

### Appeal to FEMA for October 2025 flooding denied

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

On Monday, April 13, the state of Colorado was notified that the federal government denied Colorado's two appeals for major disaster declarations, including one for the October 2025 flooding in Archuleta, La Plata and Mineral counties.

The other appeal was for the declaration for the September 2025 Elk and Lee fires in Rio Blanco County.

The denial letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), dated April 10, states, "After a thorough review of all the information contained in the initial request and appeal, we reaffirm the determination that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your appeal for a major disaster declaration is denied."

The letter is signed by Karen S. Evans, senior official performing the duties of the administrator.

A press release from the state notes, "These federal decisions deny critical FEMA Public Assistance for impacted communities and Hazard Mitigation support statewide. Without federal assistance, these communities will have fewer resources to recover, they will have to make

■ See FEMA A9

## Unfunded mandates, building codes and public safety discussed at community forum

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Dozens of residents attended a community forum on Monday, April 13, at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) Clubhouse, hosted by Commissioner Warren Brown.

The topics of unfunded mandates, adopting new building codes and public safety were discussed.

Brown offered some opening statements, explaining these forums are a way for constituents to provide input on how to serve visitors and locals better.

"That's the point," he said.

Brown then explained it is his belief that governments should not be about making money, meaning that what money the county has is what the taxpayers choose to allow it to have.

He posed the question of what happens when there are not enough funds to accommodate the demands of the government, answering with, "we have to increase the revenue somewhere," noting that "if we don't have funding, then we can't complete the task at hand."

■ See Forum A12



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney  
Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown addresses a crowd of constituents during a community forum hosted by Brown at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse on Monday, April 13.

## Voluntary drought restrictions remain, but additional restrictions likely

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

As of press time Wednesday, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) remained in its voluntary drought stage, but could enter a higher drought stage in upcoming weeks, according to a report from PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey.

Ramsey's report indicates that, according to district's drought triggers, which include flows in the San Juan River, levels in PAWSD's Lake Hatcher and the snow water equivalent (SWE) levels at the SNOwpack TELemetry Network (SNOTEL) station on the upper San Juan River, the district is currently experiencing voluntary drought, which comes with no restrictions but where customers are asked to conserve water.

However, Ramsey notes that the

■ See Drought A9

## Town council makes decisions about future of wastewater conveyance system

By Derek Kutzer  
Staff Writer

On April 9, the Pagosa Springs Town Council made two decisions regarding the future of the town's wastewater conveyance system.

Currently, the town conveys its wastewater 7 miles uphill, through a series of pump and lift stations, to the Vista wastewater treatment plant, which is owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

Since 2105, the system has been plagued by a series of electrical and pump failures, as well as an aging pipe system.

In November 2025, town-voters approved ballot initiative 2A, which created a 1 percent sales tax increase for purchases within town limits to fund critical repairs and improvements to the sewer system.

The funds collected from this sales tax increase go into a newly created town Sewer Infrastructure and Facilities Fund (SIFF).

The council decided at the meeting to transfer \$2,957,800 from its general fund to the SIFF so that it could make pump stations 1 and 2

function normally again without being in bypass mode.

Town Clerk April Hessman explained the fund transfer as "a little shuffle to help pay for this project until the SIFF money comes in."

The cost will cover the purchase of brand-new pumps, electrical work and contractor installation, an agenda document states.

The council also decided to table, for now, entering into a service agreement with Roaring Fork Engineering to complete the design of and permitting for a new San Juan wastewater treatment facility downtown.

The town has worked with Roaring Fork since 2023 on assessing its wastewater system situation and outlook for the future.

Sanitation Projects Administrator Karl Johnson explained that part of the cost from the \$2.9 million to get the pump stations back into normal operation would include "eight months worth of bypass pumping" while the town waits for the new pumps to arrive and be installed.

Johnson added that part of the cost also includes a "contingency, just in case anything unforeseen happens

■ See Wastewater A12



SUN photo/Randi Pierce  
The cast of Pagosa Springs High School's "The Little Mermaid" performs "Under the Sea" during its performance run last week.

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## LPEA announces board election candidates, voting details

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) has announced candidates for its 2026 board election, with voting set to open April 20.

Members will elect directors in three districts, while the District 2 race has been canceled under the cooperative's bylaws.

LPEA's board includes four geographically defined districts, each represented by one elected director.

The qualified candidates are:

- District 1, Archuleta County: Nicole Pitcher and James D. Lane.
- District 2, south and west La Plata County: Greg Barber.
- District 3, city of Durango: Jennifer Jenkins and Jodi Zuber.

nifer Jenkins and Jodi Zuber.

- District 4, north and east La Plata County: John Purser and David Luschen.

"Our board elections are the most important ways members shape the future of their co-op," said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. "As we continue building on our recent energy transition, member participation is more important than ever. We encourage all eligible members to vote and join us at the annual meeting."

### District 2 election canceled

Because only one candidate qualified in District 2, the LPEA board of

directors voted March 25 to cancel the election in accordance with Article III, Section 5 of the cooperative's bylaws.

Barber will serve as the District 2 director beginning May 20.

### Proposed bylaw amendment

To improve clarity and consistency in elections, the board has recommended a proposed bylaw amendment establishing a "record date," which defines which members are eligible to vote.

Members will vote on the amendment at the 2026 annual meeting. Full amendment language is avail-

able at lpea.coop.

### How to vote

Starting April 20 at 8 a.m., eligible voters will have multiple ways to cast their ballots:

- Online: Through the SmartHub using the "Vote Now" button.
- By mail: Ballots will be mailed to LPEA members in mid-April.
- In person: Members may vote in person at the annual meeting.

To be counted, online ballots must be submitted by noon on May 19, and paper ballots must be received by 4 p.m. on May 19.

For more information about the 2026 director election, proposed by-

■ See LPEA A9

# Opinion



## The Pagosa Springs SUN

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|------|------|-----|---------------|-------|
|      |      |     | Moisture Type | Depth |
| 4/7  | 63   | 30  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 4/8  | 65   | 27  | 0.02          | NA    |
| 4/9  | 67   | 28  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 4/10 | 64   | 32  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 4/11 | 58   | 34  | 0.04          | NA    |
| 4/12 | 60   | 28  | 0.01          | NA    |
| 4/13 | 55   | 28  | 0.00          | NA    |

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## OUR VIEW

### The unity we've missed

We thoroughly enjoyed tracking the Artemis II mission earlier this month and learning more about the process and people who made the historic moon mission successful.

We've also loved seeing the photos from the mission and the perspective the astronauts provided of our world our place in the universe.

It was a wonderful reprieve and offered something many could unite around — a project involving multiple countries pushing human boundaries and increasing human knowledge.

We also loved the astronauts' words on unity and humanity as they took in our little blue marble from farther away than humans ever have before — complete with our thin atmosphere and northern and southern lights.

"In all of this emptiness — this is a whole bunch of nothing, this thing we call the universe — you have this oasis, this beautiful place that we get to exist together," Pilot Victor Glover said on Easter, urging us to remember who we are, that we're not so different and that we're all in this together.

We were uplifted when Commander Reid Wiseman and his crew honored his

late wife and the mission by naming newer features on the moon Carroll and Integrity — testaments to love and hard work, among many other things.

We appreciated when Christina Koch — who holds numerous records regarding her time in space — pointed out her braids were like the first to leave Earth's orbit in a lighthearted moment and Jeremy Hansen's message that he didn't get to where he was alone — he did it with the help of a big team.

There were numerous great moments.

We thank NASA and the astronauts for giving us a bit of the unity we've been missing.

All those who helped get Artemis II into space and back safely will learn from this mission as they work toward again landing on the moon.

We hope we can also learn from this mission and take the words and attitudes of these astronauts to heart to be in this together, point out even the little fun things and set big goals for the future.

#### Letters to the editor reminder

As a reminder, The SUN will accept letters related to elections up to three weeks prior to the election.

That means the last issue The SUN will print letters relating to the upcoming La Plata Electric Association election will be April 30.

All letters must be submitted electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted and must not be in all capitals. Letters must also include the actual first and last name of the author, as well as a phone number and address (the address and phone number for verification, not for print).

Letters must be 500 words or less; and be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (the deadline may move up due to a holiday). Letters are limited to two per month per letter writer.

If necessary, only one letter pertaining to a candidate or political issue will be printed in each edition.

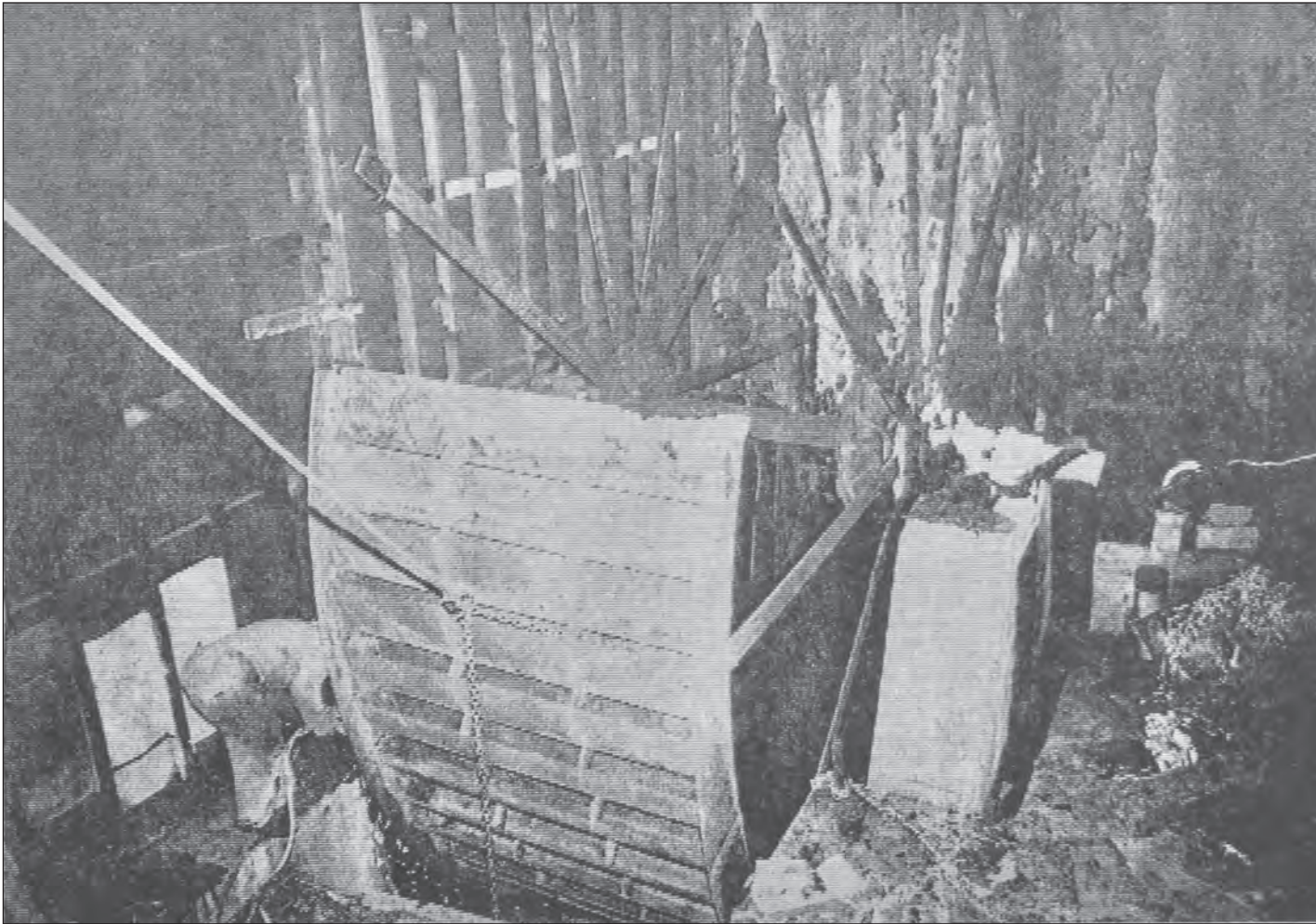
Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published. The SUN generally does not edit letters, but reserves the right to do so.

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

Randi Pierce

## LOOKING BACK



From the April 9, 1970, Pagosa SUN — OUT OF THE PAST — The old water wheel that so faithfully pumped water for the town of Pagosa Springs for many years ended its life this week. The old wheel, installed in 1933 or 1934 as a WPA project, was used to pump water to an earthen reservoir on Reservoir Hill until 1954 when electric diesel pumps were installed. The old wheel no longer generated enough horsepower to pump water as town usage increased. Since that time it has been idle and was sold by the town recently, leaving the old water plant empty except for electric and diesel pumps.

| Archuleta County Commissioners                                           |                                                             |                                                                         |
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## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

### 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 16, 1926

County Commissioner John E. Walker came up from Arboles Monday and remained for the brief session of the board held Wednesday. All pending matters were tabled until the next meeting in May.

A.A. Miller, in charge of maintenance of the Wolf Creek highway for the state department, expects to start work in a few days on the slides at this end of the pass.

Hatcher Well Completed. On Tuesday the Hatcher well at the rear of the Hatcher Hdq. Co. store encountered a heavy flow of hot water, registering 139 degrees, at a depth of 254 feet. The well was drilled 8 additional feet to make certain that the large pool was struck, making the total depth of the well 262 feet. The well has been cased and plugged, and now awaits the receipt of the capping and water control device.

The City park is commencing to have a pleasing appearance. The south portion has been undergoing leveling and other improvements the past week by John H. Lattin, who was given a contract by the town board.

### 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 20, 1951

Work got underway this week on an improvement plan for the town park under the direction of Mayor Ben K. Lynch. Last Saturday afternoon the park received a thorough cleaning by one of the high school classes under the leadership of class sponsors. The high school group really turned in a day's work and the park looks about 300 percent better.

Rangers Ed Busch and Rod Blacker have put in some time mapping and plotting the park for the town. The town will set up the park around the plans as drawn up by these men, which will make an unusually attractive and efficient layout.

The forest service has also donated plans and blueprints of the type of furniture found in Forest Service camp grounds. The town will hire the furniture constructed as soon as possible. It is anticipated that two forest service type sanitary restrooms will be constructed, several grills, camp tables and benches. Additional seating facilities will also be built and the band stand will be rebuilt.

When completed the town park will present a handsome appearance to out of town travelers and will indeed be a convenient place for travelers to stop and eat their lunch.

### 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 15, 1976

The Town Board held a special meeting last week so that newly elected board members could take the oath of office and to name officers for the next two years.

Those elected at the elections, Butch Madrid, Ross Maestas and Ross Aragon took the oath of office. Other members of the board are: Ben L. Lynch, Dan Peters, and Junior Sorenson. Jim Cloman is the mayor.

Ben L. Lynch was named as mayor pro tem. Mayor Cloman appointed the following committee chairmen: Dan Peters, water and cemetery; Ross Aragon, building code, zoning, and streets; Ben Lynch, police; Junior Sorenson, budget and parks; Ross Maestas, public buildings and street lighting; Butch Madrid, fire, health, and sanitation.

The Air Force Academy Band will be appearing in Pagosa Springs May 5th at the high school gymnasium. The concert to be presented here was made possible through the efforts of the local bicentennial committee. The concert is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on May 5 and admission is free.

### 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
April 19, 2001

Speed is a growing complaint by residents of the subdivisions which make up Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association and one of them is so tired of speeders in his neighborhood he wants the Public Safety Office reestablished — even if it would be illegal.

Brock Taras, of 104 Butte Drive, told PLPOA directors Tuesday he's afraid someone is going to be killed in his neighborhood and the sheriff's office either can't or won't do anything about speeders.

"I've called, my neighbors have called, everyone has called. They just won't come out. Sooner or later someone is going to die as a result. If we still had the PSO, we'd have control of the problem ourselves."

Advised the PSO operation had been found illegal and that the membership had voted to do away with it, he insisted, "Then we should ask them to vote again to restore the operation. If the sheriff can't control it, we should do it ourselves."



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

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

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

## Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

I am proud to support Naomi Riess for House District 59.

I have known Naomi for more than 20 years through our shared work in agriculture, the County Fair, horticulture programs, and sustainable agriculture efforts in our community. Over that time, I have seen her consistently step up to do the kind of steady work that keeps our rural way of life strong. Naomi has lived in La Plata County for more than 30 years, raising her family here and building a life deeply connected to this place.

Naomi currently serves as Chair of the Florida Mesa Planning District, where she works directly with the county on issues including irrigation infrastructure, agricultural production, and responsible growth. She understands these challenges because she has taken the time to study them carefully and work through them with practical, thoughtful solutions. Through her professional work in land-use research and consulting, she has also helped property owners navigate complex decisions, giving her a clear understanding of how policy impacts people on the ground.

This is a time when experience matters. Agriculture and water are under increasing pressure, and decisions at the state level are affecting our communities right now. We need someone who understands these issues from day one and is ready to act.

As a fourth-generation La Plata County rancher, I value strong, knowledgeable leadership. Naomi Riess has the experience, commitment, and common sense to represent us well.

Sincerely,  
Lorene Bonds  
Durango, Colo.

## Workforce housing and electricity

Dear Editor:

I have been reading the minutes for some BOCC meetings regarding the workforce housing proposals and grant requests. As I understand it, the housing being proposed is to be all electric. While that is good for the environment, LPEA is still providing clericality that is generated using fossil fuels.

I have not heard that any of these proposed housing projects are going to incorporate solar to provide electric in order to help reduce the overall operating expense for the potential homeowners. I think there is still some misguided belief that for solar to be viable residentially, there must be a battery stem associated. While that IS a way of potentially being more completely "off grid", it is not necessary for a solar system to be highly effective at reducing energy costs. A solar array can be VERY effective at reducing the actual amount of overall usage, in some cases as much as 50% without a storage system, by reducing the amount drawn from the utility company during the day so that it offsets what is being drawn during the nighttime. Additionally, there are some very affordable energy management products and systems that can reduce overall usage pretty dramatically.

Since the funding for these projects is ultimately coming out of our tax dollars, whether local, state or national, it should be in our best interests to put together the best systems possible when proposing this type of project.

It seems to get lost in the discussions around solar projects, particularly from LPEA, is the fact that more solar arrays generating energy reduces the overall need for the generating capacity of the utility, allowing them to provide service to more customers without having to bring new generating plants on line to meet demand. That reduces their costs, increases profits and is better for the environment. There are some very good providers of solar systems all around us that can put together a good plan for these projects that could make them much more viable AND set an example for others in the region who might be considering

# Letters

similar projects. We should be leading by example rather than always being the fly in the ointment!

Gary Hardin

## Earth Day

Dear Editor:

Earth Day is coming! Nationally, we celebrate on April 22. Locally, we'll gather this Sunday, April 26, from 9:00 to 3:00 at Centennial Park. We'll celebrate the life shared between Mother Earth and all species. There will be things to learn and ways to engage. Hope to see you there!

We, Earthlings, will celebrate our existence with all of nature, which has slowly evolved over billions of years. On Earth, we are uniquely situated among the vast galaxies throughout the Universe to enjoy a home full of life, stunning beauty, and exquisite diversity, both robust and perilously fragile. The astronauts have seen the beauty and the thin atmosphere that precariously shields our life on Earth. We really have something worth protecting.

Humans have existed for a relatively short time. We have evolved from small groups of hunter-gatherers, in sync with nature, over hundreds of thousands of years. Now we're mostly enormous agricultural societies, developed in just the last 12,000 years or so.

We homo sapiens, "advanced" from being part of the ecosystem to elevating ourselves as "Masters of the Universe" instead. Our "big-brain" development is a blessing and a curse, though. In too many ways, we have defiled the Earth and pushed countless species over the cliff of extinction. Our self-serving, greedy choices may now be pushing ourselves off the same cliff!

Our scientists, searching near and far from the "fire towers," can see the "towering inferno" that may collapse beneath us. They are the "watchers" and "town criers" warning us of our potential self-imposed impending doom. Unless - -

But are the "unless" options disappearing? Are they fading from us at "warp speed?" Will the moon and Mars "save" us fast enough? Probably not.

Rather, if we can pull it off, we must rid ourselves of our addiction to the diminishing "ancient sunlight". I.e., fossil fuels, the product of sunlight and plants, decayed and locked up far below Earth's surface.

But will greedy Trump and the other super wealthy drive us recklessly through the slippery, greasy oil, over the cliff of no return? Or will "We the People" unite and demand change before it's too late?

We can't wait for the deadly Dictator and the blind oligarchs to come to their senses. Their senses are distorted by their lustful, corrupt craving, a bottomless pit crying more, more, more! Dictatorship, one man making all the choices, and "I alone can fix it," won't cut it. No "One" is that smart.

We are in danger, and it is scary. So there's no time to sit on the sidelines. No one can do everything, but all of us can do something. Something is far better than nothing.

Things can improve. Educating ourselves, paying attention, engaging, and choosing wise leaders is the

foundation of a healthy democracy. Democracy requires participation. It needs to be renewed and improved, and it's still the best we've got. We are the ones who have to get it done.

Happy Earth Day, friends!

Mitch Nielsen

## 'More of the same'

Dear Editor:

Several weeks ago, I went to a "meet and greet" for Republican candidate for County Commissioner, Randy Betts. I walked up to him when he was open, introduced myself and shook his hand. I asked a simple question, "Did you vote for Donald Trump"? His answer was an enthusiastic "OF COURSE"! I turned around and said to my partner " more of the same" and we walked out.

I am thinking, is this what we need in Archuleta County, a commissioner that enthusiastically supports that narcissistic madman we have in the White House? If Mr. Betts thinks that a person that starts wars on a whim, openly promotes hatred among the people his country, unleashes a gestapo type force in our cities, a force who murder citizens in cold blood without repercussions, appoints department heads that are as openly corrupt as he is, renames important buildings in his name, has to plaster his face and signature on currency and government documents, is the right leader for this country then what are we going to expect from him at the county level.

Is he going to blindly follow the Republican Party in their destruction of the values of the Constitution? Is he going to peruse this same immorality and disregard for THE PEOPLE that his hero Donald Trump is doing? This is not politics; it is the difference between right and wrong. It is a reflection of personal values and morals.

