



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 28, THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

PAWSD implements voluntary drought restrictions

By Clayton Chaney and
Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 7, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) announced that the district is implementing voluntary drought restrictions, with the agency anticipating increased drought restrictions within the next two weeks.

According to a statement from the district, “The Voluntary water reduction stage is intended to give the community advanced notice of developing drought conditions and to begin encouraging water conservation and voluntary water use reduction. The Voluntary stage does not trigger the drought surcharge or tier rate multipliers.”

The statement explains the trigger
■ See Drought A9

Town’s unofficial election results released

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

The initial unofficial results for Tuesday’s Town of Pagosa Springs election have been released by Town Clerk April Hessman.

Hessman told the SUN that “judges counted 252 ballots” from town voters by 7 p.m. on Tuesday night.

For the mayor’s seat, incumbent Shari Pierce ran unopposed and received 202 votes, according to

Hessman.

Two council member seats were also up for election on the ballot, with incumbent Gary Williams, running unopposed, receiving 155 votes and incumbent Madeline Bergon, also running unopposed, receiving 180 votes, according to Hessman.

The election also placed two ballot questions in front of town voters.

Ballot Question A asked voters to amend the Home Rule Charter
■ See Election A13



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

A fresh blanket of snowfall coats the Step Bowl at Wolf Creek Ski Area, looking down to the Knife Ridge on Friday, April 3, after the ski area received 19 inches of snow for its closing weekend. The ski area ended the 2025-2026 season with a season total snowfall of 192 inches and 100 percent of its terrain open.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Good Friday Pilgrimage makes its way up Put Hill on Friday, April 3. More than 100 participated in this year’s iteration of the annual event.

Wolf Creek Ski Area wraps up season, moisture expected this weekend

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Wolf Creek Ski Area ended the 2025-2026 winter season last weekend with a total season snowfall of 192 inches after a late-season winter storm dropped 19 inches of fresh snow at the ski area April 1-3.

“Despite the weird weather we had a fairly good season,” Vice Presi-

dent of Marketing Rosanne Pitcher said.

She noted that it was similar to the 2024-2025 season.

“The lower-than-normal snowfall always makes it a little harder,” she said, explaining the ski area still saw numerous visitors from Texas and Oklahoma who were eager to get into the mountains.

■ See Season A7

Town council discusses Reservoir Hill park expansion, parks master plan

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At an April 7 work session, the Pagosa Springs Town Council discussed devising a new master plan for its vision on public parks and a land acquisition strategy to expand parks in the community.

Much of the discussion revolved around an ongoing effort to acquire 491 acres to add to the town’s current Reservoir Hill Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis said that “the main focus

right now” is on the “300 acres” at the top of the hill and immediately adjacent to the existing park.

Lewis said that the “remaining 191 [acres] is still on the table, and we are still looking at how we can acquire that, as well.”

According to Archuleta County’s interactive mapping application, which includes a property records search, there are three parcels that could potentially serve the park’s expansion.

These parcels are currently owned by Fairway Land Trust, with the ad-

■ See Parks A9

Phantoms: 10 years of Lynx monitoring in southwest Colorado shines a light on an elusive species

By John Livingston
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

It had been 10 years since district wildlife managers across the Southwest Region of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) were first tasked with trekking into the dark timber in some of the state’s most remote places to deploy trail cameras. The goal was to capture images to monitor one of Colorado’s most mysterious wildlife species. In meeting rooms across the

region, CPW Wildlife Research Scientist Jake Ivan posed a big question.

“What do we think? Is this something we want to keep doing?”

Colorado’s phantom felids

Given the arduous work required to monitor Canada lynx, Ivan wouldn’t have been surprised if field staff had a desire to scale
■ See Lynx A8



Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

A lynx is released.

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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

Local news matters

Today, Thursday, April 9, is Local News Day — a day that aims to reconnect communities across the country with their local news sources and celebrate the key role local news plays.

We, thankfully, live in a community that is incredibly supportive of local news.

We are consistently grateful here at The SUN for our readers, our advertisers and the organizations that seek to disseminate information using The SUN and The PREVIEW.

We know that's not the case elsewhere and that news deserts are, unfortunately, becoming more and more common (though efforts to fill those gaps are also increasing).

Those communities that have lost local news sources have lost more than a newspaper that comes out periodically or a website that gets updated regularly.

They've lost a vital piece that connects people to the information that affects their day-to-day lives.

From school boards to town council, the county commissioners and many more,

so much of what affects us each day starts locally.

And it's the local level where citizens can really make a difference.

But, that difference needs to start with trustworthy local information.

That's where local news sources are key. Trustworthy, consistent local news about the issues that matter to our lives here in Pagosa Country doesn't come from national news. It comes from fellow citizens who are here to work to provide that local information.

We also get the pleasure of highlighting different parts of our community and fellow citizens doing their best to make this place a little better. That helps us all understand where we might be able to help out and connect with our community.

But, beyond providing local information and connecting the pieces of a community, local news can serve another purpose.

A Columbia Journalism Review study shared in June 2025 showed that corruption increases when newspapers decrease.

"Our focus was on the closure of sixty-five major daily newspapers—the sort that

would have the resources to conduct serious investigative journalism—from 1996 to 2018. We then compared the trends in federal corruption charges filed in US district court across districts that did and did not experience the loss of a major daily newspaper. The results were unambiguous," the organization wrote. "All else being equal, the closure of a newspaper yielded a 6.9 percent increase in corruption charges, a 6.8 percent increase in the number of indicted defendants, and a 7.4 percent increase in cases filed."

The study also took steps to "tease out causation, not mere correlation," and was able to do a follow-up study using the same approaches with data from Brazil, where it found the same pattern.

The study also found changes in how things like public corruption charges are handled in areas where newspapers exist and where they don't.

Local news, informed citizens and community connections matter.

Thank you for supporting local news.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the March 30, 2000, Pagosa SUN — The revised three-way intersection at U.S. 160 and Lewis and 5th streets is starting to take shape as sub contractors Joel Kostachek (Absolute Rock & Concrete), left, and Danny Gravely (ABC Construction), foreground, align the forms for new curving and gutters Wednesday morning.

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		Moisture	Type	Depth
3/31	59	34	0.00	NA	NA		
4/1	45	36	0.62	NA	NA		
4/2	52	29	0.94	NA	NA		
4/3	49	27	0.00	NA	NA		
4/4	58	21	0.00	NA	NA		
4/5	62	24	0.00	NA	NA		
4/6	61	25	0.00	NA	NA		

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of

April 9, 1926

At a depth of slightly over 150 feet the G.S. Hatcher hot water well on Wednesday morning encountered a heavy flow of hot water of 135 degrees, which corresponds to the similar flow and depth struck in the Montroy well nearby some time ago.

The same evening, owing to the rise and fall of the pressure caused by the Hatcher well, the top casing of the Arlington well burst, the water therefrom thereupon seeping through the ground in numerous places adjoining.

As a result, the Arlington well will be re-cased as early as possible, the present casing now being in place for 20 years. Drilling in the Hatcher well will continue until the lower pool of hot water is struck.

The engine of the local flyer was derailed Tuesday morning in Hall's canon below Dyke while making the regular run to Pagosa Junction. It was necessary to send to Chama for the wrecker, and it was early the next morning before the train returned to Pagosa Springs after making the round trip to the Junction.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of

April 13, 1951

The Pagosa Springs Volunteer Fire department announced the first of the week that the Horne Bros. Circus, scheduled to play here last week will not appear. The circus outfit discovered they could not make Wolf Creek Pass and will return to the Basin at a later date via another route. The firemen have, however, canceled the future show date.

All of those who purchased advance tickets from any member of the fire department or at any of the local business houses will be refunded the money upon presentation of the ticket purchased. If the person from who the ticket was purchased does not contact you soon, purchasers of tickets should contact Dick DeVore, fire chief.

As a result of recent legislation by the state legislature School District 50 Joint will find itself again electing a complete school board in less than two years. This time the five members of the board must be elected with one coming from each of five new voting districts. All members now on the board will be eligible for re-election if they desire to make the race.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of

April 8, 1976

There is some free timber on Reservoir Hill for local residents. This is in the form of trees that have been thinned and is suitable for fence poles, and similar uses. There is no charge for it and anyone desiring more information may contact Dan Peters at the U.S. Forest Service.

The Town Board has also voted to have a controlled burn on Reservoir Hill. This controlled burn will create considerable smoke but the burn will be controlled at all times.

Controlled burning will get rid of the limbs and debris from the trimming, also some underbrush, and will substantially reduce fire danger on Reservoir Hill, the board said. In addition it will improve forage for wild animals and birds.

Recent experiments have demonstrated that not only is a controlled burn less expensive than any other method of clearing away slash, but that it is also more efficient. In early days in this area natural wildfires took care of such problems and where there were none, Indians and early day settlers burned the underbrush to make better grazing.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of

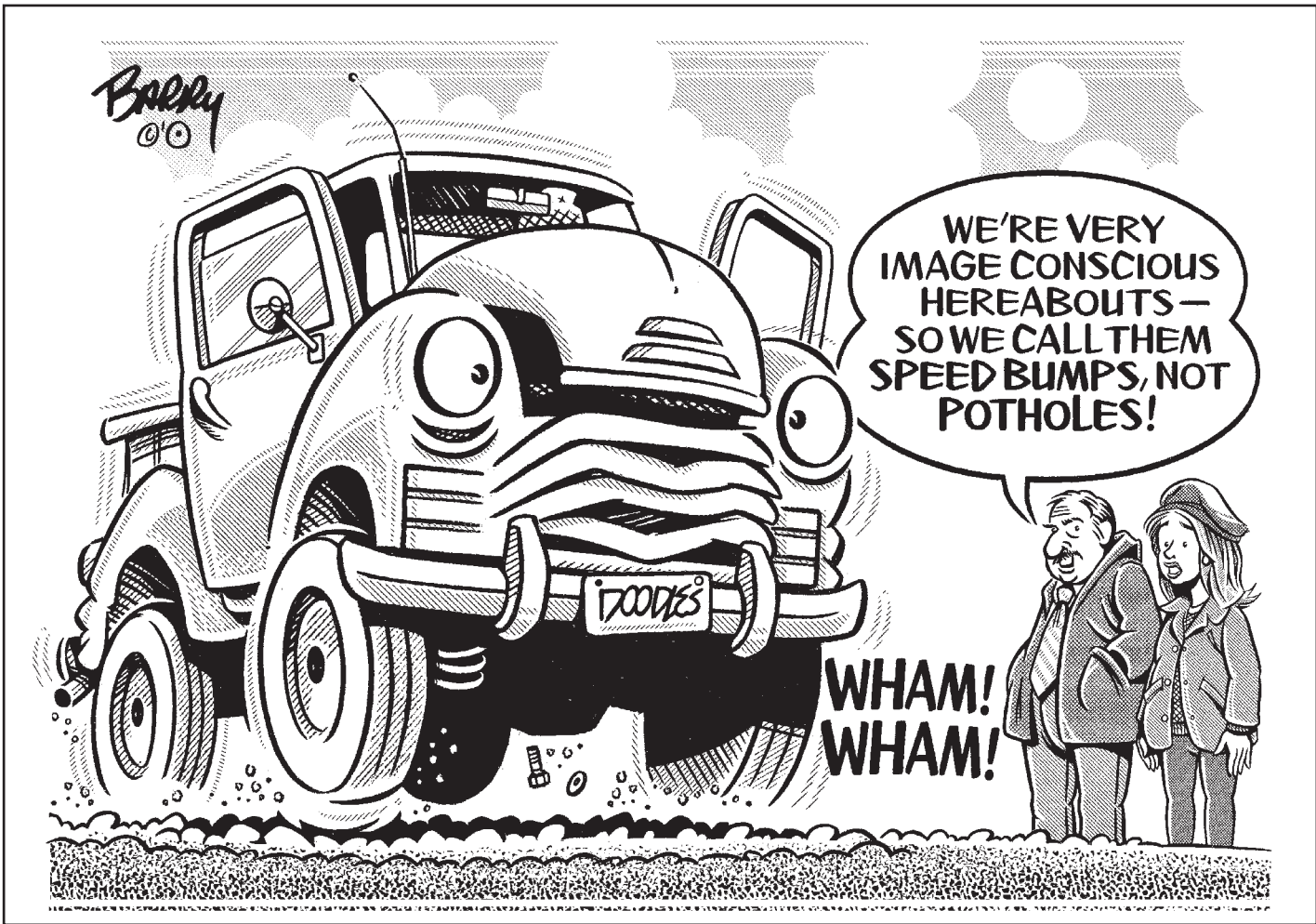
April 12, 2001

Another face lift is scheduled for the Lower Blanco River, thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Backers of the river restoration project anticipate spending about \$487,000 on the project. The total includes the EPA grant plus contributions, according to Jerry Curtis, a member of the San Juan Conservation District Board of Directors and a director for the Lower Blanco Property Owner's Association.

The basis for the restoration work is a diminished flow of water in the river caused by the San Juan-Chama Water Diversion Project. That project takes water from the Blanco and Navajo rivers in Colorado and pipes it under the Continental Divide into New Mexico's Chama River. Ultimately the diverted water is used in the central valley of the Rio Grande in New Mexico to satisfy a part of that state's entitlement under the Colorado River Compact.

Because of less water in the Blanco, river dynamics changed and water temperatures rose creating conditions not conducive to life for native fish and other biological components of the river system.



Support for James Lane

The f-word

No Kings

We will continue to exercise our First amendment right to speak out against this out of control regime. It's not only our right but our duty to de-

Support for Nicole Pitcher

Sandy Kobrock

Chriss Lammers

Community plan

■ See Letters A4



U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Work activity

- Crews made progress on the sidewalks in the 400 block. Sidewalk construction continues moving west in front of Pagosa Bar.
- Excavation continues in the 100 and 200 blocks.
- Water utility work continues 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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

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Letters

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



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■ **Continued from A3**
per year since 2001, but the Retail & Hospitality sector with almost 40% of all jobs still offers the lowest average wages” in often part-time jobs without benefits.

The Community Plan needs to place a renewed emphasis on broadening the economic base beyond tourists and retirees to attract and foster new businesses to the area and revitalize light-industries which create jobs that pay a living wage and offer childcare. This is not a new idea: the 2017 plan update pointed out, “In 2001, the Community Plan recommended that Archuleta County designate areas for industrial parks as an attempt to foster diversification of the economy and provide more high paying jobs for local residents. The intention was to attract new heavy commercial and light industrial businesses to Archuleta County, and to provide a location for such businesses in industrial parks. The Future Land Use Map designated the Cloman Industrial Park.”

Recently the county applied for a grant to supply three-phase power to Cloman. It only took 25 years, but better late than never. Unfortunately, out of 28 projects listed for the current cycle in the Archuleta Community Development Action Plan 2024-2026, not one directly addresses attracting new businesses to the area. For our future, that needs to change.

David Laufer

Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

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

With this transition, LPEA expects to deliver lower wholesale power costs, greater reliability, and increased local control for its members.

It's the increase in local control that has sparked my interest in and support for the transition. After serving two terms on our local school board, I appreciate how important it is to be able to operate independently with local control.

Local control means more accountability to our community rather than to invisible shareholders.

Local control means more freedom to explore sustainable, resilient, and low-cost energy systems better

sued to our region. Local control means investments in LPEA have a greater return for the residents of Archuleta County.

Nicole Pitcher has been a part of the multi-year effort by LPEA's board of directors to get this transition done. More recently she has led the board as president. I support her leadership and her hard work that are empowering LPEA and its members with more local control.

Please join me in voting for Nicole Pitcher as the District 1 representative for LPEA.

Brooks Lindner

SAVE America Act

Dear Editor:

0.0001%. Seems like an infinitesimally small percentage, doesn't it? After the 2016 election, the Brennan Center for Justice, which advocates for voting rights, surveyed local election officials in 42 jurisdictions with high immigrant populations and found just 30 cases of suspected noncitizens voting out of 23.5 million votes cast, or 0.0001%. A database maintained by the right-wing American Enterprise Institute shows just 85 cases involving allegations of noncitizen voting from 2002 to 2023, out of 2 BILLION votes cast. In bright red Utah, a review found not one instance of noncitizens among the 2.1 million registered voters – 0.0%.

Voting is the foundation of our democratic republic. For over a century, Federal legislation has sought to expand opportunities for citizens to vote, from the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the right to vote to the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act aiding disenfranchised minority voters.

But now we are confronting the GOP's so-called Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act or SAVE America Act. The bill requires individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering or reregistering to vote. This is the most egregious, partisan VOTER SUPPRESSION legislation ever considered in Congress. It would unduly burden millions of women who adopted their husbands' surnames upon marriage, along with the 190 million Americans who don't have an expensive passport and those who don't have ready access to an original birth certificate. Ironically, one of the bill's main proponents in the Senate is Mike Lee of Utah, the state with NO known noncitizen voters. This is a classic case of a solution in search of a problem.

The legislation will have ZERO

effect on free and fair elections. No, the real intent of the SAVE Act is clear, to stack the election deck in favor of Republicans. If you doubt the sinister motive behind the bill, just listen to Trump's comments on the bill. “It will guarantee the midterms,” Trump told GOP lawmakers. In a speech in Georgia, he said, “Republicans have to win this one. We'll never lose a race. For 50 years, we won't lose a race.” He reiterated this claim when discussing Democratic opposition, “They know if we get this, they probably won't win an election for 50 years, maybe longer” And here is a blatantly blasphemous statement directed to the Senate, “Don't worry about Easter, going home. In fact, make this one for Jesus, OK?” Really? Jesus would sanction election cheating?

Many MAGA Republicans wrongly believe that this is simply a voter ID bill. Although the bill does also require an ID to vote, that is only a minor provision, which most states have already implemented. No, this legislation could disqualify millions of voters, including Republicans who can't prove their citizenship. The SAVE Act has passed the House but faces an uncertain future in the Senate. If you do care about free and fair elections, you must oppose this bill. Our future depends on it!

John Porco

Simplifying health care

Dear Editor:

The recent discussion of healthcare in Colorado raised an important question: not just what kind of system the state should aim for, but what problems we are actually trying to solve.

Two stand out.

First, our healthcare system is extraordinarily complex. Patients, employers, and providers all navigate a maze of plans, rules, and billing structures that vary in small but important ways. Second, in many parts of the system, pricing power is concentrated, with limited competition and little transparency around costs.

Those two forces—complexity and concentrated pricing power—drive much of what makes healthcare expensive and difficult to navigate.

It may also be helpful to distinguish between a public option and single payer. A public option would introduce a state-run health insurance plan alongside others, while single payer would move to a single, unified payer system. That distinction matters. It's not about adding one

more plan—it's about how the entire system would work and be financed.

Large systems rarely improve when they are replaced all at once. More often, they improve when underlying problems are addressed step by step.

Colorado has already begun taking a meaningful first step with the Colorado Option. By requiring standardized plans and setting targets for premium reductions, the state has started to reduce unnecessary complexity and bring more discipline to pricing.

That matters. When plans are more consistent, the system becomes easier to understand and manage. When the state begins to influence pricing, it creates a foundation for further improvements.

The next challenge is to extend that progress. That could include strengthening price transparency, limiting excessive cost variation, and using the state's purchasing power to bring more consistency to how care is paid for across providers.

Over time, steps like these can simplify the system and reduce the effects of concentrated pricing power—without disrupting care for patients or destabilizing providers.

