Ralph Maccarone with any questions at (970) 317-0371.

**Good News Club.** 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

**Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'The Little Mermaid.'** 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

## Saturday, April 11

**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](http://www.griefshare.org).

**Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball.** 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Alamosa.

**Knitters Circle.** 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

**Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'The Little Mermaid.'** 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

**Pagosa Springs High School Presents 'The Little Mermaid.'** 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

## Monday, April 13

**Women's Fellowship.** 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

**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.

## Tuesday, April 14

**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.

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

**Ruby's Book Club.** 2-3 p.m., Archuleta County Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive. Join to discuss "The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise" by Colleen Oakley.

**Online Author Talk.** 5 p.m., virtual. "On Writing Action-Packed and Suspenseful Spycraft" with acclaimed author Brad Taylor. Go to the library's website, [www.pago-salibrary.org](http://www.pago-salibrary.org), to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

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

**'Rebuilding Liberty' Class.** 6-8 p.m., TARA Community Center, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles. Offered to start celebrating America's 250th birthday. For more details, contact (970) 883-2363.

## Wednesday, April 15

**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.

**Therapy Dog Visit.** 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For all ages. Take a moment to visit with certified therapy dog Mia.

**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.

**Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club.** 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

## Thursday, April 16

**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. "How Exploration, Uncertainty, and Risk Help Us Find Meaning" with Alex Hutchinson. Go to the library's

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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## THE RESULTS OF EATING MORE WHOLE GRAINS

By now you know that eating whole grains is healthy, but do you know why they are healthy and which grains are "whole"?

Today's excerpt will help you to know your grains. Eating more whole grains is an easy way to make your diet healthier.

Whole grains are packed with nutrients including protein, fiber, B vitamins, antioxidants, and trace minerals (iron, zinc, copper, and magnesium). A diet rich in whole grains has been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, and some forms of cancer.



Whole-grain diets can also improve bowel health by helping to maintain regular bowel movements and promote growth of healthy bacteria in the colon. Yet the average American eats less than one serving per day, and over 40% never eat whole grains at all. Young adults get less than one serving daily. Why? For one thing, it's not always easy to tell just which foods are whole-grain. Scan the bread, cereal or snack packaging, and virtually every one promotes its whole-grain goodness. But not all of them actually are whole-grain. Terms like "multigrain," "100% wheat," "cracked wheat," "organic," "pumpernickel," "bran," and "stone ground" may sound healthy, but none actually indicates the product is whole-grain... A whole grain contains all edible parts of the grain, including the bran, germ, and endosperm. The whole grain may be used intact or recombined, as long as all components are present in natural proportions.

To recognize whole grains, keep this list handy when you go to the supermarket and choose any of the following grains:

Whole-grain corn  
Whole oats/oatmeal  
Popcorn  
Brown rice  
Whole rye

Whole-grain barley  
Wild rice  
Buckwheat  
Triticale  
Bulgur (cracked wheat)

Millet  
Quinoa  
Sorghum  
100% whole wheat flour

Source: "Tips for Reaping the Benefits of Whole Grain." By Kathleen M. Zelman. <http://www.webmd.com>

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

"...and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine." Ezekiel 47:12 last part

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Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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# 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 osprey.

Osprey sightings are a sign of spring in Pagosa country. These majestic raptors migrate long distances to and from breeding grounds, with most western ospreys in North America wintering in Mexico or Central America and eastern ones traveling as far as South America and the Caribbean.

Ospreys are large, slender hawks with brown backs and white undersides. The white head appears small, has a brown stripe through the eye and a dark, hooked bill. They are vocal birds that communicate with chirps and whistles. You can view them at the nest on the Lake Capote website’s osprey cam.

Ospreys almost exclusively eat live fish, which they snare with enviable prowess. They fish by sight while flying slowly over the water or hovering briefly to spot a fish near the surface. Upon seeing their prey, they plunge feetfirst into the water to grab the fish in their powerful talons. Barbed pads on the soles of their feet help them hold onto their slippery prey, which they position headfirst before flying off.

Pairs return year after year to the same nest site and often remain together for many years. The nest is built atop a pole, a snag or a manmade platform in open surroundings within 12 miles of fish-filled water. Material is added to the untidy stick nest year after year and it may become huge. To provide an alternative to nesting atop electric poles, utility companies, including La Plata Electric Association, often erect nest platforms like the ones at Echo Reservoir, the U.S. 160/U.S. 84 intersection and the one just west of Walmart.

From the arrival of a parent at the nest site to the departure of the first fledgling from it takes around four months. Eggs do not hatch all at once, and typically the oldest hatchling dominates its siblings. Younger ones may starve if food supply is poor.

A growing cause of osprey death is from the entanglement of chicks and even adults at the nest when discarded fishing line and twine is picked up and added by the parents — a sad reminder of the importance of “Leave No Trace” principles when recreating outdoors.

For information on events, visit [www.weminucheadubon.org](http://www.weminucheadubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/](http://www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/).

# Preview Calendar

- continued from previous page website, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org), to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.
- End of Life Education.** 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.
- Tai Chi Chih.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.
- Tech Time.** 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smart-phones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any

of the library’s online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

**Learn to Can Raspberry Jam.** 5:30 p.m., CSU Extension building, 344 U.S. 84. Learn all the latest food safety preservation practices. The cost is \$25 per person/couple for one jar of jam. Call (970) 264-5931 to register.