I urge all of the citizens of Archuleta County to think about this in the upcoming primary and general election in November. I might add that the other elected officials of Archuleta may do well to remember this also.

Sincerely  
Ernie OToole

## Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

I've known Nicole Pitcher for well

■ See Letters A4

# U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of April 20-25

## Work activity

• Major traffic impact: On Monday, April 27, crews will begin the excavation, utility work and paving of the dogleg, near the corner with the former courthouse, on U.S. 160. Traffic will be configured in a one-lane, alternating pattern and delays are expected. This operation is anticipated to take about two weeks.

• On Monday, April 20, nighttime work on Lewis Street will begin at 7 p.m. for trenching operations. Traffic control for this operation will be down to one-lane, alternating traffic.

• The intersection closure at Lewis Street and U.S. 160 remains in place for underground utility construction. Please utilize 4th, 7th and 8th streets as an alternative to access businesses along Lewis Street. With the access closure, left-turn signals have been extended at the 4th Street intersection; look for the green left-turn arrow at the northwest corner of 4th and Pagosa Street (U.S. 160).

• Pedestrian crossings: With the new traffic shift there are several locations that no longer have pedestrian barriers where the sidewalks, curb and gutter have been completed. Please pay attention when traversing the roadway and use identified crossings.

• The Lewis Street access closure will be in place until late May/early June.

• Access to North 5th Street and businesses north of the intersection is available via 4th Street.

• Why will the Lewis Street intersection take several months to complete? Where Lewis Street intersects U.S. 160 is one of the most difficult intersections the project team is working on. The underground utility work includes demolition and replacement of the geothermal, water and sewer lines from the bottom up. The Lewis Street intersection will then be built back with new ADA-accessible curb and gutter and concrete paving.

## Pagosa Springs Middle School information

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

## Traffic and drop-off changes during closure

• The designated drop-off location on Lewis Street has move from the middle school stairs to the stairs near the district office, closer to the 3rd Street intersection.

• Please use 2nd and 4th streets for student drop-off and pick-up. Please use extra caution at 4th Street and Lewis Street, as many students walk through this intersection.

• Avoid 3rd Street, which is the designated bus route.

## How you can help reduce congestion and keep students safe

• Ride the bus. We strongly encourage students who are able to take the bus.

• Carpool with another family to reduce the number of vehicles near campus.



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

## Paving preparation takes place on U.S. 160.

• Students walking to school should use the crosswalk at 2nd Street.

• Please be mindful of school buses and help keep bus routes clear so students can arrive safely and on time.

• Stop before crosswalks, follow all traffic signals and put phones away while driving.

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

## Stay informed and connect with the project

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

• Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.

• Visit the project website: [www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings](http://www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings).

• Subscribe to project updates: [subscription.codotrip.org](http://subscription.codotrip.org).

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



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## Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

## County offering dump vouchers for Big Spring Clean event

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Clean event will be back this year, with Archuleta County offering residents vouchers for one free truck/trailer load (not more than 1 ton) to be dumped at the county landfill anytime from May 1-31.

During a regular work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 7, Public Works Director Mike Torres mentioned that there was no county event last

year due to the work taking place at the landfill.

He explained that this year instead of placing bins around the county, residents will be able to pick up vouchers from either the Public Works Office at 1122 U.S. 84, Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs Blvd. or the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) Clubhouse at 230 Port Ave.

Torres noted that for the whole month of May, residents will be able to take up to 1 ton of trash to the landfill for free with a voucher, except for

certain items.

Items the voucher will not cover include appliances, electronics, hazardous household waste, tires, vehicles, batteries, mattresses or other hazardous materials.

Torres mentioned that the PLPOA and Town of Pagosa Springs are partnering with the county for this year's event, noting it's been a "team effort."

He explained that with the voucher system this year residents will hopefully be able to make a free trip to the dump on their own time rather

than everyone trying to make it to a bin on a certain date.

He also explained that the new Cell 4B at the landfill needs about 5 to 6 feet of household trash on the bottom liner before crews can start relocating other trash into the cell.

"So, I'm hoping this may help with that," Torres said.

The county landfill is located at 9719 County Road 500 and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

clayton@pagosasun.com

## Letters

■ Continued from A3

over 15 years—long before board meetings and energy policy entered our conversations, back when powder days ruled our schedules and we bonded over a shared love for outdoor adventures under our beautiful San Juan skies. Over time, we've fallen even more in love with this community as it became the place where we now get to raise our daughters, who sit side by side in class at Seeds of Learning. Our conversations have shifted from snow totals to building successful Leprechaun traps, remembering spirit days, and the future we want for our children here in Pagosa Springs.

What I admire most about Nicole is that she leads in the same way she lives—practical, steady, and deeply connected to this place. On her own city lot, she's raising chickens, tending bee hives and gardens, and sharing those experiences with kids, teaching them how systems work and how responsibility grows over time. She even brought frames of her honey so they could see how patience and hard work create something sweet—proof that good things take time, and sometimes a few stings along the way. That same mindset is exactly what she has brought to La Plata Electric Association: resilience, self-reliance, and sustainability for generations of Pagosans. This is not a campaign strategy. It's simply how she lives.

As board president—chosen unanimously by her peers—Nicole helped guide LPEA through the complicated process of exiting restrictive wholesale power contracts and into something many of us have hoped for: local control over our power supply for the first time in decades. That progress required persistence, collaboration, and leadership that keeps moving even when the path gets steep.

As a physician, former Hotshot wildland firefighter, and mother raising a daughter here, I value leaders who think ahead, anticipate challenges, and take responsibility for the future. Nicole has the vision to keep our power affordable, the judgment to prioritize environmental responsibility, including wildfire risk mitigation, and the grit to follow through.

In a small town, leadership isn't theoretical—it's personal. Nicole is one of us: a working parent raising her family here, paying the same electric bills we do, investing in the same schools and neighborhoods, and making decisions with the same

stake in the outcome as the rest of us.

She has already done the hard work to put LPEA on a much stronger path in our local energy future. Let's keep her at the table—because around here, you don't trade in a strong, steady guide who knows the weather and terrain halfway up the mountain.

I'm proud to support Nicole Pitcher for LPEA District 1.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Corinne Reed

### Facism in America

Dear Editor:

Umberto Eco and Lawrence Britt have each compiled a list of 14 characteristics of fascism. They are slightly different, but I can find current examples of all 14 characteristics, on both lists, in the Trump administration. Eco claims you only need one for fascism to "coagulate around it." You can easily find both lists online if you are curious.

So I guess we are pretty much a fascist state now — or getting there fast. More specifically, there is one political party that has gone fascist and that is the Republican Party. There is so much talk about how we've gotten so polarized in our country, but this is a form of both-siderism. Despite being labeled Marxists and Communists, you never hear Democratic candidates or office holders advocate state ownership of the means of production. But Donald Trump seems to like the idea — he negotiated a slice of ownership in that Nissan steel deal and has taken over a couple of power plants that were phasing out coal. Donnie likes coal — the fascist is a traditionalist (number 1 on Eco's list).

But mixing up conflicting ideologies is a feature, not a bug, of fascism. That is what makes it so difficult to define. It is irrational and contradictory. That's one reason why people who try to understand what is happening now feel so confused and disoriented.

I wonder if some of the people who feel confused and disoriented are people who voted for Trump and are wrestling with what to do. I worry that longterm Republicans may have internalized the lesson the Bush campaign provided about flip flopping. John Kerry was called a flip flopper because he enlisted in the Navy, commanded a river boat in the Viet Nam war, and during his time there he learned things that caused him to change his mind about the war. That

flip flopper campaign basically made it a bad thing to change your mind about anything.

If you voted for Trump you must know by now that he lied to you when he said he was the peace president, that he would end wars and new ones would never start with him in office. He also lied that he didn't know anything about Project 2025, which is 53% implemented now and is a fascist document. He lied about magically bringing down "grocery" prices and that imposing tariffs would be a way to get other countries to pay us. He lied about the Epstein files.

He is a monster, wrecking all in his path, and congressional Republicans have a responsibility to stop the madman and his quisling enablers. They need encouragement from their Republican constituents to work across the aisle to save our democracy and stop the destruction of the entire world. You cannot leave this for the Democrats alone. This should not be a partisan issue. It is a patriotic duty.

Lee Stophor

### Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

Chances are, if you have lived in Pagosa for any length of time, you know Nicole Pitcher. If you do not know her personally, you may have heard her on the radio, seen her work on Town Council, or crossed paths with her or her large extended family out in the community.

What you may not know is that Nicole is the reason your electricity rates stayed stable this year for the first time in a long time, even as energy rates have been skyrocketing almost everywhere else. You may also not know that she is both a fierce advocate for you, her constituents, and a capable leader who is respected across the entire LPEA Board of Directors, regardless of political affiliation. She understands the details behind power supply, contracts, and financial oversight, and she brings a level of discipline to the work that this moment demands.

In these challenging times for the energy sector, competence is not a nice to have, it is essential. As Board President, Nicole has led LPEA through the most complex transition in decades. Under her leadership, LPEA has secured significantly lower wholesale energy rates while increasing the amount of energy sourced

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## Obituary

### Codie Jo (Fletcher) Wilson

Codie Jo (Fletcher) Wilson was born June 13, 1935, in Denver, Colo. She attended South High School and, after graduating, continued her education at Colorado College, then going on to graduate school at Stanford University. Codie devoted her life to helping others through her work as a mental health therapist, touching many lives with her compassion and care.



In 1967, Codie married Joe Wilson and lovingly welcomed his three children as her own. Together, Joe and Codie had three sons. In 1972, the family moved to Chimney Rock and, later, Codie and her sons, Yul and Rok, settled in Pagosa Springs, where they built a life filled with love and memories.

Codie passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 7, 2026.

She leaves behind her sons, Yul and Rok, and their families, along with her bonus daughter, Lorene, and her family. Codie was also blessed with 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, all of whom brought her great joy.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

### Archuleta County Democratic Club to meet April 27

By Lynn R. Frederick  
Archuleta County Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet on Monday, April 27, at 11:30 a.m. at Uncle's for lunch.

The speaker will be Dick White, a retired astronomy professor from Smith College and former member of the Durango City Council and former

mayor of Durango.

White is known as a frank environmentalist who is not afraid to advocate for stopping global warming. He will speak on the topic of his recent book, "Ten Commandments for Planet Earth."

His presentation is the last of a series of Earth Day celebrations.

The Archuleta Democratic Club

### 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.



meets once a month to hear speakers of interest to the local community and candidates for state and local offices. Please come to meet other like-minded people for an interesting and social time. Everyone is welcome to come. Having cash will facilitate ordering.

For more information, email Lynn Frederick at lynnfederick1@gmail.com.

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# Local people • Local news

# Business

## Beyond the Bottom Line forum set for April 29

By **Sandy Douthey**  
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, is continuing its mission to strengthen local businesses and foster community growth through its upcoming Beyond the Bottom Line event.

Designed to go deeper than traditional business metrics, the event will focus on sustainable practices, community impact and long-term economic resilience in Archuleta County.

Beyond the Bottom Line brings together local entrepreneurs, business leaders and community members to explore how businesses can thrive while also contributing positively to the region's quality of life.

## February sales tax collections up more than 1 percent

By **Clayton Chaney**  
Staff Writer

According to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on April 9, sales tax collections in Archuleta County for February were reported to be up 1.17 percent compared to figures from February 2025.

Eaton's report notes that the 1.17 percent increase translates to a total of \$16,020.75 more received this February than February 2025.

For this February, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,389,383.49 from the sales

tax, with \$694,822.22 going to the county and \$694,561.27 going to the town.

Eaton notes that retail marijuana sales tax reports from the state have not been updated as of April 9.

Categories that were up in comparison to month-to-month comparison according to Eaton's data include:

- Manufacturing at 41.49 percent, or \$19,824.78.

- Information at 5.76 percent, or \$1,480.87.

- Finance and Insurance at 47.83 percent, or \$747.71.

- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 11.81 percent, or \$2,613.20.

Tickets are \$50 and include one beverage coupon.

You can purchase tickets at <https://member.pagosachamber.com/ap/Events/Register/lzFnw-39fjC5Cw> or call us at (970) 264-2360.

In addition to this signature event,

the Chamber is also hosting its monthly Business Happy Hour on April 23 from 5 to 7 p.m., at Patria.

The informal networking event provides an opportunity for local professionals to connect, share ideas and build relationships in a relaxed setting. The entry fee for the happy hour is \$10, and includes two free beverage coupons and a chance to win some fabulous prizes.

Both events underscore the Chamber's ongoing commitment to supporting business development while fostering a sense of collaboration and community spirit throughout Pagosa Springs.

For more information about Beyond the Bottom Line or the April Business Happy Hour, community members are encouraged to contact the Chamber at [info@pagosachamber.com](mailto:info@pagosachamber.com) or (970) 264-2360.

- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 11.32 percent, or \$1,093.

- Accommodation and Food Services at .84 percent, or \$2,177.52.

- Other Services (except Public Administration) at 12.63 percent, or \$2,418.30.

- Miscellaneous at .05 percent, or \$129.68.

Categories that were down in the month-to-month comparison include:

- Construction at 35.33 percent, or \$8,215.18.

- Retail Trade at .86 percent, or \$6,249.13.

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

## Proposition 123 Local Planning Capacity Grant awards announced

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Division of Local Government (DLG) has awarded over \$1.6 million to 12 project requests in the latest round of Proposition 123 Local Planning Capacity (LPC) grants.

This program supports local government efforts to comply with the two key requirements of Proposition 123: fast track requirements and unit count commitments.

"This program is designed with broad project eligibility in mind so that Colorado communities of all sizes can expand their readiness to support affordable housing development, using strategies that honor their unique local needs, resources and approaches," said DLG Director Eric Bergman.

■ See Grant A6

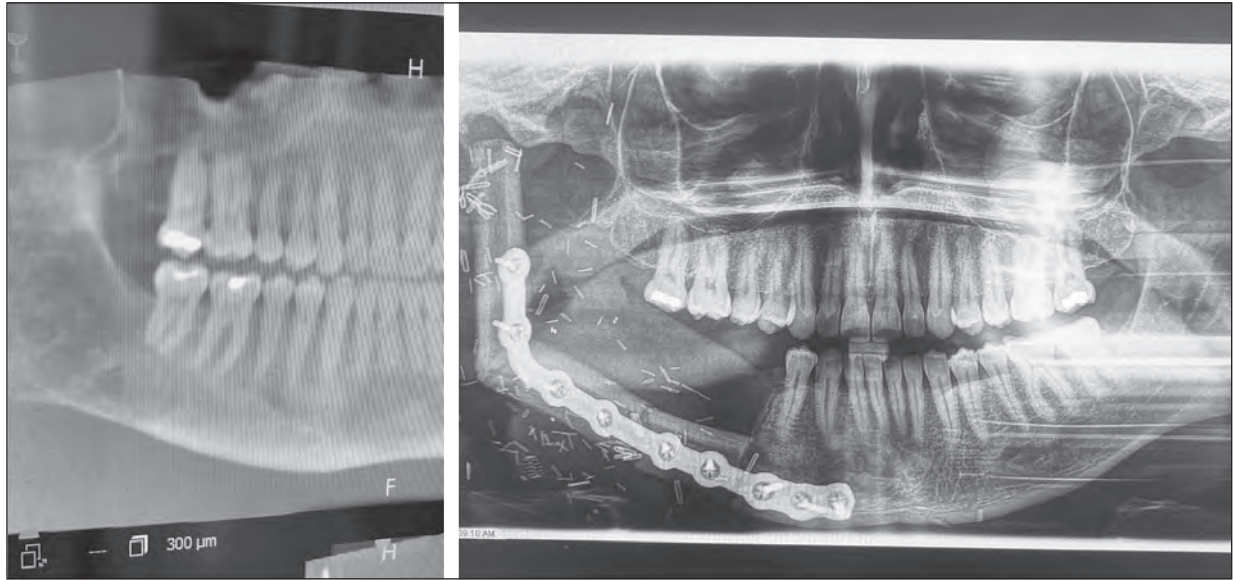
said Gov. Jared Polis.

Early adoption of fast track benefits communities by reducing costs and increasing predictability for affordable housing developments. Local governments can qualify for up to \$45,000 of incentive funding for early adoption if they adopt a compliant fast track review process by June 30. The early adoption incentive requires no local match and serves as a catalyst for communities to implement fast track early.

"Reaching the 100-community milestone so far in advance of the deadline is a clear demonstration of how local governments are stepping up to urgently address Colorado's affordable housing crisis," said DOLA Executive Director Maria De Cambra. "Putting these policies to work quickly is crucial because it ensures we get more homes built faster across the state."

**Latest round of**

## SPONSORED CONTENT



After his own surgery, Dr. Justin Neylund, DDS, with Black Diamond Dental, said he has learned how to manage temporomandibular joint pain for himself and his patients. (Submitted photos)

## Black Diamond Dental highlights oral cancer awareness through doctor's personal journey

By **Allison Brown**

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month, and Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is using the opportunity to highlight the importance of screenings through the personal experience of Dr. Justin Neylund, DDS.

"On Dec. 4, 2023 I woke up at 11:15 p.m. in excruciating pain at the angle of my Mandible and the front right part of my face was numb," Neylund said.

After seven weeks working with specialists, Neylund learned he had Ewing's sarcoma, a cancer more commonly found in children. It was a strange occurrence for more reasons than one.

"I have no risk factors or family history of cancer, but ended up being diagnosed with a kids cancer, Ewing's Sarcoma at 42," he said. "The primary lesion happened in my mandible which only happens 1% of the time, and I ended up having the 1% version of the cancer."

Treatment included 14 rounds of chemotherapy, a right mandibular hemisection and reconstruction using fibula bone from his leg. The experience reshaped how he approaches patient care.

"Weird things happen and oral cancer is far more common than we think," he said. "It is very important to me to do a thorough oral cancer screening."

At Black Diamond Dental, Neylund performs a six-step screening that evaluates the neck, tonsils, tongue, floor of the mouth, lips, cheeks and palate. He encourages patients to report persistent ulcers, mouth pain, chronic hoarseness, recurrent sore throat, difficulty swallowing or a hard lump in the neck.

"Oral cancer kills one person every hour," Neylund cautioned.

More information about screenings is available at [sixstepscreening.org](https://sixstepscreening.org). To learn about services or schedule an appointment, visit [blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com](https://blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com).

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

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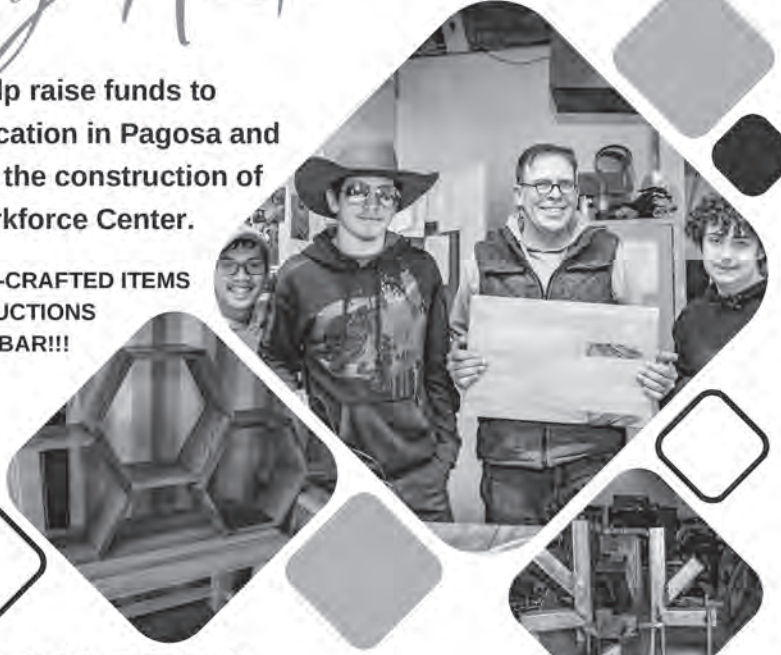
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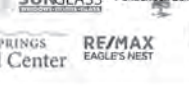
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## Deadline to apply for Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is April 30

Colorado Department of Human Services

Colorado residents are encouraged to apply for Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) by April 30 to access essential help with home heating bills, long-term energy savings and emergency home heating repairs.

LEAP helps Coloradans in need pay a portion of their winter home heating costs, freeing up household budgets for other essentials like groceries and rent.

LEAP recipients are also eligible

## Grant

### ■ Continued from A5 Awards summary

The LPC grant program supports local governments' capacity to increase affordable housing, especially efforts to implement Proposition 123 commitments.

The recent awards are:

- Arapahoe County: \$105,000 to target land development code amendments and software enhancements to streamline the development review process, and complete a strategic growth element as an amendment to the county's comprehensive plan.
- Archuleta County: \$82,500 to complete a comprehensive plan update, including strategic growth and water supply elements.
- City of Craig: \$75,000 to complete a comprehensive plan, including water supply element.
- Town of De Beque: \$187,435 to expand a part-time planner into a

full-time housing coordinator to add capacity and facilitate affordable housing permitting, housing preservation, blight removal and mobile home park stabilization.

The town will also use funds to hire consultants to provide guidance on housing strategies, down payment assistance programs, complete code updates and perform a site inventory of parcels with housing potential.

- City of Florence: \$40,000 to complete a comprehensive update to the city's land use, zoning, and subdivision regulations, and implement recommendations from the recently completed master plan.
- Town of Hayden: \$192,000 to hire personnel to add capacity and facilitate affordable housing efforts; serve as a liaison to the local housing authority, developers and residents; implement expedited review and the housing action plan; lead mobile home parks preservation; and manage Proposition

123 tracking and reporting.

• Town of Kiowa: \$252,000 to hire personnel for local capacity on housing and community development, and hire consultants to complete an analysis of infrastructure capacity, a site inventory for future housing development, and facilitate collaboration with regional partners.

- City of Leadville: \$170,000 to hire a housing planner to add capacity and facilitate affordable housing efforts; implement the recently adopted fast-track policy and other housing strategies; and serve as a liaison to the regional housing authority, development partners, residents and workers.
- City of Lone Tree: \$153,764 to complete a comprehensive unified development code update, including an expedited review policy, modernizing development procedures and design standards.
- City of Longmont: \$248,722 to pilot AI software to streamline the

development review process and participate in DOLA's community of practice.