As I noted last week, stability in healthcare is essential for mountain communities like Pagosa Springs. When access is already limited, the system doesn't have much margin for disruption.

If Colorado is serious about long-term reform, the most important question may not be what the final system should look like, but how to make it simpler, more transparent, and more balanced over time.

That kind of progress is less dramatic than a single sweeping change. But it is far more likely to succeed.

John Repko

Support for James Lane

Dear Editor:

I worked with James Lane for more than a decade at Nuclear Filter Technology, where he played a leading role in developing automated drum venting and gas analysis equipment used in the cleanup of former federal defense-related sites. The solutions James helped develop became a cornerstone of our company's growth and helped position us to support the expanding clean nuclear energy sector.

What always stood out to me about James was not only his technical ability, but his creativity, curiosity, and steady judgment when facing deeply complex problems. Those qualities are rare on their own, and in James, they are well balanced.

His career later took him into even larger and more demanding challenges in the oil and gas industry, one of the most heavily regulated and competitive industries in the world. Through it all, James remained grounded in strong values and personal integrity. He never lost sight of the people affected by decisions being made, including the community, stakeholders, and families who depend on responsible leadership.

James's connection to southwest Colorado, Archuleta County, and La Plata County runs deep. I have also had the privilege of watching his children grow into thoughtful and grounded adults, which says a great deal about the kind of man he is.

James is grounded, trustworthy, and faithful. He would serve as an excellent Archuleta District 1 representative on the LPEA Board and a strong ambassador for the communities he serves.

Terry Wickland
Golden, Colo.



In Memory of your 75th Anniversary

Amadeo “Andy” Martínez and Evangeline “Eva” Espinoza-Martinez

Married April 2, 1951

It was just 10 years ago when you were with us and celebrating 65 years of marriage. Every night, mom would retire and pray by name, for everyone she could recall living or dead. And every day, dad would look for a way to help a family member, a neighbor, a friend or simply someone who needed a hand. They were the second couple married in the newly built Immaculate Heart of Mary church in 1951. Baptizing and confirming many children, they become Comadre and Compadre to many families. After 50 years of marriage, you were asked to be the Grand Marshals of the Spanish Fiesta parade in 2002. They were lifelong residents of Archuleta County, he from Trujillo and her father worked at the light plant as electricity was introduced to Pagosa. You are not here with us but your selfless values in helping our neighbors, are still with us. In our memories, forever.

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Chelsea Brooke Hill

Chelsea Brooke Hill, 44, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away at her home on Feb. 17, 2026. Born on Sept. 14, 1981, Chelsea was the beloved daughter of William Hill and Pamela Hill, and a cherished older sister to Jeremy Hill.

Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes as a 9-year-old girl, Chelsea faced life with resilience and determination from an early age. She met the challenges of her diagnosis with quiet strength and courage, never allowing it to limit her vibrant spirit or the fullness with which she lived her life.

She lived a life vibrant with talent, creativity and deep love for her family. She earned two bachelor's degrees while embracing the joys and challenges of motherhood with grace and determination. Her two children — River Johnson, born April 26, 2005, and Coral Johnson, born Sept. 8, 2006 — were the greatest joys of her life. She treasured every moment spent with them and felt most at peace when surrounded by her children.

A true artist from a young age, Chelsea's creativity knew no bounds. From childhood finger painting to the dresses she lovingly helped sew with her daughter, she left a beautiful trail of color and inspiration wherever she went. She expressed herself not only through her art, but also through the life she cultivated around her. She had a deep love for gardening, seeing the rainbow of colors paint her front yard. This was one of her favorite summer activities to do with her children every year. She also adored her dogs, who were constant companions and brought her daily joy and comfort. Chelsea will be remembered for her warmth, her artistic soul, her devotion to her

children and the beauty she brought into the lives of those who knew her. She will be missed by family and friends alike.

A celebration of her life will be held May 16, 2026, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park in downtown Pagosa Springs, Colo. Everyone who knew Chelsea is urged to attend and share with her family and friends. Please leave the family in your prayers to help them through this challenging time.

Brian Borge Jensen

Brian Borge Jensen, born in Bastrop, La., on Sept. 24, 1978, took his last breaths peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, after a short and extremely brave battle with cancer. He was surrounded by friends, family, music, laughter and love in his last few days.

Brian was a wonderful and loving husband, caring son, helpful son-in-law, kind brother-in-law, silly uncle to four nieces and two nephews, a cousin, a nephew, and friend to many. He lived a life of adventure, loved good food and enjoyed life to the fullest. He loved being out in creation, whether it was on a motorcycle, a snowmobile or a kayak, or camping and sitting around a fire, and he especially loved taking beautiful pictures of the night sky. He could fix anything and never gave up on figuring out how to get something done. He was known for his kindness, generosity, loyalty, sense of humor, an always helpful spirit and the ability to maintain close friendships, quite a few for 25+ years, proven by the many visitors with him in the hospital day and night.

Brian's greatest adventure began when he married Jeni Ardoin on Oct. 26, 2013, in Eunice, La. They shared

12 fun and happy years together. Brian leaves behind his wife and best friend, Jeni Jensen; his parents, Borge and Concha Jensen; and his beloved pets, Milla, Ranger, Ollie and Gus. We long to see him again when all is made new. (Revelation 21:4.) A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 2 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall, 35 Meadows Drive, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. All who knew him are welcome to attend, followed by a reception after.

Services

Leila (Lee) Constant

A graveside service and celebration of Leila (Lee) Constant's life will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Hilltop Cemetery in Pagosa Springs, Colo. All who knew and loved her are warmly invited to join the family in honoring her beautiful life and sharing cherished memories.

Gilbert Velasquez

Please join family and friends at Hilltop Cemetery on Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m. for the celebration of life of Gilbert Velasquez, who passed away on Jan. 21, 2026. Please meet at the American Legion location where the American flag is.

The Gilbert Velasquez family would like to thank the Variety Express band and everyone else who made donations to make this day a special day for our family.

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Education

School board briefed on high school schedule change for next year

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) on Wednesday, April 1, Pagosa Springs High School Principal Sean O'Donnell presented changes to the high school's schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. O'Donnell began by explaining why the high school feels a schedule change needs to be done, noting that the school is "always looking for ways to have better outcomes for kids." He mentioned that students have been taking four classes in the fall, and then four new classes in the spring, similar to a college schedule model. O'Donnell commented that he is unsure if that is the "ideal" model for the high school level, noting that, typically, students are engaged in core classes all year long. He mentioned that a "key driver" of deciding to implement a schedule change is that students need to be engaged with core content all year long. O'Donnell explained that with the current schedule it is possible that a student may take freshman math in their first fall semester, and then not take their next math course until spring of their sophomore semester. "That's a big gap," he said, explaining that having core content from September to May "eliminates that gap." Other issues have also come up

with PSAT and SAT testing that takes place in April, with some students taking courses in the fall and taking a break from the material, then testing, O'Donnell explained. O'Donnell then explained the scheduling committee chose to prioritize student outcomes, student supports, time and teacher benefit while considering other scheduling options. He explained that when looking at what other school districts around the country do, the three most common things found are having traditional seven-period days, alternating blocks or a hybrid schedule. "So, we wrestled with that as a committee," he said, explaining that when measuring the options against the priorities chosen by the committee, "ultimately the place we landed was an eight-period day." He noted the high school's schedule for next year will run from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with eight 45-minute periods. Friday's bell schedule will run from 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. with eight 35-minute periods. He then explained that "double-block" classes will be offered for certain courses like career and technical education (CTE) classes, and art classes that will run for 90 minutes. "There's not enough time to really get some great work done in 45 minutes," O'Donnell said, noting that building and auto CTE courses may

need more time. "Forty-five minutes does not give them enough time to do anything meaningful," he added. O'Donnell clarified that double-block classes are courses in which students can receive a full credit in a semester's amount of time. He explained that the high school will now also offer a number of elective courses as "half-credit" classes, but that "all of our core classes are gonna be year-long." O'Donnell also mentioned that graduation requirements won't change and that students will have the same opportunities they currently have with eight-period days over four years, "so there'll be no need to change graduation requirements." He then explained that core classes will have A and B portions, and that there will be "fidelity" at the end of the semester ensuring that each class is at the same point in case there are students who need a schedule change and end up with a different teacher the following semester. O'Donnell went on to mention that "there's been a want" to look at how the high school does its student eligibility, noting it has to follow the Colorado High School Activities Association's requirements and the school can identify its own requirements that may go "above and beyond" those. clayton@pagosasun.com

Middle school releases third-quarter honor roll

By Anjelica Gallegos
Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter. The following fifth-grade students made the honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Camden Ash, Logan Candelaria, Morgan Cole, Marshall Denham, Owen Fitzgerald, Harper Flanagan, Zosimos Gordon, Henley Heckman, Seton Hensle, Reed Hewitt, Kaleb Hudler, Shiloh Kossler, Addison Newsome, Everly Olliffe, Alexis Pack, Aspen Perez, Abigail Rohwer and Colton Wattier. The following fifth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Logan Bristow, Everly Campbell, Lane Maestas, Airdrie Massari and Alice Tuten. The following sixth-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Peyton Dele, Steele Forrest, Rafe Halterman, Juniper Hertzke, Lorretta Hinojosa, Beatrice Iverson, Xane Laursen, Lucy Lyons, Sadie Matyniak, Chloe Morley, Tanner Mote, Jaxen Nielsen, Jariah

Portnell, Sierra Rich, David Rivera, Eleanor Samu, Elise Tlachac and Sedona Zissman. The following sixth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Felix Crandall, LeAnna Miller, Jeri Moeller, Penelope Peck, Darla Renner, David Smith and Kimberly Taylor. The following seventh-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Jacob Adams, Kadence Albue, Emmary Brewer, Taylor Cole, Mayley Evans, Farrah Foutz, Jose Granados-Gurule, Savannah Graves, Mia Gutierrez-Calvillo, Talon Hall, Anya Hamby, Molly Hart, Houston Hoerth, Russell Hudler, Cora Jackson, Tenley Keegan, Jackson Kleckner, Kainoa Landry, Felix Long, Sebastian Lujan-Parra, Dylan Luna, Christopher Martinez, Ashlynn Mathis, Sage Merrill-Exton, Jose Moreno-Echavarria, Gabriella Pahe, Koda Rice, Lieve Riley, Samuel Sanchez, Tyson Sewell, Aethancoal Simineo, Kaiden Srery, Hazel West and Nova Wilson. The following seventh-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Brooke Anderson, Aariah

Archuleta, Grant Bliss, Kiley Braun, Wyatt Buck, Dekklyn Fiorenza, Chauncey Forster, Merick Halterman, Colle Looper, Chase Osborn, Kiara Patel, Delilah Powell, Rystle Ross, Damien Turk, Lillyan Vega and Maheyla Witting. The following eighth-grade students made honor roll with 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Camellia Bellina, Adam Candelaria, Callie Carothers, Shiloh Degelman, Gavino Dozal-Nevarez, Adelaide Graham, Miles Harris, Kadence Inez, Cooper Laner, Davyn Leiker, Scarlett Lovier, Mia Lucero, Ari Martinez, Ty Mitchell, Pia Papanai, Eloise Ridley, Karlie Rose, Neitzey Shepherd, Trent Taylor, Colten Ulibarri and Jackson Werby. The following eighth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Elias Becker Sweden, Bay-Lee Bishop, Breland Bridges, Carlie Bridges, Kyleah Coss, Miles Dempster, Olivia Diffey, Christian Henson, Avitt Lee-Shaw, Eduardo Marinelar-ena, Oliver Mendoza, Finley Renner, Jaxon Sherman, Asher Smith, Livia Souza, Tuff Terrazas, Micah Tyler, Michael Wells and Tevye Zissman.

Applications open for Healthy Archuleta youth internship

Healthy Archuleta

On a warm summer morning in Pagosa Springs, a group of local teens gathers at the farmers market. Some are helping set up tables piled high with fresh produce. Others are talking with community members, sharing what they've learned about healthy food and local growing. A few are behind the scenes, capturing photos and stories to share. They're not just volunteers; they're youth interns with Healthy Archuleta, and they're helping shape the future of their community. This summer, that opportunity is opening again. Healthy Archuleta is now inviting youth ages 16 and older to apply for its paid Youth Internship Program, an eight-week experience that goes far beyond a typical summer job. Instead of clocking in and out, interns step into real community work, learning, contributing and discovering how their voices and ideas matter. For many participants, the experience starts with something simple, helping at a garden or event, but

quickly grows into something bigger. Interns find themselves asking questions: "Where does our food come from?" "Who has access to healthy options?" "How can we make our community stronger?" Along the way, they gain hands-on experience supporting local efforts, from supporting the development of the community food hub to community gardens, food distribution and outreach projects. Some help organize events. Others design social media campaigns. Many work together to bring new ideas forward. But just as important as what they do is what they gain. Interns build skills in communication, teamwork and leadership. They learn how to speak up, collaborate and take initiative. They begin to see how local systems, like food and health, connect to everyday life in Archuleta County. And, perhaps most importantly, they begin to see themselves as part of the solution.

Healthy Archuleta created the program with a simple belief: Young people are not just the future, they are leaders right now. By investing in youth, the organization is helping build a stronger, more connected and more resilient community. For past interns, the experience often leaves a lasting impact. It's not just about the work they do during those eight weeks; it's about the confidence they carry forward, the relationships they build and the sense of belonging they gain. This summer, a new group of youth will have the chance to step into that experience. If you're someone who wants to learn new skills, meet new people and make a difference in your community, this could be your moment. Apply for the Youth Internship Program at <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/youth-engagement.html#internship>. Positions are limited, and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Sometimes, all it takes is one summer to see your community, and your place in it, differently.

School district launches 'Facilities Journey' webpage

Archuleta School District

Archuleta School District has launched a new "Facilities Journey" webpage designed to help families, staff and community members better understand how the district arrived at the proposed plan for a new pre-kindergarten through eighth grade (PK-8) school and what comes next. The new webpage features an interactive map that walks users through each step of the district's facilities

planning process, from building assessments and community input to site selection and funding pathways. The tool provides easy access to key data, reports, and milestones that shaped the district's decision-making process. "This webpage was created to help make information about the process accessible, transparent and easy to explore," said Superintendent Rick Holt. "We wanted something that would allow our community to follow

the journey step-by-step." The new webpage provides a centralized location for community members to review the process, explore supporting materials and stay informed as the district moves forward. Community members are encouraged to explore the interactive map and learn more about the facilities journey at www.mypagosaschools.com/apps/pages/ASDFacilities-Journey.

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Outdoors

Colorado Parks and Wildlife boat ramps opening across region, Navajo first to open

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

State parks across the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Southwest Region are ready to welcome motorized boaters back to reservoirs.

At many of the region’s parks, drought conditions and a historically low snowpack mean the boating season will be better early in the spring and summer.

Those wanting to maximize the season shouldn’t wait until the Fourth of July to get the boat out this year.

Water levels often determine boat ramp opening and closing dates for state parks.

While water levels may rapidly decrease at some of the Southwest Region’s parks, Sweitzer Lake remains full year-round, while Navajo and Ridgway provide much larger reservoirs with more open water to enjoy for boating despite lower levels.

Navajo State Park became the first in the Southwest Region to open its boat ramp in 2026. The boat ramp opened March 13 and is open on weekends only, Friday through Sun-

day, through April 12. Beginning April 14, the ramp will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“Our water level will be low this year on the Colorado side,” said Navajo State Park Manager Jon Meats. “We did benefit from heavy fall rain in 2025, so our visitors on the Colorado side of the reservoir will still enjoy a quality experience when setting out on the water. But that fall flooding also introduced more debris, so we need all boaters to be aware and exercise extra caution as water levels fluctuate.”

Cold water danger

While spring temperatures recently soared as high as 80 degrees at some Southwest Region parks, CPW reminds the public that water temperatures remain as cold as 40 degrees and can present immediate danger, especially to those not wearing a proper personal flotation device. Wearing a life jacket will keep your head above water and support your body should your swimming ability fail or you become unconscious.

“It can be deceiving when we start

getting warm-weather days and it’s nice outside, but everyone recreating on the water should be aware the water is still really cold and remains cold until at least mid-summer here in Colorado,” said Sweitzer Lake Park Manager Scott Rist. “Having the proper gear and a life jacket on is imperative for anyone recreating on the water.”

Windy conditions can exacerbate danger on the water for paddlers. Getting blown off course can happen quickly, and returning to shore can be difficult going into a headwind or when facing waves. That can lead to paddlers expending a lot of energy to navigate and maintain balance.

When a paddler loses balance and goes into the water, it can also be easy to become separated from a kayak or paddleboard.

“There are several cellphone apps that will tell you hourly wind predictions,” Rist said. “Knowing when conditions are going to change can be the difference between life and death. The user has a responsibility to know before you go.”

All boats are required to have one

Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person on board. All persons under the age of 13 years old must have them on at all times when on a watercraft. Life jackets can save lives when they fit properly and are worn when recreating on the water.

Boaters are also encouraged to take a boating safety course with CPW to learn navigation safety and what to do in case of an accident.

Aquatic nuisance species inspections

Before launching in Colorado waters, boaters will need to ensure their boat is registered, purchase an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) stamp and follow all ANS inspection requirements.

“We always want to remind everyone to make sure their boats are clean, drained and dry,” said Ridgway State Park Senior Ranger Derek MacLachlan.

Visitors are encouraged to check each state park’s page on the CPW website for the latest updates on ramp hours and conditions throughout the season.

Only hand-launched or human powered vessels are allowed outside of ANS inspection hours.

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The hummers are here: Hummingbirds arriving early

By John Porco

Weminuche Audubon Society

Hummingbirds are arriving in Pagosa Country early because of record warm days, providing a flash of color in our gloomy spring days.

So, it is important to get your feeders out now.

Here are a few guidelines, courtesy of the Weminuche Audubon Society.

Feeders

There are many good feeders on the market. The most important criteria when selecting a feeder are that it be easy to clean and easy to fill.

In order to be a responsible host, you must keep your feeder very clean and full of fresh nectar. Feeders should come apart so that all parts are open and available for cleaning.

Red attracts the hummingbirds. If your feeder isn’t red, tie a red ribbon on it or use red tape.

Hummingbirds are very territorial. If you put out more than one feeder, try to put the two feeders in locations out of sight of each other.

Feeders attract bears, so keep your feeders out of bear range.

Food

In nature, hummingbirds eat

flower nectar for energy and bugs for protein.

Here is the recipe for making hummingbird nectar:

Mix 4 parts water to 1 part white table sugar in a pot. For example, use 1 cup sugar to 4 cups water. Do not use honey, Jell-O, or powdered or brown sugar. Especially, do not use artificial sweeteners, as putting hummingbirds on a diet will kill them. They burn prodigious amounts of energy for their size and need real sugar. Do not use red food coloring or buy premade red nectar. It is unnecessary and can harm the little hummers even in low concentrations because they eat so much nectar. Do not add anything else — just sugar and water.

Bring to a boil then remove from the heat. Stir it while it is heating until all of the sugar is dissolved. Don’t boil it for long because that will change the ratio as water is boiled off. The reason for boiling is not to make syrup, but to drive out the chlorine in the water and to kill mold and yeast spores that might be in the sugar. This will help make the nectar last longer both in the feeder and in your refrigerator. Cover and allow to cool before using or pouring

into a storage bottle.

We recommend making a large batch of nectar and storing it in the refrigerator.