Submit your calendar items to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com); mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Budget rival
- 5 Come to pass
- 10 "Bugonia" actress Stone
- 14 Landlord's due
- 15 The largest is blue
- 16 Swedish auto
- 17 Oscar-winning Bogart film of 1942
- 19 Three on stage
- 20 Snail trail
- 21 Blended-family member
- 23 Late music producer Phil
- 25 Car dealer's offering
- 26 Boozer
- 28 Adversary
- 29 Somewhat
- 31 Hines or Ladd
- 33 Idealistic ones
- 37 Indigenous Japanese
- 38 Tight-fisted type
- 40 First Nations group
- 41 Inspire to act
- 43 Hardly cheery
- 45 Simone of jazz
- 46 Govt. agent
- 47 "Is that \_\_\_\_?"
- 48 Capital of Morocco
- 51 Author Elmore
- 54 Believer who rejects the Trinity
- 56 German poet
- 59 Skimpy skirt
- 60 Like some eggs
- 62 Twofer offer, briefly
- 63 Listlessness
- 64 Plumber's job
- 65 Shakespearean "shortly"
- 66 Desirable quality
- 67 Improve, as skills

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 14 |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
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| 26 | 27 |    |    | 28 |    |    |    | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 31 |    |    | 32 |    |    |    | 33 |    |    |    |    | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37 |    |    |    |    | 38 | 39 |    |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |
| 41 |    |    |    | 42 |    |    |    |    | 43 | 44 |    |    |    |    |
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| 54 |    |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |    | 56 |    |    | 57 | 58 |
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| 62 |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |
| 65 |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |    |    |    | 67 |    |    |    |

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### DOWN

- 1 Rainbows, e.g.
- 2 Calf meat
- 3 Hard to brush off
- 4 Kind of pad
- 5 A pal to Pooh
- 6 Pure
- 7 Long poem part
- 8 Develop sores
- 9 Gather from the fields
- 10 Field for beauty pros
- 11 Opera's Callas
- 12 Stamps and sends
- 13 It may be humble
- 18 Like many a wrestler
- 22 Film segment
- 24 Actress Olivia of "The Crown"
- 26 Fraudulent scheme
- 27 Buckeye State
- 30 Accused murderer of 1892

- 32 Cause of destruction
- 33 Exploit
- 34 Plated mammal
- 35 1964 Oscar winner Patricia
- 36 Auction off
- 39 Naples natives
- 42 "La Dolce \_\_\_\_" (Fellini film)
- 44 Boise locale
- 46 Cheese dish
- 48 Cuban dance
- 49 Negatively charged particle
- 50 Game played in a hall
- 52 Makes wages
- 53 Clinton Labor secretary Robert
- 55 Perlman of "Cheers"
- 57 Light gas
- 58 Leg up
- 61 Drill insert

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | M | M | A |   | L | I | C | E |   | M | U | R | A | L |
| B | A | I | L |   | E | R | R | S |   | A | N | O | R | A |
| B | A | C | K | F | I | R | E | S |   | L | I | T | E | R |
| S | M | E | A | R |   | I | T | E | R | A | T | I | N | G |
|   |   |   | L | I | S | T | E | N | E | R |   | S | A | O |
| P | A | P | I | L | L | A |   |   | D | I | B | S |   |   |
| A | L | E |   | L | O | T | U | S | E | A | T | E | R | S |
| P | A | R | C |   | V | E | R | N | E |   | W | R | A | P |
| A | S | S | U | M | E | D | N | A | M | E |   | I | M | O |
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| O | S | C | A | R |   | A | P | R | I | L | F | O | O | L |
| L | E | A | R | N |   | S | P | U | N |   | E | G | O | S |
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# Earth Day events planned

By Pauline Benetti

Southwest Organization for Sustainability/  
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

How does Pagosa Springs do Earth Day? We will answer this question shortly, but first let's establish the date and a bit of history.

April 22 is the date on your calendar; the history, which is especially important at this particular time, began back in 1970. And, who started it? In a very real sense it was "We the people," and a brief historical review will show just how effective "We the people" can be.

2026 will be the 56th celebration of Earth Day since 1970, when it began with a demonstration by 20 million Americans and has resulted in the passing of legislation designed to protect our planet.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species acts all came out of this effort, protections that today have been badly damaged.

In 1990, Earth Day went global with 200 million people in 141 countries participating. Today, more than 1 billion people from 192 countries participate, and the need has never been greater, especially in our own country, once the world leader in protecting the planet's natural resources.

Now to the two community organizations highlighting this very popular and meaningful date in Pagosa. They are Southwest Organization for Sustainability (SOS) and the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP). We will consider each in turn and don't intend to say "only" as we sincerely hope there are others.

Consider the GGP first since this organization invites the community to celebrate on the exact date, April 22, with an evening showing of environmental films at the Liberty Theater.

The Pagosa Springs Earth Day Film Fest is a Caravan of the Colorado Environmental Film Festival recently held in Golden, where a catalog of more than 50 international films was shown over three days including both shorts and feature-length stories designed to inspire, educate and encourage environmental stewardship.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the films will begin at 6 p.m.

The films selected for the showing at the Liberty Theater are: "Global Warming," Best Feature Film; "What the River Knows," Best Short Film; and "Chirp Talker," Best Youth Films.

All the details about the films, times, tickets, etc., are on the GGP website, [pagosagreen.org](http://pagosagreen.org).

The GGP takes seriously its role in our community as an advocate of environmental stewardship and presents the above program as part of that function.

