

Agencies respond to multiple fires Tuesday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A trio of fires along Deep Canyon Road near Chimney Rock were tended to by area fire personnel Tuesday, April 28, with the causes of the fires under investigation.

According to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), area agencies responded to three separate fires along Forest Service Road 842/Southern Ute Road 152 (Deep Canyon Road) at approximately 1 p.m. on April 28.

Those resources, according to the agency, included the U.S. Forest Service, ACSO, Archuleta County Road and Bridge, Pagosa Fire Protection District, U.S. Wildland Fire Service, Southern Ute Tribal rangers, and Southern Ute Police Department.

Shortly after 5 p.m. on April 28, the San Juan National Forest reported the three fires burning on San Juan National Forest and Southern Ute jurisdictions were nearing containment "thanks to a quick response from multiple agencies."

The agency further relayed,

■ See Fires A9



Personnel tend to one of three fires that started along Deep Canyon Road on Tuesday afternoon, April 28. The cause of the fires, which were contained the same day, is under investigation.

Photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service

Fiber cut causes Tuesday communications outages

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A fiber cut Tuesday afternoon left many without phone and internet service for several hours.

According to Eric Hittle, Archuleta County Broadband Services Management Office director, The Century-Link/Lumen fiber the community currently uses to carry all fiber-optic traffic from Pagosa Springs to Durango began experiencing an issue at about 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 28.

The outage was later confirmed to be due to a fiber line cut from construction along U.S. 160, according to Hittle.

On Wednesday, Hittle explained the cut took place in the Aspen Springs area — an area where crews are installing fiber that is overlapping the same route as CenturyLink/Lumen.

"The main fiber line was not located by the fiber owner before the utility locate deadline expired, lead-

■ See Outages A8

Local governments hear about upcoming fire danger, LPEA's new power shutoff policy

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At an April 27 joint work session, the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed potential fire danger and La Plata Electric Association's (LPEA's) newly implemented plan for public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) in the event of forecasted fire danger.

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le

Roux was on hand to update the two governmental bodies about the outlook for the summer.

Le Roux said that the current moisture the area has received is definitely welcomed, but that "everything we are seeing is looking like it will be an exceptionally active fire season."

He said that the county's emergency operations "is looking to be active and aggressive about early detection" of any new fires, and that

■ See Governments A8

Bill to override disaster declaration denials introduced in Congress

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a special meeting held on Tuesday, April 28, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a letter to Sen. Michael Bennet in regard to a newly proposed bill in Congress, the Disaster Declaration Transparency Act.

A press release from Bennett's office on April 29 explains, "Colorado U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper together with U.S. Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi, Joe Neguse, and Brittney Pettersen introduced legislation that would allow Congress to override a Presidential denial of federal disaster relief funding and create a new fast-track process to ensure states like Colorado are not left without support."

During the BoCC's April 28 special meeting, County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that there were two versions of a letter available to the BoCC to potentially approve.

Gonzalez mentioned that because the final draft of the proposed bill is not available yet, one version of the letter goes into more detail, while the other version is "more neutral."

Commissioner Warren Brown explained that he was contacted by Bennett's representative for the area and was told that Bennett was looking to introduce a bill "that essentially would address disaster declarations that were denied," put through an appeal and denied a second time, "then it go before the Senate and the House for a joint resolution that would essentially override a declination, and that is it in total."

Brown also mentioned the commissioners were provided with two separate letters, one essentially being "a letter of neutrality" and the other one being a letter of support.

Bennett's press release states, "Earlier this year, President Trump denied Colorado's request and appeal for disaster assistance for the Lee and Elk Fires in August 2025 and the Southwest Colorado flooding in October 2025. Both events met the statutory and practical criteria for a Major Disaster Declaration as well as [Federal Emergency Management Agency's] fiscal threshold to warrant federal aid."

During the meeting, Brown explained that he had reached out "for the other side of this bill potentially," noting those would be Republican

■ See Bill A10



Prom king Xavier Haynie and queen Hayden Peterson pose for a photo. The annual tradition took place Saturday, April 25.

Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs High School

Lawsuit against LPEA dismissed

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On April 23, 21st Judicial District Chief Judge Brian Flynn granted La Plata Electric Association's (LPEA's) motion to dismiss in a lawsuit relating to LPEA's separation from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

The case, filed in September 2025 by LPEA members who reside in Durango, Ignacio and Bayfield, alleges LPEA should have taken the separation from Tri-State — which officially took place on April 1 — to a vote of LPEA's membership.

LPEA sought to have the suit dismissed, suggesting the plaintiffs misunderstand the organization's bylaws.

Flynn was assigned to the case on Feb. 11 after 6th Judicial District Chief Judge Kim Shropshire recused the judicial district's judges from the case at the end of January.

"We are pleased with this decision, and our focus remains on delivering affordable, reliable power," said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen via a press release. "We will continue to build a flexible, locally driven energy portfolio for our members."

The press release notes the lawsuit resulted in more than \$100,000 in

■ See Lawsuit A9

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Commissioners approve funds for airport runway project

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a special meeting held on Tuesday, April 28, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved matching funds for the Stevens Field Airport runway project.

The project will rehabilitate the runway, including partial reconstruction, and make other improvements.

Airport Manager Chris Torres and Aviation representative Mark Lovato provided information on the runway project and the anticipated costs to the county.

Torres explained that the Federal

Aviation Administration (FAA) is providing approximately \$5 million toward the runway project this year, with an estimated county match of \$131,579.

For 2027, the FAA is providing approximately \$7.2 million for the project with an estimated county match of \$550,595, Torres noted.

He explained that funds allocated in 2026 will be carried over into 2027 at the matching rate from the FAA, which covers 95 percent of the project and leaves a 2.5 percent match from the state and 2.5 percent match from the county.

"So, they're giving us more money for less," Torres said.

In response to a question from Commissioner John Ranson, Lovato explained there are four construction schedules for the project, and that for this year the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is willing to provide the 2.5 percent match of \$131,000, "but they will not change their equation," meaning CDOT will match whatever rate the FAA goes with.

In 2027, the FAA is moving to a 90 percent match, leaving the state and local match both at 5 percent.

Lovato noted that CDOT will only match 5 percent up to \$250,000, meaning the county's match will be closer to 7 percent next year.

Lovato also explained that the total amount of funding available for the project right now is roughly \$13.2 million, "which will essentially give us schedule one," which is the runway rehabilitation with partial reconstruction and design.

He noted the design is taking place this year, with construction taking place in 2027.

Torres confirmed in an email to The SUN that construction will take place in 2027, and there won't be a timeline for the airport closure until late 2026 or early 2027.

Lovato explained that schedule two of the project includes the blast

■ See Airport A8

Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

(970) 264-2100
PagosaSUN.com
Physical: 457 Lewis Street
Mailing: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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Annual In County - \$45

Annual Out of County - \$55

Monthly - \$10

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PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

USPS 418-340

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Periodical newspaper postage paid at

Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147

Postmaster, Address Service Requested

OUR VIEW

Building off of denial

As you might have read about in the front-page article, several members of Colorado's congressional delegation have introduced legislation — the Disaster Declaration Transparency Act of 2026 — that “would allow Congress to override a Presidential denial of federal disaster relief funding and create a new fast-track process to ensure states like Colorado are not left without support.”

The bill was introduced in part due to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) denial of Colorado's major disaster declarations relating to 2025 disasters, which included our area's historic flooding and fires elsewhere in the state.