Cleanliness

Sugar water is a very rich growth medium.

Yeasts like to eat it, causing fermentation, which can harm hummingbirds. Mold and bacteria grow in it and can also harm the birds.

If you see black spots inside your feeder, this is mold and you will need to scrub it out with a good bottle brush.

You must change the nectar frequently to avoid contaminants. In cooler temperatures, we recommend changing it every seven days. If the temperatures are getting above 70 degrees, clean every three days.

Clean the feeder thoroughly using a mild detergent. You can use a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water). In any case, rinse the bottle thoroughly. Some pet stores sell specialized brushes made to fit into feeder bottles and the holes in the base.

So, get your feeders out and enjoy the antics of these wonderful and colorful little birds through the fall.

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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.



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

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

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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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Weminuche Audubon Society outlines volunteer projects

By Jean Zirnhehl

Weminuche Audubon Society

Weminuche Audubon Society members participate in a number of projects whose aim is to promote the conservation and appreciation of birds and wildlife habitat.

Our April 15 meeting will highlight two of these citizen science projects where we focus our efforts in spring and early summer. We invite you to get outdoors and have some fun with us.

Starting in mid-May, we will be starting our mornings in the national forest, where we document the types and numbers of birds in designated plots that have undergone different types of treatments for fire prevention. It is a study whose aim is to answer the question of how bird populations respond to these management practices.

Detailed reports on this Bird Community Monitoring effort may be found under the Projects tab on our website, weminucheadubon.org.

This year will mark the eighth season of this study primarily conducted on Jackson Mountain and Fawn Gulch. Find out at our meeting what we have learned and how you can join a team for this fun study with a time commitment of only three morning hours once per week for six weeks. There is no better way to start your day than listening to birdsong while you watch for birds.

Our second spring project asks volunteers to relax by a river and record nesting activities of the amazing American dipper.

We have been observing nests on the San Juan River in town, the West Fork and East Fork stretches, the lower Blanco River and the Piedra River to

document nesting success.

This year we plan to add observations related to water quality and food availability to further the understanding of how these birds react to environmental stressors like last fall’s flooding. No special birding skills are required to participate in this study.

If gardening interests you, we can always use help in maintaining our native plant garden in Centennial Park.

You can learn naturalist skills and join the enthusiastic guides of Pagosa Wetland Partners in conducting summer tours of the Riverwalk wetlands area.

Come fall there are opportunities to volunteer in outdoor education for area youth.

Email us at weminuche.audubon@gmail.com for more information on any of these opportunities.

The public is invited to join us at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street on Wednesday, April 15. We will meet at 6 p.m. to socialize with appetizers and snacks before the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m..

Please enter through the side door off the parking lot or let us know to open the main door for handicap entrance.

In appreciation for our meeting space, we welcome donations of nonperishable food for the church food bank.

For those unable to attend in person, a link to join the meeting on Zoom will be posted on our website, www.weminucheadubon.org, prior to the meeting.

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Commissioners approve funding request for utility connections for housing project

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, April 7, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved a funding request in the amount of \$40,000 for the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) to be used for utility connection costs for its workforce housing project.

Earlier that day, the BoCC heard from PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke, who explained that the organization is now in phase 2A of its workforce housing project, with five homes currently under construction in the Trails neighborhood.

Lashbrooke explained that “due to the delay” in the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) utility fee waiver request that started in September 2025 and the PSCDC only recently received an answer on, “we have not been able to draw down on our \$675,000 grant due to the fact that we couldn’t guarantee that we would be able to build to the 100 percent [area median income] which that funding is required to do.”

Lashbrooke then mentioned that the Pagosa Springs Town Council will be considering a request for \$50,000 to go toward covering the utility connection costs for the project at its regular meeting scheduled for today, April 9, at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

Lashbrooke also indicated that the total cost owed to PAWSD for the project’s utility connection fees is \$150,000.

She noted that the PSCDC has also applied for a grant through the Colo-

rado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) for \$40,000 that could go toward covering the utility connection fees.

Additionally, Lashbrooke noted that the PSCDC has budgeted \$15,000 for the project, as well.

Lashbrooke explained that the request to the county is for funds in its workforce housing fund that was established by the BoCC in March 2021.

She also explained that, moving forward, the PSCDC has decided to switch its product from stick-built homes to modular homes.

“I want you to know that the [PSCDC] board will review a budget for our next five homes; we will move to a modular product,” Lashbrooke said.

She mentioned that by moving to modular home products, that will not provide a return on community investment “like we had planned to do,” with the modular home builders being located outside the county.

“With the move to the modular build we can actually afford to pay those fees and still keep the houses affordable,” Lashbrooke said.

Lashbrooke also noted that this request to the BoCC would be a onetime ask.

Commissioner John Ranson offered some comments on the matter, mentioning he has already expressed his displeasure with PAWSD, stating, “that they don’t participate” in community projects.

“I’m all for the county helping where we can,” Ranson said, adding that it’s too bad there is a group that “offsets all of this.”

Ranson also expressed gratitude to the town for considering a similar request.

Commissioner Veronica Medina expressed concerns about the PSCDC’s housing project as a whole, noting that it’s been difficult to find buyers for the first 10 homes built.

“I’m really concerned about the product overall,” she said, asking if the community is going to be in a similar situation in phase 2 of the project with facing difficulty getting the homes sold, “because of that price point.”

Medina also asked about the PSCDC homes being all-electric and if that has any influence on the cost of building the homes.

Lashbrooke explained that the decision to build the homes with all-electric appliances was due to the fact that there is more grant money available if all-electric, high-efficiency appliances are used.

“We feel like we’re delivering a more sustainable product,” Lashbrooke said, explaining that homeowners could change out appliances to be able to use propane or natural gas if they so chose.

Medina then asked County Manager Longinos Gonzalez about the amount of money in the county’s workforce housing fund, to which Gonzalez indicated that there was more than \$40,000 in that fund.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that it is “incredibly generous” of the town and CHFA to offer up funds in order to help cover the cost of the project, noting that the \$40,000 request to the county is less than what he anticipated it might have been.

Brown also noted that the county’s workforce housing fund had about \$56,000 in it.

Commissioners approve contract with 0Wire to provide services at fairgrounds, Extension office

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 7, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved a contract with 0Wire Communications “for the installation and operation of free Wi-Fi service for the county and associated entities at the CSU extension office and county fairgrounds, as well as free public Wi-Fi access at those locations,” the meeting agenda states.

The item was approved as part of the meeting’s consent agenda.

During a work session held earlier that day, Information Technology Coordinator Gabe Cersonsky and Fair Coordinator Tonya Steadmon briefed the BoCC on the contract.

Cersonsky explained that 0Wire “is a company from New York that wants to come here and put in some hardware and infrastructure on the county property.”

According to the land use management agreement included with the meeting’s agenda, 0Wire will not pay the county any monthly rental fee for using its space.

The agreement also explains that advertising revenue generated from digital displays and related advertising assets installed by 0Wire at the county’s

properties will be split, with 70 percent going to 0Wire and 30 percent going to the county.

“Any money they take in for advertisement, they take 70 percent and we take 30 percent. So, it will actually bring in income,” Cersonsky said.

He explained that it will allow the county to put out free advertising at the county fairgrounds for its own events.

Cersonsky also explained that secondary public Wi-Fi will be available at the fairgrounds, along with improved security lighting being installed.

Steadmon then mentioned 0Wire’s infrastructure will benefit the area as a whole going east on U.S. 160 and south down U.S. 84, “which will solve a lot of the issues that we have on the grounds when we have events.”

Commissioner John Ranson asked if the infrastructure will improve cell-phone coverage in the area, to which Steadmon indicated that it will.

In response to a question from Commissioner Warren Brown, Cersonsky explained that this is not an exclusive contract and that if another provider approaches the county wanting to install its own equipment, they would be able to do so.

Cersonsky explained that 0Wire only has full rights to access their own hardware, adding, “Otherwise, we have

full control.”

Also included with the meeting’s agenda is a master services agreement, equipment access agreement, a smart cities addendum and a location map.

According to the smart city addendum, 0Wire “shall provide certain Smart City services,” which may include: security cameras for public safety, cameras for traffic control and other forms of advanced monitoring, intelligent parking meters, environmental sensors for applications, digital signage and public Wi-Fi services.

According to the equipment access agreement, 0Wire will provide the following services to the county at no cost: free public Wi-Fi to the county fairgrounds, security camera services for the fairgrounds and Colorado State University (or CSU) Extension office, lighting services for the fairgrounds, and advertising services permitting the county and the Western Heritage Event Center to advertise their own events at no cost.

According to the master services agreement, the initial term for services will be for a period of 12 months, followed by an automatic 12-month renewal unless either party notifies the other 30 days prior to the expiration of the current agreement term.

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He then spoke about the limitations put in place under Proposition 123 about who could qualify for a home.

“Unfortunately, the challenge of selling the houses comes with Proposition 123 legislation that was put out that did not have any flexibility whatsoever,” he said, noting that some applicants were denied due to making \$200 too much annually.

Brown also noted that he is all in support of providing the funds to the PSCDC because it is a “have-to moment.”

During the regular meeting, Ranson commented that the request to the county, the town and the CHFA grant from the PSCDC “is because PAWSD isn’t willing to do their fees.”

Ranson then motioned to approve the funding request, which was seconded by Medina and unanimously approved.

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Season

■ Continued from front

Pitcher also noted that the ski area saw more international visitors from Mexico than ever before.

“It was a good year,” she said.

She highlighted the fact the ski area was open for 135 days this season, compared to some seasons when it is able to operate more than 160 days.

“We had some lucky snowfalls,” she added, specifically noting the 59-inch storm that occurred the week after Presidents Day.

“That was really great,” she said, noting that the storm brought skiers and boarders down from the Front Range, “cause no one saw that kind of snow in Colorado this winter.”

The ski area was also able to end the season on a positive note with the last storm that “kind of saved our bacon,” Pitcher said.

The ski area was able to reopen 100 percent of its terrain following that storm, with heavy, wet snow filling in terrain, followed by cooler temperatures.

According to Pitcher, the ski area was able to open 100 percent of its terrain for 108 days this season, from Dec. 6, 2025, to March 20, and then again from April 2-5.

As the ski area gears up for a busy summer of logging operations and regular maintenance, a new 100,000 gallon water tank is planned to be installed to help increase snow-making operations throughout the mountain, Pitcher explained.

She also noted that logging operations in the Waterfall and Alberta Peak areas of the mountain will take place to hopefully allow skiers and boarders to still “make something out of it” even on low-snow years.

Plans to add a new groomed run off of the Alberta chairlift are in the works, as Pitcher explained the ski area is considering turning the Ab-racadabra trail into a groomed run.

Pitcher also mentioned Wolf Creek Ski Area and other ski areas across the state had some hard times this season, “but I think we fared really well” with being able to open lodges and terrain throughout the whole season.

Forecast

Although Wolf Creek Ski Area has closed for the season, chances of snow for the area are expected this weekend and into early next week, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

The high for today, April 8, is forecast at 48 degrees with a slight chance of showers between 2 and 5 p.m. The low is forecast to be 33 degrees with partly cloudy skies at night.

There is a 40 percent chance of snow showers after noon on Friday, April 9, with a high forecast of 45 degrees. Snow showers mixed with rain are expected Friday night with a low near 34 degrees and new snow accumulation of 1 inch possible.

For Saturday, April 11, the high is

forecast to be 37 degrees with a 90 percent chance of snow showers. The chance for snow showers will decrease to 60 percent in the evening with a low forecast of 27 degrees, along with wind gusts as high as 30 mph.

The chance of snow showers and breezy weather will continue on Sunday, April 12, with a high forecast of 35 degrees and wind gusts as high as 40 mph. There is a 40 percent chance of snow showers. The low is forecast to be 25 degrees.

Slightly warmer temperatures and rain showers are expected in the Pagosa Springs area over the weekend, with a high of 70 degrees and sunny skies forecast for today, April 9. The low is forecast at 33 degrees with partly cloudy skies in the evening.

For Friday, April 10, there is a 20 percent chance of rain showers after noon with a high of 70 degrees forecast, increasing to a 50 percent chance of rain in the evening and a low of 36 degrees.

Rain showers are most likely to occur on Saturday, April 11, with a high of 61 degrees and a 90 percent chance of rain showers forecast. The low is forecast at 29 degrees with a slight chance of showers in the evening.

For Sunday, April 12, the high is forecast to be 59 degrees with a chance of showers and possible thunderstorms after noon. The low is forecast at 28 degrees with a slight chance of rain showers at night.

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Lynx

■ Continued from front

back. Instead, the response was a resounding commitment to push beyond the original 10-year study commitment.

“The physical effort required is daunting, but it’s always rewarding,” said District Wildlife Manager (DWM) Nate Martinez of Pagosa Springs. “In nearly every trip to the high country in the spring when retrieving these cameras, I find that I’m certainly the first human to access any of the trails that year. Long, steep hiking trips — one of mine is an 18-mile up-and-back hike — send your demeanor on a rollercoaster ride; moments of appreciation for the awe-inspiring beauty and solitude, moments of vulnerability realizing if you get into a bind that there’s no one else around, moments of exhaustion and frustration. I often find myself struggling to motivate myself for the longest trips, but once they’re done, I feel so accomplished and empowered.”

Each year, CPW combs through as many as 500,000 images from trail cameras placed across 35 survey units across southwest Colorado, primarily in the southern San Juan Mountains. The goal is to monitor the proportion of habitat in the San Juans that is being used or “occupied” by lynx each year and to track that metric over time.

Images are paired with data gathered from track surveys and eDNA collection, DNA extracted from skin cells left by footprints in the snow. All together, the information has illuminated the lives of a species that spends its existence in the shadows.

“It’s so hard to count these things and actually estimate abundance,” Ivan said. “But tracking this year over year, we can estimate occupancy relatively easily, and we assume that occupancy is an adequate surrogate for abundance at some level.”

Ivan started with CPW in 2010, and his first project was to develop a lynx monitoring program. By 2014, it was fully implemented.

The results have guided the state wildlife agency in its management of the federally threatened species. It has also set an example for how species such as Canada lynx are monitored by the forest carnivore subcommittee within the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. That group monitors not only lynx, but also fishers, martens, montane foxes and wolverines across the western U.S.

“I don’t want to say it’s perfect, but we’ve gotten decent at this and made something that works,” he said. “Colorado was sort of the first state to have a large-scale, camera-based occupancy monitoring program for any of those species. That idea has become the standard approach for most of those other species. It’s pretty cool to see something you developed get picked up by others and to see it be useful in other places.”

The data collected has led to the publication of research papers documenting breakthroughs in our understanding of the lynx population. Each DWM involved in the project has come away with valuable lessons of their own, whether it’s about lynx, any of the other 960 wildlife species managed by CPW or even about themselves.

For Lake City’s Lucas Martin, the project gets to the core of what being a wildlife manager is all about.

“I feel really fortunate to have started my career working a lot with the lynx reintroduction,” he said. “They are one of the most unique animals, and it’s a lot of fun to learn about them, to see them up close and track them. They epitomize our vision of wild and reclusive wilderness.”

‘Pie-in-the-sky’ idea

Lynx are native to Colorado and could be found until the 1900s. Most high-elevation forested areas still had lynx populations in the 1800s. But, by 1930, the species had become rare. By 1970, the population had been extirpated as the lasting effects of unregulated trapping, poisoning and local habitat loss contributed to the species’ decline and eventual disappearance.

It didn’t take long for leaders at Colorado Division of Wildlife (now CPW) to devise a plan to bring the species back.

“There are lots of great stories on the whole origin, but as the story goes, there is a famous rafting trip that happened down some unnamed river in Colorado between a bunch of biologists and folks higher up in the agency,” Ivan said. “And as the days went on and they spent nights around the campfire trading stories and talking about life, they decided, man, wouldn’t it be great to do something big and bold and consequential, not only for wildlife conservation in the state but for this forest carnivore species that is iconic, that was native to

the state, that always used to be here but was extirpated because of, as far as we could tell, human-related activities.

“It went from a pie-in-the-sky idea to something that’s like, ‘Hey, we can do this. Or, we can at least try to do this.’”

By the 1990s, CPW was ready to embark on an effort to contract trappers in Alaska and Canada to bring lynx back to Colorado.

The first 96 were reintroduced between 1999 and 2000. These initial translocations were “hard” releases and weren’t as successful as CPW would have liked. Beginning in 2003, CPW switched to a soft release strategy, where translocated individuals were first held for monitoring at CPW’s Frisco Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center outside Del Norte before they were released near Creede in the southern San Juans.

In total, CPW released more than 200 lynx in the San Juans during the seven-year reintroduction phase.

‘Scaled-up house cat’

With the newly reintroduced lynx fitted with radio collars, CPW staff conducted initial monitoring efforts from airplanes and on foot. Biologists and wildlife managers searched the snow for tracks and scat, and traplines were set to capture animals with aging or malfunctioning collars.

“Those first few years when they had us collecting scat, those lynx would take us into the gnarliest, most horrible places in the dark timber,” Martin said. “It was so arduous, and a lot of times they’d take ya into super-dangerous avalanche country. Places you just couldn’t go or get into because of snow conditions, but they are custom built for deep snow with their giant feet. That deep snow is a sanctuary exclusive for the lynx to hunt.”

As kittens were born and fewer lynx could be tracked through collar data, a new method was needed to keep tabs on the small population.

“We knew most of the lynx still lived in the southern San Juans, and that was the logical subpopulation to monitor,” Ivan said. “We decided to divide that world up into survey cells the size of a lynx’s home range and do it every year for 10 years.”

Each of the survey cells are 75 square kilometers (46 miles). DWMs, biologists and U.S. Forest Service partners survey a sample of 50 of these cells each winter, either via snow tracking or setting multiple cameras in each, while also setting visual lures that would draw a lynx within sight of the cameras.

Visual lures included items that would typically attract even a house cat. Visual lures draw in a lynx closer to a tree where a scent lure was placed. Scent lures consisted of beaver castor and, of course, catnip oil.

“It’s just a house cat scaled up a few hundred times. That’s all it is,” joked Ivan. “You place a scent lure in a tree, and you have a camera on another tree focused right at that. Just out of sight of the camera on the other side, you have feathers hanging on fishing swivels so they spin real nice and easily in the wind. Farther beyond that, you’ve got CDs on swivels. When the CD spins out in the open and flashes, you can draw cats in from a distance across the valley.”

To set lures and cameras, CPW staff trek into areas far off the beaten path where there is seldom human presence. The terrain can be grueling for even the most fit.

Recently retired Assistant Area Wildlife Manager Steve McClung of Durango never shied away from some of the tougher camera sets. Not only did it teach him about the land in his district, it kept him fit for running ultramarathons in the mountains.

“This project puts your boots on the ground in places you would normally never go,” he said. “You’re out exploring and finding wallows and benches and areas where these animals are going to be. You never knew what you were going to see out there.

“Sometimes when you’re forced to get out and get on foot for the job, it opens your eyes a bit. That’s what I love about it. It’s fun to look

at those empty spaces on the map and know that lynx are living there unencumbered by roads or trails. These are places where wildlife have the opportunity to just be wildlife and not constantly have to worry about people bumping them, interrupting and disturbing them and diminishing the effectiveness of their habitat.”

Some wildlife managers have set cameras all 10 years of the project but never had a lynx appear on camera. One of those is Martinez, who logs roughly 80 miles a year hiking for the project.