It is also steward of the demonstration site downtown on the river

with the three domes, a role that has been costly especially this past year as significant maintenance has been accomplished after seven years of exposure to Colorado weather.

Hence, the Pagosa Springs Earth Day Film Fest assumes a second function. It is a major fundraiser for the organization. The event offers our community an opportunity to show its support for this community resource.

In addition to financial support, folks interested in a more hands-on relationship can support the GGP by participating in the actual work of the domes — education, growing and community relations. The number of students, the amount of growing, the hours open to the public are all determined by the number of volunteers. Care to investigate? Email [info@pagosaspringsggp.org](mailto:info@pagosaspringsggp.org).

Turn now to SOS and its Earth Day Celebration, a daylong event (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) on April 26 in Centennial Park fanning out in both directions from the GGP site.

This celebration has a history going back to 2009 with some of the same people on the planning team, a measure of the dedication engendered by the event.

This year's dedication is to the memory of two women recently passed, Jane Goodall (1934-2025) and Joanna Macy (1929-2025), who have influenced both wide and deep.

Goodall fundamentally shifted the scientific understanding of the relationship between humans and animals, initiated international programs empowering youth to take action on environmental issues, and served as the U.N. messenger of peace.

Macy is best known for creating a framework and workshop methodology designed to help people transform despair over ecological and social crises into constructive, collaborative action, focused on the intersection of ecology, psychology and spirituality, and has been widely adopted in environmental education and grassroots organizing.

This is the year everyone is asked to come out and identify as a stake-

holder in the future of our planet either as a booth participant or attendee.

Individuals, organizations and businesses are invited to participate with a message and a willingness to engage visitors as they pass by. The deadline for application has been extended to Friday, April 10.

Everyone is invited to take time out to enjoy community and reflect on the meaning of a day dedicated to the Earth.

As with all nonprofits, fundraising is an issue. To help pay expenses there will be a small fee for participants (\$20 for businesses, \$15 for nonprofits). For more information or to sign up as a participant, email [sworgsus@gmail.com](mailto:sworgsus@gmail.com). Attendees can support SOS by becoming members at the SOS table.

In addition to the booths there will be activities for everyone — young and old and in between. In the morning will be the opening ceremony with drumming, followed by yoga, the Dust2 Critical Mass Bike Ride take off and the wetland tour with the Riverwalk Naturalist Program.

Around noon will be the traditional Community Tea Gathering followed by solar car races and kite flying. The GGP Education Dome will be open all day with its beds full of vegetables and pollinator flowers, and there will be more drumming to close the day.

Big news about food and music: A variety of different local musicians will be in the amphitheater on the hour all afternoon, and food vendors will be on-site.

The event planners have issued a call to all local musicians — there are still open spots — and to "artsy" persons to help organize and officiate a Youth Chalk Art Contest. Interested? Email [sworgsos@gmail.com](mailto:sworgsos@gmail.com).

Be sure to add those dates to your April calendar: April 22 for films and April 26 for a community day in the park.

April is the time of Earth's awakening, and these two organizations help us focus attention on our role as stakeholders in its future — and ours.

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# End of Life Education to meet April 16

By Joan Mieritz  
End of Life Education

End of Life Education will meet on Thursday, April 16, with two different presentations.

At 1:15 p.m., Pete Albo, a funeral director, will join us with information and loving support. At 2:15 p.m., emergency medical technicians will bring large dolls to learn and practice the most effective resuscitation techniques.

End of Life Education will meet at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of April at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. It is not a Methodist Church activity. Anyone from the Pagosa Springs community and Archuleta County is welcome to attend.

Use the convenient parking lot with the side entrance into the kitchen and fellowship hall. (The main doors into the church remain locked.)

The program will begin at 1 p.m. with time for visiting, coffee, tea and treats, if someone brings something to share. It was decided that the official program should end between 2:30 and 3 p.m., but people can remain in the fellowship hall for socializing, discussions, support, etc. until 4 p.m.

Our programs are nondenominational and free, but people attending can bring canned food for the church pantry or make a cash donation in appreciation for using the room. Attendance varies for each program, so feel welcome to come anytime and bring friends or anyone who might benefit from the topic.

We have not set the date for a detailed talk presented by a local doctor about the Colorado state laws about medical aid for the end of life. People

need to be within six months of passing and meet other requirements. We will soon have the date, and hopefully two different times and locations.

We are also awaiting the date to turn the deceased human body into usable soil and water that can then be returned for the family garden or other uses. There are ways that are much better for the environment than cremation and burial, and soon will be taking their place.

We have begun filling out the paperwork for end of life that is given in the booklet “Your Right to Make Healthcare Decisions.”

You may get a copy and start working on it. Federal law requires that you must be given information on advance directives at the time you are admitted by any hospital, nursing home, HMO, hospice, home health care or personal care program that receives federal funds (Medicare).

We have used this booklet as part of our program so people can get a heads up on the paperwork rather than waiting until a more stressful time. There is also the form to fill out for do not resuscitate that is important to have completed and stored on your refrigerator.

On April 30 at 1 p.m. we will be meeting with Archuleta County Coroner Brad Hunt. If you have any questions about death, he may have the answer. He will talk about his job, new laws and requirements, and any questions you have. He has a great deal of important information.

End of Life Education can be difficult, but we have found that it is quite valuable and helpful to many people who are trying to look at death as a necessary part of life.