According to the legislators who introduced the bill, “Both events met the statutory and practical criteria for a Major Disaster Declaration as well as FEMA's fiscal threshold to warrant federal aid.”

The bill was introduced by Colorado U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper together with U.S. Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi, Joe Neguse and Brittney Pettersen.

With the bill, the legislators aim to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster

Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and give Congress a way to respond when a president denies a governor's request for a major disaster declaration.

“If a president rejects a request in certain cases, such as when FEMA recommends approval or when past decisions support approval, the president must notify Congress within 24 hours and provide a written explanation,” a press release introducing the bill explains. “After that, members of Congress can introduce a simple joint resolution within a set number of days that directs the president to approve the disaster declaration. The bill also sets up fast-track procedures in both the House and Senate to ensure a timely vote.”

While we've only begun digging into the bill and we question whether or not such a bill can make it through the entire process and be signed into law with the current political atmosphere, we're hopeful that legislation like this could help other communities, and possibly our own, ensure help is received when it's needed in the future.

Thankfully, funding is being found to help repair damage to lessen the immedi-

ate dangers related to the flooding throughout our community, but local officials have made it clear other fixes can't be done so quickly and will take place over several years as funding allows.

We just hope more disasters don't compound the damage before funding allows.

Politics everywhere, including here in the United States, typically swing like a pendulum, and measures that could help make future decisions more clear-cut, fact-based and potentially less prone to the likes and dislikes of whoever is in office when a disaster happens are positives in our book.

As Neguse said via the press release, “When natural disasters strike — from wild-fires to flash floods — the federal government must rise to the occasion and assist our communities. Natural disasters don't discriminate based on state or political affiliation — and neither should the federal government.”

We don't know definitively why our disaster declarations were denied while others have been approved, but something like this bill could help take some of the guess work out of the equation in the future for those needing help.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the April 30, 1970, Pagosa SUN — NEW ROAD — A new road, being constructed to the Chimney Rock Archeological Area by the Forest Service, has an easy grade and is being held on the side of the mesa by bins. The large chimneys of Chimney Rock are visible in the background. The new road will terminate a few hundred yards from the chimneys.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
April 30, 1926

Mrs. Mike Askland was an arrival last evening from Chama to spend a few days here to move her household effects from her former residence property in the park, which has been sold to Walter Curs and will be dismantled and rebuilt into a bungalow on his lot on Lewis street.

Don't forget the special program to be given tonight at the School Auditorium in connection with the American Forest Week observance. The students will compete for the pencil and fountain pen prizes given by Rangers Maloy, Dalton and Seymour.

Thos. B. Nossaman arrived last evening from Chama with five carloads of cattle, purchased in that vicinity for his ranch up the San Juan.

All are looking forward to the anniversary ball and banquet to be given by the Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges at the I.O.O.F. hall tomorrow night. The invitations and programs provide for thirty dance numbers, both modern and old-time, with the grand march beginning at 8:30 p.m.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
May 4, 1951

The routine of changing from one postmaster to another has been completed and Dick DeVore is now the postmaster for Pagosa Springs. He replaces Thomas W. Chambers who recently resigned. Mr. Chambers anticipates a recall to active military service in the near future.

Mr. DeVore is the former proprietor of the Boy's Market, which he closed to accept the position as postmaster. Nellie Walters will remain as clerk at the office and another clerk will be hired shortly.

Bids have been called for on a new location for the office and it is expected that notification will be made soon of the new location. The local office has had a tremendous increase in the amount of mail handled since the discontinuance of the passenger and mail service on the D&RGW and more help and more space are badly needed.

Starting last Saturday and extending into this week a much needed rain and snow storm has brought about one inch of welcome moisture to this area. The inch of moisture was reported for Pagosa Springs and in some outlying sections of the county there was more.

In the lower countries it will be a so-called “million-dollar” rain to the farmers in that area. The rainmakers have reported that this was the first storm that they have seeded that has produced worthwhile results and they are claiming a great deal of the credit for the moisture.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
April 29, 1976

Construction is picking up at a rapid rate in the county. There are several new houses being built in Pagosa, in town, and at other locations throughout the county. Title X employees have just about completed the court house addition, the ambulance building is nearing completion, as is the work under the high school gymnasium. In addition Forest Service crews are doing improvement work, planting trees, and logging trucks of San Juan Lumber Co. are hard at it. Springs seems to have arrived for the work force.

The official centennial and bicentennial designation for Pagosa Springs has been announced and the various flags, emblems, etc., will be presented to local officials on May 22. The San Juan Historical Society Museum will also open on that date. The museum promises to be an outstanding attraction for the community.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
May 3, 2001

Buildings and developments, like May flowers are springing up at a furious pace across the Archuleta County landscape.

“It's very, very busy,” said Kathy Ruth, the county planning director. Adding to the pressure on planning office staff, is the vacancy created by the resignation of former Director of County Development Mike Mollica.

“I guess what takes up a great deal of our time this time of year is answering the telephone,” Ruth said. “We get calls from folks anticipating moving to the area. They want to know what kinds of rules and regulations they will face if they buy property here. I guess a lot of time is spend educating. We also have other counties calling trying to find out how we handle land use problems.”

Meanwhile Ruth and Marcus Baker, the planning technician, are handling an almost record number of applications for subdivisions, conditional use permits, planned unit developments, minor impact subdivisions, and replats and changes for a number of the above that were approved in the past.

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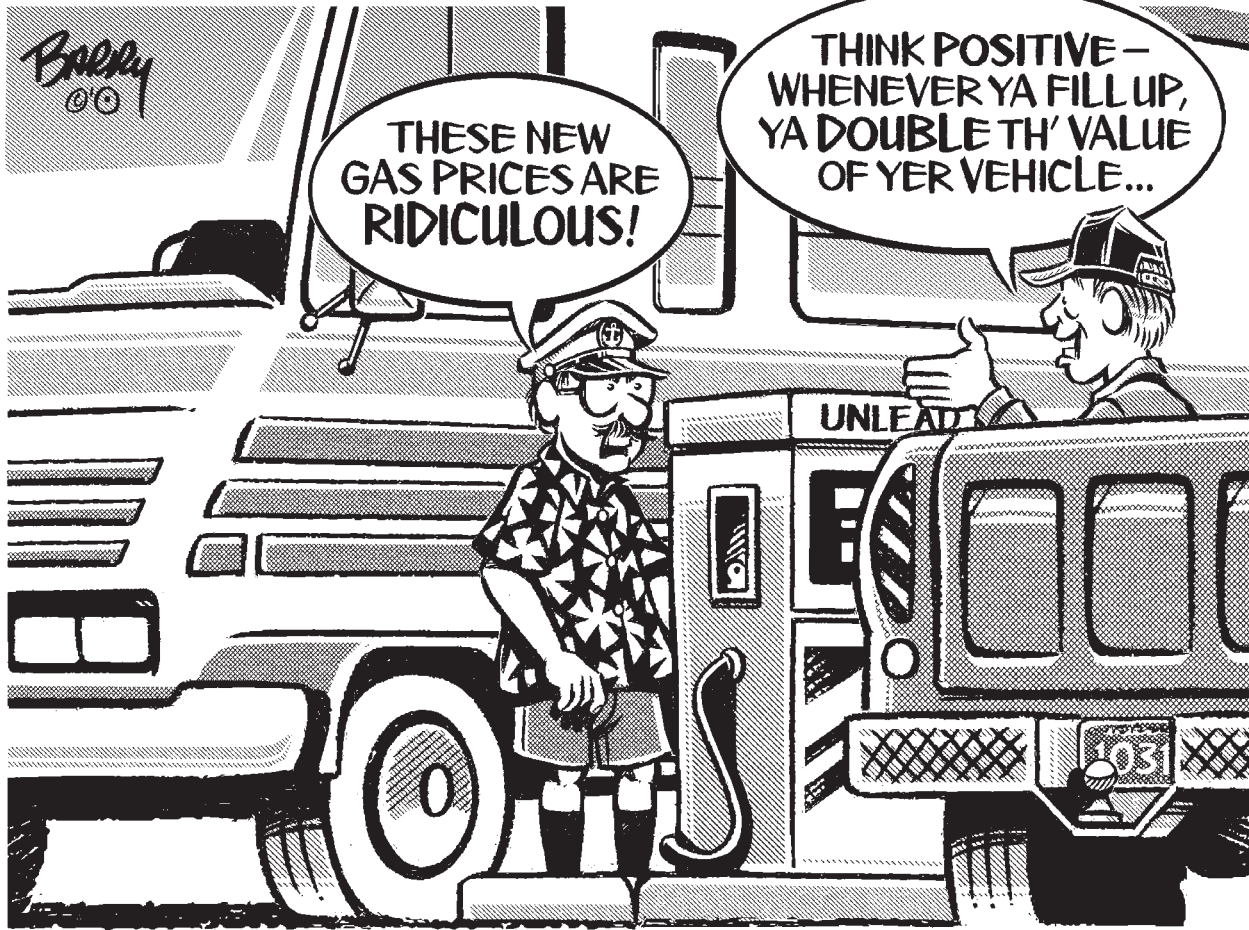


Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Moisture	Type	Depth
4/21	71	31	0.00	NA	NA
4/22	64	34	0.00	NA	NA
4/23	55	28	0.00	NA	NA
4/24	60	21	0.00	NA	NA
4/25	59	34	0.00	NA	NA
4/26	49	37	0.20	NA	NA
4/27	53	32	0.23	NA	NA

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Letters

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

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

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

Supports for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

I am proud to endorse Naomi Riess for Colorado House District 59. I have known Naomi for more than a decade, both as a client and as a collaborator on planning projects, and I can say without hesitation that she brings the experience, insight, and dedication our region deserves at the State Capitol.

This is a time when thoughtful, effective leadership is urgently needed. Southwest Colorado is facing real challenges -from housing affordability and infrastructure demands to the pressures of growth and changing economic conditions. We need someone ready to step in on day one and work toward practical solutions that reflect our community's values.

Naomi has a deep understanding of our region - its land, its people, and the careful balance needed to support both. Through her professional work, she has helped property owners navigate complex land-use decisions, always with an eye toward responsible growth and long-term sustainability. She understands how to protect rural character while creating opportunities that allow families and local businesses to thrive.

During my time in public service, I have worked on issues ranging from infrastructure and workforce housing to energy and economic development. Naomi's approach reflects the same thoughtful, solutions-oriented mindset that these challenges require. She leads with integrity and genuine respect for the people she serves.

I encourage voters to join me in supporting Naomi Riess. She will represent our community with clarity, commitment, and a strong sense of responsibility.

Brad Blake
Durango, Colo.

Gas prices

Dear Editor:

How many other people are appalled at the gas prices here in Pagosa? Sure, gas prices have increased all over the country, but Pagosa is consistently higher than other towns and cities. For many years I have been taking road trips to the Midwest and to California. Other than California, Pagosa is ALWAYS the highest in gas prices! Don't give the excuse that we are a small town - I have driven through many towns smaller than Pagosa with cheaper gas prices. Here is an example from a recent trip which I just returned from: Alamosa CO \$3.64, Norfolk IA \$3.39, Racine WI \$3.45, Ainsworth NE \$3.49, Waterbury NE \$3.39, Fort Dodge IA \$3.54 and the list goes on. Only to return to Pagosa for the grand price of \$4.16! (two and half weeks earlier \$3.89) We need to look into this unfair pricing. I attribute it to one thing - GREED!

Paulette Heber

Rosie

Dear Editor:

Thank you, Pagosa Springs! On Monday afternoon, April 13th our little dog, Rosie, decided she had had enough sleepovers at my daughter's home and found a way to escape. Rosie is a homebody and didn't ponder the consequences of trying to find her own way home. She did this once before years ago when she escaped from a grooming appointment. Oh my!

We arrived to pick her up 30 minutes after her escape, having just

been informed she was missing by her distraught caretaker. She was nowhere to be found!

We posted on NextDoor and Facebook, called the sheriff's dispatch number. Drove, walked, searched!

The next day was cold and rainy with some snow mixed in. Rosie hates all of the above and must have decided to hide out.

But our community didn't hide out and as soon as the weather cleared our new found friends started seeing our little pup on the golf course, by Lake Pagosa, near the bus stop on Cloud Cap, on Handicap and W Golf! According to everyone she seemed pretty energetic and confident for a 14 year old dog!

People helped us search, took much time out of their days, wrote suggestions, encouraged and prayed. Lord how we all prayed.

Next sightings came the next week and Rosie had tired of golfing and decided to try life away from the lake. She ended up over on the other side of 160, being seen on Wheeler Place. Her travels were many and varied! All in the wrong direction! According to observers, she seemed tired and was limping. Go figure!

So, in the end, on April 23rd, she decided to turn herself in, well almost, at the new courthouse.

And there she found her best friends ever, who recognized her and contacted her parents to come and get her.

She wasn't quite sure she could trust a mom who went on vacation, but in the end, she took a chance!

Thank you so much, our Pagosa neighbors. You have no idea the difference you made just by caring for one little dog and her grateful mom and dad.

With love,
Nancy and Len Leslie

Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

Disclosure: I am on the LPEA board, these statements are mine only.

The LPEA election is in full swing and, as expected, people who oppose progress and reliable, sustainable, affordable electricity are spreading misinformation and engaging in cruel personal, unwarranted, and uninformed attacks on Nicole Pitcher. I am honored to serve on the LPEA board with Nicole. She is a strong, fair and dedicated leader who is firmly

committed to Archuleta County, and to the future of LPEA and all its members.

There is so much misinformation being spread that it would be impossible to correct it all in one letter. So here are a few to consider.

One recurring, and ridiculous complaint: The LPEA board has not been "transparent" about the Tri-State buyout. Nothing could be further from the truth; and anyone who has actually paid attention knows that. I have been on the board for seven years and we have spent hundreds of hours studying the Tri-State exit. At every step we have been fully open about our intentions. And we've released all the information that is possible as we negotiate with private businesses on a variety of services.

LPEA is focused on our members' best interests and not throwing money away to a Front Range landlord. By exiting Tri-State, LPEA took a step toward a future that provides our co-op with flexibility and choices for energy independence, free of the Tri-State stranglehold and its \$3 billion+ debt. On April 1, when LPEA exited Tri-State, the co-op's wholesale power costs dropped by 22% and our greenhouse gas emissions dropped 20%.

Outstanding results that benefit all LPEA members! Exiting Tri-State is a long-term strategic decision and was not taken lightly or with a lack of information.

For those with complaints about rates, let's talk facts: The Average KWh rate in Colorado is 16 cents; U.S. Average, 17-19 cents; LPEA's rate is 11 cents.