He said he has lost 40 pounds since moving to his Pagosa Springs district hiking in the San Juans.

Still, Martinez has found value in every outing.

“Those earliest and latest trips, linked with reviewing the camera photos annually, are helpful in gauging annual migration times, mating seasons and birthing seasons,” he said. “I’ve certainly noted an exciting increase in moose numbers over the course of the project. Unfortunately, maybe I’ve captured every other critter you could think of, but never a lynx. But I’ve had unbelievable wildlife encounters and have built character all along the way.”

The lessons learned

Aside from combing through a half million photos a year and snowmobiling nearly 500 miles each winter looking for tracks and scat, Ivan recently paired with the U.S. Forest Service and University of Wyoming to publish new research findings.

Highlighted was a refined understanding of how much good lynx habitat exists in the state, which is substantially less than had been mapped in previous efforts. Also, protected lands are important, as 62 percent of likely lynx habitat overlaps with areas such as wilderness zones and national parks. It also identified wildfire as the greatest threat to lynx habitat, as fire would destroy the forest understory that lynx rely on for shelter and hunting snowshoe hares, which make up 70 percent of their diet (with another 28 percent consisting of red squirrels).

Conversely, research showed that beetle kill’s impact on forest health has not had a negative impact on lynx. That revelation was not a surprise to many of the wildlife managers who have been involved in monitoring lynx while simultaneously watching beetle kill spread in southwest Colorado.

“When the beetle kill occurred here, the hare populations went through the roof,” Martin said of Lake City. “It got difficult to trap lynx when we needed to because there was so much food out there the trap was no longer attractive. When we’d have beaver or deer in a live trap, for years the lynx would hit it within a day or two. After the beetle kill, there was such a plethora of food out there, lynx had lost the attractant to bait. Lynx are just so impressive out there where you never see them, living in this beetle kill eating hares and squirrels.”

‘Interference competition?’

While the camera sets are intended to detect the presence of lynx, they have also revealed how their population correlates with the presence of other species.

For example, when an abundance of bobcats appear on a camera, that generally correlates with fewer photos of lynx, Ivan explained. The same relationship has been true with foxes.

“Bobcats and lynx, they’re very similar species,” Ivan said. “They’re in the same genus, they’re very similar in size, they eat kind of broadly similar things — although bobcats have a much broader diet — but I think the concern there is what we term ‘interference competition.’ The personality of a bobcat is just totally different from a lynx. They’re much more aggressive. And so what we tend to see is when bobcats move up into an area and establish a territory, it isn’t very long before whatever lynx were there just sort of move off, then disappear. It’s sort of a direct-displacement thing with bobcats.

“We noticed a similar pattern with montane foxes up high. And that may be more of a food competition thing because we get lots of photos, a surprising number of photos, of red foxes running by the camera with a snowshoe hare in their mouth. For us to get several photos like that every winter indicates to me that they’re taking a fair number of hares. And maybe that’s the mechanism there for why lynx occupancy tends to decline when that species tends to increase its use.”

Ivan explained there have also been a few positive associations for lynx with other species. One includes coyotes.

“That could be because coyotes are suppressing these other species,” he said. “You have more coyotes, you have less foxes.”

A deeper dive into the co-occurrence of these species with lynx, based on the camera data collected over the 10-years of monitoring, is currently underway with a Ph.D. student at CSU.

A new way

The last decade has revealed much to wildlife researchers, but CPW continues to adapt when new techniques are presented.

During the 2025-2026 winter, a new camera-trapping method was deployed. Ivan has followed the work of Dr. Daniel Thornton, a professor at Washington State University Pullman, and his graduate students, who have independently monitored lynx in Washington and northern Montana.

Thornton has had success capturing more lynx photos using “passive” sets that do not rely on visual and scent lures. Instead, the protocol calls for doubling the number of cameras deployed in each unit, but focus is given to common paths

■ See Lynx A9

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Parks

■ Continued from front

dresses listed as X Hot Springs Blvd. and X County Road 119.

At a previous meeting, Recreation Supervisor Amanda Gadowski pitched the idea of the park's expansion as an "opportunity to conserve Reservoir Hill" and to protect "a community treasure for future generations."

Council member Brooks Lindner, who serves on a committee with Gadowski to find a way to acquire the land, described the chance as "a once in a lifetime opportunity ... that will benefit generations to come."

At a previous meeting, Lindner updated the council that the town applied for the Forest Legacy Program, a conservation program administered by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with state agencies to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases.

He said that the town should know its status within the program by May, and that only the 300 forested acres at the top of the hill would be pursued through the Forest Legacy Program.

Another funding opportunity identified by the committee is a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant, Lindner added.

At the work session, council member Leonard Martinez stressed that it would be important for the town to complete its parks master plan before trying to acquire the Reservoir

Hill property.

But Lewis replied that the expansion opportunity is "a no-brainer," even without an updated master plan in place.

Gadowski added that the 2016 master plan already has provisions about land acquisition and that the way the town is going about pursuing this land acquisition opportunity follows that 2016 plan.

Lewis added that the initial 300 acres would only be for forest conservation, with limited infrastructure geared toward hiking and biking trails, putting it in line with the 2016 plan.

However, would the town seek to acquire the remaining 191 acres, that would be where potential infrastructure could be built, such as a recreation center, sports fields or even workforce housing, which would necessitate an update to the master plan, he explained.

Martinez noted that "there is a flat area up there," and that he had talked to folks at the school district "about the benefit of that area as a place to put more [sports] fields."

Lewis clarified that the area Martinez was talking about is not part of the 300 acres for conservation that the town is currently pursuing, but part of the remaining 191 acres the town could pursue later, potentially through a GOCO grant or other means.

Martinez noted that "elements" for

a vision for the future of parks expansion and land acquisition was present, but that he would still like to see "a master plan laid out" that articulates the town's vision.

Lindner added that the town may want to complete this master plan before applying for the GOCO grant so it articulates a cohesive community vision.

It was discussed at a previous meeting that the Friends of Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion might be looking at applying for the GOCO grant to complete the multiuse pavilion, and that the town should not compete with those efforts, necessitating one clear community vision.

Lewis added that getting the Forest Legacy grant "could sling shot us into" being better positioned to get other funding opportunities, such as the GOCO grant.

Lindner said that he "would love to go for the whole thing, but it would likely take the GOCO grant plus private donations to acquire all of the available property up there.

Mayor Shari Pierce suggested she wanted the council to give town staff some direction on updating the parks master plan.

The council agreed that it would like staff to look into possibly monetizing existing town-owned properties through either building workforce housing, building an RV park, a shooting range or through other

means.

It also agreed that staff should explore potentially raising the lodgers' tax rate to help pay for parks and land acquisitions.

Lindner noted that he thinks the town has an opportunity with Reservoir Hill and other town-owned land to "develop a unique, invaluable parks and open space system that increases the quality of life for our residents and visitors."

He added, "My high-level vision is to combine our existing parks and trails and river access with these future acquisitions — mainly, right now, Reservoir Hill — to create an exceptional system that connects users to a variety of experiences, including recreation, relaxation, events, dining, and retail, all in a pedestrian friendly and beautiful Colorado mountain environment."

He added that he sees the recently acquired Goodman property near Tractor Supply as a sort of "base-camp area, which connects, via pedestrian trails, to the Riverwalk, to Rez Hill, to East End, to Cotton Hole, Town Park, Yamaguchi and, ultimately, to the town-to-uptown trails."

He said that "essentially, Rez Hill becomes a flagship area of conservation and recreation, including hike and bike trails, open space, ADA access, there could be sunset viewing areas" and other "educational opportunities based on forest conservation." derek@pagosasun.com

Drought

■ Continued from front

points for the voluntary stage are:

- A curtailment order on Four Mile Creek prior to May 1.

- A maximum snow water equivalency (SWE) less than 75 percent of median.

- Reservoir levels with the addition of diversion flow less than 90 percent.

The statement notes, "With a maximum Snow Water Equivalency (SWE) of less than 75% of Median as of April 6, 2026, the District is implementing Voluntary Drought Restrictions as of April 7, 2026. PAWSD will implement the next level of mandatory drought restriction stages as dry conditions continue, and these do trigger drought surcharges and/or tier rate multipliers."

An email to The SUN from District Engineer Justin Ramsey also notes the move is due to the National Integrated Drought Information Center upgrading the drought state in Archuleta County from severe to extreme.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor's most recent map released on April 2, 97 percent of Archuleta County is in an extreme drought stage, with a sliver of the most southeastern portion of the county in a severe drought stage.

Currently, 21.59 percent of the state as a whole is in an exceptional drought

stage, primarily in the northwestern portion of the state.

"Drought conditions are such that PAWSD is encouraging customers to voluntarily reduce the amount of water they use. There are no mandatory water use restrictions in place," a memorandum from PAWSD states.

The memorandum also points to the low SWE, stating, "The current Snow Water Equivalency (SWE) is 3.8," the median SWE on this day is 32.2." The recent snow in the upper watershed delayed the SWE from dropping to zero, however it is still likely the SWE will drop to zero and the District will go into a higher level drought stage within the next two weeks. This is due to a very light snowpack this season and warmer than normal late winter and spring temperatures."

According to data from the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, Wolf Creek Pass, at 10,930 feet, had an SWE of 11.1 inches, compared to that date's median of 30.2 inches. The current amount is 37 percent of that date's median snow water equivalent.

On April 2, Wolf Creek Pass had a snow water equivalent of 8.2 inches.

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 14 percent of the 30-year median snowpack. That reading is up from the April 2 report of 9 percent.

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 13.4 inches of SWE as of press time Wednesday.

Students from Pagosa Springs High School recently organized and compared current SWE data with historical records in their global science class.

According to information shared by science teacher Josh Kurz, the 2026 water year recorded the lowest SWE reading on record, dating back to 1979, at just 1.7 inches on April 1.

The second-lowest SWE reading for that date was in 2002 at 10 inches, and the third lowest recording was in 2025 at 10.9 inches.

According to a summary written by student Taylor Wells, the April 1 snow water equivalent was the worst on record since 1979, "shockingly about 6 times that of 2002."

"While the current streamflow is above average right now, that is only

because of record-setting temperatures in late March, which caused our meager snowpack to melt nearly two months earlier than average," Wells wrote. "Unfortunately, flows will likely drop to 2002 levels unless we have a wet spring. Therefore, we should prepare for water shortages and wildfires that are likely this summer. And those who enjoy river sports, take advantage of the high flows while you can."

River flows

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, the San Juan River in downtown Pagosa Springs had a flow rate of 451 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Based on 90 years of water records, the record high flow for that date was recorded in 1960 at 1,380 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 1964 at 65 cfs. The median flow for that date is 351 cfs and the mean flow is 418 cfs.

The Piedra River near Arboles was flowing at a rate of 365 cfs, as of 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, according to the USGS.

Based on 63 years of water records, the median flow for April 8 is 567 cfs and the mean flow is 690 cfs. The record high flow for April 8 was recorded in 1985 at 2,370 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 1977 at 100 cfs.

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Lynx

■ Continued from front

such as old trails and logging roads. While there are more cameras to set, it's fewer back-breaking days for field staff.

"We always want to improve and make sure we continue to collect the best data that we can," Ivan said. "Cats are finicky and are particular about certain things. Eventually, their curiosity wears off and they know that tree in that part of their home range, 'Yes, it smells like catnip, but there's nothing for me there. I have better things in life to do than check out that tree.' You got to stay ahead of them and do novel things, and we're excited about this new protocol.

"Lynx, like us, will take the path of least resistance and often walk those roads. Getting away from baits and lures, you can actually get lots of photos of lynx, and detection probability might even be better. We're hopeful that works out."

The same survey units that were surveyed with the "lured" sets will continue to be surveyed with the "passive" sets, to maintain continuity of the data stream and because the majority of lynx in the state remain in southwest Colorado.

Colorado's population of lynx remains at an estimated 75-100 adults.

Ivan said the population has remained stable to the best of CPW's ability to know and understand. Their population doesn't grow as quickly as other cat species such as bobcats and mountain lions, which are generalists in terms of habitat preferences and diet. The lynx remains a specialist in its habitat and narrow focus on snowshoe hares and squirrels.

"They really need everything lined up to make a go of it," Ivan said. "By our standards, we do have fairly high densities of hares in places around the state, but it pales in comparison to the magnitude in Canada and Alaska, the honey hole of lynx range in North

America. Those factors prevent the lynx population from exploding and us being able to have hundreds of lynx everywhere in the state. They are where they are."

For a DWM such as Martin, that just happens to be in his Lake City district, not far from where the first lynx were released and the first kit-

tens were born from the reintroduced population. And he's not surprised they haven't moved out to establish more areas of the state.

"Our lynx continue to have good success finding food," Martin said. "When they have a real abundance of food, there's no reason to go real far. They've got their piece of the for-

est, and as long as people leave them alone, they're good to go.

"Powderhorn, Uncompahgre, the Weminuche, the La Garitas, it's kind of like the last best chunk of Colorado."

John Livingston is a Public Information Officer for CPW's southwest region and is based in Durango.

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Sports

BASEBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Sebastian Gonzalez swings on an RBI double during the second inning of the team's 18-3 win over the Sanford Indians on Tuesday. The Pirates won the first game of the doubleheader 18-3 and the second 14-0.

Pirates outscore Indians 32-3 in doubleheader

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

After almost three weeks in between games, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirates baseball team picked up where it left off, winning both games of their doubleheader against Sanford.

The Pirates outscored their visitors 32-3 over the course of the two games.

The Pirates hosted Sanford on Tuesday, April 7, and moved to 8-3 after winning the first game 18-3 and the second game 14-0.

The two games were their first games since March 19.

"I told them that Sanford's a team that we should beat," said coach Jon Wells. "I was really proud of them for going out and doing their job. It's not always easy to win when you're expected to win, but they did so and they did so really well."

The Pirates beat the Indians 18-3 in the first game in just four innings, finishing with 13 hits and zero errors.

After one inning the Pirates were up 1-0, but a nine-spot in the second extended the lead to 10 runs.

The Indians scored three runs in the third, but the Pirates added four in the third and the fourth innings to win the game 18-3.

Five Pirates recorded multihit games.

Taylor Wells led the way, going 3-for-4 with a run and three RBIs. Noah Bellina went 2-for-3 with a two runs and two RBIs, Sebastian Gonzalez went 2-for-4 with two runs and four RBIs, Zach Pouyer went 2-for-2 with three runs and two RBIs, and Aaron Sowle went 2-for-2 with an RBI.

Taylor Wells also toed the rubber for the Pirates in the game. In four innings he gave up three runs (zero earned) on three hits while striking out six.

"We put the ball in play and good things happen, and I was proud of them for really not missing a beat and coming out after three weeks off and hitting the ball like that. It was fantastic," said Jon Wells.

The Pirates shut out the Indians 14-0 in the second game of the doubleheader. The team finished with seven hits and committed two errors.

The Pirates quickly opened up a 7-0 lead after the first inning. They added two more in the third and five more in the fourth to extend their lead to 14 runs. The game ended due to the run rule after the Indians posted another zero in the fifth.

Braylon Landry got the win on the mound after giving up just one hit in four innings of work while walking four and striking out two. Kaeden Iguchi threw the top of the fifth, giving up a hit, a walk and striking out two.

Landry's four innings of shutout baseball didn't come without a fight, noted Jon Wells. He put baserunners on in the first, the second and the third, but remained calm and didn't allow any Indians to come around to score.

"He doesn't get rattled," the coach said. "You know, if he walks a couple guys, the demeanor on the mound doesn't change. He doesn't get frustrated with himself, and that's important from a pitching perspective, is to kind of keep that level head and make sure that you continue to do your job even when faced with base runners and adversity."

Pouyer went 3-for-3 at the plate with two runs and four RBIs, Kasen Limebrook 2-for-2 with three runs and two RBIs, Iguchi went 1-for-1 with two runs and two RBIs, Bellina went 1-for-3 with one run and two RBIs, and Gonzalez went 1-for-3 with a run and a RBI.

This weekend the No. 20 Pirates will host the No.16 Alamosa (7-6) on Saturday, April 11, for another doubleheader, with action set to begin at 11 a.m.

The Mean Moose didn't graduate many players last year and have a good team this year, noted Jon Wells. "I think it'll be two tough games," he said. "I think we've got a good chance of being competitive and giving them a run. But, the boys are going to have to come out and play solid defense and pitch strikes and continue what they're hitting."

Then, on Tuesday, April 14, the Pirates will head to Durango to take on the Demons (8-4), who sit as the No. 7 team in 4A baseball.

The doubleheader will begin at 3 p.m.
jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com

TRACK

Pirates rack up personal records at Ignacio meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team competed in the Abel Velasquez Invitational last weekend.

"Our athletes are competing very well which means that our training programs for all of our different events are effective," wrote coach Connie O'Donnell in an email to the SUN. "It means that our athletes have bought into our program and are working hard to represent Pagosa Springs well."

The Pirates headed to Ignacio for their fourth meet of the season on Saturday, April 4.

O'Donnell emphasizes that the weather on Saturday was very ideal for a track meet. The temperature was hovering right around 60 degrees and there was very little wind at the time of the meet.

There were a number of personal records (PRs) at the meet and a majority of the team was able to compete in Ignacio.

O'Donnell notes that there are some athletes dealing with some injuries who were not able to compete in Ignacio.

On the girls' side, Abigail Foss took third in the girls' 100-meter dash with a personal best time of 13.73 seconds. Amber Snarr placed fifth with a time of 14.44 seconds. Bentley Briscoe placed ninth with a time of 14.78

seconds. Nevaeh Evans placed 15th with a time of 15.39 seconds. Quinn Howard placed 20th with a time of 16.04 seconds.

Nina Wood placed second in the girls' 200-meter dash with a personal best time of 28.06 seconds — the fastest time on the team so far this year. Foss placed fourth with another personal best time of 29.06 seconds, Snarr placed eighth with a time of 30.77 seconds, and Clara Kurz placed 12th with a time of 33.02 seconds.

Corinna Galabota placed fourth in the girls' 400-meter dash with a personal best time of 1:07.26, Avery Book placed fifth with a personal best time of 1:08.44, and Kurz placed seventh with a time of 1:11.41.

"Corinna Galabota and Avery Book ran PRs in the 400 by taking off a couple of seconds each," wrote O'Donnell. "The 400 is possibly the hardest race in track. People don't always understand that it is still a sprint, but it's a long sprint. If you run it correctly, it doesn't feel very good and it is painful. I'm really proud of our 400 runners this weekend for really putting themselves out there and pushing themselves."

Mila Miller placed seventh in the girls' 800-meter run with a time of 3:17.21.

Madi Stretton won the girls' 1,600-meter run with a personal best time of 6:02.58. Lily DeClark placed fourth with a time of 6:16.28, Lucia Rivera placed sixth with a time

of 6:49.80, and Miller placed seventh with a time of 7:02.70.

Stretton also won the girls' 3,200-meter run with another personal best time of 12:54.80. DeClark placed second with a time of 13:31.12,

and Rivera placed third with a time of 13:37.85.

"Madi Stretton had a big day," wrote O'Donnell. "She ran PRs in the 1600 and 3200 and placed 1st in ■ See Track A11

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Lady Pirate Terriana Cage pushes through Panther defenders during the team's April 4 matchup with Montezuma-Cortez. The Pirates fell 4-0 in the matchup.

Lady Pirates fall to Miners and Panthers, will host Alamosa today

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team fell to 2-3 after two shutout losses last week.