Our culture has much to learn about the entire subject. We will be

scheduling time for sharing thoughts and feelings to develop new attitudes. There is so much we can learn. If we as caring people work together, we can help ourselves and each other learn and grow to have a better life.

Joan Mieritz is making these arrangements and can always use your help and support. We need help with setup before and cleanup after the program. Just show up to help.

We hope to see you to learn about the end of life to hopefully make each day of your life better.

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# SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

## Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

# El Pomar Foundation's leadership experience opens applications for 2026 session

El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Foundation's Penrose Organizational and Professional Leadership Experience (PeOPLE) is seeking applicants for its 2026 session, which will take place Sept. 29 through Oct. 2.

Applications opened Thursday, March 26, and are due April 24.

The PEOPLE program partners with Center for Creative Leadership to provide a four-day workshop and training experience designed to help Colorado leaders build and sustain healthy relationships and grow their leadership impact. The goal of PEOPLE is to support leadership across Colorado in every sector.

The 2026 PEOPLE session is inviting applications from senior leaders in Colorado, specifically from the

nonprofit and government sectors, with five to 10 years of senior management experience and who plan to stay in their current position for at least one year.

Applicants need to demonstrate a commitment to learning and self-development, a willingness to coach and be coached, and be able to fully commit to the program by attending all sessions. The workshop will take place during the day Sept. 29 through Oct. 2 at the Center for Creative Leadership's Colorado Springs campus.

Through various personality and 360-degree assessments, experiential learning activities and individualized executive coaching sessions, applicants will become better equipped to: leverage self-awareness through a deeper understanding of their per-

■ See Leadership on next page



# Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold Action Sunday

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As we turn toward longer days and more outside time, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will celebrate and honor the earth this month.

One resource that has deep roots in the long history of leadership among faith communities is the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE). Its mission states: "UUMFE is a seedbed for spiritual grounding and education that inspires deep practices of Earth care, justice and flourishing for all. Along with a vision of a world in which reverence, gratitude, and care for each other and for the living Earth are central to the lives of all people."

The fellowship will focus on ways to live these aspirations into real-world practices.

Our Sunday programming begins most Sundays at 10:30 a.m., and we look forward to the end of the month, when we will join the Pagosa Springs community at the annual Earth Day celebration downtown.

Our motto of "Make Friends - Grow Spirit - Do Good" brings us together each week to share, learn and support one another. Our shared values centered in love is a cornerstone for building the beloved community we aspire to.

You can find us in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak, and at our website, PagosaUU.org.

This month at Pagosa UU Fellowship will include:

- April 5: Sunday service, 10:30 a.m. — "What Connects Us, A Season for Renewal."

We will honor our commitment to what holds us together as people

of faith. We will celebrate the season of rebirth with an egg tree ritual and welcome new members to the fellowship.

- April 12: Going Deeper Sharing Circle, 10:30 a.m.

In this small-group setting we are invited to share with one another and practice deep listening. We explore themes of recent offerings and leave space for reflection and for whatever else is on our hearts. Come make friends in this lightly facilitated group.

- April 19: Sunday service, 10:30 a.m. — "A Cooperative Message About the Earth" with speaker Nicole Pitcher.

This Sunday before Earth Day, it is fitting that we hear a real-world message about the earth as well as a spiritual one. We will hear an update on the future of energy in our region and explore the spiritual challenges inherent in the transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative one.

- April 26: Action Sunday. Join us at Centennial Park for Earth Day in Pagosa Springs.

Come participate in a community celebration for the earth. Many UU Fellowship members and friends are involved in the planning of this annual event. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. with yoga in the park and an informal drum circle around 9:45 a.m. (don't forget your drum). The event begins at 10 a.m. with an opening ritual. Community booths, music, community tea, food trucks and lots of activities will round out the day.

## Ongoing groups

- The Tara Meditation Group meets most Sunday evenings at 5:30

p.m.

- The Wise and Wakeful Circle will meet April 25 at 10 a.m. (typically the second and fourth Saturdays).

- Qi Gong meets Mondays at 1 p.m.

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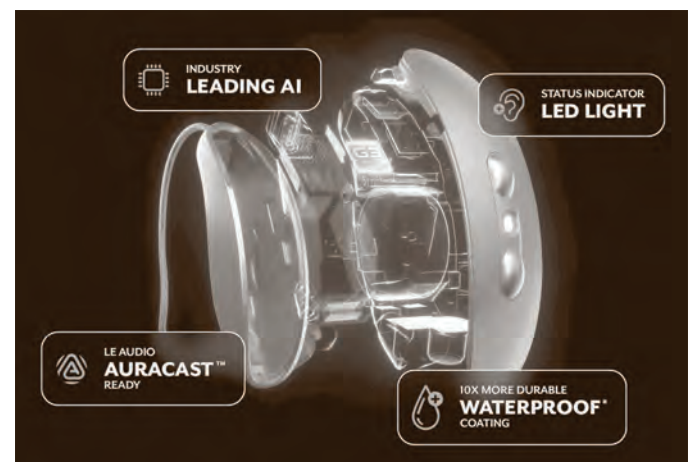
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## Leadership

### ■ continued from previous page

sonality preferences and leadership style, gain skills in giving and receiving feedback to colleagues, and identify individual and organizational development goals and strategies.

For further information about the program and to read testimonials from previous participants, please visit [www.elpomar.org/programs/people/](http://www.elpomar.org/programs/people/).