Nicole is a student of the energy industry. As board president she takes her work seriously. She regularly attends national trainings that inform us of important industry trends, best practices for co-ops and insights on how LPEA can improve its operation. She challenges LPEA staff and other board members to offer ideas and consider creative solutions. In short, Nicole is firmly focused on the future of the LPEA community and she deserves your vote.

Joe Lewandowski
Durango

County admin building

Dear Editor:

Dear Commissioners Brown, Me-

■ See Letters A4



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Concrete blankets used to protect the newly poured concrete and support the curing on U.S. 160.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of April 27-May 2

Work activity

- Major traffic impact: On Monday, May 4, 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 (24 hours a day and seven days a week), and delays are expected. This operation is anticipated to take about two weeks.
- Lewis Street: Utility work continues at the Lewis Street intersection with a focus on water and geothermal utilities. The crews will soon be connecting lines across U.S. 160 to the south intersection at Lewis Street.
- The intersection closure at Lewis Street and U.S. 160 remains in place. Please utilize 4th, 7th and 8th streets as an alternative to access businesses along Lewis Street. With the access closure, left-turn signals have been extended at the 4th Street intersection; look for the green left-turn arrow at the northwest corner of 4th and Pagosa Street (U.S. 160).
- Pedestrian crossings: With the new traffic shift there are several locations that no longer have pedestrian barriers where the sidewalks, curb and gutter have been completed. Please pay attention when traversing the roadway and use identified crossings.
- The Lewis Street access closure will be in place until late May/early June.
- Access to North 5th Street and businesses north of the intersection is available via 4th Street.
- Why will the Lewis Street intersection take several months to complete? Where Lewis Street intersects U.S. 160 is one of the most difficult intersections the project team is working on. The underground utility work includes demolition and replacement of the geothermal, water and sewer lines from the bottom up. The Lewis Street intersection will then be built back with new ADA-accessible curb and gutter and concrete paving.

Pagosa Springs Middle School information

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



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Marc Fackler

Marc Fackler was born March 23, 1956, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and grew up in Lexington, Ken.

He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering.



Multiple friends introduced him to his wife, Diane, and they have been married for 41 years. They have one son, Matthew Fackler.

While vacationing in 1992 in Pagosa Springs, Colo., Marc said, “This is where I want to live.” They made it reality in 1996.

Marc enjoyed chain saw cutting firewood, watching professional football and playing the occasional poker game.

Marc bravely fought intestinal cancer from May 2024 and lost the battle on March 30, 2026.

Marc will be missed by family and friends alike.

Gary Lowell Woods

Oct. 28, 1948-April 2, 2026

The turning point in the life of a wonderful young couple occurred during the post-World-War-II baby boom when their family expanded to include their first child, an adorable blue-eyed, black-haired baby boy, Gary Lowell Woods. Gary spent his early youth with his family in the at-that-time-relatively undeveloped Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. As a young boy, Gary and his

friends played in their neighborhoods and in the nearby fields and vast wooded areas. During his later elementary school years, he was allowed to accompany his dad and his uncle as they hunted in those fields and wooded areas.



As a member of the Boy Scouts during his youth, Gary's love grew for the outdoors. Unfortunately, those childhood play areas in the nearby fields and wooded areas were soon shopping centers and restaurants. That commercialization prompted his family's move to the far suburbs of Maryland. Gary continued in Scouting after the family's move; his passion, however, became and has remained in the woods — hunting. By that time, the new teenager loved the expanded hunting opportunities that undeveloped Maryland provided, going hunting with his dad and by himself, as well as occasionally with his uncle and cousin.

After their move to Maryland, Gary joined the student body of the local junior/senior high school, made many new friends and became a member of the high school band. Being a band member was the genesis of a major event in his life. In his senior year of high school, Gary met a young girl who was a fellow band member and who became his high school and college sweetheart — Jeanie, or GinaLee, as Gary called her. After high school Gary continued his education at what is now the College of Southern Maryland. His college

education was interrupted at the end of his sophomore year by a notice from the U.S. government, which began, “Greetings! ...” He subsequently spent a few months of hellish jungle training in North Carolina and an additional few months of more hellish jungle training in Missouri. Gary then shipped out for 18 months of defense service for the United States Army in peaceful Germany. That said, he thanked God every single day for his blessed assignment in Germany. So many of his peers were not blessed with a peaceful assignment. Gary was always proud to be a veteran.

Gary's hunting prowess and hunting success have always been irrelevant. His joy was always being in nature. As that young hunter, and as a hunter throughout his lifetime, he adamantly followed his father's paramount rule: Whether with various types of guns, or later with various types of bows and arrows, there was to be meat for the dinner table to account for any shot taken. “Misses” were not acceptable. As the years sped by, Gary taught his son the same lessons he learned from his father, and the legacy was established. That was, and is still, evidenced by many full freezers of meat for Gary's family, as well as reverence for his numerous trophy heads of multiple species and the treasured, reverent stories of each.

Bountiful work opportunities allowed Gary and Jeanie to live close to their extended families during their careers. As their parents aged and then passed on, and after spending their working lives in the hectic Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, after their full retirements, they spent four months touring the USA's west looking for their retirement nirvana. The result was their move to the bu-

colic Rockies.

Gary continued as an avid hunter for the rest of his life. A local taxidermist is working on the head from Gary's 4-by-5 muley from this past fall's deer season. He never lost the “touch” of being an outstanding hunter of whitetail deer, mule deer, turkeys, elk, even groundhogs — though Jeanie refused to cook or eat those.

Gary and that young girl he met in high school celebrated their 55th anniversary in October 2025. He was an extremely proud father of an absolutely incredible son, a thankful father-in-law of an amazing daughter-in-love and a blessed grandfather of two completely delightful grandchildren.

Gary wrote sporadically throughout his life with no thought to publishing his work. His most meaningful work is his thankful, reverent tribute to the favor God showed him during a life-threatening event. Gary finished his first book, “Never As It Seems,” in 2023, which will be available later this year (2026). His second book will be published in 2027; and his third and last book will be published in 2028.

After being diagnosed on Dec. 22, 2025, with Stage 4 lymphoma, Gary spent nearly all of the last four months of his life hospitalized first at Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital in Denver, Colo., until Jan. 20 2026. He was subsequently admitted into Mercy Hospital in Durango, Colo., on March 2, 2026. Gary passed at 3:07 a.m. on April 2, 2026, at Mercy in Durango.

Friends may join the family for Gary's memorial service on May 6, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Grace in Pagosa Church, 1044 Park Ave., Pagosa Springs. Rest in peace, dearest Gary; rest in peace.

Bob and Lisa Scott

Obituaries

■ Continued from A3
dina and Ranson,

This is in response to the 23 April 26 Pagosa Springs Sun article regarding our Public Works Dept. trailer offices.

From the article it seems clear that the present trailer accommodations are unacceptable.

Our concern is that we seem to be jumping from unacceptable working conditions for a few of our employees to a new admin building to house “the majority” of our employees; a building which we cannot afford and for which would incur additional debt.

Our sense is that other alternatives to the unacceptable trailer offices do not seem to be under serious consideration.

For example, in lieu of a new admin building, what about the following alternatives:

- Add on to the existing permanent public works building
- Construct a “double-wide” manufactured building containing sufficient space and proper restroom facilities
- Replace the existing trailer with a larger, more modern one containing proper restrooms and a conference area

Given the foregoing and what we feel is the unlikelihood of our taxpayers authorizing funds for a new admin building, we strongly recommend that the above alternatives, and others, receive serious consideration in the pursuit of fiscal responsibility.