• Washington County: \$50,000 to complete a comprehensive plan, including a water supply element and strategic growth assessment.

- Yuma County: \$65,000 to complete a comprehensive plan, including a water supply element.
- DOLA continues to support communities statewide with fast track implementation guidance and technical assistance, including courtesy reviews of draft policies.
- The next LPC funding cycle is scheduled for September. LPC funds are only available to local and tribal governments who have filed a Proposition 123 commitment and are eligible for Proposition 123 funds. Interested applicants must schedule a pre-application meeting with LPC program staff to gain access to the online application form.

## The Blotter

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

**Archuleta County Sheriff's Office**  
March 30 — Agency assist, Harman Park Drive.

March 30 — Criminal mischief M, Driftwood Drive.

March 30 — Violating conditions of burn permit, County Road 988.

March 30 — Vicious dog with injury to person, information only, Peak Court.

March 31 — Information only, U.S. 160.

March 31 — Information only, Holiday Drive.

March 31 — Driver's license-driving without, registration-fictitious plate, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.

April 1 — Warrant arrest, View Drive.

April 1 — Criminal mischief \$300 to \$1,000 private, information only, Highland Avenue.

April 3 — Death investigation, Beaver Circle.

April 4 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, harassment-repeated communications invade DV, Domicile Circle.

April 4 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, resisting arrest, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Solomon Drive.

April 7 — Harassment-repeated communications invade, Navajo Trail Drive.

April 7 — Littering, North Pagosa Boulevard.

April 8 — Agency assist, East Golf Place.

April 9 — Agency assist, South 8th Street.

April 9 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Harman Park Drive.

April 9 — Agency assist, County Road 500.

April 9 — Stalking-emotional distress, information only, Handicap Avenue.

April 10 — Abandonment of motor vehicle, Highland Avenue.

April 10 — Domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, violation of protection order, County Road 975.

April 10 — Menacing-felony-aggravated-nonfamily-gun, disorderly conduct-fighting in public, harassment-follows in public place, County Road 600/Paradise Drive/Blue Jay Circle.

April 11 — Assault in the third degree, false imprisonment, criminal mischief under \$300 private, domes-

tic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, West U.S. 160.

**Pagosa Springs Police Department**

March 30 — Littering, Square Top Circle.

March 30 — Theft M, San Juan Riverwalk.

March 30 — Criminal trespass, North 5th Street.

March 31 — Criminal mischief, Village Drive.

March 31 — Information only, South 9th Street.

March 31 — Information only, no location listed.

April 1 — Fraud, Rainbow Road.

April 1 — Marijuana prohibited under age of 21/less than 12 ounces, Lewis Street.

April 2 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, no insurance-driver, expired registration, San Juan Street.

April 3 — Driver's license-driving without, failure to display proof of insurance, Village Drive.

April 3 — Disorderly conduct/fighting with another in public, assault, trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.

April 4 — Criminal trespass, North 5th Street.

April 4 — Information only, Pagosa Street/East Pagosa Street.

April 4 — Traffic stop, U.S. 160.

April 7 — Information only, Hot Springs Boulevard.

April 7 — Harassment-repeated calls with or without conversation, Harman Park Drive.

April 8 — Fraud, Hot Springs Boulevard.

April 8 — Driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), failed to display valid registration, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, no insurance-driver, fail obey traffic control device, fail to yield right of way-emergency vehicle, East Golf Place/Eagle Drive.

April 9 — Disturbance, South 8th Street.

April 9 — Menacing-misdemeanor, warrant arrest, East Pagosa Street.

April 9 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Hot Springs Boulevard.

April 9 — Agency assist, Buena Vista Place.

April 9 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Lewis Street.

April 10 — Menacing, San Juan Street.

April 10 — Assault in the third degree, North 5th Street.

April 11 — no insurance-owner, stop sign-fail to stop, Village Drive.

April 11 — Warrant arrest, South 5th Street.

**Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**  
No report.

**Archuleta County Court: Judge**

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# Education

## GOAL High School students earn social studies credit through immersive land-use course in southern Arizona

By Alan VanNorman  
GOAL High School

GOAL High School students, including several local students, recently returned from Southern Arizona after completing the GOAL Ventures – Land Use and Government Organizations course, a credit-bearing social studies class that combines online academic learning with real-world, hands-on experience.

Before traveling, students completed preliminary coursework through GOAL High School's online learning system, guided by a local social studies teacher. After successfully completing the experiential portion of the course, students earned social studies credit on their high school transcript, supporting their progress toward graduation.

From March 26 through April 3, students participated in a camping-based venture focused on how state, federal and Native organizations work together to manage public and private lands across Southern Arizona.

Throughout the trip, students engaged in a wide range of learning experiences, including:

- Exploring the Sonoran Desert ecosystem at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.
  - Completing a service project at Picacho Peak State Park, clearing invasive plants and restoring trails.
  - Visiting Biosphere 2 to study sustainable living, science and future space exploration.
  - Partnering with Saguaro National Park on trail building and community science projects, including GPS use and trail camera setup to support park research.
- These hands-on projects allow students to work alongside professionals from the National Park Service, state parks and other government organizations, seeing firsthand how land management decisions are made.
- "These experiences became some of the biggest highlights of the entire trip and created a lasting impact on our students," shared a GOAL Ventures teacher following the park partnership. "We are beyond grateful for the opportunity to learn and work alongside the Saguaro National Park team."
- For many students, the experience reshaped how they see learning, government and their own futures.

"I'd describe this trip as magical," said Cole Conder, a GOAL student. "Working on the trail and talking with professionals made me feel like I was part of the conversation. It showed me a side of government I hadn't seen before — people working together to fix mistakes and protect the future."

Another student, Divinity Joha, described the experience as inspiring, saying, "This trip made me want to volunteer more and feel more confident talking to people. Seeing how organizations plan and work together helped me understand how deep land management really goes."

According to Cara Wicks, GOAL career technical education outdoor recreational leadership teacher for the course, the growth students experience goes beyond academics.

"The Sonoran Desert is a challenging environment, and students are asked to learn, work and live in ways they aren't used to," Wicks said. "What's incredible is watching them persevere. By the end of the week, they're more confident — not just in camping and outdoor skills, but in themselves and as members of the GOAL Ventures community."

Wicks added that students consis-

tently impressed staff and partners with their curiosity and professionalism. "They asked thoughtful questions everywhere we went. Their confidence and respect made them wonderful representatives of GOAL."

GOAL Ventures is part of GOAL High School's commitment to experiential, credit-earning education that connects classroom learning to real careers and civic life. The Land Use and Government Organizations course is an advanced venture, requiring students to complete prerequisite GOAL Ventures coursework before participating.

To learn more about GOAL Ventures, visit [goalac.org/goal-ventures/](http://goalac.org/goal-ventures/).



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## Safe2Tell reports lead to life-saving interventions for Colorado students in March

Colorado Attorney General's Office

The Colorado Attorney General's Office today announced that Safe2Tell received 2,603 reports in March 2026, including reports that led to immediate, life-saving intervention for students in crisis.

In one case, a report of a student attempting to end their life prompted a welfare check and emergency mental health care. In another, a student exhibiting concerning behavior in class was connected with counseling and school-based support following a report.

These reports underscore the critical role Safe2Tell plays in ensuring students receive help when they need it most. So far this school year, Safe2Tell has received 22,359 reports statewide.

Key findings from March 2026 include:

- The most frequently reported concerns were school safety (18.9 percent), bullying (16.7 percent), mental health (16.7 percent) and substance use (11.3 percent).
- Duplicate reports accounted for 9.7 percent of submissions, reflecting a healthy reporting culture in which multiple individuals raise the same concern.
- False reports remained low at 1.7 percent.

"Safe2Tell reports can lead to life-saving interventions," said Attorney General Phil Weiser. "When someone speaks up, it allows trusted adults to step in quickly, respond to serious concerns and ensure students get the help they need before a situation

escalates."

In one March report, a student's attempt to end their life was brought to the attention of authorities, leading to a coordinated response between law enforcement, family and school officials. The student was transported to a hospital, placed on an emergency mental health hold, and is now receiving ongoing support through their school.

In another case, a report described a student yelling at others and harming themselves in class. School staff intervened, worked with the student and their family, and ensured the student is now connected to counseling services while also addressing the behavior through restorative and disciplinary measures.

"The data shows that students are

■ See Students A8

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Dr. Peter Roukema and his wife, Christy Roukema, RDH.

## Business Spotlight: Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry's new chapter

By Ella Slade

Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is honored to build upon a nearly 40-year legacy of clinical excellence, a tradition passed from Dr. Thompson to Dr. Campbell, and now to Dr. Peter Roukema and his wife, Christy Roukema, RDH in February 2022.

The Roukemas have proudly embraced this heritage, while introducing a new chapter for the family practice through dedicated care and strong community involvement.

This evolution is guided by a commitment to core values and a clear vision to serve Pagosa Springs, captured in the mission: "To elevate our patient's health, function and confidence in their smile by providing excellent dental care and an ex-

ceptional patient experience."

By combining this high level of care with a personal touch, the team, including Dr. Jaime Astorga, DDS, and hygienist Patricia Flynn, RDH, ensures every person leaves with a smile they love.

In an exciting development, Pagosa Peak is relocating this May to 2737 Cornerstone Drive. This expansive, cutting-edge facility will allow the practice to better serve the community, create more local jobs and provide a dedicated space for those pursuing dental careers with on-site education initiatives.

This vision of service extends further through the "Rooted and Reaching" initiative. While the practice remains "Rooted" in its heritage of local care, it is "Reaching" out in

committing a portion of the revenue from every procedure performed in 2026 directly to a local charity.

Launched in January, the program benefits a different organization each month, reflecting the belief that when patients invest in their health, they are simultaneously investing in the strength and well-being of the entire community.

The team at Pagosa Peak looks forward to welcoming neighbors, striving to be a pillar in the community known for its friendly environment and providing the same high-level service the town has trusted for decades.

*Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN sponsored content program called Spotlight.*

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### Sign Up for Town and County Alerts

The Town has a new alert and notification system that requires you to resubscribe to receive updates on meetings, weather, road closures, snow routes, and Town emergencies. Additionally, subscribe to the Archuleta County Nixle system that provides emergency and public safety alerts, including wildfire and evacuation information. Sign up for Town alerts at [pagosasprings.co.gov](http://pagosasprings.co.gov) through the Alerts & Notifications page or by texting **PagosaSprings** to **38276**. Sign up for County alerts at [local.nixle.com/register](http://local.nixle.com/register).

### Pagosa Springs Main Street Leader Honored

Kathleen McFadden, Pagosa Springs CDC and Town Main Street Coordinator, was recognized at the 2026 Colorado Downtown Excellence Awards for her leadership in downtown revitalization. Downtown Colorado, Inc. highlighted her work bringing clarity, strategy, and momentum to community efforts in Pagosa Springs. Congratulations Kat!

### Town Earns Financial Reporting Award

The Government Finance Officers Association awarded the Town a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. This is the second year in a row the Town has received the honor, recognizing excellence in transparency, accuracy, and public financial reporting.

### April Sewer Update

The Town continues to manage sewer system challenges while moving forward on long-term improvements. Pump Station 2 remains on temporary diesel-powered bypass pumps as new replacement electric pumps are manufactured. The McCabe Creek sewer line replacement project is now underway, and preliminary work on the final Highway 160 service line repairs is expected to begin soon. The Town Council approved agreements to design a new Wastewater Treatment Facility.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Town Council Regular Meeting** Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

**Joint Town-County Work session** Monday, April 27, 2026, at 5 p.m.  
Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.



**[pagosasprings.co.gov](http://pagosasprings.co.gov)**  
View the town's monthly e-newsletter online at  
**[pagosasprings.co.gov/newsletter](http://pagosasprings.co.gov/newsletter)**



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Students show off their talent on land and sea during their recent run of "The Little Mermaid" at Pagosa Springs High School. The students delighted audiences over four performances last week.

# Students\_\_

■ Continued from A7

continuing to report concerns related to safety, bullying and mental health, and that's critical," said Stacey Scardino, Safe2Tell director. "It tells us that people are paying attention, speaking up and helping ensure that students receive support when they need it."

A full breakdown of this month's data is available in the Safe2Tell March 2026 Monthly Report at [coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/04/March-Report-2026.pdf](https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/04/March-Report-2026.pdf). Definitions for each reporting category can be found in the Safe2Tell Report Categorization Guide at [safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/02/Monthly-Report-Categories-English-2025.pdf](https://safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/02/Monthly-Report-Categories-English-2025.pdf).

## About Safe2Tell

Safe2Tell is Colorado's anonymous reporting system for concerns about the safety and well-being of students. Safe2Tell is not an emergency response unit or a mental health counseling provider.

Instead, it serves as an information pathway for distributing anonymous reports to local law enforcement and school officials, as required by state law.

## How to submit a report

Reports can be submitted 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling (877) 542-SAFE (7233), visiting Safe2Tell.org, texting “S2TCO” to 738477 or using the Safe2Tell mobile app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

2026

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# FEMA

■ **Continued from front**  
challenging decisions about how to balance expensive recovery costs with limited resources, will be at heightened risk of future disasters, and may not be able to perform the repairs to energy systems and river channels that would help them avoid future damage and disruption.

“This is incredibly disappointing for Coloradans. Colorado communities have done everything right — responding quickly, documenting the damage, and working in good faith with federal partners — only for the Trump administration to deny funding to help Colorado communities recover. These disasters caused real damage to homes, infrastructure, and local economies, and Coloradans should not be left to shoulder these costs alone. We will continue supporting impacted communities and exploring every available path forward, but the federal government must be a reliable partner in disaster recovery,” said Gov. Jared Polis.

The press release from the state notes the flooding in Southwest Colorado caused more than \$13 million in jointly verified damages to infrastructure, including the destruction of over 60 miles of road, major impacts to water and wastewater systems, and long-term risks to communities along the San Juan River basin.

“It is frustrating that, for the first time in 35 years, the state of Colorado has been denied federal assistance as part of a major disaster declaration request. Our damage assessments documented and showed that each of the disasters exceeded the federal thresholds for assistance. Our State Recovery Task Force will continue to work on alternatives to fill the gap, but providing substantial relief to the disaster survivors becomes much more difficult with this decision. I don’t want it to sound like we can just fill all the gaps — we can’t, but of course we will do our best to support them,” said Kevin Klein, director of the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Colorado U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper also issued a statement following the denial, stating, “Disasters are disasters, regardless of state lines or political parties. President Trump’s refusal to grant Major Disaster Declarations for the 2025 Lee and Elk Fires and the Southwest Colorado flooding is callous and leaves rural Coloradans, who urgently need support, vulnerable and footing the bill. Critical infrastructure remains unstable, costs continue to rise, and communities remain at risk. The President is solely responsible for this abdication of responsibility; the consequences of which will continue to be severe and long-lasting.”

“I’m extremely disappointed in learning of the denial,” Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown

said, adding the decision is very impactful because it involves not only Archuleta County, but numerous counties and thousands of people.

He added the impacts of the decision will be felt for years to come since it could take years to afford to make all the repairs.

But, he added, the people of Archuleta County are resilient and rarely ask for much from the federal government.

“What we’re getting is what we’re used to receiving and that’s why we don’t ask,” he said.

“We are very disappointed and echo Senator Bennet’s comments regarding President Trump’s second denial of our community’s request for a Major Federal Disaster Declaration and the associated FEMA funding to help with flood recovery efforts,” James Dickhoff, development director for the Town of Pagosa Springs, wrote in an email to The SUN. “Neither denial letter provided a reason for the denial determination. Within Town limits, we estimated \$6.5 million in damage caused by the October 2025 flood event. Fortunately, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had funded approximately \$3.7 million in Emergency Watershed Protection funding, and Colorado’s Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) awarded the Town up to \$465,504 from the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF). Town staff is seeking additional micro-grant opportunities to help fill in the almost \$2 million shortfall. The Town is currently working on funded river recovery efforts through the remainder of 2026, with more work expected in 2027 pending grant funding opportunities.”

While federal assistance has been denied, the press release states, the state of Colorado invested more than \$57.5 million in these and other disasters since July 2024 and “will continue working with local partners to support rebuilding and reduce long-term risks to communities across Colorado.”

## A denial and an appeal

On, Nov. 12, 2025, Polis formally requested a major disaster declaration from the president and the FEMA to support ongoing recovery efforts in La Plata, Archuleta and Mineral counties following the record-breaking western Colorado flooding that occurred Oct. 10-14, 2025.

The declaration would unlock FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to help communities recover from severe flooding, debris flows, infrastructure damage and long-term watershed impacts.

Trump and FEMA denied Colorado’s requests on Dec. 20, 2025, with the denial letter stating, “Based on our review of all of the information available, it has been determined

that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a major disaster declaration is denied.”

On Jan. 16, Polis, along with Bennet and Hickenlooper, submitted appeals to President Donald Trump appealing Trump’s denials of Colorado’s two major disaster declaration requests for flooding in Western Colorado, as well as for the Elk and Lee fires.

Polis’ letter to Trump regarding the flooding, sent through FEMA’s acting regional manager for Region VIII, Katherine Fox, notes, “The State is appealing your denial of the request because the damages from the flooding clearly exceeded FEMA’s indicators for a Major Disaster Declaration.”

The letter further discusses the significant impacts of the flooding, the state’s effort to help and financial challenges.

In Archuleta County, it states, “the per capita indicator equates to more than \$995 per person to repair damages to roads and other county infrastructure. The total annual road repair and maintenance budget for the County falls vastly short at approximately \$7,000,000, when total costs exceed \$13,292,000.”

The letter also discusses the flood impacts on the San Juan River and notes the river’s role as a “substantial economic driver” and potential impacts of not repairing the river.

“Seven parks were damaged by large amounts of debris and sediment covering river walkways,” it states. “Many public trails, which support the local tourism economy, were damaged and destroyed. In the Town of Pagosa Springs, several large rocks in the river were moved or damaged, creating hazards for anglers, recreational boaters, tubers, and swimmers. In addition, the fish habitat was destroyed. If the river is not repaired, there will be a substantial negative impact on visitation, the local economy, and local tax revenue, further hampering recovery efforts. Wetlands were also flooded, and a large amount of sediment was deposited, which raised the flood plain, putting additional homes at risk for future flooding. In other areas, the flood caused shallow waters that now threaten wildlife habitats.”

It further notes that leaving the riverways in their current states would have “significant ramifications” and that public assistance funds would provide the support needed to find solutions for rebuilding and reducing impacts ahead of additional rainstorms or spring runoff.

“This region needs significant help to protect its communities from risk and put mitigation measures in place to ensure it can withstand future storms,” it states.

In addition to the state’s appeal,

letters of support from the town and county were addressed to Trump.

“Without federal assistance to proactively fix the rivers and control the channels, we will see recurring floods every year and resulting damage to the surrounding communities, businesses, and local economy,” the town’s and county’s letters state.

Both letters note the rural communities are “struggling to recover, rebuild, and take action to prevent further destructive flooding without federal aid. We respectfully ask you to approve the state’s major disaster declaration request, to help us rebuild and protect our constituents, our small businesses, and our rural economy.”

Too, Bennet led his colleagues — Hickenlooper, Colorado U.S. Reps. Jeff Hurd, Jeff Crank, Jason Crow, Lauren Boebert, Joe Neguse, Gabe Evans, Brittany Pettersen and Diana DeGette — in support of Polis’ appeal to Trump’s decision to deny major disaster declarations.

“The State’s appeal underscores a critical and urgent reality: without federal assistance to stabilize river channels and repair damaged infrastructure, these communities face a cycle of repeated flooding and recurring losses. Failure to address the underlying damage now will virtually guarantee continued destruction during future high-water events, increasing costs to taxpayers while placing residents, businesses, and local economies at ongoing risk. Federal assistance at this stage is not only necessary for recovery, it is essential to prevent foreseeable and preventable damage from disasters in the years ahead,” wrote the lawmakers.

In their letter, the lawmakers emphasize that both the fires and flooding meet the statutory and practical criteria for a major disaster declaration as well as FEMA’s administrative and legal threshold for federal assistance.

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# Drought

■ **Continued from front**  
drought stage is likely to change in upcoming days or weeks, with falling SWE levels likely to move the district into drought stage one or two.

He states that the average SWE level for April 13 at the SNOTEL site is 32.3 inches and that the current level is 1.7 inches, although recent snow has prevented these levels from dropping to zero so far.

On April 15, following Tuesday’s snow, the SWE was at 2.4 inches for the site.

He adds that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Integrated Drought Information System recently upgraded all of Archuleta County from severe drought to extreme drought.

If the SWE levels hit zero before April 17, Ramsey indicates, the district would immediately enter stage two drought, while it will enter stage one drought if the SWE reaches zero between April 17 and May 1.

According to Ramsey, stage one drought limits irrigation to between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. and applies a 1.25 times charge multiplier to residential water use exceeding 5,000 gallons a month.

Stage two drought limits irrigation to between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m., and watering is only allowed on even or odd days depending on street address, Ramsey states.

He adds that this stage also includes a two-times charge multiplier for residential water use above 4,000 gallons per month.

In an interview, Ramsey commented that the drought conditions are historically poor, although he noted that all of PAWSD’s reservoirs are currently full, which has not happened in some years.

He added that the district reaching stage two drought due to SWE falling to zero before April 17 is less likely due to recent snowstorms, but an increase in the drought stage in the

near future is still probable.

Ramsey noted that these drought stage calculations incorporate the changes to PAWSD’s drought management plan approved at the April 9 meeting of the PAWSD Board of Directors, which include shifting the SWE trigger dates for certain drought stages earlier in the year to ensure the district starts conserving water in a timely fashion.

Ramsey also emphasized the importance of reducing water use and conserving water now to ensure enough water is available in the summer and to reduce overall drought reduction measures as much as possible.

Ramsey’s report closes by expressing the district’s appreciation for customers’ continued diligence in conserving water and by noting that the district’s drought management plan is available on PAWSD’s website at [www.pawsd.org/water-service/water-conservation/](http://www.pawsd.org/water-service/water-conservation/).

*josh@pagosasun.com*

announced.

LPEA will host its 2026 annual meeting on May 20 at its Durango headquarters.