To apply for the 2026 session, visit <https://bit.ly/413IrnQ>.

### About PeOPLE

In 1995, El Pomar created the Non-profit Executive Leadership Program — now PeOPLE — to help executives to tap into their leadership potential and positively impact their organizations.

PeOPLE partners with the Center for Creative Leadership to provide an immersive, four-day experience that helps leaders build and sustain healthy relationships and grow their leadership impact.

Each year the program focuses on nonprofit and government sectors to maximize learning conversations and networking opportunities between participants from all regions of the state.

### About El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado.

El Pomar contributes approximately \$30 million annually through grants in the areas of arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health and human services, as well as community engagement and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations.

Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.



LOVE FISHING WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ANGLER
- BAG
- BAIT
- BOBBER
- CAST
- CATCH
- CHUMMING
- DRAG
- FISHING
- HOOK
- JIGGING
- LEADER
- LIMIT
- LURE
- RELEASE
- SIGHT
- SINKER
- SKUNKED
- SPAWNING
- STRIKE
- STRUCTURE
- TACKLE
- TERMINAL
- TROLLING

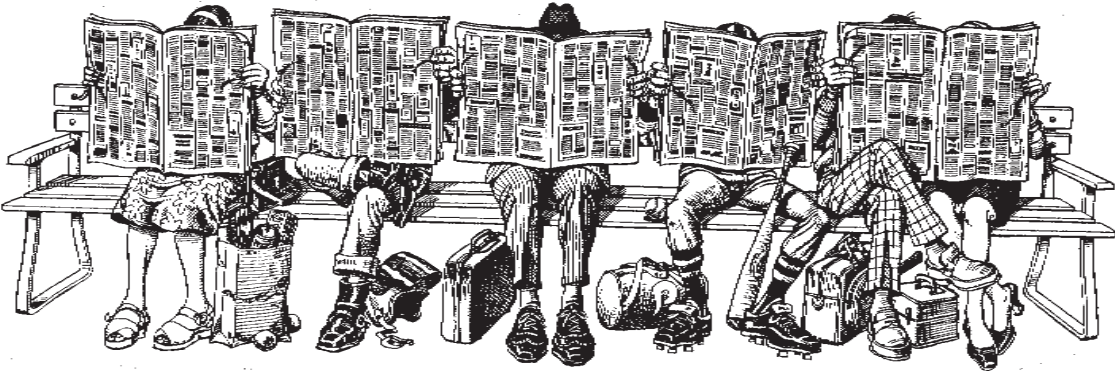
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# Building bonds: How Archuleta Seniors Inc. helps seniors stay connected

By Ricardo Martinez  
PREVIEW Columnist

Friendship plays a vital role in the health and well-being of seniors, offering far more than simple companionship.

As people age, social circles can shrink due to retirement, relocation or the loss of loved ones, making meaningful connections even more important.

Strong friendships among seniors have been shown to reduce feelings of loneliness and depression, improve cognitive function, and even support better physical health. Having someone to talk to, share experiences with, or simply spend time alongside can bring a sense of purpose and belonging that enhances overall quality of life.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI's) Senior Center provides a welcoming space where older adults can build and maintain these important connections.

Through daily congregate meals, group activities, classes and special events, the center creates opportunities for seniors to socialize in a supportive and engaging environment.

Programs such as games, educational workshops and volunteer opportunities encourage interaction and help foster lasting friendships. By offering a place where seniors can gather, laugh and support one another, the Senior Center plays a key role in strengthening the social fabric of the community.

## 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

## Senior News

that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

## 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.

■ See Senior on next page

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# Senior

■ continued from previous page

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](mailto: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, 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.

Monday, April 6 — Fried chicken with country gravy, peas and pearl onions, glazed carrots, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday, April 7 — Pumpkin ravioli with Alfredo sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Wednesday, April 8 — Cod piccata, green beans and bacon, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Thursday, April 9 — Pork carnitas with tortilla, beans and Spanish Rice, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Friday, April 10 — Beef Marsala, mashed potatoes, 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.

### Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

### Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare

plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

### Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

For more information about ASI, please visit [www.psseniors.org](http://www.psseniors.org).

### Support the Senior Center

New, starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving

across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: [www.psseniors.org](http://www.psseniors.org) (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.



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# RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES



**1231 Ranchland Drive**  
**\$290,000**

MLS #829827

40 Acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag which has significant fire mitigation done and the property taxes are under \$200.00 per year. The property borders the Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple flat build areas close to power. There is a single car garage and a 3 room bunkhouse on a foundation. The bunkhouse is insulated and has a 1200 gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. The solar panels power the 12 volt bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. The garage is set up to accommodate a 22' RV and you can live for 2 years on the property when you are building. Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water. The kitchen has refrigerator, stove and sink. This is a gated community close to the Tara Mandela Buddhist Retreat.



**109 Carol's Curves**  
**\$215,000**

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**  
**\$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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# No glory in the grave

By Betty Slade  
PREVIEW Columnist

My friend said to me, "There is no glory in the grave." I pondered those words. How precious life is and how final death can be. As long as we have breath, we are given the privilege of praising His name.

People have asked, "Why we should praise the Lord? The world is a mess. Does God even care? Why does He need our praise?"

Good questions. Because He answered our sin through the cross. God raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him resurrected life. He has given to us who believe in Him that same resurrected life. We will not be left in the grave.

David wrote, "In the grave who will give you thanks?" (Psalm 6:5, NKJV).