In the absence of voter approval, we feel that financing capital projects with certificates of participation is irresponsible and in opposition to the voters' wishes.

Thank you all for your service to our community.

Respectfully,
Joanne and Vic Lucariello

Affordability and sales tax

Dear Editor:

We are told we have an affordability problem. I wonder who or what caused it? The sales tax for Archuleta county is 12.9%. That means for every \$100.00 you spend, you only receive \$87.10 worth of goods. Durango is even worse, you only receive \$81.20 worth for \$100.00. We now have a building code mandated by the state that will raise the price of new homes and Warren Brown has no problem raising the lodging tax. Virginia's democratic governor Abigail Spanberger wants to tax everything. She has proposed 50 new taxes. Here is a partial list of the items she wants to tax: tax on haircuts, dog walking, pet grooming, dry cleaning services, gym memberships, storage facility rentals, counseling services, concerts and public events, transportation and delivery fees, rideshares (UBER),

electrical equipment (leaf blowers and gardening equipment), guns and ammunition and she the audacity to campaign on making things affordable. All the hidden taxes we pay contribute to the affordability problem and hurt the middle class the worst. When we start looking for culprits, we need look at government first. Government leaders never look at expenses that could offer savings. They only think about how to collect more tax.

John Meyer

Editor's note: The sales tax rate for Archuleta County is 6.9 percent and the sales tax rate for the Town of Pagosa Springs is 7.9 percent.

Re: ‘More of the same’

Dear Editor:

Dear Editor, I am writing this letter to reply to Justin Griffin's response to my earlier letter “More of the same” about Republican candidate for County Commissioner Randy Betts. First, I would like to say thanks to Mr. Griffin for his response. It tells me that there are other people who are concerned about what is going on in this country. Mr. Griffin, I do understand your point. National politics are indeed very different than county politics. Waging war vs. paving roads, national health policies vs. affordable housing, etc. I get it. However, Mr. Griffin, I do not believe you have gotten my point. I am talking about the character, values, and morals of the people making political decisions. When electing a public official, local, state or federal, all citizens should not take into consideration not just their political affiliations, we should also take into account their character, values, and morals. It is our duty to as a citizen of this country to do this before we vote.

There is an old saying “show me your friends, and I'll tell you who you are.” Randy Betts' enthusiastic response of “yes” when I asked if he voted for Trump tells me a lot. It tells me that he condones the cruelty that Trump has brought down on both immigrants and citizens alike with his Gestapo (AKA ICE). It tells me that he condones Trump's disregard for the law and Constitution. It tells me that he condones starting a war on a whim that is killing thousands of innocent

civilians, disrupting the world's economy, sending know-nothing relatives, whose only concerns is money, to negotiate “peace”. It tells me that he supports a president who has publicly told the news that he doesn't know if he will support the Constitution that he swore to uphold, the Epstein files, sexual misconduct, fiscal corruption. I could go on and on. We both know what Trump is about. Randy Betts did not hold his nose and vote for a Republican candidate for President; he voted enthusiastically for TRUMP. Therefore, Mr. Griffith, what does this tell you about Randy Bett's values

What does this tell you about local Republican values? I believe most local Republicans consider what is happening in this country is just politics, left vs right, Democrat vs. Republican. It is not! With Trump at the helm, and his actions thus far, it has become RIGHT vs. WRONG, MORAL vs. IMMORAL and if Trump supporters and rank and file Republicans cannot see this then there is something wrong with their sense of judgement, critical thinking, values, and information sources.

Sincerely
Ernie OToole

Support for Nicole Pitcher

Dear Editor:

Nicole Pitcher has demonstrated her dedication and knowledge as the Archuleta County La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board Member. Elected in 2023, she has served as Secretary, on the Finance and Audit Committee, and currently serves as Board President. She continues to lead with the mindset of lower member costs, stable rates, and clean, locally controlled power supply.

Her opponent, James Lane, does not live in Pagosa Springs. Yes, an Archuleta County resident, currently living near Ignacio, but not actively affiliated with the Pagosa Springs community. Seven recent Letters to the Editor supporting his candidacy are written by citizens from Durango, Ignacio and Golden. He does not know this community or the citizens in it.

The annual election of LPEA Directors to the Board is upon us. Every household that pays an electric bill



Obituaries

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

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editor@pagosasun.com

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

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PAGOSA PEAK RESTAURANT

Outdoors



Photos courtesy Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

Mat Wolford’s seventh-grade beautification class volunteers to plant trees and shrubs along the Pagosa Gateway River Project on the San Juan River. Riparian vegetation helps with erosion, supports habitat, and improves overall river health and function.

Pagosa Gateway River Project nearing completion following flood challenges, community effort

Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is pleased to share that the Pagosa Gateway River Project is nearing completion after successfully navigating both planned construction and the unexpected challenges of the October 2025 flood event.

Spanning approximately 2 miles along the San Juan River from Day Lumber to the Every Day gas station in Pagosa Springs, the Pagosa Gateway River Project was designed to improve channel stability, enhance aquatic and riparian habitat, increase public safety, support recreation, and promote the long-term health of the river corridor.

The WEP is a collaborative, commu-

nity-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to implement projects that benefit watershed function and health, river-related recreation and irrigated agriculture throughout the Upper San Juan River Basin. The gateway project is a strong example of that mission in action.

In October 2025, during early construction, the San Juan River experienced significant flooding, with flows peaking twice above 8,000 cubic feet per second. The event dramatically reshaped portions of the river corridor, carving new channels, depositing large cobble bars, and carrying downstream debris ranging from trees to a fully intact cabin. Several banks within the project reach were heavily eroded or lost entirely.

Despite the intensity of the flood, much of the initial restoration work

held strong, demonstrating the effectiveness of science-based, process-driven design.

In response, the WEP and project partners moved quickly to reassess site conditions, adapt designs where necessary and prioritize areas posing safety risks or threats to nearby infrastructure. This rapid coordinated response allowed the project to stay on track while incorporating valuable real-world insights from the flood event.

In-stream construction wrapped up in January, marking a major milestone in the project. This month, final revegetation efforts were completed with the installation of container plants and extensive community-supported planting along the project corridor.

A highlight of this final phase was the involvement of Mat Wolford’s seventh-grade beautification class,

whose students volunteered their time to plant and cage vegetation along the river. This effort was part of a broader community collaboration coordinated by the Archuleta School District, the Upper San Juan WEP, San Juan Mountains Association and the Town of Pagosa Springs.

These planting efforts play a critical role in river restoration. Native vegetation helps stabilize streambanks, reduce erosion, provide shade that regulates water temperature, and create essential habitat for fish and wildlife.

Over time, these plants will strengthen the resilience of the river corridor and enhance the ecological and recreational value of this important stretch of the San Juan River.

“The gateway project represents what’s possible when a community comes together around a shared vision for river health,” said Danyelle Leentjes, WEP coordinator. “From adapting to a major flood event to engaging local students in hands-on restoration, this project reflects both the challenges and the strength of collaborative watershed work.”

The benefits of the project will continue to be monitored through 2030, but the project is now largely complete, marking a significant investment in the long-term health, safety and recreational enjoyment of the San Juan River through Pagosa Springs.

For more information on the Upper San Juan WEP, please visit uppersanjuanwep.com.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opens comment period for Colorado wolf reintroduction

By Meryl Phair
Staff Writer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a review of Colorado’s wolf reintroduction program and has opened a public comment period to gather feedback on how the state has been addressing increasing conflicts between the newly established wolf population and livestock.