The Lady Pirates traveled to Telluride on Thursday, April 2, and lost 5-0. They then hosted the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Saturday, April 4, and lost 4-0.

Despite the two lopsided results, coach Trevor Gian indicated he is really proud of the team and feels that they're really growing with each game and have a chance to come out of this week an even stronger team.

"We're picking each other up, we're doing that stuff you can't really teach that we've got to find naturally," Gian said. "We found [that] over those games, and I'm excited for the future."

Going into the game against Telluride, Gian told his team that the Miners are a quality opponent and they were going to play fast and physical.

The Lady Pirates had an opportunity to score early in the game and

go up 1-0, but just missed wide on a shot and the game stayed equal. The Miners were able to net three goals by the end of the first half after the Lady Pirates' early miss.

Still, Gian noted he felt like the girls were playing good soccer and had a chance in the second half.

The Miners scored two early goals in the second half, though, and the Lady Pirates weren't able to find the back of the net, dropping the matchup 5-0.

"I was absolutely impressed with how we stayed on that field, how we contended, how we fought for each ball, how we looked to make passes, how we looked for through balls, how we met things in the middle," Gian said.

Gian emphasized that he felt the girls played really well for 60 of the 80 minutes in the game.

The Lady Pirates had five shots in the game, with four being on goal.

The Miners, who are now 4-4-1 on the season, sit as the No. 20 team in 2A girls' soccer.

On Saturday, the score once again did not necessarily reflect the type of

game that was played, noted Gian.

The Lady Pirates lost the game 4-0, but didn't concede a goal until the last 15 minutes of the game.

Gian emphasized that the Lady Pirates played really impressive soccer up until the last 15 minutes of the game, when the girls just ran out of gas.

"I was ecstatic with the effort," he said. "I mean, we got tired at the end, [but we] fought with them."

The Lady Pirates had one shot on goal in the game.

The Panthers, who are now 4-1, are the No. 7 team in 3A girls' soccer.

This week, the No. 37 Lady Pirates will look to get back in the win column over the course of a trio of games.

The Lady Pirates will be in action at home on Thursday, April 9, against No. 26 Alamosa (3-2) beginning at 4 p.m.

On on Saturday, April 11, the team will hit the road to take on 2A No. 33 Lake County (1-4) at 11 a.m.

The Lady Pirates will continue to play on the road on Tuesday, April 14, when they take on No. 38 Bayfield

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

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Track

■ Continued from A10
both races."

Annaliese Hinger placed seventh in the girls' 100-meter hurdles with a time of 21.08 seconds.

Hinger also placed sixth in the girls' 300-meter hurdles with a time of 1:01.29.

The girls' 4x100-meter relay team placed second with a time of 54.63 seconds.

The girls' 4x200-meter team won with a time of 1:58.54.

Veda Deitemeyer placed third in the girls' high jump with a jump of 4 feet, 8 inches.

Wood won the girls' long jump with a jump of 14-10, Book placed second with a jump of 14-8, Galabota placed sixth with a jump of 13 feet, Howard placed ninth with a jump of 12-3, and Evans placed 10th with a jump of 11-4.

Lexi Campbell placed second in the girls' triple jump with a total distance of 32-1, Stretton placed fourth with a total distance of 28-8, and Galabota placed fifth with a total distance of 28 feet.

Malorie Morton won the girls' discus with a personal best throw of 109-10. Liana Vega placed second with a throw of 93-7, Paisley Lister placed eighth with a throw of 63-4,

Raleigh Iverson placed 13th with a throw of 60-5, and Charlie Barraza-Haymaker placed 21st with a throw of 46-9.

Vega placed second in the girls' shot put with a throw of 28-11, Morton placed third with a throw of 27-1, Lister placed fifth with a throw of 24-9, Iverson placed eighth with a throw of 22-6, and Barraza-Haymaker placed 15th with a throw of 18-7.

Three runners turned in personal best times in the boys' 100.

Jonathan Baker placed eighth with a personal best time of 11.88 seconds, Hudson Mazur placed ninth with a personal best time of 11.92 seconds, and Alex Pacheco placed 10th with a personal best time of 11.96 seconds. Garrett Mote placed 15th with a time of 12.57 seconds, and Cash O'Neal placed 19th with a time of 12.64 seconds.

O'Donnell emphasizes that the three personal best times in the 100 bode really well for the boys' 4x100 team this season.

Baker placed fourth in the boys' 200 with another personal best time of 23.77 seconds, and Mazur placed fifth with another personal best time of 24.18 seconds. Mote placed 12th with a time of 26.62 seconds. O'Neal placed 14th with a time of 27.88

seconds.

Jacob Castaneda placed fifth in the boys' 400 with a personal best time of 55.64 seconds.

Rylan Ash won the boys' 800 with a personal best time of 2:08.58. Weston Sweet placed seventh with a time of 2:23.08, Kieran Kurz placed ninth with a time of 2:38.16, and Eli Nehring placed 10th with a time of 2:39.20.

Ash also won the boys' 3,200 with personal best time of 10:19.12. Sweet placed second with a personal best time of 11:13.43, Kieran Kurz placed sixth with a time of 11:59.62, and Nehring placed seventh with a time of 12:43.63.

"Rylan Ash had a great meet," wrote O'Donnell. "He continues to better his times each week and ran PRs in the 800 and 3200. Weston Sweet is really coming on strong at this point in the season. He ran a PR in the 3200 and you could just see the potential that he carries in racing."

Jeremiah Jones placed third in the boys' 110-meter hurdle with a personal best time of 16.17 seconds. Jaycub Carter placed seventh with a time of 19.43 seconds. Jaiden Jones placed eighth with a time of 20.37 seconds.

Jeremiah Jones placed third in the

■ See Track A12



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

Expressions Dance Company members wait for the awards ceremony at the Fluid Dance Competition in Denver.

Expressions Dance Company rises to the challenge at Denver competition

By Suzy Halterman
Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

The Expressions Dance Company, the competitive team from the Pagosa Springs Dance Academy, concluded its season at the Fluid Dance Competition and Convention in Denver, held March 27-29.

Unlike a traditional competition, Fluid offered dancers the opportunity to both compete and attend classes taught by professional dancers.

Company Director Lesley Peck selected the event not only for its competitive aspect, but for its emphasis on education, giving dancers the chance to learn and grow.

Fluid also presented a unique challenge. Rather than dividing dancers by skill level, participants were grouped solely by age, placing Expressions dancers in highly competitive categories against experienced

studios from across the region. Despite this, the team delivered strong performances, earning multiple top-10 placements and special awards.

The full-company piece “Foot-loose” received an Exceptional Performance Award, with judges commenting on how impressed they were with the creative ideas used in the dance.

A duet by Cassidy Luke and Paige Rogacki placed third, while a trio featuring Luke, Rogacki and Merick Halterman placed fifth.

Halterman placed seventh in her solo division and also earned a special judges’ recognition award.

Additional honors included costume awards for both Leela Simpson’s solo and a duet performed by Simpson and Ember Liverett.

Executive Director Katrina Thomas and Peck expressed how incredibly proud they are of what the Expressions Company has accomplished this year, overcoming many challenges to have a successful season.

With the competitive season now complete, the dancers are turning their focus to the upcoming Pagosa Springs Dance Academy recital on May 2.

The 16 Expressions Company dancers will be joined by 82 recreational dancers to showcase both company and recreational performances in the “On Broadway” recital series, presented May 2 at Pagosa Springs High School.

The 2 p.m. matinee will feature 24 unique numbers performed by dancers of all ages, including the studio’s youngest performers. The 6 p.m. evening performance will feature 34 additional numbers across all dance genres.

Tickets can be purchased at www.pagosadanceacademy.com.

Track

■ Continued from A11

boys’ 300-meter hurdles with a time of 45.35 seconds, Jaiden Jones placed seventh with a time of 51.95 seconds, and Eathon Dang placed ninth with a time of 54.56 seconds.

The boys’ 4x100 relay team won with a time of 45.45 seconds, and the 4x200 team placed fifth with a time of 1:46.10.

Koen Pitcher placed second in the boys’ high jump with a jump of 5-8.

Mazur won the boys’ long jump with a jump of 19-8, Baker placed second with a jump of 17-8, Pacheco placed fourth with a jump of 17 feet, and Carter placed 11th with a jump of 15-6.

Jeremiah Jones won the boys’ triple jump with a total distance of 39-10, Castaneda placed third with a total distance of 35-10, and Pitcher

placed 10th with a total distance of 29-11.

Aidan Vega placed fourth in the boys’ discus with a throw of 116-5, Lincoln Butler placed ninth with a throw of 83 feet, South Dozier placed 16th with a throw of 62-7, and James Beaudry placed 18th with a throw of 62 feet.

Emile Schneider won the boys’ shot put with a throw of 39-8, Aidan Vega placed third with a throw of 34-10, Butler placed fourth with a throw of 34-1, Dozier placed 18th with a throw of 24-2, and Beaudry placed 26th with a throw of 18-10.

This weekend, the team will be headed off to Pueblo for the Thunder-Storm Invitational on Saturday, April 11, beginning at 9 a.m.

“We are hoping to have a full team by the end of this week,” wrote

O’Donnell. “The Thunder Storm track meet in Pueblo this coming Saturday is a highly competitive meet and we hope that all of our top performers get a chance to compete.”

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Public Notices

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

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On January 8, 2026, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s) Craig Waller
Original Beneficiary(ies) Security Service Federal Credit Union

Current Holder of Evidence of Debt Security Service Federal Credit Union

Date of Deed of Trust December 02, 2019

County of Recording Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust December 05, 2019

2019 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 21907315

Original Principal Amount \$336,000.00

Outstanding Principal Balance \$294,271.21

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101 (4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations thereof THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

LOT 583 IN TWINCREEK VILLAGE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD NOVEMBER 5, 1973 AS RECEPTION NO. 78739

Purported common address: 48 Balfour Ct, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

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

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

First Publication 3/12/2026

Last Publication 4/9/2026

Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 01/08/2026

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado

/s/ Elsa P. White

By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing

the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Steven Bellanti #48306

McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369-6122 Attorney File # CO-25-1031352-JH

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

Published March 12, 19, 26, and April 2 and 9, 2026, in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (285193)

COUNTY COURT, ARCHULETA CO, COLORADO

Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Plaintiffs: Gisel Moncada and Yasmin Moncada,

v.

Defendants: Justin Travis Fowler, and All Persons Claiming an Interest in the Manufactured Home Located at 514 Echo Lane, Pagosa Springs, Colorado,

Case Number: 2026C030014

Attorney: Ralph A. Cantafio #16280

Name: Cantafio Law P.C.

Address: 1927 Market Street, Unit IA

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.

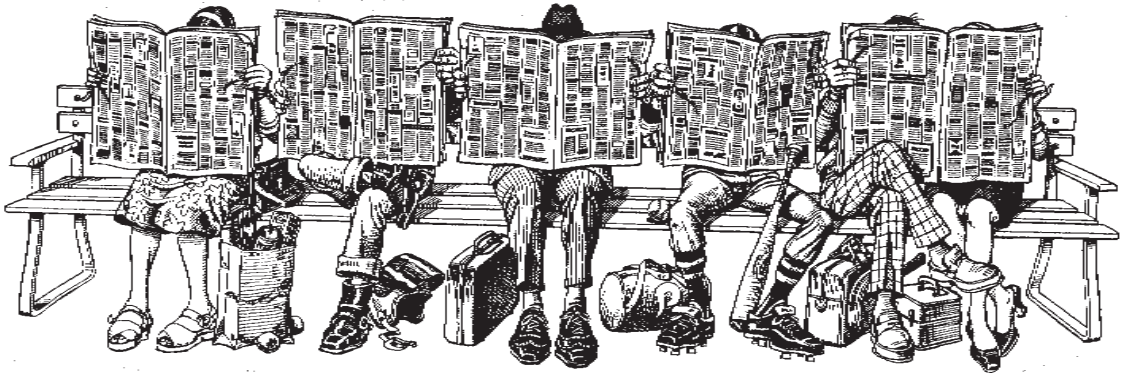
X By checking this box, I am acknowledging I am filling in the blanks and not changing anything else on the form.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 143h day of March, 2026.

by Ralph A. Cantafio, #16280

Published March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, 2026, in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (293664)

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County’s unemployment rate jumped to 4.1 percent in January

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County’s unemployment rate jumped to 4.1 percent in January, according to an April 8 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). That figure is up from 3.0 percent in December 2025.

Archuleta County’s rate of 4.1 percent this January compares to 4.7 percent in January 2025.

Archuleta County’s labor force totaled 6,493 in January, according to the report, with 263 unemployed. That compares to a December 2025 labor force of 6,406 and 195 unemployed.

Colorado’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.8 percent in December 2025 to 3.9 percent in December 2025.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals grew by 1,200 to 126,300 from December 2025 to January.

“Colorado’s labor force decreased by 5,200 in January to 3,248,800,” states a press release from the CDLE. “The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force decreased to 66.8 percent in January, compared to 66.9 percent the month prior.

The press release notes this marks the lowest labor force participation

rate since September 2020.

“The U.S. labor force participation rate was 62.1 percent in January, three-tenths of a percentage point lower than the month prior,” it states.

The national unemployment rate decreased from 4.4 percent to 4.3 percent from December 2025 to January, it notes.

Costilla County again had the highest unemployment rate in the state in January at 8.7 percent, followed by Huerfano County at 7.9 percent.

The lowest unemployment rate in the state for January was Pitkin County at 2.6 percent.

Regionally, the data shows La Plata County with a 4.1 percent unemployment rate in January, San Juan County at 4.3 percent, Mineral County at 4.9 percent, Rio Grande County at 5.2 percent and Conejos County at 4.4 percent.

Job loss, growth

Employers in Colorado gained 6,600 nonfarm payroll jobs from December 2025 to January for a total of 2,966,000 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private-sector payroll jobs increased by 7,200 and government decreased by 600 jobs.

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agen-

cies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job gains in January were:

- Education and health services at about 4,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services at about 3,000.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 3,000.
- Construction at about 2,400.
- Other services at about 1,100.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job losses were:

- Leisure and hospitality at about 3,300 jobs.
- Manufacturing at about 1,300.
- Information at about 1,300.
- Financial activities at about 1,200.

Since January 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs have decreased 11,000, with the private sector losing 7,000 jobs and government losing 4,000 jobs.

The largest private-sector job gains were:

- Educational and health services at about 14,200 jobs.
- Other services at about 1,900.

During that same time, payroll jobs declined in:

- Trade, transportation and utilities by about 4,500 jobs.

- Leisure and hospitality at about 4,400.
- Manufacturing at about 4,200.
- Financial activities at about 4,000.
- Information at about 2,800.
- Professional and business services at about 2,300.
- Mining and logging at about 1,600.

“Colorado’s rate of job growth over the past year is -0.4 percent, below the U.S. rate of 0.2 percent,” the report notes.

It further notes that, over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 32.7 to 32.6 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$39.79 to \$40.62, \$3.45 more than the national average hourly earnings of \$37.17.

Annual averages

The annual unemployment rate for Colorado was 4.0 percent in 2025, revised down from the previously published 4.5 percent, according to the press release. The U.S. unemployment rate in 2025 was 4.3 percent.

It adds, “Colorado nonfarm payroll employment decreased at an annual rate of -0.4 percent in 2025, or -11,700 jobs. The U.S. annual payroll jobs growth rate in 2025 was 0.1 percent.”

randi@pagosasun.com

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Commissioners approve multiple paving projects

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, April 7, the BoCC unanimously approved a contract with Strohecker Asphalt to pave Pines Drive, along

with a consideration to pave the remaining portion of Cloman Boulevard.

According to the meeting’s agenda, the county received two bids for the Pines Drive project. The bid from Strohecker Asphalt came in at \$502,808.80, and the other bid totaled at \$571,994.

Ballot Question B asked the town’s voters to allow the town to take out a \$3 million loan to pay for the remainder of its flood recovery efforts along the San Juan River in the wake of the flooding events in October 2025.

This ask of voters came in the wake of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denying the town a request for funding river

cleanup and recovery efforts.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained at previous meetings that the town was about \$3 million short, after finding alternative funding programs mostly through the state, for its recovery efforts, which is why the town was asking voters to allow the town to go after a loan.

Dickhoff had described the po-

da, “In an effort to protect the newly paved parking lot” Torres is requesting to pave the remaining .3 mile section of Cloman Boulevard.

“There may be additional cost savings since the contractor will be close to the suggested site,” the agenda notes.

clayton@pagosasun.com

tential loan as a way to focus flood recovery efforts around “public safety” in the river corridor ahead of the spring and summer river recreation seasons.

The ballot measure failed to pass, with 130 votes opposed to the measure and 122 votes in favor of the measure, according to Hessman.

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Distribution

10,000 copies of the Relocation Guide will be printed for distribution by area businesses, on newsstands and in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN. Distribution will begin mid June.

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ARTS & LIFE

Archuleta Food Summit

7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Saturday, April 18 • Pagosa Springs High School



Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta’s 2026 Food Summit set for April 18

Healthy Archuleta

The 2026 Archuleta Food Summit is planned for Saturday, April 18.

This year’s summit will focus on a simulation of the Archuleta Food Hub and Food Hall, presented and sponsored by Healthy Archuleta.

Several features of the food summit include a demonstration of a year-round hydroponic growing tower (pictured on the front of The PREVIEW), part of the thriving local food system made available to the community.

The simulation invites participants to experience how local food can move from growers and producers to families, schools, small businesses and community spaces.

Participants will move through an engaging station-based experience that brings the vision of the proposed Archuleta Food Hub and Hall to life. It will also highlight the practical benefits of the food hub, which aims to strengthen the local economy by keeping food dollars circulating locally; supporting small food entrepreneurs; creating workforce development pathways; and improv-

ing access to fresh, healthy and locally grown foods. The Archuleta Food Hub and Hall is designed to be a shared space aimed at building a more resilient, sustainable local food system in Archuleta County.

The food summit will be held at Pagosa Springs High School on South 8th Street on Saturday, April 18, from 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please register by Wednesday, April 15, to help us plan for breakfast and our farm-to-table lunch. Having an accurate headcount ensures we can prepare enough food and create a great experience for everyone.

Registration is available on the Healthy Archuleta website, and the \$10 fee helps cover both meals. We strongly encourage you to register today at <https://www.food-coalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html>.

While on-site registration will be available the morning of the event (the doors open at 7:45 a.m.), registering in advance helps us plan more effectively and reduces wait times at check-in.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 18, at the third biannual Archuleta Food Summit.

Daughters of the American Revolution chapter to meet April 11

By CiCi Stuart
Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Saturday morning, April 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building at 1550 Main Ave. in Durango.

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of

the Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonpolitical/nonprofit service organization representing the Archuleta and La Plata counties.

Membership is open to all women over the age of 18, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background who can trace their lineage from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence.

The DAR, as we are known, has

three missions: historical preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor.

The members are a lot like you, coming from diverse backgrounds and having a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal descent from patriots of the American Revolution.

For more information, call Sherryl Egy at (970) 507-0646 or come to our meeting.

Live Performers

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Coyote Moon Lounge: Two Hand Touch, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Out On Work Release, 6 p.m.

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

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Coyote Moon Lounge: Sean Harrison, 5 p.m.