David continues, "The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence, but we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore" (Psalm 115:17, NKJV).

God has given us life and another day to praise His name. This day breathes for us because of Jesus. He's given us a way to live above the world's ways. And because God is God, He operates in love. He is Wisdom. Knowledge. Mercy. How can we not trust Him?

Where do we go if we don't go to the Lord?

I am not pretending all is happy and wonderful like an aging Pollyanna. I spent two hours on the phone with an insurance agent who has doubled the cost of our homeowner's policy for the year. She didn't blink an eye as she rattled off a price. Many insurance companies will not insure a log house. So, we're begging to be insured and paying double. Doesn't make sense.

I said to my Sweet Al, "I don't know how people are making it today financially. I don't think they are. This is where the rubber meets the road; we either trust God or not."

I understand, in these last days, the elderly are tired, they hurt and they yearn to go to their heavenly home. Don't give up. There is still another praise in you. Keep breathing.

For those unborn babies, give them a voice to praise the Lord. Their voices will be sweet in the Lord's ears. Death is final. There is no glory in the grave. They will go down into silence.

For the young who face uncertainties of what life offers today, when nothing makes sense, turn to the Lord who has given you purpose for your life. He will answer you if you ask.

## Artist's Lane

For those who are careless about their walk with Jesus, God allows us just so many days to praise His name. We will meet Him face-to-face one day.

Jesus is alive and He rose from the grave to give us life; that's why we praise Him. We either accept his sacrifice or we turn away from God's unconditional love on the cross. It is our choice.

The Easter message lies in the allegory of The Song of Solomon. Nineteen metaphors about Jesus show us who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

The Shulamite becomes the vessel that carries the whole redemptive story of God. Solomon calls the Shulamite his garden enclosed. Within her heart is paradise and is the meeting place between God and his creation. This is a picture of the Bride of Jesus. This is us.

In Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve "heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day" (Genesis 3:8). The faithful Gardener, the new Adam, holds believers in his cherished hands. He created a paradise in our hearts for our needs to be met by God. Adam and Eve enjoyed His divine presence. Solomon tells the Shulamite that He has done the same in her.

No longer the Garden of Eden, closed up, refusing entrance, the Shulamite's heart is now the place where God meets with her. She claims the king has formed a sanctuary in her. She becomes the Holy of Holies. (See Song of Solomon 8:1, 2, TPT). The Bride of Christ also is the garden of paradise and carries the same advantage to meet with God. We become the Holy of Holies.

Solomon lists nine spices and fruit planted in his bride, which are sacred elements offered in the temple by the priest to meet with God. Not like the nine fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians for relationship among God's people, but those spices found in each one of us who have surrendered to the cross and now lives in Christ's resurrected life.

The bride of Christ carries His presence by the Holy Spirit. King Solomon, the bridegroom-king says, "I have gathered from your heart, my equal, my bride ... I delight in gathering my sacred spice, all the fruits of my life I have gathered from within you, my paradise garden" (Song of Solomon 5:1, TPT). This gives us reason for praising His name.

Final brushstroke: Jesus values our lives. So, we must value our lives. He calls us equal to Him through the work He has done in us. He calls us His paradise garden. He has gathered sacred spice, all the fruits of His life He has placed in us. He has given us resurrected life. There is no glory in the grave.

Send your comment to [bettyslade.author@gmail.com](mailto:bettyslade.author@gmail.com).

*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*

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# Holiday FACT:



This spring holiday is the holiest day on the calendar for celebrating Christians.

Answer: Easter



- English: Sacred
- Spanish: Sagrado
- Italian: Sacro
- French: Sacré
- German: Heilig

# Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| 9  |    |    | 33 |
| 3  |    | 18 | 27 |
|    |    | 10 | 16 |
| 17 | 27 | 32 |    |

|    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 01 | 1  | 5 |
| 81 | 9  | 3 |
| 4  | 20 | 6 |

Solution

# Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

ESTARE GEG NHTU

Answer: Easter egg hunt

# THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1814: Napoleon abdicates the throne for the first time and names his son as Emperor of France.

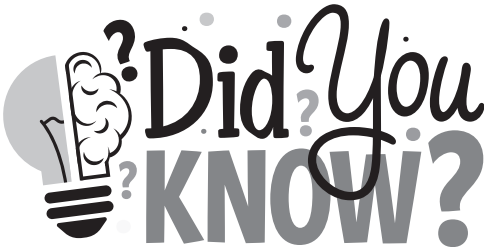
1841: William Henry Harrison dies of pneumonia, becoming the first U.S. president to die in office.

1964: The Beatles occupy the top five spots on the Billboard Hot 100 pop chart.

# NEW WORD

## BLESS

to confer divine favor upon



Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is a foundation of Christianity.



# Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Coloring eggs



# Google hacks get better results

By Barbara Brattin  
PREVIEW Columnist

When I went to library school (never mind what year), Internet search engines were in their infancy, so to get decent search results, your search terms needed to be very specific. There was even a “dark web” that search engines couldn’t touch, made up of things like data in spreadsheets. So, you needed to think about where the information you needed might live and how the data might be arranged to form a strategy before beginning to search.

Nowadays, Google is the predominant search engine for the typical Internet searcher, and it’s become very sophisticated. It’s also become extremely commercialized and is bound to become worse with the current FCC favoring privatization over free access to information. Companies can use search optimization to bring their website to the top of your search results. But what if you’re not looking to buy anything? What if you want verified facts, not someone’s personal experience or opinion?