Schedule:

- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Registration, voting and lunch.
- 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: annual meeting

Members are encouraged to arrive

early to explore community power program booths and learn about electrification opportunities.

Attendees should bring a valid ID for check-in. Members are encouraged to register by May 13 to reserve a boxed lunch.

More information and registration are available at [lpea.coop/annual-meeting](http://lpea.coop/annual-meeting).

# www.PagosaSUN.com

# Outdoors

## Why are the wolves dying? A look at survival statistics

By Meryl Phair  
Staff Writer

A male gray wolf felt a pinching sensation in his upper left hind leg and shortly after the world went dark. Number 2305 lay near his mate, a female gray who had likewise been darted, the two breeding adults of the King Mountain Pack in Routt County put to sleep in a routine collaring operation by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) on Jan. 28.

The process was reported as “short” and “benign” by members of the capture crew, but, unlike his mate, when the tagging squad got close enough to check vitals on the two Rocky Mountain wolves, 2305’s temperature had spiked.

The responding CPW members attempted to cool down the wolf, but following CPR and emergency drugs from the agency’s wildlife veterinarian, who arrived on scene 20 minutes later, no pulse was reported and 2305 was pronounced dead.

While a necropsy was performed, there wasn’t a clear reason why the male wolf experienced such a high level of distress in what was a standard part of the state’s wolf management efforts.

“We have a top-notch professional team, and this situation has been tough on everyone involved,” Laura Clellan, then CPW’s acting director, said following the incident. “I have the utmost confidence in our staff, and we will continue to work hard to achieve our mandate of restoring a sustainable population of gray wolves in Colorado.”

The death of No. 2305 brought the mortality tally of Colorado’s translocated gray wolves up to 13 since the voter-approved reintroduction of the canids to the Rocky Mountain state got off the ground in 2023.

Additionally, a pup from a breeding pair of translocated wolves was lethally removed by CPW, and an uncollared female was caught in a lawfully set foothold trap.

The latest death means half of the state’s translocated wolves have passed away. Two years into the reintroduction effort, Colorado’s wolf population stands at roughly 20 adult or yearling gray wolves, with a handful of pups born to four breeding packs this year.

The plan recommends the state wildlife agency release 30 to 50 wolves over the course of three to five years, with a total of 25 animals relocated to Colorado since December 2023.

The translocation goal is critical for the species’ long-term survival, as Luke Perkins, CPW statewide public information officer, noted there has to be enough individuals on the landscape for wolves to locate one another, pair and breed in order for a self-sustaining population with enough genetic diversity.

“This translocation goal provides a buffer in case there are animals that do not contribute to the population because of movement out of the area, mortality or other reasons that cause some individuals to not contribute to a growing population,” Perkins said.

### Interpreting survival statistics

As wolf reintroduction plans in other areas of the country reported high survival rates of translocated wolves (Idaho at 85 percent and Yellowstone at 70 percent), Colorado’s anticipated survival rates for the first years of reintroduction followed suit.

However, Perkins noted that an above 70 percent anticipated survival rate for early stages of introduction is not a target, but rather an evaluation of other existing programs. The only survival rate benchmark in the Colorado Wolf Management Plan, a survival rate of less than 70 percent, triggering a protocol review, is only applicable to the first six months post-release.

Perkins explained this guideline was established to address circumstances similar to reintroduction efforts of the Canada lynx, which saw high mortality in the first six months of the program as many of the animals struggled to hunt in Colorado’s rocky terrain, leading to an adapted release program.

“This survival rate is not meant to be used as a goal for annual wolf survival,” Perkins said. “Because Colorado’s wolves have been on the landscape for more than a year, using this statistic as a benchmark for the program is misleading.”

Using the 70 percent survival rate of translocated wolves as a bench-



Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Wolves are spotted on the landscape. Two years into Colorado’s reintroduction effort, the state’s wolf population stands at roughly 20 adult or yearling gray wolves, with a handful of pups born to four breeding packs this year.**

mark for the program’s success is also ultimately unachievable, as Perkins notes, because all translocated wolves will eventually drop to zero.

“Additionally, most survival rates are reported on an annual basis, and it has been over two years since the first translocation in December 2023,” he said.

A high rate of wolf mortality does not necessarily indicate reintroduction has been marred by failure. Rather, it highlights just how difficult it is to reintroduce a predator, particularly on a landscape dramatically altered by human activity from when wolves roamed through the alpine slopes of Colorado.

*“This survival rate is not meant to be used as a goal for annual wolf survival. Because Colorado’s wolves have been on the landscape for more than a year, using this statistic as a benchmark for the program is misleading.”*

**Luke Perkins  
CPW statewide public information officer**

Several reported fatalities within the state have resulted from interactions with humans, such as a male hit by a car in northwestern Colorado, and yet another female passed away after getting tangled up in a coyote trap.

Reintroduced wolves have also been caught up in policies surrounding crossing state lines and livestock depredation.

CPW shot and killed an offspring of an introduced wolf in Rio Blanco County that was responsible for six depredations, while another wolf that traveled into Wyoming was lethally removed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after it was linked to several livestock attacks.

Across western North America, average wolf life expectancy is low. Outside of protected areas like national parks, wolves in the Rocky Mountains often only live to 3 years old, even though some can live until 10, due to the challenges inherent in living in the wild. Wolves that don’t live in packs have an even higher risk of death.

“Since many of the mortalities in Colorado were amongst translocated wolves who were essentially ‘dispersers,’ we can see that the amount of mortality we observed in Colorado in 2024 and 2025 is not surprising,” Perkins said. “As the wolf population shifts from primarily dispersers to territorial wolves in packs, we may

see a shift in patterns of mortality. I would also say that with the current wolf population being fairly small, each mortality event has a large effect on overall survival. CPW recommends caution while interpreting any survival and mortality metrics in the light of this small population.”

### Signs of success

CPW reported several wolf pups joined the state’s population last summer, squirming and tumbling around under the watchful eyes of the state’s established packs. Both the new pups and the reported formation of packs have been encouraging indicators of a growing population.

While the number of offspring successfully recruited into the adult wolf population has yet to be seen, Perkins said “pairing and reproducing is a crucial part of program success.”

“This reproduction is really key,” Eric Odell, wolf conservation program manager for CPW, said in a public meeting in July. “Despite some things that you may hear, not all aspects of wolf management have been a failure. We’re working towards success.”

Reproduction will also be essential for the program, as a third wave of gray wolf releases scheduled for this winter in the southwest corner of the state was put on pause. The impending winter release faced delays as recently updated federal guidelines stated wolves could only be sourced from northern Rockies states where they are not listed as endangered, complicating a prior agreement to source the canids from British Columbia, which since fell through.

CPW announced the decision on Jan. 21, noting they would continue to explore options for translocations next winter.

“During this intermediate time, CPW will continue to meet with producers and other stakeholders, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to explore how to maximize the restoration effort and achieve our plan of establishing a self-sustaining gray wolf population in Colorado,” Clellan said in a statement announcing the pause.

As for how the pause in reintroduction will impact population numbers, Odell explained it’s impossible to predict without knowing what will happen within the next year.

“When populations are small, the contributions of each individual are especially significant,” he said. “If mortality remains high, as observed in 2025, the risk of failing to achieve a self-sustaining wolf population in Colorado increases, potentially requiring additional resources to address.”

In addition to pursuing additional translocations, CPW will continue to implement conflict-minimization strategies across the state and increase public awareness of ongoing efforts.

“We continue to explore options for translocations in winter 2026-2027

and have every intention of fulfilling the translocation goals laid out in our plan,” Perkins said. “Once we’ve achieved that goal, we will be able to evaluate if additional resources, which could include additional translocations, are needed to ensure that we have a solid population to manage going forward.”



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EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Drought resources offer ways to protect property and more

By Cindi Galabota  
SUN Columnist

As I write this article, the weather forecast shows a 50 to 80 percent chance of precipitation over the next few days. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

However, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Archuleta County is in a severe drought. In fact, the western United States is in a "mega drought."

I asked Pagosa Weather their thoughts on our current weather conditions and drought concerns. They shared, "The current snowpack for the Southern San Juans is at just 12%. In addition, the majority of Archuleta County is under extreme drought conditions. Wolf Creek Ski Resort recorded 192" of snowfall, the lowest snowfall since the 1976/1977 season when they recorded just 187.

"April will have above average precipitation between the system at the beginning of the month and a few other weaker systems throughout the month. However, May and June are the driest months of the year. May will be dry and below average. Most of June will be dry till the monsoon sets up towards the end of the month. Follow [pagosaweather.org](http://pagosaweather.org) for updates and more information."

Until our monsoons arrive, Colorado State University (CSU) Extension has a variety of resources for you. For additional information, visit [extension.colostate.edu](http://extension.colostate.edu).

One of my favorite resources at this time is The Home Ignition Zoon — a guide to preparing your home

for wildfire and creating defensible space developed by the Colorado State Forest Service.

As the document states, homeowners have the ultimate responsibility to proactively prepare their property for wildfire. This guide focuses on actions that you can take that are effective in reducing wildfire hazards on your property. Visit [csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/](http://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/) to take action today.

Growing and maintaining a healthy lawn and garden in Colorado can be difficult even when drought conditions are not present. This spring you are likely concerned about your home landscape and gardens, but there are simple steps you can take to water your plants wisely and efficiently.

Check out our fact sheets that provide helpful information on maintaining a healthy lawn, garden and landscape during a drought:

- [extension.colostate.edu/resource/watering-a-home-landscape-during-drought/](http://extension.colostate.edu/resource/watering-a-home-landscape-during-drought/).
- [engagement.source.colostate.edu/landscape-health-during-drought-water-restrictions-colorado/](http://engagement.source.colostate.edu/landscape-health-during-drought-water-restrictions-colorado/).
- [cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/716.pdf](http://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/Gardennotes/716.pdf).

The Colorado Agricultural Drought Advisors is a network of professionals committed to improving access to technical resources for drought preparation and response among Colorado producers.

Its mission is to build short- and long-term resilience to drought among Colorado producers by work-

ing with farmers and ranchers to connect resources, identify/assess risk and implement practices that lessen the impact of drought.

Its website, [droughtadvisors.org](http://droughtadvisors.org), offers a drought planning handbook, examples of drought plans, technical resources and more. Contact them today to help support your agricultural goals.

While southwest Colorado continues to experience severe drought conditions, there are many ways you can help protect your property, support our community and care for our beautiful earth. Follow all water use guidelines. Consider sustainable gardening practices. Participate in drought-friendly activities. Perhaps most importantly, educate yourself about best practices during a drought.

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

**Learn to can dandelion jelly**

Not sure what to do with all those dandelions? Turn them into food. Learn up-to-date canning recommendations, food safety preservation

practices, high-altitude adjustments and more on May 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension office. The cost is \$25 per person for one jar of jelly. Call (970) 264-5931 to register today.

**Be Prepared for an Emergency workshop**

Learn how to prepare for emergencies and protect your land at the Be Prepared for an Emergency workshop with Cindi Galabota, CSU Extension director; Lacy Capre, Archuleta County Public Health outreach specialist; and friends.

The workshop will be at 9 a.m. on May 9 at the CSU Extension Building at 344 U.S. 84. This free workshop will cover the best practices for preparing for and recovery from an emergency.

**CPR and first aid classes**

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

Check out the online option on our website, [archuleta.extension.colostate.edu](http://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu).

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National forest roads and trails opening in April and May, flood damage remains

U.S. Forest Service

Southwest Colorado is experiencing warm, dry weather in the low country, but many of the San Juan National Forest's roads and trails remain muddy or snowy in the high country.

To find a specific road's status, visit our roads conditions webpage at [www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/conditions](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/conditions).

Many roads are closed seasonally to protect drivers from hazardous conditions, to protect wildlife and to prevent road damage. Wet, muddy areas where snow has begun to melt are easily damaged by hikers, bikers, horses and vehicles. We ask that the public please stay off wet and muddy roads and trails, and respect gate closures.

**Trails**

Many high-elevation trails have begun to thaw out, which can tempt hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Hikers and bikers often walk or ride along the edges of paths and trails on live vegetation to avoid muddy paths. This damages plants, widens and braids the trails, and leads to erosion and sedimentation in waterways.

Still want to recreate? We recommend visiting low- and mid-elevation trails, gravel roads or paved pathways that have melted out and are accessible without causing resource damage.

**Roads**

The Dolores and Pagosa ranger district staff have been opening roads as conditions allow, except for roads closed to protect elk and deer, which will open May 1.

The Columbine Ranger District will begin opening low-elevation roads May 1 and will follow the Motor Vehicle Use Map dates for all roads. Upper-elevation and backcountry roads will be opened June 1 or as conditions permit.

Spring conditions are variable and even dangerous, and visitors should be prepared to encounter system roads that are impassable due to snowdrifts, waterlogged roads, down trees or other debris. All travel on the forest is regulated by the Motor

Vehicle Use Maps that can be found online.

For specific road information, visit our road conditions webpage or contact your local district office listed below:

- Columbine Ranger District: (970) 884-2512.
- Dolores Ranger District: (970) 882-7296.
- Pagosa Ranger District: (970) 264-2268.

**Flood-damaged roads and trails**

Severe flooding on Oct. 10-13, 2025, created ongoing safety and access concerns on roads, trails and in waterways on the Columbine and Pagosa ranger districts.

Some roads and vehicle bridges suffered severe damage.

Wilderness trail bridges on Vallecito Creek and West Fork trails were destroyed by flooding, and replacement is not expected to take place until at least 2027.

Visitors should visit respective trail pages for detailed information and proceed with caution as many trails have not yet been assessed post-flood.

Following the flood event, the San Juan National Forest applied for and was awarded Federal Highway Administration financial support through its Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) program.

Thanks to this funding, repair work will begin as early as spring 2026 and will continue through 2027.

ERFO was established to assist federal agencies with the repair or reconstruction of federally owned roads (among other infrastructure)

that are open to public travel that have suffered serious damage by a natural disaster or a catastrophic failure.

Following is information by road or trail number:

- 033 Hatcher Road: Road is closed indefinitely due to total loss of roadbed. Complete road rebuild is planned for 2026.
- 039 Fall Creek Road: Closed indefinitely due to severe culvert wash-out. Reconstruction and new culverts are planned for summer 2026.
- 621 Lower Piedra Road: Closed indefinitely due to embankment collapse. The Lower Piedra Campground is also closed. Complete road rebuild is planned for 2026.
- 667 East Fork Road: Temporary closure during construction. Road retaining wall reconstruction taking place in 2026.
- 648 West Fork Road bridge: Closed indefinitely due to abutment instability. Repair of the abutment is planned during low flow in 2026.
- 529 Middle Vallecito Trail Bridge: Bridge washed away. There is no passage after mile 5.4 from the trailhead. Replacement of the structure is planned for 2027.
- 561 West Fork Trail: Inaccessible 2.9 miles from the West Fork Trailhead. Replacement is planned for summer 2027. Multiple bridges washed out.
- 671 Piedra Falls Trail: Temporary trail reroute. Heavy equipment will be working throughout summer 2026 on adjacent ditches.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874, visit the forest website or follow on Facebook.



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# Sports



## Soccer



SUN photo/Randi Pierce  
Ellie Vining controls the ball during the Lady Pirates' 2-1 loss to Alamosa on Thursday, April 9. The team rebounded from the loss with a pair of wins against Lake County and Bayfield.

### Lady Pirates pick up pair of wins against Lake County, Bayfield

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

After losing three straight, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team broke through for two straight wins.

After the Lady Pirates' 2-1 loss to Alamosa on Thursday, April 9, coach Trevor Gian noted he really liked the way his team was trending, and he just thought that they needed to break through.

The Lady Pirates did just that, winning 2-0 at Lake County on Saturday, April 11, and 6-1 over their rivals at Bayfield on Tuesday, April 14.

The Lady Pirates now sit at 4-4 on the season after getting consecutive wins for the first time this season.

The loss to Alamosa was one that Gian stated he thought the girls had a real chance in.

The Lady Pirates got down 1-0 early and it stayed that way for the rest of the first half. The Mean Moose scored a quick goal in the second half, and the Lady Pirates were stuck chasing from a 2-0 hole.

They were able to get a goal from Terriana Cage in the second half to

cut the deficit to one, but they were never able to get closer.

"We really brought it in the second half, which was great," Gian said. "Unfortunately, [we were] chasing a 2-0 game. I'd much rather like to see us potentially not have to chase the game, but maybe be able to dictate things on our end."

The Lady Pirates came out two days later and listened to their coach.

The team beat Lake County 2-0 and dictated the pace of the game, especially throughout the midfield, for most of the game, noted Gian.

Ximena Garcia scored the first goal for the Lady Pirates from about 25 yards out to put the Lady Pirates up by one in the first half.

The game stayed that way for the rest of the first half and most of the second half until Xyra Belarmino added the second goal as the Lady Pirates closed the game out.

"Holding on there [for a] 2-0 win was huge," Gian said. "Especially, [I] can't stress enough, the mindset to be able to step out on that field after a four-hour bus ride on an early morning, cold weather, the response from the girls."

The Lady Pirates then headed to Bayfield on Tuesday for a rivalry game against the Bayfield Wolverines looking to back up their win from Saturday.

The team went down 1-0 early, but didn't panic, noted Gian.

They responded with six straight unanswered goals, four of which came in the first half.

Garcia had a hat trick, Ellie Vining had two goals and Cage had a goal of her own.

Cage, Izzy Ratcliff and Tatiana Monterroso each had an assist.

"We were a little flat again to start, which is unfortunate, but our response after that was absolutely everything I've asked of this team," Gian said. "The results come and go, but to know we have that kind of heart and that kind of mentality was exceptional."

The No. 30 Lady Pirates will now look to carry that momentum into their second matchup with Montezuma-Cortez this Saturday, April 18, beginning at 11 a.m. in Cortez.

The Panthers are the No. 10-ranked 3A team in the state and come into the matchup with a 6-2 record.

The Panthers previously beat the Lady Pirates in Pagosa Springs 4-0 this season.

"We've seen their results," said Gian. "We know how quality they are. But, it's also a moment in time for us to show our quality and who we are."

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## Local reporting that matters.

## TRACK

### Pirates take third, 19th at Pueblo meet

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate track and field team competed at the Thunder-Storm Invitational in Pueblo on Saturday, April 11.

The meet was held at Colorado State University Pueblo, but was cut short due to severe weather after lightning caused the cancellation of some events.

"A number of athletes were unable to finish the 200m dash, girls' long jump, and boys' triple jump, bringing an abrupt end to an otherwise competitive day," said assistant coach Nik Paniagua.

The Lady Pirates placed 19th out of the 27 schools that competed with 15 points, and the Pirate boys placed third out of the 24 schools that competed with 46 points.

On the girls' side, Abigail Foss finished 22nd in the girls' 100-meter dash with a time of 14.02 seconds. Molly Washburn placed 25th with a season-best time of 14.09 seconds, and Ahrianna Martinez placed 35th with a time of 14.36 seconds.

Nina Wood placed 10th in the girls' 200-meter dash with a time of 28.63 seconds, Foss placed 13th with a personal-best time of 28.96 seconds, and Martinez placed 27th with a time of 30.94 seconds.

Lily DeClark placed 12th in the girls' 800-meter run with a personal best time of two minutes, 43.07 sec-

onds.

Madi Stretton placed 10th in the girls' 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:54.86 and DeClark placed 15th with a personal best time of 6:01.55.

Stretton placed fourth in the girls' 3,200-meter run with a time of 12:39.68 seconds.

*"A number of athletes were unable to finish the 200m dash, girls' long jump, and boys' triple jump, bringing an abrupt end to an otherwise competitive day."*

Assistant coach  
Nik Paniagua

According to distance coach Tim Taylor, Stretton moved into No. 4 all time at PSHS with her performance in the 3,200 and seventh all time at PSHS with her time in the 1,600.

Washburn, Wood, Martinez and Foss placed sixth in the girls' 4x100-meter relay with a season-best time of 53.05 seconds.

Washburn, Wood, Martinez and Foss placed fifth in the girls' 4x200-

meter relay with a time of 1:53.51.

Stretton placed 20th in the girls' triple jump with a total distance of 27 feet, 5 inches.

Liana Vega placed seventh in the girls' shot put with a throw of 32-1. Malorie Morton placed eighth with a throw of 30-7, and Paisley Lister placed 26th with a throw of 25-4.

Lister placed 10th in the girls' discus with a throw of 74-9.

On the boys' side, Johnny Baker finished ninth in the boys' 100 with a personal-best time of 11.82 seconds. Alex Pacheco placed 14th with a season-best time of 11.93 seconds.

Weston Sweet placed 16th in the boys' 800 with a personal-best time of 2:15.15 and Eli Nehring placed 46th with a time of 2:39.54.

Rylan Ash placed fourth in the boys' 1,600 with a personal-best time of 4:43.55. Sweet placed 19th with a personal-best time of 5:09.33. Nehring placed 45th with a season-best time of 5:49.60.

"This year Weston has a focus not seen previously, and his work ethic is clearly paying dividends in his races," Taylor said. "He's poised to run under 5 minutes in the 1,600."

Ash won the boys' 3,200 with a time of 9:58.45.

Ash outlasted two racers from Salida and became just the second boy in Pagosa Springs history to break 10 minutes in the boys' 3,200, according to Taylor.

"Rylan has devoted himself to

■ See Track A15



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## BASEBALL

# Pirates fall to Mean Moose in home doubleheader

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team had its four-game winning streak broken Saturday, April 11, at home after Alamosa beat the Pirates in both games of their doubleheader.

The Mean Moose came into the matchup as a top 15 3A team in the state and beat the Pirates 20-0 and 14-2 in the games.

The Pirates now sit at 8-5 on the season and are the No. 24 team.

"I mean, first and foremost, they're a good team," said coach Jon Wells. "But, unfortunately, we just didn't execute in any area of the game, really. Our bats were cold, our pitching was off, our defense was struggling."

In the first game the Pirates were shut out in just four innings. The Mean Moose scored six in the first, four in the second, nine in the third and one in the fourth to close out the game.

The Pirates tallied two hits and committed seven errors.

Aaron Sowle and Sebastian Gonzalez had the team's only two hits.