A notice regarding the public feedback opportunity was recently published in the Federal Register.

The publication states that while Fish and Wildlife isn’t proposing changes to its existing permit, it is seeking information on how the agency has been implementing its federal 10(j) rule.

First issued in 2023, the rule essentially authorizes Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to kill or remove gray wolves in specific circumstances, as

the species is currently listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act and is therefore federally protected.

The federal review is specifically asking for feedback on how the agency collects several categories of information under the 10(j) rule, which ultimately informs decision-making.

The posting notes that the information is used “to assess the effectiveness of control activities and develop means to reduce problems with livestock where depredation is a problem” and “determine the success of reintroductions in relation to established recovery plan goals for the species involved.”

The first area of information collected on the “general take or removal” of wolves includes accidental killings, such as in vehicle collisions or translocation, along with wolves killed in defense of human life or property. The second category covers depredation

and the authorized killing of wolves, while the third involves recovery and reporting of dead wolves within the state.

According to the notice, Fish and Wildlife is asking for comments on whether the outlined information collection is worthwhile and how it could be improved.

Fish and Wildlife will also be accepting input on conflict-prevention efforts, improvements to the reintroduction program, the impact of wolves on the state’s wildlife — such as elk and moose — and addressing wolf presence on tribal lands.

The information will not only inform Colorado’s ongoing wolf reintroduction, but will also inform the agency’s understanding of reporting methods and practices for experimental populations in general.

The deadline for comments is set for May 11. To submit a comment, visit federalregister.gov/d/2026-04789.

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Arbor Day planting

Photos courtesy Amanda Gadomski

Town of Pagosa Springs staff and volunteers plant seven trees in Centennial Park on Arbor Day, April 24. The trees were planted in honor of the town's fifth year as a Tree City USA. During the event, students planted three quaking aspens. They also all received chokecherry saplings to grow at home and increase the canopy all over Pagosa Springs.



Spring is here and bear activity is increasing, keep food sources secured to reduce conflicts this year

By Joey Livingston
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

With spring upon us, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) reminds residents and visitors that black bears are emerging from their dens and are looking for food.

As of April 22, CPW had already received 98 reports of bear activity in 22 Colorado counties this year (compared to 127 reports in 22 counties last year), and that number is expected to increase substantially in the coming months.

As bear activity increases, wildlife officials urge residents to secure any and all food and scent attractants. Bears should not eat from trash receptacles, bird feeders or other human-provided food sources around homes or businesses.

"Every time a bear gets food from or near humans, whether from a bird feeder, a hummingbird feeder, or trash, it teaches the bear that people equal food," said Tim Kroening, area wildlife manager for the Colorado Springs area. "Bears are extremely intelligent and we can't unteach a bear that becomes habituated to a human-provided food source. It is vital that we as humans take responsibility to prevent them from learning this in the first place by keeping food sources secured."

The first bears to emerge from their winter dens are typically males (boars), followed by females (sows) that did not give birth to cubs over the winter. The last bears to emerge from winter dens are the females who gave birth to this year's cubs, usually in late April.

Early-season natural food sources for bears include grasses, aspen buds and other vegetative matter that is beginning to sprout. Those gentle food sources, the first crops available to them, help a bear's digestive system and metabolism adjust back to normal after not consuming anything for months.

"Their bodies need to adjust to the fact that they haven't consumed anything for up to five or six months," said Mark Vieira, CPW's Carnivore and Furbearer Program manager. "There is a phase in the spring called 'walking hibernation' that refers to bears who are out on the landscape moving slowly and eating almost exclusively vegetative material that starts to pass through their system to get their bodies ready for early summer food sources. That is when they will move back into the typical omnivore diet that we see bears eating the rest of the year."

More than 90 percent of a bear's

natural diet is grasses, berries, fruits, nuts and plants — native crops dependent on moisture.

Wildlife officials monitor weather patterns in the spring and summer to help determine what natural forage will be available in the summer and fall.

Data shows there are fewer human-bear incidents and conflicts in years with good moisture and abundant natural food sources.

Though most human-bear interactions occur in the late summer and fall months, a late frost or prolonged dry weather could lead to localized natural food failures and a rise in human-bear conflicts. A lack of natural food availability pushes black bears to be more persistent in their search for human-associated food sources.

Being BearWise not only protects your home and property, but it can save a bear's life.

Starting with proper bear-prepared practices in the spring may help prevent bears from discovering

your home or neighborhood as a food source that they will return to throughout the year.

Live BearWise, keep bears wild

As a member of BearWise, CPW encourages everyone to share BearWise information with their neighbors and communities to help prevent conflicts with bears.

CPW asks all residents and visitors to help save Colorado's bears by being actively bear prepared throughout the year.

Human-bear conflicts are most often traced back to human behavior. Living BearWise is the most effective way to prevent human-caused conflicts with bears.

Six at-home BearWise basics

- Never feed or approach bears. Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to ap-

proach homes and people looking for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs.

- Secure food, garbage and recycling. Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they're very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.

- Never leave pet food outdoors. Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.

- Clean and store grills. Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.
- Alert neighbors to bear activity.

■ See Bears A8

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PAID FOR BY RANDY BETTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, 2026.

Community groups to host Community Conversations about potential upcoming decisions

By Candace Jones and Rick Walker
Archuleta County Democrats/Archuleta County Republicans

Voters in Archuleta County could face a series of crucial decisions in coming months — about building a new school, funding our hospital, and raising more money to maintain roads and other county services. A free series of Community Conversations will explore those and other issues in May and June. The series will

begin with a kickoff panel discussion, to be followed in coming weeks by separate sessions on each topic. The first conversation — an overview covering all these issues — will begin at 5:30 p.m. on May 13 in the auditorium at Pagosa Springs High School, 800 S. 8th St. Panelists for May 13 discussion include:

- Rick Holt, superintendent of Archuleta County schools.
- Longinos Gonzalez Jr., county manager.

- Rhonda Webb, CEO and chief medical officer, Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC).

The moderator will be longtime journalist Rick Holter, who now chairs the Pagosa Springs Main Street board.

The Community Conversation will include an audience Q-and-A.

The schedule for the rest of the series:

- May 21, 5:30 p.m. — focus on school facilities, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA)

Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

- June 1, 5:30 p.m. — focus on PSMC finances, PLPOA Clubhouse.
- June 10, 6:30 p.m. — focus on county lodging tax, Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

The series is presented by Archuleta County schools, PSMC, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, the Archuleta County League of Women Voters, the Archuleta County Republican Party, and the Archuleta County Democratic Party.

Governments

■ **Continued from front**

the sheriff's office relies on the public to call in fires early.

"Call early and call often," he said, adding that "all big fires started as small fires," and that the earlier crews can get on suppressing a fire, the better the outcome is for keeping it under control.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked Le Roux if "it was necessary" to go in successive stages up to Stage 3 restrictions, "or could we just go straight to a Stage 3 or from a Stage 1 to a Stage 3 and skip Stage 2?"

Le Roux answered that "we don't want to be too restrictive on that," adding, "hopefully, we don't have to go into Stage 3 at all, where we have to shut the forest down."

He explained that it is mainly a "play it by ear" kind of situation.

It's possible that we won't even have to go into fire restrictions, he noted, indicating he's holding out hope that the area sees moisture with an active monsoon this summer.

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed that she wants to make sure that people understand the fire permitting process, with Le Roux adding that the

ordinance on fire permits goes back to 2017 and the county has done its best to educate residents on the process of burning legally under the ordinance.