Monday
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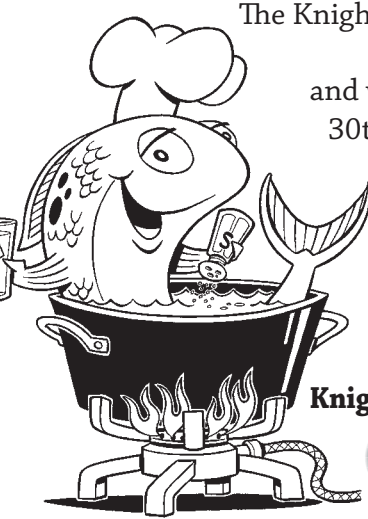
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Fundraiser to support local couple following terminal cancer diagnosis

By Ellen Schmidt
Special to The PREVIEW

Join us on Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, 220 Vista Blvd., for a fundraiser supporting Jason and Janie Hands.

In November 2025, a cancer diagnosis was made for Jason with thyroid and liver — a terminal condition — and they were referred to hospice services.

Jason and Janie Hands had been a local legend for home care management services. Now Janie Hand works 15 hours weekly, caregiving the remainder for Jason Hand. Income is drastically cut while bills grow. Key nutrients, food and related expenses are not within reach with severe conditions.

Jason Hand's health status has drastically declined. He is no longer engaging in his favorite art and pastimes, while visiting with friends.

Our goal is to ensure his remaining time is spent focusing on a good quality of life, surrounded by love from family and friends.

Jason Hands is facing a tough battle with terminal cancer, and his family is doing everything they can to focus on quality time and love. They need help covering essential expenses like groceries, utilities and car repairs — especially since his wife Janie is caring for him full-time.

Even a small contribution can make a big difference in easing their financial worries during this difficult time.

Please consider donating or sharing to help them find some peace and support: <https://gofund.me/9052b7a2e>.

The goal is \$25,000 to pay for Jason Hands, cover their costs and replace her car for safe, reliable transportation.

We humbly request support to cover current and growing expenses, not covered by insurance, i.e. transportation, home care, maintenance

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bills and funeral expenses. Any contributions, whatever the size, makes a significant difference. Your kindness and support mean the world during these uniquely challenging times.

Ways to support them by attending the event, where all proceeds will go directly to Jason and Janie Hands:

- Dine with family and friends.
- Enjoy music as you eat (several local volunteering musicians will entertain you while supporting a key cause).

• Bring your baked goods, place into zip lock bags for attendees to secure via donations.

• Bring for sale items for display and purchase.

Note: bring a lawn chair to enjoy the music as you dine.

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Photo courtesy Bob Hemenger

Pagosa Springs High School’s Americana Project students will perform an opening set in the school’s auditorium April 29 at 7 p.m. This year’s special guest is the band Mojo Birds. Please save the date.

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. He will share valuable things you should know and answer your questions.

At 2:15 p.m., emergency medical technicians will bring large dolls to learn and practice the most effective resuscitation techniques. You will be able to practice until you have success in case you have the opportunity to save someone’s life by resuscitation.

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. This is not a Methodist Church activity, but is for anyone from the Pagosa Springs community and Archuleta County.

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 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 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, signed by a doctor and stored on your refrigerator.

On April 30 at 1 p.m. End of Life Education 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.

The date for the natural funerals speaker is May 21. There are new amazing ways to turn the deceased human body into usable soil and water that can then be returned for the family garden or other uses in parks. There are ways that are much better for the environment than cremation and burial, and soon these new techniques will be taking the place of century-old ways.

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 more meaningful and precious.

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‘School of Rock’ auditions to be held April 14 and 15

By Anthony Aldwell
Curtains Up Pagosa

Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP) is pleased to announce its summer show will be “School of Rock, the Musical,” which will be performed four times on the Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) stage on the evenings of June 25, 26 and 27, with an afternoon matinee on June 27.

Auditions for this production will be held in the high school band room on Tuesday, April 14, and Wednesday, April 15, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The audition will require candidates to present a 30- to 60-second monologue and 30- to 60-second song. A short dance number will be taught to those auditioning as part of the audition process. All community

members are invited to join this production as the cast will feature both adults and children (who should be at least 8 years old). Past CUP shows have featured performers from ages 7 to 75, thereby demonstrating this is truly community theater.

Based on the movie by the same name, this show will feature music by renowned musical composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, with the book written by Julian Fellowes, of “Downton Abbey” fame. The essence of the plot follows Dewey Finn, a failed rocker, who poses as a substitute teacher at a prep school and transforms his students into a rock band to win a Battle of the Bands.

Rehearsals for our show will commence the first week of May at PSHS, and usually run from 6 to 8 p.m. on

weeknights during May and June. Rehearsals may run until 9 p.m. in June as we near the performance dates.

“School of Rock” will be directed by CUP veteran Krisha Doocy, with musical direction by Leo Baughman.

As much of CUP’s essential work is behind the scenes, we also welcome those community members interested in being a crew member, as sets, costumes and backstage work require those specific skills to ensure “School of Rock” is a theatrical success. If interested, drop by one of the audition sessions or early rehearsals in May.

CUP looks forward to presenting a high-energy performance of “School of Rock” this June, featuring a cast of talented Pagosa Country performers, with lively audiences cheering us on. Come audition, act, build, play or applaud us we once again entertain our community.

Zikr Dance Ensemble to bring season to Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts April 18

Zikr Dance Ensemble

Zikr Dance Ensemble announces “Runes,” its ambitious spring 2026 season that will showcase the company’s roots while exploring the power and transformative energies of some of history’s most iconic symbols and the light code language of the future through two of Artistic Director David Taylor’s most powerful works, “Runes” and “Light Codes.”

In addition, Zikr will reprise internationally acclaimed Belgian choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui’s stunning “In Memoriam” pas de deux, along with Tomm Ruud’s iconic miniature masterpiece, “Mobile.”

The program will close with “In Your Eyes,” Zikr’s signature work and audience favorite.

Zikr will present the full-length “Runes” program in eight cities across Colorado and New Mexico. The company will be also paying special tribute to Loren Wilder, the well-known Colorado lighting designer and producer who originally commissioned “In Your Eyes” and David Andrews, longtime Colorado dance supporter, photographer and videographer.

Featured artists include:

- Taylor, a pillar of Colorado’s dance community for decades, will present new choreography as part of a restaged “Light Codes,” showcasing Taylor’s signature blend of technical precision and multimedia technology while honoring Zikr’s spiritual roots.

- Cherkaoui, celebrated for his multicultural approach and deeply narrative style, brings a dynamic and deeply humanistic approach to the stage. This collaboration marks a pivotal moment in the Zikr’s growing significance in the contemporary dance space.

- Ruud (1943-1994), former principal dancer and resident choreographer for San Francisco Ballet, is perhaps best known for his role as Drosselmeyer in “The Nutcracker.” His masterpiece, “Mobile,” has been set on dozens of the nation’s major ballet companies and inspired the short film “Balances.”

The show will be performed on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Tickets are on sale now. For ticket links and more information, visit www.zikrdance.com.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will hit the stage of the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium April 23, 24 and 26. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Pagosa Peak Open School to present ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

By Alison Beach
Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) is proud to present William Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

Adapted by Dr. Carolyn Harper, this sharp one-act version of Shakespeare’s most popular comedy stars mischievous fairies,

complicated romances, bumbling actors, magic and laughs upon laughs.

This stage play’s blend of modern language and Elizabethan dialogue keeps the flavor of Shakespeare’s poetry and delivers hilarity for a modern audience.

Students in grades three through eight from PPOS, Pagosa Valor Academy, Pagosa Family School, and

Pagosa Springs Middle School have been working with advisors Alison Beach and Rain March this semester to bring this timeless comedy to life in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Performances will be April 23 (Shakespeare’s birthday) at 6:30 p.m., April 24 at 6:30 p.m. and April 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

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‘Honoring Survivors’: Survivors at the heart of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Rise Above Violence

This April, our community joins the national observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), reaffirming a simple yet powerful truth: Survivors are at the heart and center of the movement to end sexual violence.

Their courage, insight and advocacy have shaped prevention strategies, improved services and challenged institutions to become more responsive and just.

Honoring survivors means more than wearing a color or sharing a post. It means listening to their voices, believing their accounts and building systems that create change.

The last few months, we have been inundated with news of sexual violence and demands for justice — survivors speaking out about the atrocities done to them, even as minors. We know that sexual violence touches every corner of society, crossing lines of age, race, gender, ability and income.

Statistically, you likely know someone who has been affected by sexual violence — 45 percent of women and 17 percent of men in the U.S. have experienced some form of sexually violent contact, with 21 percent of women reporting completed or attempted rape and 3.2 percent men reporting. One in

three female victims first experienced that attempted or completed rape between the age of 11 and 17, one in four for male victims.

Yet, statistics never capture the full reality of trauma or the possibilities of healing.

Survivors remind us that recovery is not linear and that safety, choice and community support are essential.

This year’s SAAM theme, “Honoring Survivors,” invites each of us to take concrete steps to support survivors:

- Respond with empathy instead of skepticism.
- Create conditions in yourself, your workplace, among your friend group, that emulates a culture of caring and believing without judgment.
- Respect survivors’ decisions without placing blame or doubt.

Violence is less likely when we start to believe survivors and when we shift our response from skepticism to solidarity with survivors.

For too long, perpetrators have used lies and placed doubt, while survivors have had to “prove” their experience and trauma. We’ve protected the accused rather than the harmed.

When we believe survivors, not with blind acceptance, but with presumed credibility, we begin to break apart the foundation that allows sexual violence

to continue, even flourish.

When the cost of perpetration outweighs the “benefits,” and when survivors know they will be heard and protected rather than questioned and blamed, can we begin to end this epidemic. Let’s be that change.

Rise Above Violence is committed to being that change for victims of sexual violence. We’re believers in justice, and the power and possibilities. We stand with survivors while creating community actions to end violence.

Join us in taking action this month.

On April 29, Rise is hosting a screening of “North Country” at the Liberty Theatre. This powerful film shows the real-world impact of standing together, believing survivors and refusing to accept a culture of silence. Your ticket supports Rise and real survivors right here in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, turning awareness into tangible resources and hope.

For more information on SAAM, supporting survivors or upcoming events, visit www.riseaboveviolence.org.

If you or someone you know needs support, Rise’s 24/7 hotline is available at (970) 264-9075.

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Thingamajig Theatre Company announces summer season lineup

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company has announced its 2026 summer repertory season at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, featuring three productions running in rotating repertory from May 29 through Aug. 29.

This season includes “Come From Away,” Stephen Sondheim’s “Company” and “Fiddler on the Roof.” In July, Thingamajig will also present a youth production of Disney’s “The Jungle Book KIDS.”

Each of this summer’s productions explores relationships, resilience and community in different ways.

• “Come From Away” tells the true story of 7,000 airline passengers stranded in Newfoundland following Sept. 11, 2001, and the small town that took them in.

• “Company” offers a candid and often funny look at modern relationships through the perspective of bachelor Bobby and his friends.

• “Fiddler on the Roof” follows Tevye and his family as they navigate tradition and change in a shifting world.

**Season ticket holder
event April 19**

Thingamajig Theatre will host a cast reveal and wine-and-cheese event on Sunday, April 19, at 3 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The event is open to:

- Patrons who were 2025-2026 fall/winter season ticket holders, and
- Anyone planning to become a 2026 summer season ticket holder.

Guests will get a preview of the cast and season and enjoy light refreshments.

With shows running in repertory throughout the season, audiences can see multiple productions over the course of the summer. Season tickets are available through the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts box office.

For more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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A look back at Easter

By Jon Duncan
Centerpoint Church

As we have recently completed another Passion Week — including Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday — it can be very meaningful to stop and reflect on what we just experienced.

What was it all about? Why was it necessary? What does it mean for me personally? Did I miss something, or was that all there is? Why is this supposed to be so important — I mean, it happened a really, really long time ago. These are the type of questions that usually surface after the observance of a national holiday by an ever-increasingly secular society that doesn't have the connection to the Bible that earlier generations did.

They have heard the story, but not the story behind the story — the rest of the story, as some used to call it. There is also the missing element of personal connection, personal responsibility and personal accountability that goes with the story. It all seems so distant, so disconnected from our lives in the 21st century, and without an understanding of the true meaning of this important event, there is no incentive to dig deeper or research harder to discover what this story is really all about.

So, would you join me for just a few minutes as we reflect on what Passion Week is all about, and how it relates to you and me personally?

We begin with Palm Sunday, traditionally remembered as the day Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as King. Palm branches, a donkey, coats on the ground and lots of "Hosannas" by an excited and enthusiastic gathering that was much more political than religious in nature.

It didn't really go anywhere — it certainly didn't lead to a Jewish uprising to throw off Roman rule, but instead ended with Jesus weeping over the city for their unbelief and coming destruction — which none of the crowd understood.

But, from God's perspective, this was the day He chose His Passover Lamb, on the exact day that was commanded in Exodus 12 to select the lambs that would be killed in order to place their blood on the doorposts and header of their homes to keep the Death Angel from visiting on that fateful night in Egypt.

The lamb would then be killed on Friday, roasted and eaten together as a family — a yearly celebration intended to remind the Jewish nation of God's protection and provision for them as a nation as He delivered them from their life as slaves in Egypt.

Our yearly celebration of Good Friday reminds us of the terrible reality of that night in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago.

Those events were real, they actually happened, just as they were written. But why? What was all this

— betrayal, illegal and unfair trial, murder of an innocent man, rejection of the Son of God — really about?

Let's move to Gethsemane, let's watch Jesus praying in the garden, asking His Father if there could be another way — but always coming back in total submission to the will of His Father.

We see Jesus praying, crying sweating great drops of blood — giving physical evidence of the spiritual battle that was raging within Him. Physical suffering — yes, off the charts. Mental suffering — beyond our ability to even begin to understand. Spiritual suffering — even beyond what Jesus in His humanity could have possibly been prepared for.

Mark 14:33-34 reveals to us that in the garden of Gethsemane Jesus was thoroughly alarmed, struck with terror, and stunned with horror and astonishment as He entered into an experience that was totally foreign to anything He had ever experienced before.

He was so completely swallowed up by grief that the weight of these sorrows literally squeezed the very life blood from the pores of His skin and took Him to the point where His physical body was in danger of complete collapse. Luke 22:44 confirms that Jesus wrestled in a great contest as the devil did all he could to keep Jesus from going to the cross, and yet, in the end, it was only His Father's will that mattered to Jesus.

Let that scene fully fill your mind for a few moments, and do your best to grasp as much as you can of the reality of that scene. Jesus, there in the garden, wrestling with the lies of the evil one, perhaps His own feelings of failure in His mission (Isaiah 49:4) and His full humanity's desire to some how avoid all of these unimaginable weights of suffering — yet all within the parameters of the will of His Father. Darkness, sadness, unspeakable grief, unrelenting uncertainty of the future.

Yet all that was replaced with overwhelming joy on Sunday morning when the resurrected Savior stepped out of that tomb, victorious over death, once and for all answering the question of Who is the Way, Who is the Truth, and Who alone is the source of Life everlasting.

It is so much more than just a great story where the underdog wins or the bad guys are put in their place, or the feel-good ending to the most horrible story ever told.

This series of events, carefully preserved for us in the God-inspired words faithfully recorded in the pages of scripture, are the source of all truth pointing us toward the source of salvation for all who will keep on seeking, and keep on asking, until they finally understand, believe and are born again to eternal life.

Every part of the story you just experienced last week, Easter 2026, was

endured, embraced and obediently experienced by Jesus for one reason and one reason alone: to make a way for you to be rescued from your slavery, redeemed from the debt of your sin and adopted into the family of God forever.

That is why Jesus did what He did, suffered what He suffered, died the way He died, rose again from the grave victorious — it was for you; it was for me. All because we could never stand before a holy God in our filthy rags — even the very best of our good deeds and kind words while on this earth. All because without His blood shed for us we would never gain entrance into heaven's gates to enjoy His presence forever. There is no other way, regardless of what you have been led to believe.

Don't let this Easter be just another one in the long line of Easters that are part of your history on this earth. Ask God to use this one to lead you to begin the search for true meaning in your life, a personal — vital, day-by-day, meaningful and real — relationship with the Creator God who was also the God-become-man Savior of

■ See Easter on next page



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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold Earth Lament circle

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Artemis II mission brought us amazing views of Earth this past week. Seeing these photos, it's hard not to feel awestruck. In celebrating Earth Day this month, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will gather this Sunday, April 12, for an Earth Lament circle.

This small-group ministry is held the second Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

De Anna Hoyle, facilitator for this group, has training in eco spiritual care, certification in religious education and spiritual companioning. She serves as community engagement coordinator for the UU Fellowship.

You may wonder, why lament? "Because lament in community, and as a ritual practice, has the power to alchemize our grief — for the loss of what we've cherished, for the loss of what won't be." These words, re-sourced from the BTS Center, which offers periodic circles of Lament with Earth, will serve as a touchstone for this gathering.

Another resource to draw from is the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE.org), which states, "The climate crisis is an everything crisis. It is an environmental crisis, an infrastructure crisis, a political, social, and economic crisis. It's a health crisis, and it has become an emotional and

spiritual crisis ... Climate anxiety is so prevalent that it will soon be named as a mental health disorder in the DSM. There is no quick fix, and yet research shows that gathering in community to companion one another is a primary strategy for addressing this distress. Churches are perfectly situated to do this. When we metabolize our feelings together, we prevent becoming paralyzed and can commit to meaningful action together."

We come together in our Going Deeper Circles to deepen our awareness and participate in community sharing as we practice deep listening and connection. This is an open, safe circle of engaging in one's own life journey, of honoring ourselves and doing all we can to honor Earth in all its glory.

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

We invite all to visit us for a welcoming place of love and acceptance. Visit our website, PagosaUU.org, where you will find information about upcoming services and programs.

We offer space for ongoing programs and events at the UU Community Hub, such as the Tara Meditation Group held Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Qigong practice on Monday afternoons at 1

p.m. The Wise and Wakeful Circle, hosted by Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, meets the fourth Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. All are welcome for mindfulness practice to connect with others while building community.

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THE BENEFITS OF A PLANT-RICH DIET PART-2



The benefits of the dietary fountain of youth and regeneration are many and profound. For additional discussion, consult the video linked here and read today's excerpt below. Science supports a low-fat, plant-based diet for optimal health.

The Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), the nation's largest organization of nutrition experts, states that "vegetarian diets, including total vegetarian or vegan diets, are healthful, nutritionally adequate, and may provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases.

Well-planned vegetarian diets are appropriate for individuals during all stages of the lifecycle, including pregnancy, lactation, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and for athletes." The ADA's position paper on vegetarian and vegan diets, published in 2009, references more than 200 studies and papers to support its conclusions. Studies continue to show that plant-based diets can aid in reversing the symptoms of America's most devastating diseases: type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and some types of cancer. People who follow a plant-based diet have a healthier heart. They reap the benefits of lower cholesterol levels than meat-eaters, and heart disease is less common in vegetarians. Plant-based meals are typically low in saturated fat, and since cholesterol is found only in animal products such as meat, dairy, and eggs, it's easy to consume a cholesterol-free diet.

Another benefit of consuming a plant-based diet is getting your blood pressure numbers down. An impressive number of studies show that vegetarians have lower blood pressure than nonvegetarians. A low-fat, plant-based diet has also shown to reverse the symptoms of type 2 diabetes. A diet based on vegetables, legumes, fruits, and whole grains, which is also low in fat and sugar, can lower blood sugar levels and often reduce or even eliminate the need for medication. Since individuals with diabetes are at high risk for heart disease, avoiding fat and cholesterol is important, and a vegetarian diet is the best way to do that. A plant-based diet helps prevent cancer.