Braydon Landry started on the mound, giving up six hits and 10 runs (five earned) while walking four and striking out two in two innings. Over the final two innings, Kaeden Iguchi gave up six hits and 10 runs (one earned) while walking five and striking out two.

The second game finished 14-2, but the deficit was much smaller for the first six innings.

The Pirates were down 2-1 after the first and it stayed that way until the Mean Moose added three in the fourth. The Pirates responded with another run in the fourth to make it 5-2.

The Mean Moose added one more run in the fifth to make it 6-2. The Pirates allowed Alamosa to tack on eight and extend their lead to 12 runs in the seventh. The Pirates failed to score in the home half of the seventh, leaving the final score at 14-2.

The Pirates amassed four hits and committed seven errors again.

Taylor Wells finished 3-for-3 with a run, and Hudson Davis had the Pirates only other hit. Zach Pouyer scored the Pirates' other run, and Noah Bellina had the team's only RBI.

Taylor Wells went the first five and 2/3 innings, giving up six hits and

six runs (four earned) while walking three and striking out six. Davis got the final out of the sixth inning.

Pouyer came in in the top of the seventh and gave up eight runs (two earned) on two hits while walking five and striking out one.

"We committed 14 errors over the two games, seven per game," said Jon Wells. "I mean, we're never going to overcome that. We only had four kids on the roster that actually had at least one hit. A bunch of kids just flat out didn't hit the ball on Saturday."

*"It starts with pitching and defense. If we can solidify those two areas, then we'll have a chance of being competitive against Cortez."*

**Coach Jon Wells**

The coach emphasized that the Mean Moose played great defensively on Saturday and didn't make the same amount of mistakes that the previous two teams they had played were making.

The Pirates were slated to play a pair of games against 4A Durango Tuesday in Durango, but he games were postponed due to inclement weather. They are now scheduled for April 29.

Now, the Pirates will look to get back into the win column this Saturday, April 18, when they host the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers for a doubleheader beginning at 11 a.m.

The Panthers are currently ranked seventh in 3A and hold a 7-5 record.

Jon Wells emphasized that defense is the top priority for the Pirates.

The Pirates' 14 errors against Alamosa led to 21 runs, he noted.

He added the team also has to throw strikes. Of the 17 batters the Pirates' pitchers walked, 12 came around to score.

"It starts with pitching and defense," he said. "If we can solidify those two areas, then we'll have a chance of being competitive against Cortez. We really need all three areas working, though, to have a shot of beating a team like that."

[jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com)



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate pitcher Braydon Landry watches for the out call after tagging an Alamosa runner at the plate on Saturday, April 11.

## Public Notices



A Safe Place in Pagosa, Inc. will submit an application to the Colorado Division of Housing (DOH). The purpose of this application is to request \$495,000.00 to develop 9 rental units at 2079 Vista Blvd. The request for funding from DOH is to benefit persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are low and moderate incomes by increasing the availability of affordable housing in Archuleta County. This will not cause displacement from any existing housing. All interested persons are encouraged to contact the applicant for further information. Written comments should be sent to A Safe Place in Pagosa, Inc., P.O. Box 5913, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or [admin@aspenhousepagosa.org](mailto:admin@aspenhousepagosa.org), and will be forwarded to DOH for consideration during the application process.

Members of the public are invited to a public meeting on Monday, April 27 th from 1 – 3pm at the Aspen House Office, 459 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. If reasonable accommodations are needed for persons attending the public meeting, please contact the Applicant. Public Meeting: Monday 4/27 1-3pm drop-in hours Newspaper ads: 4/16 and 4/23 Published April 16 and 23, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (296621)

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

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7 Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of March 2026, for Archuleta County. **2026CW3Archuleta County, Kraig E. Lorenzen, PO Box 5559, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147: Little Blanco High-line Ditch Extension;** Date of original decree, 8/31/00; Case no., 98CW76; Subsequent decrees, 3/5/07, 06CW63, 9/19/13, 13CW9, 4/3/20, 19CW24; A point on the Rt bank of the Rio Blanco River in Archuleta County, CO and derives its supply of water from said Rio Blanco River, said headgate being located at a point from whence the NW corner of Section 35, T34N, R1W bears N38°48' West 3297.1 feet; Rio Blanco River; Appropriation date, 12/22/97; 1.5 CFS Conditional irrigation of 70 AC; Livestock, fire protection, 2.0 CFS – ditch carrier for irrigation water; Application for Finding of Reasonable Diligence. See Applications for further details. (16 pages including exhibits)

ditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at [www.coloradojudicial.gov](http://www.coloradojudicial.gov)); Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer Published: before April 30, 2026 Water Court Specialist Published April 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (297607)

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

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THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of May 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at [www.coloradojudicial.gov](http://www.coloradojudicial.gov)); Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer Published: before April 30, 2026 Water Court Specialist Published April 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (297608)

Notice: SolidGround Solutions will submit an application to the Colorado Division of Housing (DOH). The purpose of this application is to request \$1,725,181.00 to acquire/rehab 98 rental units for purchase at 519 Village Dr. The request for funding from DOH will benefit persons with low and moderate incomes by increasing the availability of affordable housing in Pagosa Springs. It is not the intent to cause displacement from any existing housing; however, if persons are displaced from their existing residences, reasonable housing alternatives shall be offered. All interested persons are encouraged to contact the applicant for further information. Written comments should be sent to [solidground@solidgroundnp.com](mailto:solidground@solidgroundnp.com) and will be forwarded to DOH for consideration during the application process. Members of the public are invited to participate in a public meeting and should RSVP via email to the Applicant to receive meeting details. The online meeting will be held on April 23rd, 2026, at 9:30 AM to ensure other members of the public are aware of the meeting. If reasonable accommodations are needed for persons to attend the public meeting online, please contact the

Applicant to discuss your accommodation needs. Published April 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (296631)

### REAL PROPERTY TAXPAYER REMEDIES

Sherri Boyce - Hinsdale County Assessor PO Box 28 Lake City, CO 81235 TELEPHONE NUMBER: 970-944-2225 ext. 140 For tax years 2025 and 2026, the county assessor is required by law to appraise all real property at a June 30, 2024 level of value. Notices of Valuation reflecting the 2026 values may be included with your tax bill. If not included with your tax bill, Notices of Valuation will be sent to owners of real property by May 1. The information used by the assessor to value your property is available for your review. From May 4 through June 8, owners of real property may protest the value or the classification established by the assessor. This protest period provides an opportunity for taxpayers to inform the assessor of errors in classification, property description, or other discrepancies that may result in a reduction in value or a change in classification. Protests to the assessor must be postmarked or presented in person on or before June 8. The assessor must make a decision concerning your protest and mail you a written Notice of Determination on or before the last working day in June. If you are satisfied with the assessor's determination, the tax bill you receive next January will be based on the value and classification reflected on the Notice of Determination. If you disagree with the assessor's decision, you may file an appeal with the county board of equalization. An appeal to the county board of equalization must be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than July 15. The county board will notify you by mail of the hearing date, time, and place where you may present evidence to substantiate your case. Evidence includes documentation such as the sale prices of properties similar to yours that sold between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. The county board will conclude hearings and render decisions by the close of business on August 5. The county board must mail you a decision within five business days of the date of its decision. If you are satisfied with the county board's decision, the tax bill you receive next January will be based on the valuation and classification reflected in the county board's decision. If you disagree with the action of the county board, you may file an appeal with the State Board of Assessment Appeals or the district court, or you may request a binding arbitration hearing. Your appeal must be made within 90 days of the date of the county board's mailed decision. For additional information regarding the protest and appeal process, contact your county assessor at **970-944-2225 ext. 140**. Published April 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (297605)

The Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Division is proposing an extension of the Downtown Business and Lodging Overlay (DOB) to 8th Street, via a Rezone. This extension would include the three (3) properties facing Highway 160 to the south between 7th and 8th Street as well as the two (2) properties facing Highway 160 to the north between 7th and 8th Street. This proposal comes with the expansion of the walking district to include the above-mentioned properties. Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 5:30pm** to consider the Rezone to the DOB Overlay District, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comments will be made in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes and Agendas** tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at [pagosasprings.co.gov](http://pagosasprings.co.gov). You may also view the application at [mypyagosa.org/proposed-development-projects](http://mypyagosa.org/proposed-development-projects). We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either **970-585-8636** or [kturnell@pagosasprings.co.gov](mailto:kturnell@pagosasprings.co.gov). Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Published April 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*, (297606)

## PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

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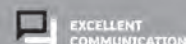


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The Pagosa Lakes Porpoises Swim Team holds a mock meet on Saturday, April 11, to prepare for its upcoming season. The team has doubled in size from last season and now includes 53 swimmers.

## Porpoises swim team prepares for season with 53 swimmers

By Ryan Graham  
Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association

The Pagosa Lakes Porpoises Swim Team held a mock meet on Saturday, April 11, at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Recreation Center.

This has been an exciting year for the Porpoises, as the team has doubled in size from last season and now includes 53 swimmers.

The purpose of the mock meet was

to help prepare athletes for their first official competition in Durango on April 18 and 19.

The team is led by first-year head coach Matt Nobles, who brings a special connection to the program. Nobles swam for the Porpoises from ages 7 to 15, and his passion for the sport—and for this team—shows in the enthusiastic, supportive culture he's building.

This season brings a great mix of returning athletes and new faces, all

contributing to a fun and motivated team environment. We're looking forward to a successful and memorable season.

### Schedule

The Porpoises will compete in a series of meets this season, including the following:

- Durango: April 18-19.
- Sopris: May 16.
- Cortez: May 29-31.
- Gunnison: June 5-7.
- Montrose: June 27-28.

## Track

### ■ Continued from A13

excelling in the team's daily workouts, and this dedication has accentuated his performances in recent meets," Taylor said. "On Saturday, he executed the race plan explicitly and thus was able to outrun some very talented and more experienced competitors in the 3,200 race."

Jeremiah Jones placed fifth in the boys' 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.41 seconds.

Jones also placed fourth in the boys' 300-meter hurdles, logging a

time of 43.37 seconds.

Creede Dozier, Hudson Mazur, Baker and Pacheco placed fifth in the boys' 4x100 with a time of 45.12 seconds.

Baker, Pacheco, Mazur and Gage Sams placed sixth in the boys' 4x200 with a time of 1:35.90.

Sams placed fifth in the boys' high jump with a jump of 6 feet, and Jones placed sixth, also with a jump of 6 feet.

Mazur placed 12th in the boys' long jump with a jump of 19-5.75.

Baker placed 51st with a jump of 14-9.

Aidan Vega placed 22nd in the boys' shot put with a throw of 36 feet. Emile Schneider placed 41st with a throw of 32-7.

Schneider placed second in the boys' discus with a throw of 144-01, and Aidan Vega placed 12th with a throw of 115-3.

The athletes will head to Durango next, where they will compete at the Ron Keller Invitational on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 10 a.m.

[jsellner@orourkmediagroup.com](mailto:jsellner@orourkmediagroup.com)

Photos courtesy Jesse Samu

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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## PAGOSA SPRINGS REAL ESTATE & RELOCATION GUIDE



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### Overview

Each issue of the Pagosa Springs Real Estate and Relocation Guide is thoughtfully created with local and regional partners to provide the information and data people want to know if they are looking to relocate to our community and/or start a business here. It is chock full of guidance for new and current residents on topics such as Business and Economy, Education, Real Estate and Construction, Health Care Resources and Leisure.

### 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.

A digital version will be online at [PagosaSUN.com](http://PagosaSUN.com)

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# preview

## ARTS & LIFE

# Americana Project Concert

April 29 • 7 p.m. • Pagosa Springs High School auditorium



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

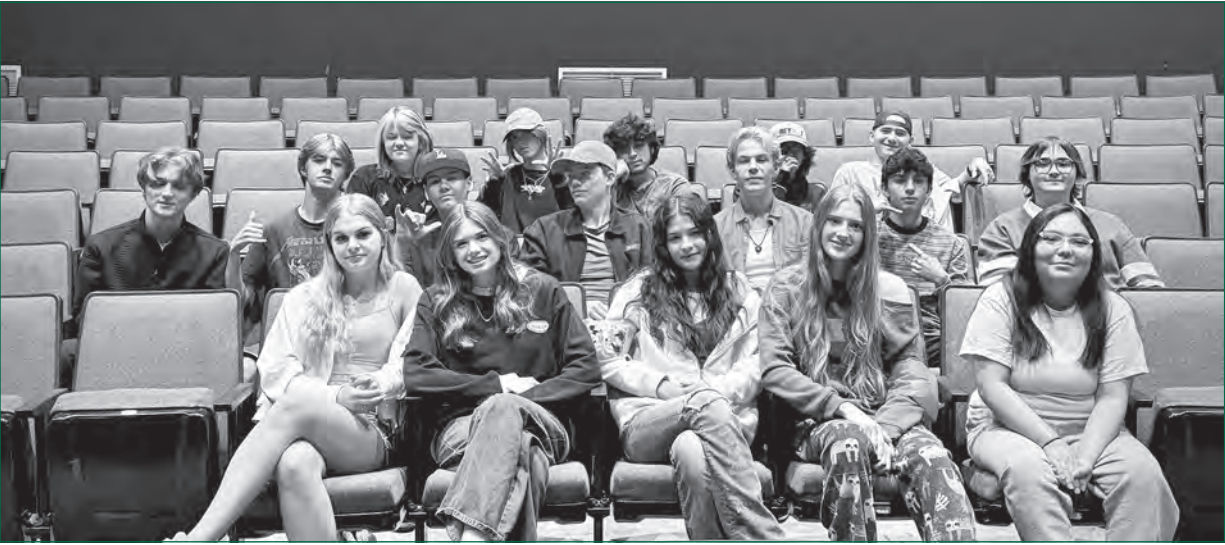


Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

This year’s annual Americana Project Guest Artist Concert will be held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium on Wednesday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Students from the class will open the show with a great mix of covers and original songs. This year’s special guest is the band Mojo Birds.

# Americana Project Guest Artist Concert to feature Mojo Birds

By Bob Hemenger  
Pagosa Springs High School

This year’s annual Americana Project Guest Artist Concert will be held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium on Wednesday, April 29, at 7 p.m.

Students from the class will open the show with a great mix of covers and original songs. This year’s special guest is the band Mojo Birds. Their sound is a mix of roots, rock, soul and Afro-Peruvian Mojo. Inspired by the likes of The Band and a touch of Al Green, these Birds are a funky flock.

Mojo Birds, from Durango, is a roots band built from the ground up — grassroots, entrepreneurial and community-focused. Known for high-energy shows and an eclectic blend of roots based music, the band has grown its audience through relentless gigging, self-produced events and strong local partnerships. Their newly released debut album was produced by Jano Rix of The Wood Brothers and captures the band’s raw chemistry and joyful groove.

Not only are the members of Mojo Birds talented musicians, but they also have an impressive and wide variety of life experience that they bring to the stage.

Jay Harootunian, the lead singer/songwriter/guitarist,

has a Master of Arts in songwriting from Berklee College of Music and is currently adjunct professor at San Juan College.

Alexandra Harootunian, vocalist /percussionist and mojo dance leader, has a degree in marketing and advertising from Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (Lima, Peru) and an Master of Arts in education world language Spanish.

Ted Moore, drummer/songwriter has a Ph.D. in medieval studies from the University of Toronto, a Master of Fine Arts in studio art, and was a member of the U.S. Navy Band (2004-2016).

Guitarist Brian Aherne is a former elementary school teacher and financial advisor in New York City.

Silas Hamilton, bassist/fiddle, toured the world with acclaimed group Northern Harmony and is also an EMT.

Keyboardist Alex Taub has a masters in jazz performance from McGill University as well as being an adjunct professor of music at ETSU.

Tickets for this incredible evening of music are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students/seniors, and 12 and under are free. Tickets are only available at the door. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Please help us spread the word and let’s celebrate music in the public schools.

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The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

The PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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# Six years of growing together: Archuleta Food Summit set for Saturday

Healthy Archuleta

In a small rural community like Archuleta County, change doesn't happen all at once. It happens when people come together, again and again, to listen, learn and take the next step forward.

That's exactly what the Archuleta Food Summit has become.

In 2026, community members will gather for the third biennial food summit, marking six years of steady progress that began in 2022. What started as a simple conversation about food and health has grown into a community-wide effort to build a stronger, more resilient local food system.

At the first summit in 2022, the focus was on listening. Residents, growers and local organizations shared their experiences, what was working, what wasn't and what families were facing when it came to accessing healthy food. It laid the foundation for deeper connection.

By 2024, that connection had grown into a shared vision. Conversations expanded beyond challenges to possibilities, how food connects to health, the local economy and the well-being of the entire community.

Now, in 2026, the summit moves into action. This year's gathering will highlight the Archuleta Community Food Hub and Food Hall, a space designed by and for the community to support local producers, expand access to healthy food and strengthen the local economy.

But, more than anything, the summit is about people. In a rural community, resources may be lim-

ited, but relationships are not. The Archuleta Food Summit creates a space where neighbors learn from one another, share ideas and build solutions together. And, this year, you won't want to miss it.

A highlight of the day is the Children's Learning and Creative Space, where kids can roll up their sleeves and engage in hands-on activities that bring food and nature to life.

At this interactive station, children will engage in hands-on learning by transplanting young plants into pots to understand how food grows and how to care for living things. They will also have the opportunity to explore their creativity through a vegetable print art project, using fresh produce to create colorful and unique designs.

Registration has been extended  
■ See Summit on next page

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# DUST2 announces upcoming film event, other events

DUST2

You have certainly heard about the good work being done by the local nonprofit DUST2.

But, you may not have heard where its name comes from. The name DUST2 initially came about as the need was identified for a nonprofit that could raise funds for trail-building efforts in the urban area of downtown Pagosa Springs. Hence, DUST, Developing Urban Single Track, was born.

The “2” was added with the bike team’s integration with the original trail development focus. Over time, DUST2 has expanded work out of the urban area and into the rural surrounding forested areas.

A major component of DUST2’s current programming is coaching and developing a growing youth mountain bike team.

A major future goal of DUST2 is to assist in the completion of a safe trail connecting downtown school campuses with the new school campus to be built uptown.

“The Engine Inside” is a documentary film about the transformative power of cycling and is being screened at the Liberty Theatre on April 21 at 6 p.m. as a fundraiser for DUST2. Tickets can be bought online at [simpletix.com](https://simpletix.com).

The film highlights how bikes can solve global issues and improve lives, focusing on sustainability, communi-

ty and the personal benefits of riding. Pagosa’s first ever critical mass bike ride, sponsored by DUST2, will take place on April 26 starting at 10 a.m. at the domes in Centennial Park.

This family-friendly ride celebrates Earth Day, community, healthy transportation and biking together safely.

Critical mass bike events occur all over the country. Critical mass bike rides are a form of direct action in which people travel as a group on bicycles at a set location and time. The idea is for people to group together to make it safe for each other to ride bicycles through their streets, based on the old adage that there’s safety in numbers. Critical mass events highlight the numbers of people who want to use their bicycle on the streets, but are usually unable to do so without risking their safety.

The DUST2 bicycle teams compete in races around the state. One major point of pride is the number of females actively competing with the team. Nine females raced with the 38-member team in 2025. It has a goal of increasing female participation to 50 percent. A step in this direction is an upcoming clinic called “Girls, Grit and Grime” to be held at Yamaguchi Park on May 8 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. The clinic is free. Sign up at [www.dust2pagosa.org/girlsonbikes](https://www.dust2pagosa.org/girlsonbikes). If you have questions, call coach Dawn at (909) 855-7140.

## Summit

■ continued from previous page through Friday, April 17, at noon, and organizers strongly encourage community members to sign up in advance so they can be prepared to welcome everyone. While walk-ins are welcome the morning of the event, registering ahead of time helps ensure enough food, materials and space for all who attend.

This is more than an event, it’s an opportunity to be part of something bigger.

Food is more than a meal. It’s culture. It’s health. It’s connection. It’s community.

If you care about the future of

Archuleta County, supporting local, building resilience and strengthening the systems that sustain us, this is your opportunity to be part of it.

Register by Friday, April 17, at noon, bring a friend, and join the conversation.

Because the future of our community is something we build together. Registration is available on the Healthy Archuleta website, and the \$10 fee helps cover both breakfast and lunch. Registration is free for children under 12. We strongly encourage you to sign up today at [www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html](https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html).

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Photo courtesy Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) invites the community to celebrate Earth Day with an evening showing of environmental films at the Liberty Theater on Wednesday, April 22. The event is also a fundraiser to support maintenance of the organization's three demonstration domes.

# Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership to offer Pagosa Springs Earth Day Film Fest

By Pauline Benetti  
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) invites the community to celebrate Earth Day with an evening showing of environmental films at the Liberty Theater on Wednesday, April 22.

Our event, the Pagosa Springs Earth Day Film Fest, is a caravan of the Colorado Environmental Film Festival (CEFF) which recently celebrated two decades of films that inspire environmental awareness, stewardship and action in Golden.

This year's program includes three best of class films from the CEFF lineup:

- "Global Warming" — Best Feature Film. This film is an extraordinary journey across the planet showing how climate change is affecting our world, what it will really mean for us and what we can do about it.
- "What the River Knows" — Best Short Film. For the past several years, a lost Eden drowned under Lake Powell has been re-emerging, revealing the follies of the past and a new way forward for the Colorado River.
- "Chirp Talker" — Best Youth Films. A curious girl invents a Chirp Talker to translate birds' secret mes-

sages, discovering nature's hidden voice in the middle of the city.

The doors will open at the Liberty at 5:30 p.m., and the films will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at pagosagreen.org and cost \$25; children under 13 enter free.

Along with an inspiring lineup of films, guests can win door prizes from local businesses.

The GGP takes seriously its role in our community as an advocate of environmental stewardship and presents the above program as part of that function.

The event is also a major fundraiser, and proceeds will support the recent maintenance project undertaken to keep the three demonstration domes on the site in pristine condition as they represent our community. This is an opportunity for the community in turn to show its support as it enjoys these excellent films.

Folks with an interest in a hands-on relationship with the domes can support the GGP by participating in the actual programs — education, growing, community relations. Volunteer positions exist in all areas. For more information, email info@pagosaspringsggp.org or call (970) 264-5232 and leave a message.