Surprisingly, the strategies I learned many years ago still apply to the sophisticated search engines of today. Simple Google hacks or Google forking used correctly will dramatically improve your search results.

The librarians at Purdue University have a great list on their website (<https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/online-learning/google-search-tips-hacks>), including some truly advanced search techniques. Here are some simple hacks from Purdue to get you started.

## Common Google search operators

- Exact phrase. Quotation marks around words in the search bar will pull up that exact phrase.  
Example: “leap year.”
  - Exclude in search. A minus sign will exclude some information that might otherwise be shown.  
Example: board games -checkers.
  - Expand results. Use OR (yes, capitalized) if you’re trying to find more than one term and would like one or both to be found.  
Example: rhythm OR blues.
  - Ranges of numbers. Two periods will help search a range of numbers.  
Example: wireless earbuds \$75..\$150.
  - Wildcard search. An asterisk acts as a wildcard to let Google Search fill in the word in a phrase.  
Example: the devil \* details.
- Hopefully these simple Google hacks will reduce your frustration with unwelcome search results.
- Don’t forget your friendly librarians are always available to help you find the information you need. Give us a call at (970) 264-2209 or stop in on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. for personalized help with all your tech questions.

## Library News

### Matching grant funds needed

We are furiously submitting grant applications to fully fund our new library construction project, but the target keeps moving.

Water has been the main culprit, but hidden concrete pylons and old retaining walls in the parking lot also cost us lots of money to remove.

This month a faulty sump pump in the old crawl space released unwelcome water. The fix involves piping a new sump pump to the other side of the building’s exterior — an expensive job.

You may remember we won funding last year from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in the amount of \$840,000. DOLA is willing to provide us with up to \$160,000 in supplemental funds, but we need to match the grant dollar for dollar.

Donations in any amount will help us leverage these state funds. You can donate online at [www.pagosalibrary.org/donate-to-the-library-foundation](http://www.pagosalibrary.org/donate-to-the-library-foundation), write a check to the Ruby Sisson Library Foundation or drop some cash in the conscience jar next time you visit the library.

Thanks so much for your help.

### Construction update

The parking lot is no more as we transition to a large community garden on the west side of the building. Our entrance remains the same and so does parking. You’ll notice the Zircons are gone, providing you with a full view of the construction site while traveling down Put Hill.

June marks a big transition as we switch from the old side to the new side. 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 ap-

pointment. Contact Kathy at (970) 553-9150 or [kathy.taxhelp@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.taxhelp@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

### GED adds citizenship classes

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](http://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](http://www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar),

■ See Library on next page

## Spring Sale!

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# Library

■ continued from previous page  
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](http://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 please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

## English as a second language classes on hold

We're pausing our ESL classes for a few months. They will resume this summer.

## New books collections brimming with interesting titles

For a full list of new titles and to reserve your copy, go to [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.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 Kehlman 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.

## New health books

- "Outsmarting Cancer: Risk Reduction and the Power of Prevention" is by Adam Barsouk, M.D.
- "Menopause: What Your OB-GYN Wants You to Know" is from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- "IBS: Finding and Treating the Root Cause of Irritable Bowl Syndrome" is by Isabella Wentz, PharmD.
- "The Invincible Brain: The Clinically Proven Plan to Age-Proof Your Brain and Stay Sharp for Life" is by Johns Hopkins neuroscientist Majid Fotuhi, M.D.
- "Plant-Based Magic: 120 Seasonal Recipes for Healing Body and Soul" is by Lisanna Wallance.

## New travel guides

- "A Film Lover's Guide to Sana Fe: A Walking Tour" is by Jason Strykowski.
- "Europe by Eurail 2026: Touring Europe by Train."
- "Rick Steve's Paris."
- "Lonely Planet Croatia."
- "Moon Tennessee with the Smoky Mountains."

## New in large print

- Detective novel "Big Bad Wool" is a translation from the German author Leonne Swan.
- "The Tree of Light and Flowers" is the new Jane Whitefield Novel from Thomas Perry.
- "Cold Zero" is a new thriller from Brad Thor.
- "The Hadacol Boogie" is the new Dave Robicheaux novel from James Lee Burke.

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# Celebrate International Dark Sky Week with a neighborhood star party

By Dena Laterza

Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

International Dark Sky Week is April 13-20 this year. People across the globe go outside with friends, family and neighbors to celebrate the natural beauty of a moonless night. The theme this year is "Go Dark," so

turn off your exterior lights and take in the starry sky.

I know of a few neighborhood star parties planned here in Pagosa Springs. Why not host your own gathering during International Dark Sky Week?

A good place to meet is in a cul-de-sac or nearby parking lot. It costs

nothing to turn off your outdoor lights, take a flashlight (red light preferred) and meet your neighbors outside under the stars.

Bundle up, share some hot chocolate and allow your eyes to adjust to the darkness, which takes 20-30 minutes.

You are encouraged to talk to one another about reducing light pollution by ensuring all outdoor lights are useful, targeted, low-level, controlled and warm-colored. Understanding the negative effects of artificial light at night on wildlife, ecosystems, human health and our ability to see the stars fosters a sense of community pride in preserving the rural character of our town. Every light alters the night. Even what seem like small actions taken by individuals makes a difference. Learn more at [DarkSky.org](http://DarkSky.org).

Sunset is at 7:40 p.m., with dark

night beginning at 9:15pm.

Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers is hosting gatherings on two nights — Thursday, April 16, and Friday, April 17, in the overflow parking lot of the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Recreation Center from 8:30 to 9:45 p.m. Walk or drive over and join us. We'll have a telescope out so you can view the cosmos.

Star party goers can bring binoculars and use them to look at the night sky.

A pair of binoculars increases the number of stars you can see from about 1,000 or 2,000 (with the naked eye) to more than 10,000.

Don't forget to download and print a free sky map from [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com) or, if you prefer, a free mobile planetarium app such as Stellarium.

Then, do some hunting in the night sky to identify constellations,

planets and even deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae and galaxies.

Maybe you'd like to do some citizen science and log your observations at [GlobeAtNight.org](http://GlobeAtNight.org).

The beautiful winter constellations Orion and Canis Major are setting in the west as Virgo and Leo join us to the east. Cancer, which contains the spectacular Beehive Cluster, is high overhead to the south. Can you find the Beehive Cluster with binoculars? Jupiter is still bright and high in Gemini to the southwest, and you may be able to see its four large moons using binoculars. Get outside and enjoy.

We'd love to see pictures from your star party on our Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers Facebook group. Visit [pagosasidewalkastronomers.org](http://pagosasidewalkastronomers.org) to see our event calendar or subscribe to our emails.

## 'She takes care of me'

By Sharee Grazda

Special to The PREVIEW

Several summers ago my granddaughters, ages 10 and 5, joined me for a weeklong Bible camp at a large university.

After morning classes and lunch, we donned our swimsuits, grabbed snacks, water, fun-in-the-sun gear and headed to the campus pool.

Maybe an hour later Big Sister asked permission to leave the pool and go to the bathroom. I asked if she remembered where it was in the nearby basketball gym, and she assured me she did.

Following other children leaving through the gate of the fence surrounding the pool, she waved back to us as she headed out.

A few minutes later she walked from the gym and back down the sidewalk to rejoin us in the pool.

She stood facing the gate in the chain link fence, staring — and staring.

Thinking perhaps there was a big red wasp on the gate, I waited for her to make a move.

When I asked if there was a wasp, she said there wasn't — and still stood staring at the gate.

I called out, "Do you need some help?"

"Yes," she replied.

"I'll help her," came a chirpy little voice from the far side of the pool.

Splashing mightily across the water, Little One crossed the pool, climbed out and made her way, dripping and hopscotching across the hot pool deck.

Arriving at the gate, she assessed for a short moment, then put her hand through the gate and lifted up the gate latch from the outside, and ushered Big Sister in.

I marveled.

Later that evening as we returned after dinner to our dorm room for the night, Little One was scratching her arms and legs from fresh mosquito bites inflicted during our walks across campus.

I offered a cold wet cloth to wash down the itches, but Big Sister went to her luggage and pulled out a first aid kit.

Peering intently at every itchy spot pointed out to her, she carefully ran an alcohol pad over each one, applied a dab of soothing cream, then covered with a tiny bandage.

I marveled.

Before long, Little One was look-

ing like a patchwork doll, tiny arms and legs covered in a multitude of Dora the Explorer and the occasional Scooby Doo Band-Aids.

The look on my face must have shown the humor I saw in this, and Little One confidently assured me, "I'll just sleep in them tonight and take them off in the morning. The itch will be gone by then."

Sure enough, time and the careful ministrations of Big Sister wrought a remarkable cure, and all bandages were removed the following morning.

As we visited with fellow attendees that day, a lady who had met Big Sister but not Little One asked, "Are you girls sisters?"

Little One promptly replied, "Oh, yes. She takes care of me, and when she needs help, I help her."

I marveled.

What a perfect example and description of a caring, symbiotic relationship.

"She takes care of me."

Big Sister, with her well-equipped and handy first aid kit, and her compassionate heart to help Little One feel better.

"And when she needs help, I help her."

Little One, with her eagerness to help and her innate ability to figure out and deal with the mechanics of a gate latch.

Solomon saw the benefits of such relationships.

In Ecclesiastes 4:9 and 10, he says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up, but pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"

So the teacher understood ... after many years of life — and so did two very young ladies.

"Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world ...

"Let them come to me, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

*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](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com).*

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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](http://www.al-anon.org).

**DMV2GO: Returning to Archuleta County for Driver's License Services.** Archuleta County — The Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) Division of Motor Vehicles' DMV2GO services will return to Archuleta County, by appointment only, on April 28 and 29, 2026. DMV2GO's services include: first time Colorado driver's licenses, out-of-state transfers, renewals for driver's licenses, permits and identification cards; issuing new licenses, permits, and IDs; motor vehicle records; along with reinstatements and Colorado Roads and Community Safety Act Services. Appointments are available both days, 11a.m. to 4p.m., in fifteen-minute intervals. Please visit [archuletacounty.gov](http://archuletacounty.gov) to book via the Sign-Up Genius link, beginning April 1st. Appointments for seniors, veterans, and the disabled are available before 11:00 AM and can be made by calling the County Administration Office at (970)264-8309. 2026 DMV2GO services will be held in the Archuleta County Department of Human Services Conference Room — 550 Hot Springs Blvd. Suite A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Please visit <https://dmv.colorado.gov/documents> for a list of state-required documents to bring to your appointment. DMV2GO does not offer driver testing. If a driving test is needed, you must have this done before the scheduled appointment.

**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](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.com), (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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