Studies of vegetarians show that death rates from cancer are only about one-half to three-quarters of those of the general population. Breast cancer rates are dramatically lower in countries where diets are typically plant-based. When people from those countries adopt a Western, meat-based diet, their rates of breast cancer soar. Vegetarians also have significantly lower rates of colon cancer than meat-eaters. Colon cancer is more closely associated with meat consumption than any other dietary factor.

Source: "Why The Power Plate? Plant-Based Diets Promote Health." By The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. <http://www.pcrm.org>

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

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Genesis 1:29

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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Pagosa Catholic Community to commemorate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 12

Pagosa Catholic Community

This year marks a beautiful milestone for the Pagosa Catholic Community as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their local celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, a devotion that has drawn countless hearts closer to the boundless compassion of Christ.

What began as a simple invitation to trust in Jesus has grown into a cherished annual tradition — one that continues to renew, heal and inspire.

The Divine Mercy Novena, given to St. Faustina and recorded in her 1934-1938 diary, begins on April 3 (Good Friday). The nine-day novena prayer culminates on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, with a prayerful celebration led by Guiseppe and

Maureen Margiotta.

As attendees commemorate 25 years of devotion, they also remember the message entrusted to St. Faustina: "Jesus, I trust in You." These words carry communities around the world through seasons of hope, challenge and renewal.

This annual gathering invites all to pause, give thanks and recommit themselves to being instruments of mercy in their homes, parish and world.

To honor this special anniversary, parishioners and visitors are invited to gather for a joyful celebration on Divine Mercy Sunday at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church. The church is located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd., and

■ See Devotion on next page

Easter

■ continued from previous page

the world who died for your sins and mine so that we can one day stand in His presence and enjoy Him forever.

If you have questions, or just want to know more, visit centerpoint-

pagosa.com and join us weekly at Centerpoint Church for worship and the study of God's word that focuses on Jesus, the central character in the greatest story ever told. We would love to see you there.

What the new library says about Pagosa

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

It surely comes as no surprise that when I travel across the United States, I stop into every public library. Of course I'm looking for good ideas to bring home. But, more than that, I'm looking for insight into the local culture.

You can immerse in the marketing materials of any place you're looking to visit, fawn over the professional pictures, and scour all the websites and books that match you with the best place to retire, the best place to raise a family or the most affordable towns in America. But if you really want to understand a community's culture and if you fit in, visit its public library.

Sometimes what you find is not surprising. Enter the children's section of the Berkeley, Calif., public library and you will be greeted with a sign depicting an immigrant family with the caption "You Are Welcome Here." Travel to Miami-Dade County's extensive system of library branches and all the signs will be in multiple languages, including Haitian-Creole. The huge Create and Construct section of the Janesville, Wis., public library signals that the practical do-it-yourself culture of the Midwest is very much alive. And the Oak Park, Ill., public library's special collections dedicated to Frank Lloyd Wright and native son Ernest Hemingway speak to local pride, as does the Farmington, N.M., public library's collection of Native American artifacts and history.

There are, however, many surprises. One of my favorite library displays was in Missoula, Mont., in December, and read "Every Month is African American History Month." What struck me most about the Salt Lake City Public Library was not its grandeur, but the staff compassion on display. Not only were itinerant people warmly welcomed, but special classes were offered to help them gain fast, employable skills. The same is true for Dallas, Texas, where the library opens early to offer hot coffee and conversation groups for people living on the streets. Some small towns not known for their wealth like Eaton, Colo., have beautifully restored Carnegie libraries; other towns with greater means have left their libraries and parks in disrepair. So, what will a newcomer to Pagosa Springs learn about our com-

Devotion

■ continued from previous page
the April 12 program will start at 2:45 p.m.

Following the program, the Knights of Columbus Council 7560 will host a light reception with food and refreshments, which will allow attendees time for fellowship as they rejoice in God's mercy. The Knights'

Library News

munity as they visit our new building for the first time? I have some ideas.

The 300 names that grace the donor wall as you walk into the new library send a clear message that this library was a community effort and that many, many people are proud to have built it.

The bright new children's space, complete with a garden, is the first space you see as you walk through the entryway, and says that our children are our community's priority.

The large community room means we love to gather together, to talk, to learn and to create.

Our new makerspace says we support our kids' future in a high-tech world where employment will require more than basic understanding of technology.

And our surrounding gardens, created with the expertise and care of community groups, is a true testament to our love of this magnificent place we call home.

I am proud of what we're creating in Pagosa, and I hope you are, too. There are still many ways to help us get to our goal. Watch for our call for volunteers in advance of moving day. Contribute as you can. And if you're feeling especially generous, naming opportunities are still available.

Thank you for all you're doing to create this wonderful place that will serve our community for generations.

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

generosity reflects the very heart of this feast: service rooted in love, hospitality and unity.

All are welcome to join for prayer, celebration and community as the Pagosa Catholic Community honors this blessed feast. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org or call the Parish Office at (970) 731-5744.

Day weekend.

Follow us on Facebook for periodic pictures of progress.

Are you participating in the Spring Reading Challenge?

Think of our Spring Reading Challenge as a warm up to our Summer Reading events. Get in the habit of recording your reading time on our Beanstack app and win prizes as you go.

You can earn up to 18 unique badges through reading and doing short activities. Readers who log 10 hours complete the challenge and can come to the library for their reward.

Pagosa read 54,530 minutes during our Winter Reading Challenge. Can we beat our own record? Hurry, the challenge ends April 15.

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.

GED adds citizenship classes

If you are working toward your general education degree or a high school equivalency exam, if you're

■ See Library on next page



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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.



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109 Carol's Curves
\$198,000

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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Library

■ **continued from previous page** working toward your U.S. citizenship test, or if you could use a tutoring session to help you with your educational goals, give the library a call at (970)264-2209 and we'll connect you with our instructor.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

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

Meet us out in the community

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

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

Activities calendars

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

Online author talks

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

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

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.

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 and choose Search the Catalog at the top of the screen.

Don't forget, if there is a waiting list for the book, it may be available now as an e-book or e-audiobook on CloudLibrary or Libby.

New fiction

- "In the Fields of Fatherless Children" by Pamela Steele is a love story set in 1960s Appalachia during the Vietnam war and follows a young couple torn apart by a divided country and their long-standing family feud.

- "The House of Hidden Letters," a novel by Izzy Broom, follows a lottery winner who buys a run-down house in Greece and discovers the hidden past of the house and its former inhabitants.

- "The Social Circle," a new novel by Sophie Wan, is set at UC Berkeley, where a group of college students form the first social media platform and pass through phases of friendship and estrangements.

New in large print

- "Ladies in Waiting: Jane Austen's Unsung Characters" is a compilation of short stories from modern authors including Adriana Trigiani, Elinor Lipman and Eloise James.

- "The Meaning of Your Life" is the new title from happiness expert Arthur Brooks.

- "Daughter of Egypt" by Marie Benedict stars Lady Evelyn Herbert, daughter of the archaeologist credited with finding the treasure-filled tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

New nonfiction

- "Good Money: Six Steps to Build-

ing a Financial Life with Purpose" is by John Coleman.

- "The Intelligent Crypto Investor" is by John Hardgrave.

- "Days of Love and Rage: A Story of Ordinary People Forging a Revolution," set in Syria, is from author Anand Gopal, a regular contributor to "The New Yorker."

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Love has prevailed another year

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

As I observed my Sweet Al tripping over his oxygen cord wrapped around his legs, pulling at it and curling it into a circle, then unraveling it, and starting all over again, I thought about life. He struggles with little things, the right shoe on the right foot. Talking into the television remote. No answer. Not hanging up the phone. Everyone panics, “Where are you? The phone is off the hook.” Letting the water run and hiding things only to lose them. This is his world.

Our 66-year wedding anniversary came up April 1. At the time, reciting our marriage vows, we had no idea what we were agreeing to. It didn’t matter; we didn’t see anything but each other. Oh, to be that blind and in love.

There were several who told us we weren’t going to make it. They saw the pitfalls. Love has a way of navigating around the pitfalls. And if these people were alive today, they would wonder how we are still standing and holding hands. I’d tell them, “Love prevailed. God’s love preserved this marriage.”

I really believe there was an outside force, namely God, who saw the bigger picture, and, out of His love for us, He knew we were meant for each other, and the pitfalls were just a positive plus to teach us how to truly love each other.

Our grandson is planning his wedding this summer and he’s so in love he can’t see straight. So is she. I see some pitfalls, but who am I to rob this young couple of the joy of living, and

Artist’s Lane

learning how to truly love each other? Loving is a God thing.

My nephew asked me if I would marry into this family again. I said, “No.” My children stared at me. I read their minds. Embarrassed, I gave a sheepish, “Yes.” I understood where he was coming from. His side of the family, Al’s brother and mother, gave him trouble until the day they passed away. They also did the same to me. I used to think my job in the family was to rescue Al. Al couldn’t escape his family, didn’t want to, and I wouldn’t play their game.

Today, I observe that God gave me the greatest gift of all. Al loved me unconditionally. It’s my time to love him the same way. I didn’t rescue Al, but he rescued me. We are in the last chapter of these love vows we took in 1960.

It is love for their daddy which caused our family to come together to take care of him. Al is never left alone. They are serving their dad, protecting our Sweet Al and making sure he knows he’s loved.

My daughter picked up her daddy and took him on a Saturday afternoon date. She drove him to Walmart to look for a pair of blue jeans. She was laughing as she told me how he went in wearing both socks and came out of the store with one.

She said, “I know he had both socks on when we went into the store.” She spent 15 minutes looking all over Walmart. Patting him down, she found his sock inside the pant leg of the opposite leg. She chuckled, “It’s a mystery how it got in the other pant leg. Daddy is the little boy I never had. I’m raising Daddy now.”

I laughed. I told her I knew exactly what she was saying. It seems I’m raising Al, too. “I was waiting to get on Zoom for a morning meeting. He was standing to my side, ‘butt-naked’ waiting for me to help him put on his clothes.”

My daughter gasped. “Oh no. What did you do?”

“Thank the Lord, Zoom wasn’t letting me in.”

My eyes, I’m sure, were the size of saucers. I lurched forward in my chair. My fingers pounded every key. Frantically, I turned off my video and audio. Composed myself. Dressed him. Shook my head, took him to watch “Mountain Men” on television, then continued with my morning meeting.

Final brushstroke: It’s good we didn’t listen to other people’s opinions. Funny how those pitfalls aren’t that important any more. Keeping my Sweet Al safe, fed with a good meal, dressed, with a haircut for church, shoes on the right feet, he is all our family cares about today. Another year has flown by. As I observe life from where I am today, love has prevailed.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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The TrashBash crew poses for a photo before cleaning up the riverfront area on the east side of Pagosa Springs on Saturday, April 4.

Tutus, trash and town pride: TrashBash a success

By Paula Jo Miller
WomenConnect

On the morning of Saturday, April 4, the east side of Pagosa Springs witnessed a peculiar and powerful sight: a fleet of more than 20 women dressed in colorful tutus and costumes, armed with trash pickers and a mission of stewardship.

This wasn't just a costume parade; it was the inaugural TrashBash, a WomenConnect initiative designed to bring women together to pitch in and clean up the riverfront and high-traffic areas near the town's east-side entrance.

The group spent two hours tackling the litter that had accumulated along the riverfront and in our shared spaces. We collected several dozen bags filled with abandoned tents and clothes, paper and plastic debris, and even a full set of golf clubs.

Why we did it

Yes, it can be frustrating to collect litter left by others. If we each cared about our land just a little bit more, we could make a significant difference.

But, these women showed up for the landscape they love and left with an immense sense of pride that comes from taking direct action to protect our beautiful mountain home.

A community partnership

The success of the day was made possible with the generous support of the Town of Pagosa Springs.

The town provided high-visibility vests, trash pickers and heavy-duty trash bags. Furthermore, town crews

were on standby to immediately collect the several dozen full bags as soon as we finished.

Looking forward

The TrashBash is more than a onetime event; it is a living roadmap for future town stewardship.

WomenConnect plans to partner and host more cleanup sessions

across different areas of Pagosa Springs. We invite you to join us for future events. Whether you come in a tutu or your more comfortable trash-picking gear, your participation helps us maintain our beautiful town.

For more information about future WomenConnect and TrashBash events, email pswomenconnect@gmail.com or text (214) 415-2952.

Photo courtesy Paula Miller

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

Photos courtesy Shanna Robb and Gene Tautges

Scene ... Approximately 100 Christians walk as part of the Good Friday Pilgrimage on Friday, April 3. The pilgrimage was followed by Stations of the Cross. The event was organized by the Pagosa Catholic Community and led by Father Samuel Auta.



Develop your talents and share them with the world

By Gregg Heid

Special to The PREVIEW

God created humanity in His own image — male and female. The glory of God is a human fully alive, meaning living as the best version of oneself. This best self is someone who does what they love, using their talents to the fullest, all for God's glory.

Scripture teaches that talents — both natural and spiritual — come from God.

Talents are meant to be developed, not hidden (Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30), and should be used in service to God and people (1 Corinthians 12:4, 7). David, a skilled harpist, warrior and

A Matter of Faith

king, used his gifts to serve God and others (1 Samuel 16:18). Joseph, once a slave, rose to power by wisely using his God-given abilities to save Egypt during famine.

God honors skill and diligent work. Proverbs 22:29 praises those skilled in their work, and Proverbs 31 celebrates a virtuous woman using her talents in business and charity. Samson, set apart by God from birth,

performed incredible feats showing God's power even when his motives were flawed (Judges 13-16).

Modern examples like golfer Scottie Scheffler demonstrate using God-given talents with humility and faith. Scheffler prioritizes God and family above sport, showing how faith shapes talent. Similarly, athletes like Usain Bolt, 100-meter record holder for years; Candace Parker, WNBA legend; and Fernando Mendoza, quarterback for the national champion Indiana Hoosiers, give glory to God for their gifts and successes.

Talents are visible like a beautiful sunset. Whether used for God's glory or personal pride, they reflect His

■ See Faith on next page

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 gadwall.

The male gadwall's colors are less flashy than those of many other duck species, earning it the nickname of gray-duck. But his beauty is underrated, and magnification reveals a fine pattern of wavy lines all over his gray body. He has touches of brown and rust colors on his head and back, and a black rump — a distinctive field mark even at a distance.

Brownish females resemble mallards, but often display a small white patch of folded wing feathers at the rear. Courtship displays and pair bond formation occur in fall, four to five months before breeding occurs. If you can pick out the male gadwall in winter and spring, the female is often close by.

Gadwalls are dabbling ducks that rarely dive and primarily feed on the leaves and stems of submerged aquatic vegetation. When these foods are out of reach, they will wait for coots and diving ducks to surface and snatch food from their mouths. During the breeding season, invertebrates are added to their diet. Females especially need the extra protein for egg production.

Outside breeding season, gadwalls can be found on small bodies of water with submerged vegetation across the United States. Breeding occurs primarily in the prairie pothole regions of the Great Plains states and the Canadian prairies, where they require areas of well-vegetated wetlands for feeding that are adjacent to areas of dense brush and grasses to hide their nests and ducklings. More than other ducks, they prefer to nest on island areas within a wetland for protection from predators.

As is typical with many duck species, the pair bond breaks when incubation of the eggs begins, and the male leaves to molt his breeding plumage. Females care for their young until they are independent at around 10 weeks old.

Related to their requirement to seek habitat with well-hidden nest sites, gadwall have higher nest success rates than other prairie-nesting birds. Since the 1980s, their numbers and range in North America have increased.

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Save the date for the following activity at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center:

- April 22, 11 a.m.: Earth Day meditation and drumming. A \$10 donation will be collected. Contact (970) 510-0309 for more information.

- April 26, 11 a.m.: Vietnam Veterans Giveback Day. There will be a service at 11 a.m. with refreshments after. For more information and to reserve your space, contact (970) 510-0309.

- May 1, 6 p.m.: Full Moon Drumming Circle. Join us at Xanadu for a flower moon celebration. A \$10 donation will be collected. Contact (970) 510-0309 to reserve your spot.

May 3, 11 a.m.: Sunday service at Xanadu.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self." Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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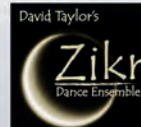
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Plant profile: thistles

By Ethan Proud
PREVIEW Columnist

We're going to get this article out of the way early on in the season, as it's the plant family I get the most calls about.

Thistles are the most unpopular noxious weed in Archuleta County and for good reason: They are everywhere.

There are five listed species of thistle on the Colorado Noxious Weed List, a list that was created by the Colorado Noxious Weed Act which mandates that all landowners in Colorado manage noxious weeds on their land.

Noxious weeds are introduced plants which wreak havoc on our ecosystems, agriculture production, economies and, in some cases, public health. Not all thistles that occur in Archuleta County are noxious weeds, as there are about 20 native thistle species in Colorado.

Besides being just unpleasant to be around due to their spikey nature, noxious thistles crowd out native vegetation and reduce forage values in pastureland. Invasive thistle plants are excellent at forming a monoculture and reducing the biodiversity that our ecosystems need to thrive.

The five noxious species of thistle are: musk, bull, scotch, plumeless and Canada. All but plumeless occur in Archuleta County.

Musk, bull, and scotch thistle are biennials that live for two seasons before producing seed and dying. These plants should be controlled prior to seed production by either manual or mechanical removal or herbicides.

Canada thistle is a perennial with a creeping root system, like an aspen grove, and pulling, digging or mowing are not particularly effective, though they can keep a population in check if done diligently. Herbicide is the best option for controlling Canada thistle, and a fall application after seed production is most effective.

Before choosing which control method you prefer or would be most effective, proper identification is important. If the plant in question is one of our native thistles, no action is needed. When you determine that it is a noxious thistle, it's important to figure out whether its Canada thistle or one of the biennials.

Faith

■ continued from previous page
handiwork. Achievements in music, art and science, like Beethoven's symphonies, Einstein's theories, Adele's voice and Michelangelo's paintings reveal God's work through human creativity and intellect (Acts 17:28).

Doing what we love is a gift from God. He plants desires in our hearts and gives us the capacity to fulfill them. Pursuing these gifts with joy and discipline is part of God's grace. Not everyone is called to the same

Extension Viewpoints

At any given site, you may have several of the thistle species present. Canada and musk thistle are the most prevalent in Archuleta County, and there is considerable overlap in their populations. Canada thistle may be treated in the early summer with fair efficacy and musk thistle rosettes can be treated in the fall, or both species could be treated twice a year per the herbicide label guidelines.

Herbicide treatments on thistles can also be paired with mowing or mechanical removal. Using more than one type of control is known as integrated management and will often yield better results than solely relying on one method of control.

When managing thistle, it is important to recognize the native species, as they provide ecosystem services without outcompeting the surrounding vegetation. Native thistles have white, yellow or brown blooms and are less spikey and often a glaucous (blue/green/gray) color. When in doubt, send a photo of your thistle to the Weed and Pest Department for an ID.

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

Seed potatoes, seed onions for sale

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

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

Learn to can jam

Join us to learn to can raspberry jam on April 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension office. The cost is \$25

■ See Viewpoints on next page

roles, but each person has unique gifts to bless the world. We all are alive on this earth at this time and place for a reason.