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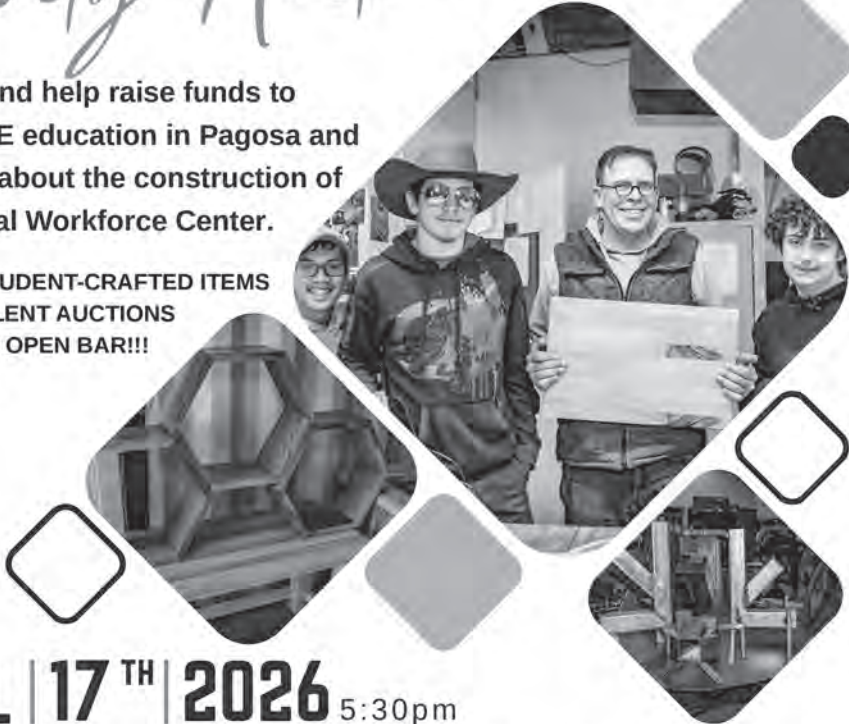
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Photo courtesy Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers  
Jean Murray, second from left, local dark sky advocate, poses with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners. The Archuleta County commissioners and Pagosa Springs Town Council both granted proclamations in recognition of International Dark Sky Week.

# Pagosa Country celebrates International Dark Sky Week

By Dena Laterza  
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

Each year during the new moon phase, DarkSky International designates a week in April as a global celebration of the night. In order to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the night sky, International Dark Sky Week encourages communities to organize events that share the wonder of the night.

This year, Pagosa is celebrating International Dark Sky Week 2026 April 13-20 in many ways.

The Archuleta County commissioners and Pagosa Springs Town Council both granted proclamations in recognition of this special week. We appreciate the ongoing work of both the county and town governments in support of dark skies.

All across town, we’ve gained lots of support. Several special drinks have been created in honor of the night sky and there’s been dark sky trivia. We appreciate local businesses for helping us celebrate and look forward to more fun next year.

Amateur astronomers across the globe celebrate International Dark Sky Week. The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers is hosting two nights of neighborhood star parties, April 15 and 16, from 8:30 to 9:45 p.m. in the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Recreation Center overflow lot.

Bundle up and walk over if you are able. Parking is limited. Be

mindful of your headlights shining on participants if you drive. We will have telescopes so you can view the cosmos.

Other ways you can celebrate International Dark Sky Week are by turning off your outdoor lighting, going outside with friends and family to enjoy the night sky, planning your own neighborhood star parties, learning more about dark sky-friendly lighting, and assessing your home’s outdoor lighting. Embrace the darkness. See activities for kids at [idsw.darksky.org](http://idsw.darksky.org).

We urge everyone to use this celebratory week to talk to friends and neighbors about how each one of us can make a difference by improving outdoor lighting to protect the night sky.

DarkSky International, headquartered in Tucson, Ariz., is the globally recognized authority on light pollution. It provides resources and solutions to minimize light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting. DarkSky’s Advocates Network is a global community united in its efforts to protect the night. Learn how you can become and advocate or donate to the cause at [DarkSky.org](http://DarkSky.org).

The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers provide community service through astronomy, hosting free, educational public events and raising awareness about preserving the night sky through outreach and education. If you are passionate about dark skies, contact us. We’ve been waiting for you.

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# Building a community of action: Moving beyond awareness in Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Kaylie Jackson-Hauf  
Rise Above Violence

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is more than a calendar observance; it is an annual reminder of both the prevalence of sexual violence and the collective responsibility we share in preventing it.

While awareness is an important starting point, awareness alone is not enough. Real change happens when communities move from acknowledgment to action.

Sexual violence remains a common issue that affects individuals across all demographics, regardless of age, gender, race or socioeconomic status. Its impact extends beyond the immediate harm to survivors, influencing families, workplaces, schools and entire communities. Yet, despite how widespread it is, sexual violence is still often misunderstood, minimized or met with silence.

One of the most critical barriers to addressing sexual violence is stigma. Survivors frequently face doubt, victim-blaming or pressure to remain silent. These responses not only discourage individuals from coming forward, but also contribute to an environment where harm can continue unchecked. Creating a

culture that responds with belief, support and respect is essential to breaking this cycle.

Supporting survivors does not require expertise; it requires compassion, listening and a willingness to challenge harmful norms. It means responding without judgment, respecting boundaries, and recognizing that each survivor's experience and healing journey is unique. It also means examining our own assumptions and being mindful of how language, attitudes and behaviors can either reinforce harm or promote safety.

Community involvement plays a powerful role in this work. Whether it is supporting local organizations that serve survivors, participating in awareness events or simply engaging in conversations that challenge harmful myths, every action contributes to a broader movement. Small, consistent efforts can collectively create meaningful change.

This month is also an opportunity to reflect on how we show up for one another. Not just in April, but year-round. Supporting survivors can be seen in everyday interactions, in how we respond when someone shares their experience, and in how we hold ourselves and others accountable to

higher standards of respect and care.

As Sexual Assault Awareness Month continues, the invitation is clear: Move beyond awareness into action. Listen. Believe. Support. Speak up. Educate yourself and others. Challenge harmful behaviors and attitudes when you see them.

Ending sexual violence is a long-term commitment, one that requires all of us. But change is possible when it is rooted in empathy, accountability and collective action. Together, we can continue building a community where safety, dignity and respect are not ideals we strive for, but standards we live by.

Join Rise Above Violence on Wednesday, April 29, in recognition of Denim Day. Rise will also host a special movie fundraiser featuring "North Country," providing an opportunity for the community to come together in support of survivors and continued awareness efforts.

For additional details and event updates, please visit [RiseAboveViolence.org](http://RiseAboveViolence.org).

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# Library investing in our youth

By Barbara Brattin  
PREVIEW Columnist

Pagosa’s young people are definitely readers — they read nearly 10,000 picture books and 5,000 early readers in 2025, plus 3,000 chapter books. Not bad when you consider there are only about 1,440 children 10 and under in Archuleta County.

Research shows that children who use the library are much more likely to succeed in school. In fact, library use is strongly correlated with increased school success, higher GPAs and improved test scores, even at the college level.

Our librarians work hard to make sure we have really interesting books to attract readers and keep them engaged. With such a small budget, we rely on grants from organizations like the Pilcrow Foundation to enhance our collections and keep our bookshelves fresh. In anticipation of our big move, we’ve reviewed every single book to make sure it’s in good condition and ready to borrow.

But libraries are much more than books to children. Libraries are relationships. It’s the librarian who knows your name, knows what you like to read and connects you with the next book written just for you. It’s the librarian who knows you’re a bit squirrelly and a lot hungry after school and offers you a snack and a smile. It’s a place of belonging for the middle schooler who feels like he doesn’t fit in and a safe place from a home that doesn’t feel like home. It’s a place where you can get homework help or just relax and be you.

We are proud of the impact public libraries have on children’s academic and emotional development, and we take this role very seriously. So, we’re going full throttle with the opening of our new children’s room and garden.

Our new space for the very young is full of light and connects to a teaching garden where we will immerse in hands-on education about our natural world. Teens and tweens will have their own enclosed space that connects to a makerspace, a room where physical and digital creation happens.

We’ve reworked our budget to fund a new full-time librarian position who will work directly with youth of all ages. You may know her. She’s Saira Krupka, an experienced youth librarian who moved to Pagosa Springs from Illinois last year and has been working as an educator at our local preschools. Krupka is high energy and high intellect and we are thrilled for her to join our team. Come meet her. She’ll be excited to see you.

Watch us grow and watch us continue to expand our services to youth. If you’d like to invest in Pagosa’s youth, we’d love to hear from you.

Our library foundation continues to fundraise for this fabulous new library. Contact Katie Dobbins at (970) 264-2102 or foundation@pagosalibrary.org to see how you can

## Library News

support the capital campaign.  
Thank you.

### Construction update

Well, we’ve been visited by unwelcome water again, this time in the center section of the crawl space under the new section of the building.

We believe the new concrete parking lot and plaza will keep the water from seeping in from the top once it’s finished, but we will be watching closely to be sure it’s not seeping in from below. If so, we’ll need another sump pump. The cost to mitigate the unexpected water has made it necessary to postpone a few elements, including the digital sign meant for the north side of the building. We continue to fundraise in the hopes that we can restore some of the items we have on hold.

June marks a big transition as we switch from the old side to the new side. We’ll transfer service to the new section while the old section gets a facelift. In late August, the two portions will be combined into one big, beautiful building. Our grand opening is tentatively set for Labor Day weekend.

Follow us on Facebook for periodic pictures of progress.

### Get ready for Summer Reading

It won’t be long till we kick off Summer Reading 2026. This year’s theme is “READ WILD!” and features books filled with action and adventure, plus lots of fun field trips and activities for all ages.

### Collecting for local food banks

Are you heading out for the summer? Are you moving away? 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 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

It’s almost summer, and it’s time to get outside. The Ruby Sisson Li-

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

### Meet us out in the community

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

Please check the listings in this column and on your library’s website, [pagosalibrary.org](http://pagosalibrary.org), for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

### Activities calendars

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

### Online author talks

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■ See Library on next page



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# Library

■ **continued from previous page**  
tation later. Reserve your spot at [libraryc.org/pagosalibrary](http://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary).

"How Exploration, Uncertainty, and Risk Help Us Find Meaning" with author Alex Hutchinson, New York Times bestselling author of "Endure: Mind, Body, and the Curiously Elastic Limits of Human Performance" will be at noon on Thursday, April 16.

Thursday, April 30, at 5 p.m. will be "On Writing Beloved Characters and Powerful Portrayals of Resilience in Virtual Conversation" with Jason Reynolds, award-winning and New York Times bestselling author.

## 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](http://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 literature from great authors

• Two not-to-miss short story collections are "Python's Kiss" from acclaimed Native author Louise Erdrich and "The News from Dublin" from Irish writer Colm Toibin.

• Charlie Reade inherits a house with a portal to a parallel world in "Fairy Tale," from Stephen King.

## New in large print

• "Apostle's Cove" by William Kent Krueger is the 21st novel in the Cork O'Connor mystery series.

• "A Spirited Blend" from Lauren Elliott is book three in the Crystals

■ See Library on next page

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# Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hear about La Plata Electric Association transition

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As a Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregation, the Pagosa UU Fellowship centers its foundation in love and grounds in six shared values, with one of those being interdependence.

We affirm this through the following statement: “We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.”

This Sunday before Earth Day, it is fitting that we hear a real-world message about Earth, its resources and our responsibility to the planet.

To highlight the challenges inherent in the transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative one, our speaker, Nicole Pitcher, LPEA board president, will share an update on the future of energy in our region as the cooperative transitions to energy independences and new agreements for cleaner, locally generated energy with reduced cost and emissions.

Transitions can be fraught with stress and despair and moved forward by joy, the resilience inherent in community and the choices we all make every day.

Questions and comments will be welcome. We invite all into this conversation as we honor our Earth home and deepen our connection to respect for all, responsible stewardship of our shared resources and a commitment to a sustainable future.

For further information about us, check out PagosaUU.org.

The UU Community Hub offers space for a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth and connection. The Tara Meditation Group is held



Nicole Pitcher

most Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. If interested, email the fellowship to be added to the list to receive information and notices about this weekly meditation practice. A Zoom option is available. Qigong practice is held at 1 p.m. most Monday afternoons, and all are welcome. The Wise and Wakeful Circle, hosted by Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, meets the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

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 celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good.”

## Library

■ continued from previous page and CuriosiTEAS Mystery series.

• “The Heir of Whitestone” by prolific author Catherine Coulter is set in 1842 England and pits young innovator Alex Ivanov against unknown evil forces.

### New nonfiction

• “The White Ladder: Triumph and Tragedy at the Dawn of Mountaineering,” by Daniel Light explores the motivations for climbing (conquest, science, divinity), the innova-

tion in climbing techniques, and the often-overlooked roles of local guides and porters.

• “Women Who Hike National Parks: Walking with America’s Most Inspiring Adventurers” includes chapters on recommended hikes by expert travelers.

• “Lost: Amelia Earhart’s Three Mysterious Deaths and One Extraordinary Life” is by Rachel Hartigan.

• “Memorial Days” by Geraldine Brooks is a memoir about the unexpected loss of the author’s husband.

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**1231 Ranchland Drive**  
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MLS #829827

40 Acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag which has significant fire mitigation done and the property taxes are under \$200.00 per year. The property borders the Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple flat build areas close to power. There is a single car garage and a 3 room bunkhouse on a foundation. The bunkhouse is insulated and has a 1200 gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. The solar panels power the 12 volt bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. The garage is set up to accommodate a 22’ RV and you can live for 2 years on the property when you are building. Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water. The kitchen has refrigerator, stove and sink. This is a gated community close to the Tara Mandela Buddhist Retreat.



Price Reduced

**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>



Under Contract

**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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# Community United Methodist Church to observe Native American Ministries Sunday

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Pagosa Springs will observe Native American Ministries Sunday on April 19, joining United Methodist congregations across the country in honoring and supporting Indigenous leadership, ministry and community.

A single worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m., with coffee and treats available beginning at 10 a.m. A community potluck lunch will follow the service. All are welcome.

As part of this observance, the congregation also acknowledges that Pagosa Springs sits on the traditional lands of the Ute peoples, including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Across the San Juan Basin, including places like Chimney Rock National Monument, there is clear evidence of sacred gathering, ceremony and community life long before the arrival of European settlers. This recognition invites the community into deeper awareness, respect and relationship with the Indigenous history and presence that continue to shape this region.

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six special Sundays recognized by the United Methodist Church. This day highlights the ongoing presence, leadership and contributions of Native American communities within the life of the church. It also supports the development of Indigenous leaders through scholarships and strengthens ministries that serve Native communities

with cultural awareness, respect and partnership.

This year, CUMC is honored to welcome Pastor Mark Norman as guest preacher.

Norman serves with Native Grace in Cortez, Colo., a ministry focused on walking alongside members of the Navajo Nation and surrounding communities. Members of his congregation will be joining him for this special Sunday, offering an opportunity for shared worship and connection across communities.

The Rev. Ken Daniell and Norman share a personal friendship that has grown through this shared ministry, deepening the connection between the two communities.

CUMC has been grateful to support Native Grace through prayer, financial giving and hands-on efforts, including the collection of Christmas shoe boxes and other resources to support ongoing ministry in Navajo communities.

Native Grace has become a vital presence in the region, engaging in outreach, pastoral care and bridge-building between communities. Its work reflects a commitment not only to service, but to listening, learning and mutual respect, values that resonate deeply with the mission of the United Methodist Church.

“Native American Ministries Sunday is an opportunity not just to learn, but to build real relationships,” said Daniell, pastor of CUMC. “We are honored to welcome Pastor Norman and to continue growing in our understanding of what it means to be in community with our Native

neighbors.”

The congregation extends a warm invitation to the wider community to join in this meaningful day of worship, learning and shared table fellowship.

More information on CUMC can be found at [www.cumcps.org](http://www.cumcps.org).

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April 2026

### Sign Up for Town and County Alerts

The Town has a new alert and notification system that requires you to resubscribe to receive updates on meetings, weather, road closures, snow routes, and Town emergencies. Additionally, subscribe to the Archuleta County Nixle system that provides emergency and public safety alerts, including wildfire and evacuation information. Sign up for Town alerts at [pagosasprings.co.gov](http://pagosasprings.co.gov) through the Alerts & Notifications page or by texting **PagosaSprings** to **38276**. Sign up for County alerts at [local.nixle.com/register](http://local.nixle.com/register).

### Pagosa Springs Main Street Leader Honored

Kathleen McFadden, Pagosa Springs CDC and Town Main Street Coordinator, was recognized at the 2026 Colorado Downtown Excellence Awards for her leadership in downtown revitalization. Downtown Colorado, Inc. highlighted her work bringing clarity, strategy, and momentum to community efforts in Pagosa Springs. Congratulations Kat!

### Town Earns Financial Reporting Award

The Government Finance Officers Association awarded the Town a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. This is the second year in a row the Town has received the honor, recognizing excellence in transparency, accuracy, and public financial reporting.

### April Sewer Update

The Town continues to manage sewer system challenges while moving forward on long-term improvements. Pump Station 2 remains on temporary diesel-powered bypass pumps as new replacement electric pumps are manufactured. The McCabe Creek sewer line replacement project is now underway, and preliminary work on the final Highway 160 service line repairs is expected to begin soon. The Town Council approved agreements to design a new Wastewater Treatment Facility.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Town Council Regular Meeting** Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

**Joint Town-County Work session** Monday, April 27, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

## SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Save the date for the following activities 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 10, 11 a.m.: Mother's Day potluck and celebration 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 [pagosacomunitynewthought@gmail.com](mailto:pagosacomunitynewthought@gmail.com) or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will host the next rendition of Sunday Night Unplugged this Sunday, April 19, at 5 p.m. The event will feature Out on Work Release.

# Sunday Night Unplugged will feature Out on Work Release Sunday, April 19

By Anthony Aldwell  
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is pleased to host the next rendition of Sunday Night Unplugged this Sunday, April 19, at 5 p.m., which will feature one of Pagosa's favorite bands, Out on Work Release, in a performance open to all.

Out on Work Release is a Pagosa Springs band that has been performing locally for almost 10 years. It

specializes in classic rock and blues, with an extra dose of Southern tones and Latin percussion.

On April 19, it'll treat us to Christian and spiritual interpretations of some well-known songs and some gems hidden in its secular catalog.

Members of our community, as well as visitors to Pagosa Springs, are very welcome to attend this hour-long event at St Patrick's Episcopal Church, located just south of

the hospital, at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., during which we will share the gift of music and reflection with Out on Work Release.

Community news.

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# Spiritual Experiences Group to present ‘Sing HU for Inner Peace and Wisdom—An Ancient Mantra for a Modern World’

**By Laurah Brock Young**  
Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Would you like to bring more wisdom, serenity, love and freedom into your life? HU is an ancient mantra, a sacred name for God. It has been used for thousands of years as a prayer and sacred chant to attune oneself to the presence of God. Millions of people around the world have experienced the joy of HU.

In many spiritual traditions, sound plays an important part in uplifting the individual. HU is a key to open your heart to God’s loving presence in your life.

Anyone can sing HU, regardless of age or religion. It is a simple technique that can be used as part of your daily spiritual practice. It has the power to uplift you spiritually for inner peace, healing and insight.

# Colorado Proud Recipe of the Month: Gnocchi Sausage Bake

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Spring in Colorado is in full swing, where the hustle of calving, branding and early planting begins to fill the calendars of our hardworking agricultural communities.

As the days grow longer and the “to-do” lists even longer, finding a meal that is both deeply satisfying and incredibly efficient is essential.

Our April Colorado Proud recipe of the month — an easy Gnocchi Sausage Bake — is designed exactly for these moments. By using shelf-stable or fresh gnocchi and flavorful cooked sausage, you can skip the boiling water entirely and let the oven do the heavy lifting, taking you from prep to table in about 30 minutes.

This dish is a delicious way to support Colorado’s vibrant agricultural industry on a few levels. Between cheese, sausage, pasta and veggie toppings, it can all be from right here at home. It’s a choice that tastes good and does good for the state we call home.

Whether you’re rushing between school sports, community meetings or long hours in the field, this bake is the ultimate “salvation meal.” It’s a one-pan wonder that minimizes cleanup and maximizes flavor, ensuring that even during the busiest April weeks, you can still enjoy a wholesome, locally sourced meal.

## Gnocchi Sausage Bake

Shared by Sara Martinez  
Yield: 4 servings  
Prep time: 10 minutes

It is a gift to you, and for anyone looking to experience more divine love in life. No prior experience is needed, just curiosity and an open heart.

Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs on Sunday, April 19, at 1 p.m for our event: “Sing HU for Inner Peace and Wisdom—An Ancient Mantra for a Modern World.”

We will meet at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

This free event is sponsored by Eckankar. Eckankar teaches simple creative exercises that unlock deep inner reserves of truth you have attained over lifetimes. You will come to know there is so much more to life than what we see.

To learn more about Eckankar and singing HU, visit [hearhu.org](http://hearhu.org), [www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org) or [eckankar-colorado.org](http://eckankar-colorado.org).

Cook time: 25-35 Minutes  
Ingredients  
1 pound shelf-stable gnocchi  
12 - 14-ounce sausage links, sliced and cooked  
1 1/2 cups spinach artichoke dip  
1/2 cup milk or heavy cream  
1 cup shredded mozzarella, divided  
1/3 cup grated Parmesan, divided  
Black pepper  
Red pepper flakes (optional)  
Spinach (sprinkle some on top if you want to add some green)  
Directions  
Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F, spray the baking dish with cooking spray.  
Add gnocchi, cooked sausage, spinach artichoke dip, milk, half the mozzarella, half the Parmesan and seasonings to a baking dish.  
Stir until everything is coated.  
Cover tightly with foil and bake for 20 minutes.  
Remove foil, stir once, then top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan.  
Bake uncovered for 15 minutes until bubbly and lightly golden.  
Let rest 5 minutes before serving.  
Add veggie toppings if you desire.  
Visit [ColoradoProud.com](http://ColoradoProud.com) for more recipes.