He said the ordinance "stipulates the rules on what they can and cannot do," and that the penalties range from a \$600 fine to fourth-degree arson for violating the ordinance.

Jerry Sutherlin, LPEA's vice president of distribution operations, was also at the meeting to inform the two bodies of LPEA's new power shutoff safety policy.

Sutherlin explained that he wanted to inform the community about "this process that is coming" this fire season.

He added that LPEA has the right to "de-energize power at any time for public safety reasons," especially during high fire risk.

He explained that LPEA manages about 2,000 miles of overhead electric lines across five counties, and that a tree falling on one of these lines during a high wind event is the "biggest fire risk" facing the community.

He noted that LPEA would be using state-of-the-art forecasting mod-

els to predict high-risk events with near certainty, adding that within 48 hours of a high-risk event the forecasting model is correct 98 percent of the time.

He said that when LPEA sees red flag conditions on the horizon it can start planning days out for shutting down power in high-risk areas and plan for getting the power back on as soon as possible.

"The last thing we want to do is start a fire," he said, citing other examples of electric power providers inadvertently starting fires.

He said that LPEA would work to notify all of its affected customers in advance so folks could prepare for potential outages, and that LPEA would also be working with local agencies to get the message out.

"We are trying to cut down on panic as much as possible, trying to get people informed so they don't panic," he said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina expressed frustration with LPEA, saying "we should have had more of a heads up about this."

"We are definitely not prepared," she said, "and with our aging com-

munity it makes it very difficult" to get communications out.

Pierce asked how often LPEA anticipates that it will have to implement PSPS.

Sutherlin responded that, on average, it would most likely be implemented about once per year.

Council member Brooks Lindner questioned if LPEA should more aggressively be looking at underground power lines.

Sutherlin explained that they are "looking hard" at doing as many underground lines as possible, but that it is about 20 to 50 times the cost.

He added that LPEA considers underground lines "with every new project," and that about 50 percent of their lines are already underground.

On the issue of PSPS, Pierce ended by saying, "we have a lot of planning to do on our end" to get ready.

For more on LPEA's strategies for fire season, see the article "La Plata Electric Association outlines safety strategies this fire season" in the April 23 issue of The SUN or on www. PagosaSUN.com.

derek@pagosasun.com

Outages

■ **Continued from front**

ing to the line strike," Hittle wrote in an update on the situation Tuesday. "Crews are currently on site propping the fiber for repair, but repair will likely not occur until late tonight, into tomorrow early morning."

That repair took place about 11 p.m. Tuesday.

According to Hittle, the outage affected all cellphone services from local towers, Zito Internet, Century-Link DSL and Clearnetworkx Internet,

as well as nonemergency landline services.

Hittle explained Wednesday Colorado 811 — a utility locating service to use before digging underground — specifies that utilities are marked within two business days.

He noted that four of the area's last five major outages have been due to locate issues.

But, as far as internet goes," Hittle noted Wednesday the area "shouldn't have another spring that we go

through this."

He explained Wednesday the redundant fiber is about 4 miles from completion, and some links in the Durango area are being worked on that will allow the carrier-neutral locations there and in Pagosa Springs to be connected.

He noted some steps will have to be taken, such as installing more equipment, then it will be up to the internet service providers to take advantage of the redundant line.

He noted most have expressed they want to take advantage of the redundant line.

Hittle further noted most cell towers don't have an alternative, and area emergency personnel may appeal to cellular providers to also take advantage of the redundancy.

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Airport

■ **Continued from front**

pad construction, which totals about \$375,000, leaving a 10 percent match of \$37,500 for the county because the project has already maxed out CDOT's matching funds.

Lovato noted it is the same situation with schedule four of the project, which would include lighting improvements on the runway, and totals \$1.8 million, leaving the county with a 10 percent match of \$180,000.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked about potentially "piecemealing" the remaining project schedules after taking care of the first schedule this year and into 2027, and if that could be done with minimal effect on operations at the airport.

Lovato indicated that the runway would need to be shut down for three of the project schedules, with the pos-

sibility of being able to complete the blast pads without interfering with operations.

Brown commented that it sounds as if the county would be better off taking care of everything at once if the funding is available.

Torres then explained that the county also has the option to pursue a loan from the state, but that he has yet to look into the details of that.

"So, that's another option," Torres said.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini commented that it's not unheard of for counties to take on loans like that to complete projects.

Commissioner Veronica Medina mentioned that it would be good information for the BoCC to have.

"I don't think it's a bad thing to have the information," she said.

Ranson also mentioned that he spoke with the county's finance director and that his indication is that the county would transfer funds from the general fund "when the time's right" to cover this.

County Manager Logninos Gonzalez explained that a potential agreement with the FAA to move funds forward into next year is saving the county roughly \$300,000 in matching funds.

"The FAA is trying to help us save money," Torres said.

Before voting unanimously to approve \$131,579 in matching funds in 2026 and \$550,595 in 2027, Brown offered another comment.

"The runway is not gonna fix itself," he said, adding, "The wisest way to approach this with taxpayer money is spending less to get the work done."

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Bears

■ **Continued from A7**

See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share information on how to prevent conflicts with bears. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.

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- Stay alert and stay together. Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog or cycle with others when possible. Keep kids within sight and close by. Leave earbuds at home and make noise periodically so bears can avoid you.
- Leave no trash or food scraps. Double bag your food when hiking and pack out all food and trash. Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill. Leaving scraps, wrappers

or even "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.

- Keep dogs leashed. Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don't force a bear to defend itself. Keep your dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home.
- Camp safely. Set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources. Cook as far from your tent as possible. Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking or toiletries in your tent. Store in approved bear-resistant containers or out of sight in a locked vehicle or suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. Local regulations vary.
- Know what to do if you see a black bear. If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand

still, enjoy, then quietly move away. If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response. If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell, "Hey, bear," until it leaves. Stay with your group. If it keeps approaching, use bear spray. If a black bear makes contact with you, do not play dead; fight back aggressively.

- Carry bear spray and know how to use it. Bear spray is proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work like bug repellent, so never spray your tent, campsite or belongings.

For more information on bears in Colorado, visit cpw.state.co.us/ living-bears. If you have questions or need to report bear problems, call your nearest CPW office.

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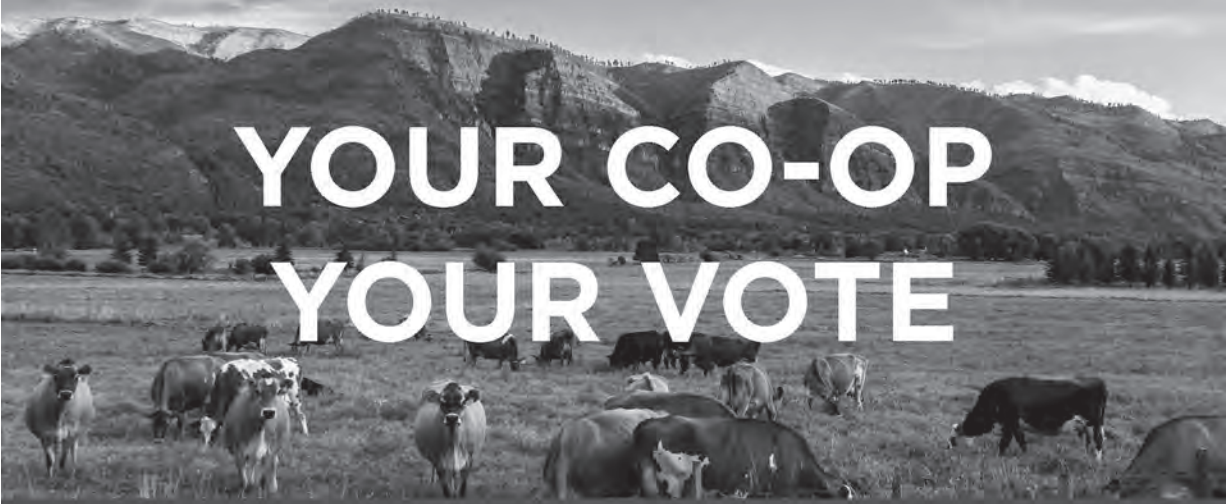
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Learn more:
lpea.coop/elections





Correction

In the April 23 issue of The SUN, the article "Commissioners hear concerns about Public Works Department offices," should refer to the Development Services Department offices instead.