To find your gift, look within for the desires God has placed in your heart; develop them and share them for your joy and His glory.

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.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Pendulum paths
- 5 Gulf War missile
- 9 Chipping choice
- 13 European auto
- 14 Scorn, with "at"
- 15 Junction point
- 16 Top spot
- 17 Projectile points of old
- 19 Stepped in for
- 21 German surrealist Max
- 22 How great minds think?
- 23 Bull's-eye hitter
- 25 Aquatic nymph
- 27 Really close game, say
- 32 Combative
- 34 Mythical ship
- 35 Word on a door
- 36 Generous ones
- 38 Altar constellation

- 39 Chemical endings
- 41 Reversed on appeal
- 43 Colander cousins
- 45 Takes a breather
- 46 Salacious look
- 47 "Love ___ you need" (Beatles lyric)
- 49 Love, in Lyon
- 52 Colts and Cowboys
- 55 Revels in the moment
- 58 Resting on
- 59 Actor Morales
- 60 This puzzle has 72
- 61 Fountain fare
- 62 Tax form IDs
- 63 Sent back: Abbr.
- 64 Prefix with "while"

DOWN

- 1 Not nigh

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20						21			
		22					23	24					
25	26					27	28				29	30	31
32					33					34			
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43				44						45			
			46					47	48				
49	50	51					52					53	54
55					56	57				58			
59					60					61			
62					63					64			

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- 2 Chinese food staple
- 3 Office seeker
- 4 Out of this world
- 5 Flying Toasters, e.g.
- 6 Firewood quantity
- 7 Area 51 craft
- 8 Airport in TX
- 9 Lack of activity
- 10 Speckled steed
- 11 Racetrack ratio
- 12 Place to brood
- 14 Quarterback's woe
- 18 Rosemary, e.g.
- 20 Staffers
- 23 Like some portfolios
- 24 Red flag
- 25 April, May and June, e.g.
- 26 Insurance broker
- 28 ABC or NBC, e.g.
- 29 Certain worker at the UN

- 30 Everglades wader
- 31 Map lines
- 33 Excelled
- 37 Port city of India
- 40 Greyhound lookalikes
- 42 Press statement
- 44 Cloth and cash endings
- 48 Some cameras, for short

- 49 Amazes
- 50 Sunday service
- 51 "The Good Earth" wife
- 52 Marine: Abbr.
- 53 Online admins
- 54 Petty quarrel
- 56 Text-scanning tech
- 57 Phillies' div.

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Safety starts at home: fall prevention tips for seniors

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Falls are one of the leading causes of injury among seniors, but many can be prevented with simple safety measures at home.

Reducing clutter, securing loose rugs and keeping walkways clear can significantly lower the risk of tripping. Proper lighting is essential, especially in hallways, staircases and bathrooms, so installing bright bulbs and night lights can help improve visibility. Adding grab bars in bathrooms, using nonslip mats in showers and ensuring handrails are sturdy on stairs can provide extra stability.

Wearing well-fitting, nonslip footwear indoors is another easy but effective way to maintain balance and prevent slips.

In addition to making the home safer, staying physically active plays a key role in fall prevention. Regular movement helps improve strength, flexibility and coordination, all of which are critical for maintaining balance.

The Archuleta Senior Center supports this effort by offering stretching and mobility exercises every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m., providing a safe and supportive environment for seniors to stay active.

Participating in programs like these, along with reviewing medications with health care providers to avoid side effects like dizziness, can greatly reduce fall risks. Taking these proactive steps helps seniors remain independent, confident and safe in their own homes.

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

Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page
per person/couple for one jar of jam. Learn all the latest food safety preservation practices. Call (970) 264-5931 to register today.

CPR and first aid classes

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

Check out the online option on

Senior News

community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided. Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

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.

our website, archuleta.extension.colostate.edu.

Join the fair board

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

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

Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game
■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom

On the second Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., join the “Tappers,” who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Senior Center.

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ruby’s Writers Guild

The Ruby’s Writers Guild meets on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

Tai chi chih

Tai chi classes are on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.

Tai chi chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Friday, April

24, at 1:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox’s Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab ‘N’ Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab ‘N’ Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on

short notice.

Thursday, 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.

Monday, April 13 — Herb-roasted chicken, broccoli hollandaise, dinner roll, garden salad, strawberry angel cake and milk.

Tuesday, April 14 — Pork tenderloin with cranberry ginger sauce,

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
roasted rosemary potatoes, garden salad, fruit, fig bars and milk.

Wednesday, April 15 — King Ranch chicken casserole, pinto beans, biscuit, garden salad, fruit, chocolate cake and milk.

Thursday, April 16 — Mediterranean stuffed mushroom, couscous, wilted spinach, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Friday, April 17 — Grilled turkey, swiss, tomato sandwich; cheesy cauliflower; garden salad; fruit; brownie; 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.pssseniors.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.pssseniors.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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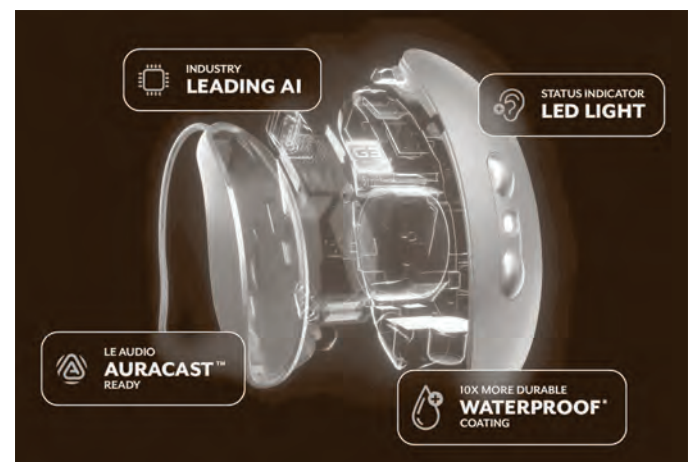
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O	E	Y	D	B	C	I	N	E	C	S	L	D	Z	A	D	D	P	K	V
I	V	I	H	A	A	T	L	A	S	P	D	R	S	P	D	S	P	V	D
R	Z	N	H	H	I	D	A	A	S	P	H	A	L	T	H	E	L	P	H
B	S	A	E	T	A	T	S	R	E	T	N	I	C	T	Z	D	A	E	A
R	S	V	S	V	H	V	C	C	Y	T	I	L	O	E	S	I	Y	G	A
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C	T	A	M	K	A	L	G	I	G	L	L	R	L	H	U	A	S	L	Z
B	N	T	M	O	R	L	R	K	L	H	H	E	L	R	U	O	T	I	S
Y	Z	I	N	R	E	B	H	O	D	Z	W	N	R	K	E	R	E	M	U
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P	R	N	I	D	I	A	B	Y	S	Z	L	O	Y	G	D	T	N	G	D
N	I	E	H	A	T	R	T	R	I	K	L	O	Y	M	H	T	N	A	T
T	C	T	U	Z	I	D	V	R	E	R	C	C	W	M	O	T	E	L	W
A	C	A	S	A	V	S	O	V	E	T	V	A	S	T	N	E	S	S	O
N	D	B	R	T	B	H	U	V	R	U	E	L	N	Z	O	D	A	M	D
W	A	G	Z	A	O	P	O	N	R	L	N	M	D	S	D	Y	U	K	I
L	E	O	Y	V	V	P	V	P	S	C	L	S	O	G	I	K	V	O	Y
R	U	O	T	E	D	A	I	N	G	E	Z	D	W	D	L	N	P	U	S
T	K	D	K	R	O	T	N	U	A	Z	T	H	N	I	O	A	R	P	V

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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Preview Calendar

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

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 screenings will be offered to eighth-graders. Register at 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.

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.

■ See Calendar on page 23

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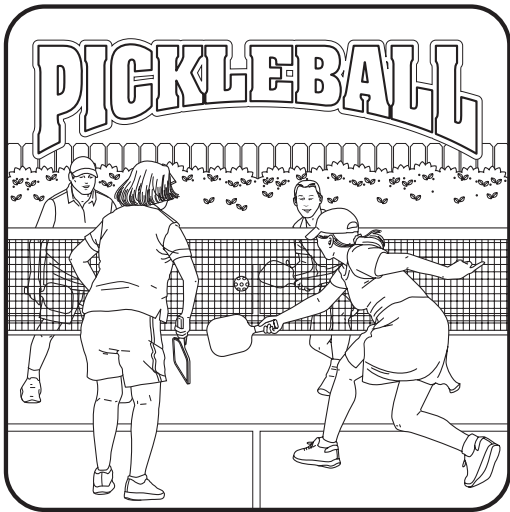
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**THIS
DAY IN
HISTORY**



1606: The Virginia Company of London is established by royal charter.

1816: The Federal government of the United States approves the creation of the Second Bank of the U.S.

1912: RMS Titanic sets sail from the United Kingdom.

**SPORTS
FACT:**



This is a low-impact paddle sport that mixes rules of tennis, paddle ball and more.

Answer: Pickleball

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

LPREAY

1	2	3			

ROECS

	4		5	6	

OIPTN

		7		8	

ATCKAT

						9

	H	
8		6

						B			
1	7	4	9	2	6		3	2	2

			Z	
4	5	3		6

Answers: Player, Score, Point, Attack: The pickleball craze

**NEW
WORD**

BASELINE

the line marking each end of a court

“How they say that in...”

- English:** Ball
- Spanish:** Pelota
- Italian:** Palla
- French:** Balle
- German:** Ball

Did You Know?

Although pickleball seems like a recent phenomenon, it actually was created in 1965. The game initially was played using makeshift equipment.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pickleball and paddle

Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 21

Curtains Up Pagosa 'School of Rock' Auditions. 4-7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School band room. All community members are welcome to audition for Curtains Up Pagosa's next production, to be staged June 25-27.

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.pagosalibrary.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.

Curtains Up Pagosa 'School of Rock' Auditions. 4-7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School band room. All community members are welcome to audition for Curtains Up Pagosa's next production, to be staged June 25-27.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Meet at 6 p.m. to socialize before the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Learn about volunteer opportunities and upcoming community science surveys. Visit www.weminucheaudubon.org for a Zoom link.

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 website, 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, smartphones, 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.

Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers Star Party. 8:30-9:45 p.m., overflow parking lot at PLPOA Rec Center. The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers will have a telescope out to view the cosmos.



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MISCELLANEOUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICES

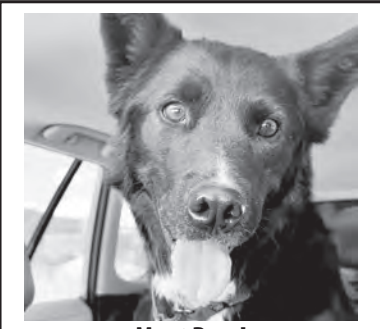
SERVICES

SERVICES



Meet Pretty Boy!

This playful 2-year-old grey tuxedo is ready for a home of his own! Pretty Boy loves to cuddle and must be the center of attention as your only cat. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.



Meet Bear!

This gentle 5-year-old male Border Collie mix is looking for a home of his own. Bear is a calm soul that is shy at first but once he knows you he opens right up. Smart, loyal, and loves car rides. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

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SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

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.

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 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, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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ARE YOU INTERESTED in making a difference in your neighborhood and community? Community Connections, Inc. seeks southwest Colorado residents (living in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan County) to serve as Community Ambassadors for Southwest Colorado Cares, a new program of Community Connections. At this time, we have 5 openings for this position, one for each of the counties listed above. This is a hybrid position, part-time up to 7 hours per week, with flexibility in schedule. It is hourly and non-exempt. Hourly wage is \$20 plus travel reimbursement. Interested candidates should apply at <https://www.communityconnections-co.org/careers>. Applications will be accepted until 5p.m. on April 22, 2026.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in making a difference in your neighborhood and community? Community Connections, Inc. is seeking qualified candidates to serve as Care Coordinator for Southwest Colorado Cares, a new program of Community Connections. At this time, we have 2 openings for this position. This is a hybrid position, full-time with flexibility in schedule. It is hourly and non-exempt. Hourly wage is \$25.49 with full benefits. Interested candidates should apply at <https://www.communityconnectionsco.org/careers> and upload a resume and cover letter. Applications will be accepted until 5p.m. on April 22, 2026.

AUTHENTIC SOLUTIONS is looking for a full-time administrative assistant. Interested applicants contact Stacey Foss at stacey.foss@authenticconsulting.net or (970)398-0964.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



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ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **Class B CDL Driver Trash Recycle Route Driver** position open. Pay based on experience and includes a sign-on bonus of \$500 payable after 6 months of accident-free employment.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

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GENERAL LABORER NEEDED. Full time /part time /summer job. Assorted Duties. Please send work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.



ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **Route Truck Helper/ Tipper** position open. The starting rate for this position is \$19/hour. Helpers ride on the trucks and empty trash carts and dumpsters. A valid driver's license is a plus, as helpers do a variety of tasks including cart delivery, shop cleaning, light mechanical and washing trucks and carts.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

COLORADO ROCK AND DIRT EXCAVATION, INC. in Pagosa Springs is seeking skilled heavy equipment operators to become part of our team. We provide PTO and 401K benefits. Please send your resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or call our office at (970)264-3478.

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GOODMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE is looking for a sales associate, Saturdays required. Sales associates must be friendly and self-motivated. Ask about our benefits and employee discounts. Come pick up an application at 402 Pagosa Street.

HISTORY MUSEUM HOST. May 25 through Labor Day, Wednesday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$18 per hour. Greet guests, gift shop and daily operations, light cleaning. Interest in local history a plus. Must have understanding of QR codes, apps, and websites. Email info@pagosamuseum.org or call (970)799-4056.

HOMETOWN INSURANCE is looking to fill a part time receptionist /administrative assistant position to add to our existing team. This position will turn into a full -time position late Summer. Prior experience is required. Must be detail oriented, able to multi -task and be proficient in Google Calendar, Docs, Sheets, Excel, Word and Adobe. Excellent phone and typing skills are a must. Our ideal candidate will have a friendly and warm personality while being professional, responsible and motivated. A customer -oriented approach is essential. Send resumes with references to info@hippsllc.com.

JAND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LANDSCAPE HELP: Looking to add 1-2 guys to a busy landscape /lawn crew for the season. Pay b /o experience. (970)764-0789, Acutbelowlawncare@gmail.com.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$17/ hour, part-time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/ personal time, performance -based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

RELIABLE, HONEST AND CAPABLE HANDYMAN needed for property management company. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or send info to pam@teampagosa.com.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full-time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO, additional sick time, and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$16.50 - 17.00 DOE. Apply for the Animal Care Specialist role online <https://pagosahumane.org/> or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

AUTOS

1996 DODGE RAM 2500 DIESEL, 330k miles, rust -free, strong engine, Rhino bed, topper. Runs 75 m.p.h.; transmission wear. \$8,500 OBO. (650)740-0600.

2013 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED. 123K miles, roof rack, winch, tow package, new tires. Asking \$14,500. Will take \$15,000. (970)946-5684.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD SALE. The Dump Truck special is back. Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$500. Pine mix. Only while supplies last. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

FOR SALE: LIKE NEW KENMORE gas cook stove and Kenmore washer. Kenmore upright freezer, older but works great. (970)403-6356.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba



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FOR SALE

THE PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT is seeking highly motivated candidates for the position of Fire Inspector (\$54,023 - \$55,643 DOQ). This is a full-time; Non-Exempt position with standard benefits. The ideal candidate will have extensive communication skills, attention to detail, and the ability to maintain a positive working relationship with all members and the public. To apply, candidates must submit a completed Employment Application. Application packets can be obtained by email at office@pagosafire.com, or by calling (970)731-4191. Applications received after April 24, 2026, 5p.m. (MST) will not be considered.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

LARGE COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PROFESSIONAL PRIVATE OFFICE for rent \$565/mo. 13' 4" x 15' 11" Includes water, sewer, heat, Wi-Fi, trash service, common area & snow removal. Contact Angelene at Hometown Insurance with questions or to schedule a showing. Call (970)264-4321 or email angelene@hippsllc.com.

PROFESSIONAL SUITES: 63, 112, 158, 186 sq. ft. shared reception, break room, and washer /dryer. Utilities included. Prime location. Just remodeled. (701)263-2410.

ROOM WITH SEPARATE BATH for rent about 3 miles from town. Call (970)946-9024 for details.

STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE FOR RENT. Looking for a secure and convenient place to store your belongings? Sunrise Property Management has storage units available. **100 sq. ft. units** — \$90 /month, **150 sq. ft. units** — \$100 /month. A one-month security deposit is required. If you're in need of a safe and reliable storage solution, contact **Sunrise Property Management** today at (970)731-4344 for more information or to reserve your unit.

WAREHOUSES /WORKSHOPS available to rent. Cloman Park new build 1100 sq.ft. \$1,300. Has bathrooms and loft space Contact: (720)470-2653.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM DUPLEX available beginning May. Garage, porch, laundry. Pet and smoke free. Includes water sewer \$1600 month, first last full (970)946-0118.

GREAT VIEWS OF CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT. Any large mobile home with all hookups for long-term lease. \$780 per month plus utilities, (970)883-2600.

LAKE PAGOSA PARK. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, garage, large master bedroom plus bath with Jacuzzi tub, new deck, greenbelt to rear, very efficient. \$2100. (970)946-7337.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE who would like to live out of town. Peace and quiet, clean, 1 bedroom, large loft, fenced yard, heated with wood stove and an efficient ETS heating unit, washer /dryer, large deck, no smoking. \$1,500 /month, first month rent, security deposit and half of last month's rent. Will take a pet. Available May 1. Please leave a message, (970)731-2010.

LOVELY NEWLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home on wooded lot. \$3000 /month Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.com.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

NEWLY REMODELED 2 BEDROOM in four plex, Pagosa Lake views, covered deck, 800 sq. ft., W/D, dishwasher, 5 minute walk to lake, most utilities paid, \$1,450. Call John (720)960-4910 or Lee (970)946-3856.

ON BEAUTIFUL PAGOSA LAKE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished upstairs unit. No garage. \$1,600 per month, plus utilities and deposit. No pets and no smoking. Available February 5. Long term lease. (817)565-7656.

SHERPA REAL ESTATE is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website <https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals> or stop by one of our two locations.

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT in downtown with beautiful views. Rent \$1348. Large floor plan, affordable living through tax credit program. Income and eligibility requirements apply. Hickory Ridge Apartments, hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying or Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

PagosaSUN.com

OPEN HOUSES

TWO OPEN HOUSES. Thursday, April 16, 9a.m. -11a.m. 62 W. Golf Pl. — 3 bedroom /2 bath /1288 sq. ft. and 49 Sandstone Ct. — 3 bedroom /2 bath /1844 sq. ft. Listed by Sherpa Real Estate. Refreshments provided.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

EXCEPTIONAL DOWNTOWN BUILDING LOTS and development potential. River, huge divide views, location. Nothing like it. Call (970)398-9136, or builder7@fastmail.com.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

YARD SALES

APRIL 18, 2026, 9A.M.-12P.M. 55 Little Pine Lane. Yard sale, outdoor items, decorations, tools and more.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 8A.M. -NOON. 282 Aspenglow, good stuff.

YARD SALE. Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11, 9a.m. - 3p.m. Downtown at 275 Mesa Drive. Furniture and home goods.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

Email us at
classads@pagosasun.com
to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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