Community news.  
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# That ‘aha’ moment and the will of God

By Caleb Monroe  
Special to The PREVIEW

We have all had at some point in our lives that “aha” moment. That jolt of mental lucidity where an epiphany takes place, the mental clouds part and the sunshine of clarity shines through, illuminating an answer. Sometimes the answer is to a question we didn’t even know we were asking.

For me, these moments usually come when I am out for a long bike ride. In moments of prolonged exercise, my mind clears and then begins to wander. Undirected, my thoughts search through the mist of my mind like a heat-seeking missile looking for a target to lock on to. Most of the time, these targets are small and don’t lead to another thought, but every once in a while, they are like a hidden powder keg; once hit, they explode into something larger.

That’s what happened one day recently when both the wheels of my bike and my mind turned steadily and my mental missile found a target.

As often happens with these kinds of clarity explosions, I can’t follow a bread crumb trail back to what initiated the contemplation.

The sun was warm on my face and the gravel crunched steadily under my bike tires when I suddenly thought to myself, “Have I been thinking of my position in life all wrong? What if I’m not the main character?”

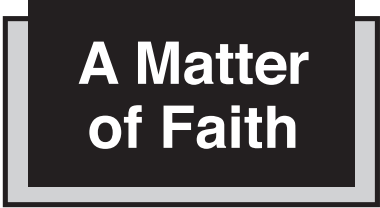
What an idea. Me. My. Mine. All those aspects of my life viewed through the first person, but what if the bigger picture wasn’t about me? What if I was a supporting character to another — to the main character?

That idea hit me like a missed baseball, thumping into my chest with a lingering thud. It was the kind of thought that changes your worldview, especially your personal view of yourself. But what did that mean to be a supporting character?

It is human nature to look at our lives, through only our eyes. To consider and focus on our own needs and wants. It is Christian, however, to look at our lives through God’s will, to consider and focus on the needs and wants of others before ourselves. This “aha” moment was humility slapping me in the face. It was saying, “Hey, dummy, quit thinking of what you want to do. You’re here for others, not the other way around.”

I had been focused solely on my desires. Especially when it came to what I wanted my life to look like. I was so busy looking at my future that I had neglected to look toward God and ask Him, “What is Your will, Father?”

Proverbs 3:5-6 clearly tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own under-



standing; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight”.

I hadn’t been looking to God to make my paths straight; I had been leaning on myself. I was playing the main character, and I had so easily forgotten what we say in the Lord’s Prayer, “... Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”

There is peace, however, when we relinquish the lead role and submit ourselves completely to God.

No longer did I need to shoulder the burden of worry and doubt. Jesus had already told me plainly when in Matt. 6:25. He said, “... do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

This is what the Holy Spirit was guiding me to realize; this is what led to my “aha” moment. I was currently looking at life all wrong. Humility was calling me to be a supporting character. The burden of being the star was no longer one that I had to concern myself with. What’s important is that I look to Heaven, to seek out God’s will and put that in focus.

I will always cherish my long bike rides for numerous reasons, but the most fruitful is that it gives me time to let my mind be free of distractions and to open it to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

Sometimes being a strong supporting character is more important than being the lead. God’s will is for us to humble ourselves and accept the supporting role. Humility is a powerful tool. One that when embraced and used correctly has the power to change our worldviews and unite us more completely with the will of God.

*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.*

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**The Pagosa Springs SUN**  
264-2100

## The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Auto parts giant
- 5 \_\_\_ out (declined)
- 10 Puts away
- 14 Oil acronym
- 15 Mania
- 16 Put on a long face
- 17 Lively
- 18 Solid ground
- 20 No longer good
- 22 Former Kudrow co-star
- 23 Made off with
- 25 Nature calls?
- 26 Balances
- 28 Fed the fire
- 31 Cowboy nick-name
- 32 Fit to eat
- 34 Deep black
- 38 Bobby Brady, to Carol
- 40 One fleeing a flood, maybe
- 42 Jedi guru
- 43 Sketcher's tool
- 45 Funnyman Brooks
- 46 Type of union or bureau
- 48 NFL's \_\_\_ Beckham Jr.
- 50 Old photo tint
- 53 Opt for first
- 55 Chocolate treat
- 58 Scottish flat-bread
- 61 Venom neutralizers, e.g.
- 63 News bit
- 64 Chart toppers
- 65 Hollywood Holmes
- 66 2021 film, "\_\_\_ Look Up"
- 67 "\_\_\_ we forget ..."
- 68 Apple desktops
- 69 Aphrodite's son

### DOWN

- 1 Yep's opposite

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| 14 |    |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
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| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |    |

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- 2 High point

3 Bewildered

4 Film genre

5 Musical eight-some

6 Set in advance

7 Road-paving stuff

8 Pound of verse

9 Campus VIP

10 Like most sitcoms

11 Main blood line

12 Chemo target

13 Musial and Laurel

19 Captain's command

21 Romantic dozen

24 Do a voice-over

26 Crafty site

27 Bill killer in D.C.

29 Like some music

30 Zachary of "Shazam!"

33 Inside info

35 Part of a fraction

36 Ship's backbone

37 Shout out
- 39 One opposed to war

41 High up

44 Quick drink

47 Rapids ride

49 Get off the fence

50 Lesley of "60 Minutes"

51 Tennessee \_\_\_ Ford
- 52 Golf strokes

54 Lessens

56 Villain in "The Avengers"

57 SAT or GMAT

59 Bingo's cousin

60 911 responders, briefly

62 Give \_\_\_ go (2 wds.)

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

# Changing leaders: old ideas, new vision

By **Betty Slade**  
PREVIEW Columnist

Our son, the captain of the ship, has taken over the helm. I have now become the navigator in dangerous waters for family issues. Funny how family members change roles as they transition into life as it happens.

All of our children have reached their full-blown personalities. No longer do I tell them what to do. They have their own opinions and do what they want and tell me what to do.

Our son and I butt heads. He's about business. I'm about ministry. He's a no-nonsense, bottom-line guy, cares deeply and runs a tight ship. I also care deeply, but I'm about love and a let's-pray-and-get-along kind of gal. I choose my battles, take a quiet stance and try to keep peace. As long as the holes in the bottom of the boat are patched and we can float, I'm happy to be on the love boat. He wants the bottom line. I want the story.

Our son is from the next generation, the corporate world, the business world, where everything is well documented in case of lawsuits. He understands his world and the battles today. They can be vicious, not friendly, and very costly. It's about business.

I want to live in yesterday's world. I am from the old generation where your word is your bond. Trust people and give them a margin for error. I have my own battle wounds — hurt feelings, disappointments, trust until you can't trust someone. Forgive and go on. It's about ministry.

So, when a family situation came up, we butted heads once again. My grandson came by the house. We talked. It came up that our log house needed painting. He said, "Grandma, I want to help you. I can paint your house."

I said, "If you do, I want to pay you."  
"I'll get some color ideas for oil or stain."

I ran it by the captain of the ship. He said, "Mother, you always do this. You agree to something and you haven't thought it out."

"We are family. If he can help me and I can help him, then it's OK."

"Is he bonded?"

"No."

"Does he have ladders, scaffolding and painting supplies?"

"No."

"How long will it take?"

"I don't know. We didn't discuss it."

I saw it as a family situation. Our son saw it as business. I started praying. This could turn into an explosive moment that could divide our family. Everyone's heart was right, but we were all coming from a different place.

Our grandson sent an email, decided to decline his offer, but found a painting contractor who would do the job who was bonded and would stay in our budget. I didn't have to fight the situation. I turned it over to our son and stepped down.

I am reminded of another situation when leadership changes hands. For

## Artist's Lane

*Our son is from the next generation, the corporate world, the business world, where everything is well documented in case of lawsuits.*

21 years I held retreats for Christian artists, writers, poets, songwriters and crafters. The retreats grew bigger and bigger and we reserved rooms at the Snow Wolf Lodge. I paid a caterer, and took care of expenses for guest speakers. I always found myself in the hole, picking up the slack to cover the expenses.

I ran those retreats as a ministry. If someone couldn't pay, I'd say, "Come anyway." My Sweet Al warned me, "Betty, you can't buy shoestrings for a nickel and sell them for a nickel." I'd say, "OK," and kept doing what I always did. I lost money every year on every meeting, but love covered a multitude of sins. It was always about God's business and He took care of it and took care of us.

The retreat weekends became a big family reunion. It reminded me of those in the family who everyone dreads, but they show up anyway for the holidays. Like Uncle Earl, hitting the bottle, who added grief to the others, or like Aunt Daisy, who smoked like a fiend and told dirty jokes.

Two brothers attended the retreat one year with big ideas and lots of gusto. They felt they had been called to this ministry. Al and I were burned out. We had kept it afloat by adding more patches to the bottom of the boat.

I was thrilled they would do the heavy lifting. I thought I would still be involved in decision making. After all, it was my baby, birthed in 1986, now 21 years old. We cared for this little one and saw it grow up. It yielded so many blessings for family and friends, money wasn't important.

These two young men launched the ship as a business. I learned when you turn a job over to a leader, he will lead. The brothers didn't feel it necessary to include me in their plans or preparations. I stepped out of leadership, became an attendee. They had it under control and ran it like a tight ship. Everyone paid; no one slipped by.

Final brushstroke: For this family, it continues. We have turned over the helm to the next generation, let them steer the ship, turn the rudder and control the ship's direction. My Sweet Al and I are vacationing on the love boat.

*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*

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*A heartfelt thank you to Nancy Haines, former owner and dear friend, and to Elise Mariner, our business broker with Transworld, for helping us make this transition possible.*

**We look forward to growing with our community.**

# 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 long-billed curlew.

In our area, the best opportunities to find shorebirds stopping over on their migratory journeys occur in April. As a group, shorebirds are highly migratory and one of the most threatened bird groups in North America. We don’t usually find many shorebirds here for long, or in big numbers, making it a treat when we do.

North America’s largest shorebird is the long-billed curlew. Its long, down-curved, sickle-shaped bill was the inspiration for its genus name, Numenius, taken from the Greek word meaning “of the new crescent moon.” Atop long legs, its football-shaped body is speckled and barred in browns above with a pale cinnamon wash, and its belly is plain cinnamon.

The curlew uses its long bill both to probe into the mud for deep burrowing prey like crabs and shrimps, and to peck at the ground. They eat a variety of insects and other invertebrates, especially grasshoppers, and also some fish, amphibians, bird eggs and nestlings. They often forage in groups, moving side by side through the grass to flush insect prey.

The long-billed curlew is considered a grassland species, but they are rarely far from shallow water. Their preferred breeding habitat is a blend of short grasslands, meadows, agricultural fields and wetlands. They nest in parts of western United States (including in eastern Colorado) and in southwestern Canada. Winter finds them in coastal areas and inland parts of California and Mexico.

On the shortgrass prairie, they nest in large, flat expanses where they are so well camouflaged that adults are nearly impossible to spot sitting on eggs. Despite prairie dog colonies being predator magnets, curlews choose to nest near them. Prairie dogs sound distinct alarm calls when a threat appears that even convey whether the threat is aerial or terrestrial. Studies have demonstrated that curlews further reduce their chances of detection by a predator when they respond to these messages by flattening themselves over the nest.

Look for shorebirds like this one when they stop to rest and feed during arduous migrations to northern breeding areas. Shallow water bodies including Vista pond, wetland ponds near Piedra Road, and wetlands and shorelines at Navajo State Park are places to search.

For information on events, visit [www.weminucheaudubon.org](http://www.weminucheaudubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/).

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# PAGOSA SPRINGS REAL ESTATE & RELOCATION GUIDE

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Published by The Pagosa Springs SUN

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May 7, 2026

## Overview

Each issue of the Pagosa Springs Real Estate and Relocation Guide is thoughtfully created with local and regional partners to provide the information and data people want to know if they are looking to relocate to our community and/or start a business here. It is chock full of guidance for new and current residents on topics such as Business and Economy, Education, Real Estate and Construction, Health Care Resources and Leisure.

## 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.

A digital version will be online at [PagosaSUN.com](http://PagosaSUN.com)

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SPONSORED CONTENT



Dr. Peter Roukema and his wife, Christy Roukema, RDH.

# Business Spotlight: Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry’s new chapter

By Ella Slade

Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is honored to build upon a nearly 40-year legacy of clinical excellence, a tradition passed from Dr. Thompson to Dr. Campbell, and now to Dr. Peter Roukema and his wife, Christy Roukema, RDH in February 2022.

The Roukemas have proudly embraced this heritage, while introducing a new chapter for the family practice through dedicated care and strong community involvement.

This evolution is guided by a commitment to core values and a clear vision to serve Pagosa Springs, captured in the mission: “To elevate our patient’s health, function and confidence in their smile by providing excellent dental care and an exceptional patient experience.”

By combining this high level of care with a personal touch, the team, including Dr. Jaime Astorga, DDS, and hygienist Patricia Flynn, RDH, ensures every person leaves with a

smile they love.

In an exciting development, Pagosa Peak is relocating this May to 2737 Cornerstone Drive. This expansive, cutting-edge facility will allow the practice to better serve the community, create more local jobs and provide a dedicated space for those pursuing dental careers with on-site education initiatives.

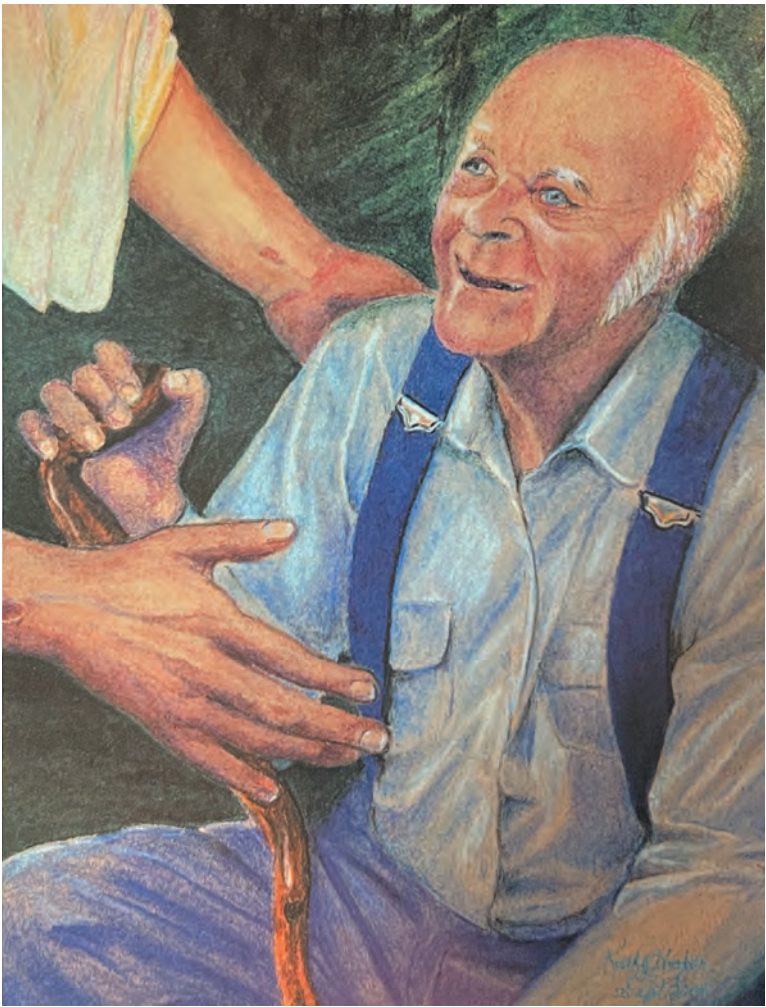
This vision of service extends further through the “Rooted and Reaching” initiative. While the practice remains “Rooted” in its heritage of local care, it is “Reaching” out in committing a portion of the revenue from every procedure performed in 2026 directly to a local charity.

Launched in January, the program benefits a different organization each month, reflecting the belief that when patients invest in their health, they are simultaneously investing in the strength and well-being of the entire community.

The team at Pagosa Peak looks forward to welcoming neighbors, striv-

ing to be a pillar in the community known for its friendly environment and providing the same high-level service the town has trusted for decades.

*Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN sponsored content program called Spotlight.*



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# Celebrating the heart of Archuleta Seniors Inc.

By Ricardo Martinez  
PREVIEW Columnist

April is a special time to recognize the heart and soul of Archuleta Seniors Inc.: our dedicated volunteers.

With approximately 55 individuals giving their time and energy, these community members play a vital role in ensuring our programs run smoothly and effectively.

From delivering nutritious meals through our Meals on Wheels program, to warmly welcoming guests at the front desk and assisting with congregate dining and activities, our volunteers make a meaningful difference every single day. Their kindness, reliability and commitment help create a welcoming environment where seniors feel supported, valued and connected.

During Volunteer Appreciation Week this April, we extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of our volunteers. ASI simply could not provide the level of service and care our community depends on without their generous contributions.

Their dedication not only supports essential services, but also strengthens the sense of community that makes our organization so special. We are truly thankful for their time, compassion and unwavering support in helping us serve the seniors of Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs.

## 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 Archuleta Senior Center.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided. Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

## Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

## Senior News

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.

## American mahjong

American mahjong is played using a set of tiles and the current year score card. Play includes groups of three or four players and follows a pattern of division exchange and display of tiles.

Bring your card and come to play or watch and learn from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays at the Senior Center.

## Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

## Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

## Emotional freedom

On the second Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., join the “Tappers,” who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

## Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Senior Center.

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome

to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

## Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

## Ruby’s Writers Guild

The Ruby’s Writers Guild meets on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The guild is an informal group that

■ See Senior on next page

## HUD Publisher's Notice



## EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

# SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

## 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!

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

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

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](mailto:copenhavercreative@gmail.com) and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

## Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox's Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also

available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

## Community Cafe menu

Call or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, April 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.

Monday, April 20 — BBQ country ribs, creamed corn, apple pie, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, April 21 — Crispy codfish with tartar sauce, sauteed squash medley, garden salad, fruit, orange blossom muffin and milk.

Wednesday, April 22 — Tomato basil soup, grilled cheese sandwich, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Thursday, April 23 — Chicken tortilla soup with crispy tortilla strips and cotija cheese, garden salad, fruit, cookies, and milk.

Friday, April 24 - Beef meatloaf, baby baked potatoes, garden salad, cherry cheesecake 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

■ See Senior on page 21

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## IS A PLANT-RICH DIET THE SOLUTION TO DIABETES?



Meat consumption is associated with manliness, vigor and virility, while fruit and vegetable consumption is associated with tree-hugging dainties. While these fanciful stereotypes and notions that are not based on reality abound, more and more meat-eating men are losing their sense of manliness to the likes of Type 2 diabetes.

Today's research excerpt examines the possibilities of plant-based solution. I've been researching the most common and devastating diseases Americans are dealing with, with the aim of finding a common thread running throughout both cause and reversal.

As it is now, one out of every two of us will get cancer or heart disease, and one out of every three children born after the year 2000 will be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

These are devastating diseases, certainly to those who are burdened by them, but also to a health care system that is struggling to keep up. The extraordinary doctors and nutritional scientists I've talked with seem to be saying - and saying fervently - the same thing: a diet high in animal protein is disastrous to our health, while a plant-based (vegan) diet prevents disease and is restorative to our health. And they say this with peer-reviewed (the gold standard of studies) science to back them up.

Even the very conservative ADA (American Dietetic Association) says: "Vegetarian diets are often associated with a number of health advantages, including lower blood cholesterol levels, lower risk of heart disease, lower blood pressure levels, and lower risk of hypertension and type 2 diabetes. Vegetarians tend to have a lower body mass index (BMI) and lower overall cancer rates." Diabetes does not just mean you take a pill or injection every day. It means you can lose a decade of life.

And you while you inch toward that uncomfortable end, you deal with an increased risk of heart attack, blindness, amputation, and loss of kidney function. It's a very serious disease. The good news is that diabetes can be halted and reversed in a very short time through some diet modifications.

Source: "A Solution For Diabetes: A Plant-Based Diet." By Kathy Freston.

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

*"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* 3 John 2

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Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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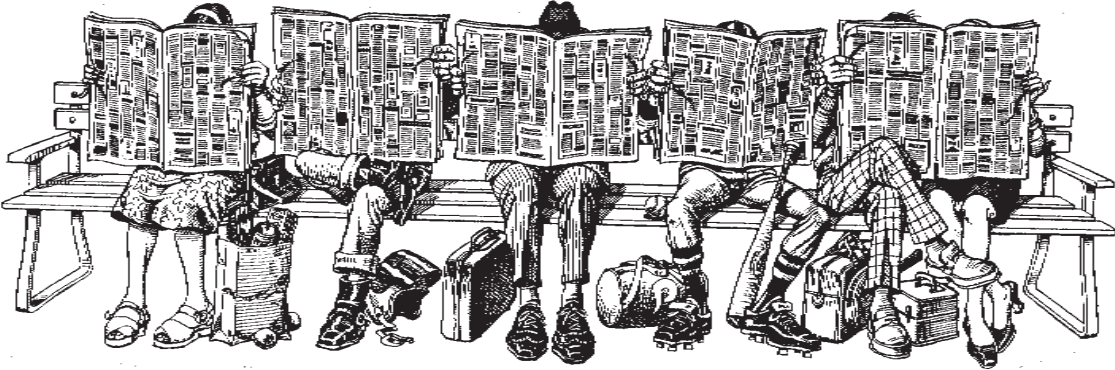
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# Preview Calendar

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

## 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](http://www.pagosalibrary.org), to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

**End of Life Education.** 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

**Tai Chi Chih.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

**Tech Time.** 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, 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.

## Friday, April 17

**Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Volunteer Orientation Day.** 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. CRIA offers its orientation program yearly to both new and returning volunteers. For more information, call (970) 731-7133 or visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**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>.

**Build Pagosa Annual Dinner and**

**Auction.** 5:30 p.m., Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. For tickets and more information, visit [www.buildpagosa.org](http://www.buildpagosa.org) or email [director@buildpagosa.org](mailto:director@buildpagosa.org).

**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.

## Saturday, April 18

**Archuleta Food Summit.** 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Learn more and register at [www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html](http://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-food-summit.html).

**Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild.** 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. All quilters and wanna-be quilters are ■ See Calendar on page 23

## Senior

■ continued from page 19 service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

### Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

### Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

For more information about ASI, please visit [www.psseniors.org](http://www.psseniors.org).

### Support the Senior Center

New, starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without

itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: [www.psseniors.org/](http://www.psseniors.org/) (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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Photos courtesy Pagosa Catholic Community

The Divine Mercy Sunday Service is held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church on April 12. Following the service was a reception hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 7560 celebrating the 25th consecutive year, led by Guiseppe and Maureen Margiotta.

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# Preview Calendar

## ■ continued from page 21

welcome. Social hour is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information on meetings and classes, email [pagosapiecemakers@gmail.com](mailto:pagosapiecemakers@gmail.com).

**GriefShare.** 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at [www.grief-share.org](http://www.grief-share.org).

**Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Volunteer Orientation Day.** 10 a.m.-noon, Chimney Rock National Monument, 30841 Colo. 151. CRIA offers its orientation program yearly to both new and returning volunteers. For more information, call (970) 731-7133 or visit [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**LEGO Play.** 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Baseball.** 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Montezuma-Cortez.

**Zikr Dance Ensemble.** 7:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For more information and tickets, visit [www.zikrdance.com](http://www.zikrdance.com).

## Sunday, April 19

**Thingamajig Theatre Company Cast Reveal and Wine-and-Cheese Event.** 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. Open to patron who were 2025-2026 fall/winter season ticket holders and anyone planning to become a 2026 season ticket holder.

**Sunday Night Unplugged.** 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Christian and spiritual interpretations of some well-known songs and some secular gems. Open to all community members and visitors.

## Monday, April 20

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

**Line Dancing.** 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

**American Sign Language Class.** 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

## Tuesday, April 21

**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.

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

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

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

**DUST2 Film Event: 'The Engine Inside.'** 6 p.m., Liberty Theatre. Tickets can be bought at [simpletix.com](http://simpletix.com).

## Wednesday, April 22

**Kids Kare.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

**Family Storytime.** 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Therapy Dog Visit.** 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For all ages. Take a moment to visit with certified therapy dog Mia.

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

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

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

**Elementary Tutoring.** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.

**Pagosa Springs Earth Day Film Fest.** 6 p.m., Liberty Theatre. Select films from the Colorado Environmental Film Festival will be shown.

## Thursday, April 23

**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

■ See Calendar on page 23

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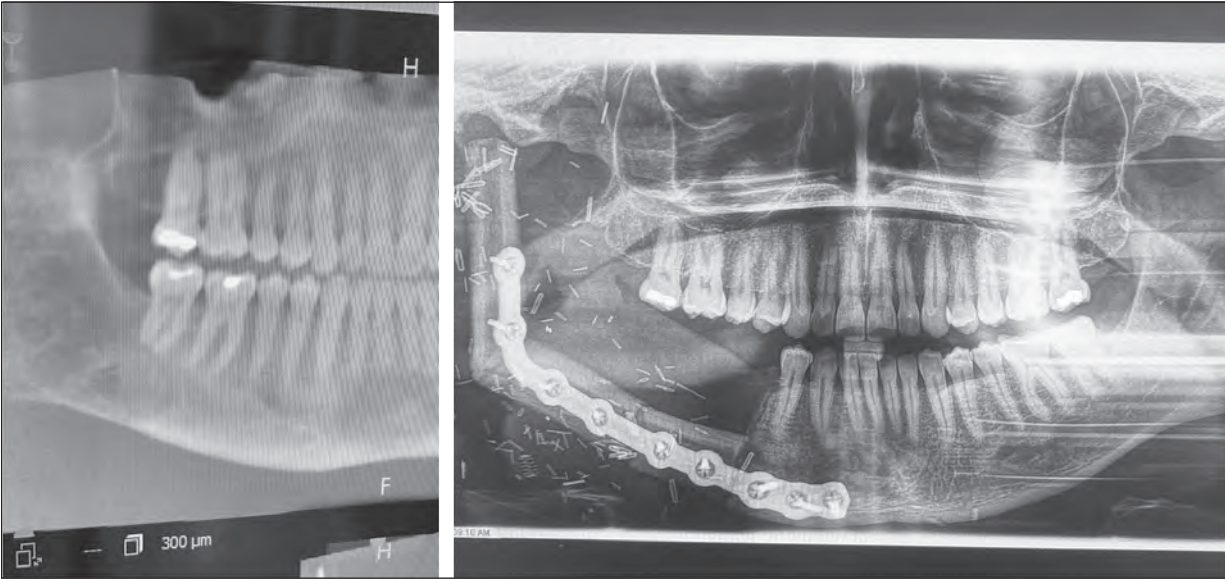


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After his own surgery, Dr. Justin Neylund, DDS, with Black Diamond Dental, said he has learned how to manage temporomandibular joint pain for himself and his patients. (Submitted photos)

Black Diamond Dental highlights oral cancer awareness through doctor’s personal journey

By Allison Brown

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month, and Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is using the opportunity to highlight the importance of screenings through the personal experience of Dr. Justin Neylund, DDS.

“On Dec. 4, 2023 I woke up at 11:15 p.m. in excruciating pain at the angle of my Mandible and the front right part of my face was numb,” Nylund said.

After seven weeks working with specialists, Nylund learned he had Ewing’s sarcoma, a cancer more commonly found in children. It was a strange occurrence for more reasons than one.

“I have no risk factors or family history of cancer, but ended up

being diagnosed with a kids cancer, Ewing’s Sarcoma at 42,” he said. “The primary lesion happened in my mandible which only happens 1% of the time, and I ended up having the 1% version of the cancer.”

Treatment included 14 rounds of chemotherapy, a right mandibular hemisection and reconstruction using fibula bone from his leg. The experience reshaped how he approaches patient care.

“Weird things happen and oral cancer is far more common than we think,” he said. “It is very important to me to do a thorough oral cancer screening.”

At Black Diamond Dental, Nylund

performs a six-step screening that evaluates the neck, tonsils, tongue, floor of the mouth, lips, cheeks and palate. He encourages patients to report persistent ulcers, mouth pain, chronic hoarseness, recurrent sore throat, difficulty swallowing or a hard lump in the neck.

“Oral cancer kills one person every hour,” Nylund cautioned.

More information about screenings is available at [sixstepscreening.org](http://sixstepscreening.org). To learn about services or schedule an appointment, visit [blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com](http://blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com).

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

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page charger and passwords. Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls’ Soccer. 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs vs. Ignacio.

Saturday, April 25

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Center-point Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at [www.grief-share.org](http://www.grief-share.org).

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

■ See Calendar on next page



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# Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

## Sunday, April 26

**Earth Day Celebration.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Centennial Park.

**DUST2 Critical Mass Ride.** 10 a.m., Centennial Park. A family-friendly ride celebrating Earth Day, community, healthy transportation and biking together safely.

## Monday, April 27

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

**Line Dancing.** 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

**Archuleta County Democratic Club.** 11:30 a.m., Uncle's Bar and Social Club.

**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 28

**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.

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

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

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer.** 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs vs. Bayfield.

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

## Wednesday, April 29

**Kids Kare.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons,

games and more.

**Family Storytime.** 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

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

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

**Elementary Tutoring.** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.

**Rise Above Violence Film Event: 'North Country.'** 6 p.m., Liberty Theatre. A fundraiser for Rise Above Violence. For more information and tickets, visit RiseAboveViolence.org.

**Americana Project Guest Artist Concert.** 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Students from the Americana Project will open for Mojo Birds. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students/seniors, and free for those 12 and under. Tickets will be available at the door.

## Thursday, April 30

**Ruby's Writers Guild.** 8:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

**End of Life Education.** 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

**Tai Chi Chih.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

**Tech Time.** 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Soccer.** 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs vs. Del Norte.

**Online Author Talk.** 5 p.m., virtual. "On Writing Beloved Characters and Powerful Portrayals of Resilience in Virtual Conversation" with bestselling author Jason Reynolds. Go to the library's website, [www.pagosallibrary.org](http://www.pagosallibrary.org), to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN  
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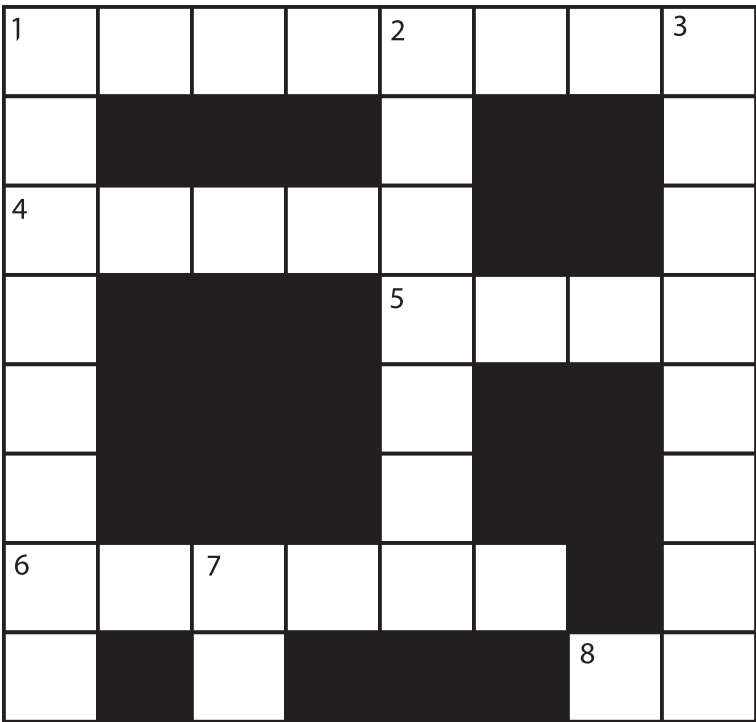


People  
FACT:

People are urged to avoid doing this in their driveways and instead rely on facilities that recycle water.

Answer: Wash their cars

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Speed
- 4. Walks through woods
- 5. Slightly open
- 6. Motor
- 8. For example

DOWN

- 1. Cars and trucks
- 2. Group of travelers
- 3. One year old animal
- 7. Move from one place to another

Answers:  
Across  
1. Velocity 4. Hiker 5. Ajar 6. Engine 8. EG  
Down  
1. Vehicles 2. Caravan 3. Yearling 7. Go

THIS  
DAY IN  
HISTORY



**1736:** The ultimately short-lived Kingdom of Corsica is founded.  
**1861:** President Abraham Lincoln tries to calm the insurrection that will become the Civil War.

**1923:** Insulin becomes generally available for those with diabetes.

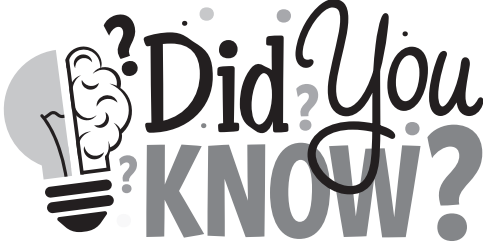
NEW  
WORD

PRESSURE

application of force exerted against an object

How they  
say  
that in...

**English:** Engine  
**Spanish:** Motor  
**Italian:** Motore  
**French:** Moteur  
**German:** Motor



Maintaining proper tire tread and air pressure are two vehicle maintenance tips that help keep drivers safe.



Get the  
PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Dashboard

# 100 years ago this month: historical events from April 1926

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of April has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in April 1926:

- The United States House of Representatives votes to impeach District Court Judge George W. English on April 1. English, who was accused of abuse of powers and violation of bankruptcy laws, ultimately resigns on Nov. 4.

- Residents of Watts, Calif., vote to become part of the city of Los Angeles on April 2. Residents vote 1,338 to 535 in favor of consolidation.

- Warplanes of Manchurian warlord Zhang Zuolin begin bombing portions of Beijing on April 3. The areas targeted by the bombings are areas of the city under the control of the Guominjun paramilitary group.

- The national basketball team of Italy plays its first game on April 4. The team earns a 23-17 victory over the French national team.

- The first recorded death of a person caused by a cassowary is noted in Mossman, Queensland, Australia, on April 6. Phillip McClean, the 16-year-old victim, was attacked by the large, flightless bird while he and his brother were trying to kill it.

- Italian Premier Benito Mussolini is shot by Violet Gibson in Rome on April 7. Mussolini is unharmed, and Gibson is ultimately released without charges. However, Gibson is sent to a psychiatric hospital in England, where she remains until her death

in 1956.

- The German subsidiary of the Ford Motor Company assembles its first vehicle, a Model T, on April 8.

- Twenty-seven sailors are killed when the United States oil tanker the Gulf of Venezuela explodes as the ship sits in harbor at Port Arthur, Texas, on April 11.

- Walter Johnson of the Washington Senators defeats Eddie Rummel of the Philadelphia Athletics on Opening Day on April 13. The game lasts 15 innings and ends with a score of 1-0.

- Australian politician Frederick McDonald disappears while on his way to a meeting with Jack Lang, the premier of New South Wales, on April 15. McDonald, who had recently lost a re-election bid to the Australian House of Representatives, challenged the result of that election and asked that his opponent, Thomas Ley, be removed from office. McDonald's disappearance is never solved, and Ley is later convicted of the murder of John Mudie in 1947.

- Canadian distance runner Johnny Miles wins the Boston Marathon on April 19. The marathon marked the first time Miles had competed in a race of more than 10 miles.

- Elizabeth II is born to the duchess of York and the duke of York on April 21 in London. Elizabeth grows up to serve as queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a reign that begins in 1952 and lasts until her death in 2022.

- Germany and the Soviet Union sign the Treaty of Berlin on April 24.

Each country pledges neutrality in the event of attack on the other by a third party within the ensuing half decade.

- The Pahlavi dynasty begins in Iran on April 25 when Reza Khan is formally crowned the shah of Iran.

- Illinois prosecutor William H. McSwiggin is killed during a shootout involving Al Capone and Jack McGurn on April 27. Capone and McGurn did not know McSwiggin was in the car of a rival gang at the time of the shootout.

- African American pilot Bessie Coleman plunges 600 feet to her death while preparing for an air show in Jacksonville, Fla., on April 30. Prior to flying, Coleman had been urged not to pilot the aircraft, which friends and family did not deem safe. Coleman insisted on flying, and an examination of the wreckage of the aircraft after the crash found that a wrench used to service the engine had jammed the controls.

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## Is laughter good for your health?

Special to The PREVIEW

The adage "laughter is the best medicine" certainly suggests that a good laugh is good for one's health.

Although laughter might not mend a broken wrist or eradicate every disease, UCLA Health notes a number of surprising physiological and mental benefits of a good laugh.

Here are a handful of ways laughter can impact the mind and body:

- Reduces stress: Laughter significantly lowers levels of cortisol and epinephrine. The Physiological Society says one study found that even a single laughter session can reduce cortisol levels by nearly 37 percent.

- Boosts immunity: Laughing can increase the production of antibodies and activates natural killer cells, which help the body fight off viruses and even some tumor cells, indicates Providia Family Medicine.

- Pain relief: By triggering the release of endorphins, which are the body's natural painkillers, laughter can ease pain. The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs says patients in clinical trials who watched comedies

reported a higher pain tolerance and required less medication than those who did not watch such programming.

- Ease anxiety and depression: Laughter can stimulate the release of dopamine and serotonin. Researchers at Harvard University say that laughter stimulates the reward centers of the brain. This makes a person feel happy in the moment and helps build long-term emotional resilience as well.

- Perspective change: It is hard to feel amused and anxious at the same time. So, laughing can provide a change of attitude and perspective. It also can provide a necessary emotional reset.

Laughing may not cure everything that ails a person, but it certainly can provide many health benefits.

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## MISCELLANEOUS



### Meet Rascal!

This sweet 5-year-old male mini Aussie is needing a foster or adopter. Rascal has been dealing with some health problems but has made incredible progress! 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING?** Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org).

**PAGOSA AA:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30 Men's Tuesday 5:30 Ladies Friday 11:30a.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12 noon. Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only: Zoom ID 858319763 password 754234. 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (2 miles off Hwy. 160). Call Kathi (970)946-1482, or central office (888)333-9649.

**THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP** of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.com), (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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**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.

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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.

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**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.communityconnectionscolorado.org/careers> and upload a resume and cover letter. Applications will be accepted until 5p.m. on April 22, 2026.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED** in making a meaningful difference in the lives of community members in Southwest Colorado? Come join an exciting new team at Community Connections, Inc. The Southwest Colorado Cares (SWCC) team seeks a part-time (20 hours a week) Care Navigator to help community members access the resources they need and want. This is a hybrid position, part-time with flexibility in schedule. It is hourly and non-exempt. Hourly wage is \$25.49. Part-Time benefits include 401K participation after 12 months of employment and 1,000 hours worked within those 12 months; Employee Assistance Program (EAP); unlimited Personal Time Off (PTO). Interested candidates should apply at <https://www.communityconnectionscolorado.org/careers> and upload a resume and cover letter. Applications will be accepted until 5p.m. on April 24, 2026.

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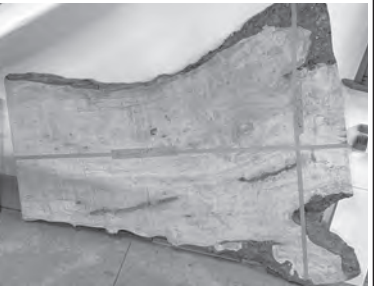
**FIREWOOD SALE.** The Dump Truck special is back. Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$500. Pine mix. Only while supplies last. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

**FOUR PIRELLI TIRES, ALL WEATHER**, 245/50/R20, Scorpion Zero from 2025 Kia Telluride, less than 5,000 miles. \$500 OBO. (610)417-1641.

**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).

FOR SALE

*Table Slab*



Live edges. 2-3/4" thick, 74" long, 65" wide. More pictures available via email or text. \$700

(610)417-1641  
johnforney64@me.com

**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.

**LOST & FOUND**

**LOST IN AREA** of West Radiant Court. 20 pound dog, predominantly black and white, dachshund and chihuahua. Don't try to catch, just call /text (512)650-7972.

**PETS**

**ADOPT FROM THE** Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, [www.PagosaHumane.org](http://www.PagosaHumane.org).

**WANTED**

**USED 10' OR 12' UTILITY TRAILER.** If no answer, please leave message. (970)731-9490.

**YARD SALES**

**APRIL 18, 2026, 9A.M.-12P.M.** 55 Little Pine Lane. Yard sale, outdoor items, decorations, tools and more.

**ESTATE SALE FUNDRAISER.** Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, 9a.m. to 2p.m. 77 Golden Pond Place, Pagosa Springs. Furniture, TVs, garden tools, women's clothing, jewelry, office supplies, coat rack, plants, Spiritual artwork, shelving units, horse tack, camping supplies, lamps, books. No early birds. Cash or Zelle accepted.

**ESTATE SALE. SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.** La-Z-Boy couch and love seat, Maytag washer and dryer set, multiple Pendleton blankets, table set with 6 chairs, Tractor implements, household goods, outdoor furniture, collectibles, hunting gear, Western art, lamps, rugs, other furniture and much, much more. Out Highway 84, follow the signs, 2021 Station Place. 8a.m. sharp, Friday and Saturday. Cash only. Sale by: C.K Estate Sales.

(970) 264-2100

# Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

*"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba"*



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NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING  
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



YARD SALES

**GARAGE SALE.** Saturday, April 18, 8a.m. -5p.m. Tools and household items. 705 Buttress Ave.

**YARD SALE.** April 17, 9a.m. -2p.m., 252 Rob Snow Road. Men's, women's, kid's clothing, household items.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**1,243 SQUARE FOOT WAREHOUSE.** \$1,250 per month plus electric. One block off Highway 160, 17 minutes from downtown. Former recording studio and woodworking shop. Perfect for creatives, makers or storage. 6 -month lease minimum. Ready for your vision. (970)946-2728.

**COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE.** 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

**LARGE COMMERCIAL -INDUSTRIAL LOTS** in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

**PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES:** Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

**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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**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

**DOWNTOWN HILLTOP TWO -BEDROOM,** one -bath home with great views. Big deck and a backyard. Close to everything downtown. One pet is allowed with approval and monthly pet rent. Included is a small basement with outdoor access. Available around May 1st. Visit teampagosa.com to view the property or call (970)731-8599 to schedule a viewing. \$1,900 /month.

**EXCELLENT DOWNTOWN LOCATION,** 1 bedroom /1 bath, 1,138 sq. ft., loft and separate building. See photos and complete description on Zillow.com 220 Hermosa St. (970)507-0791.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**FURNISHE ONE LOFT BEDROOM,** two-bath condo located in uptown Pagosa Springs on the golf course. This upstairs unit offers incredible views, an air conditioner for hot summer days and a gas fireplace for cozy winter nights. One dog is allowed with a \$25 /month pet rent. Close to everything uptown and only 3 miles from downtown. Lots of shopping and restaurants.

Currently occupied but viewings are available by appointment. Washer /dryer in unit. Water / sewer, trash, and snow removal are included in the rent. Available around May 10, 2026. \$1,650 /month. Visit teampagosa.com to view online or call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 to set up an appointment for viewing.

**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. \$1,500 per month, plus utilities and deposit. No pets and no smoking. (817)565-7656.

**ROOM WITH SEPARATE BATH** for rent about 3 miles from town. Call (970)946-9024 for details.

**SHERPA REAL ESTATE** is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website <https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals> or stop by one of our two locations.

**SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT** in downtown with beautiful views. Rent \$1348. Large floor plan, affordable living through tax credit program. Income and eligibility requirements apply. Hickory Ridge Apartments, hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

**SWEET, REMODELED TWO -BEDROOM,** three-quarter bath home close to everything downtown. Small pet with approval and monthly pet rent. Both bedrooms have natural gas fireplaces. Washer /dryer included. Water /sewer included in rent if under \$100 /month. Available around May 1st. Visit teampagosa.com to view the property or call (970)731-8599 to schedule a viewing. \$1,795 /month.

Email us at  
[classads@pagosasun.com](mailto:classads@pagosasun.com)  
to submit your classified.  
**PagosaSUN.com**

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**Buying or Selling?**



Call Marcie Lewis  
(970) 759-8672

**MarcieLewis.com**

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

**MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS.** Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 [blancoretreat@gmail.com](mailto:blancoretreat@gmail.com). \$450K.

**EXCEPTIONAL DOWNTOWN BUILDING**

**LOTS** and development potential. River, huge divide views, location. Nothing like it. Call (970)398-9136, or builder7@fastmail.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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Counting!**

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