The SUN regrets the error.

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Water conservancy district board selects officers, discusses vacancies

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed vacancies on the board and appointed officers at its April 20 meeting.

Current SJWCD president Candace Jones opened the discussion by explaining that, alongside her as president, the board also has Joe Tedder as treasurer, Susan Nossaman as secretary and Charles Riehm as vice president.

Jones indicated that she does not wish to serve another term as president and suggested that the board should accept nominations for president.

After no one put forward a nomination for president, Jones moved on, asking Tedder if he would serve as treasurer.

Tedder stated that he would and the board unanimously voted to appoint him.

Jones then noted that Nossaman expressed uncertainty about whether or not she would return to the board once her term expires and suggested that it might be optimal to select a different secretary.

SJWCD Executive Assistant Sally High clarified that Rod Proffitt is currently the board's secretary, and he confirmed that he is willing to stay in the role.

The board then unanimously voted to retain him as secretary.

Riehm expressed willingness to remain as vice president, but stated that, due to his commitments as the lay leader of the Community United Methodist Church, he did not have time to be president.

SJWCD board member Randy Cooper asked Jones to outline her time commitment as president.

She explained that managing the SJWCD's litigation with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) over the sale of Running Iron Ranch "has taken a fair amount of time."

Jones added that she was willing to commit to staying involved and helping guide the litigation and the settlement process that the SJWCD is working through with PAWSD.

Outside of litigation, Jones explained that she spends time formatting agendas and reviewing minutes for the board meeting, as well as filling an ex officio role on the Southwest Basin Roundtable.

She commented that the board has been effective in sharing duties and having all board members involved, and that she hoped that the litigation would be concluded in the future and the board could refocus on reservoir planning.

Cooper then volunteered to be president.

Following a brief discussion, the board unanimously voted to appoint Cooper as president.

Board vacancies

Also at the meeting, the board briefly discussed expiring board terms, with Jones stating that she would seek reappointment to the board and that Bill Nobles would not be seeking reappointment to the board.

She added that it is currently uncertain whether Nossaman will seek reappointment.

Jones explained that appointments to the board are handled by District Court Judge Justin Fay and that the board has typically voted on whether or not to recommend the appointment of a candidate to the board.

Proffitt asked whether Crista Chagra had submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to the board to fill Nobles' seat.

Jones stated that Chagra had not submitted a letter and that her,

Nobles' and Nossaman's positions all expired in March and they would continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

She indicated that Chagra is the only person who has expressed any interest in serving on the board.

The board reached a consensus that, since Chagra had not submitted an application, they would not vote on her nomination at this time.

They then unanimously voted to recommend Jones' reappointment to the board.

Following the vote, Jones explained the application process to Chagra.

Chagra indicated that she had sent letters to the incorrect address previously and had not resubmitted them due to "vacillating" about whether she wanted to serve on the board.

However, she added that, since the board needs another member and does not have one, she would resubmit her application to the proper address.

Jones encouraged Chagra to attend another board meeting to hear more about the issues it discusses before making a final decision on applying, particularly since the April 20 meeting primarily involved a lengthy executive session.

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PAWSD customers remain in stage one drought status

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) customers remain under stage one drought restrictions this week, and Fourmile Creek entering administration on April 27 means that levels in PAWSD reservoirs will soon start to decline.

In a memorandum, PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey explains that the median date for the creek to enter administration, which means that water supply to PAWSD is cut off due to senior water users not receiving the full amount of water decreed in their water rights, is June 15.

Water diverted from this creek feeds Lake Hatcher and other reservoirs in the PAWSD system, and Ramsey notes that levels in the Hatcher, Stevens Reservoir and other uptown lakes will start to drop.

He adds that the early date of the administration on the creek will contribute to the district remaining in drought stage one.

Lake Hatcher and the water treatment plant located near it is one of PAWSD's primary sources of water, but the district also diverts water from

the San Juan River for processing at the Snowball Water Treatment Plant, which primarily serves downtown Pagosa Springs, and the San Juan plant, which is located at PAWSD main wastewater treatment plant on Vista Boulevard and is used as a backup or to provide extra water supply during the summer for the uptown area.

Stage one restrictions

During drought stage one, irrigation is permitted only between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m., and residential customers who use more than 5,000 gallons of water a month will have a 1.25 times rate

multiplier applied to their water bills.

According to the PAWSD website, the imposition of this multiplier will begin to impact customer bills received in May, although the irrigation restrictions started previously.

The plan notes that gardens may be hand watered using a hose or drip irrigation.

The drought plan also encourages restaurants to conserve water by only serving water to customers at their request, and hotels are encouraged to replace towels and bed linens only for new guests and at the request of existing guests.

Lawsuit

■ Continued from front
legal expenses for LPEA.

About the lawsuit

The filed complaint against LPEA alleges, "Upon information and belief, as a member of Tri-State, LPEA owns approximately \$71 million in Tri-State patronage capital as of year-end 2024; this patronage capital represents LPEA's ownership interest in Tri-State and is therefore an asset of LPEA."

The complaint then notes that on or about March 26, 2025, the LPEA Board of Directors adopted a resolution calling for LPEA's withdrawal from its membership and contract with Tri-State, with a withdrawal date of April 1, 2026.

It adds, "Pursuant to Tri-State's Rate Schedule No. 281, as a withdrawing member, LPEA had two options: 'a withdrawing member may either: (i) continue receiving patronage capital payments as Tri-State may from time to time distribute to all of its members; or (ii) take a discounted lump sum payment of its patronage capital balance as of the Designated Withdrawal Date as a credit to the Final Payment Amount.'"

It notes the exit charge is payable by LPEA and its members to Tri-State.

"According to Resolution 2025-04, the Board opted to take a discounted lump-sum payment of its patronage capital, which upon information and belief, amounts to a reduction in LPEA's patronage capital value from approximately \$76 million to approximately \$47 million," the complaint alleges.

The plaintiffs then state in the lawsuit that, per LPEA's bylaws, "LPEA may not sell or otherwise dispose of LPEA assets, which sale exceeds ten percent (10%) of the value of all assets of the cooperative unless authorized by a vote of LPEA's Members."

It alleges that the total value of LPEA's assets at year-end 2024 was approximately \$288 million, and LPEA's acceptance of a lump-sum payment of its Tri State patronage capital represents a disposition of more than 10 percent of its total assets.

The plaintiffs, according to the complaint, ask the court's interpretation of the bylaws and request a "declaration of the rights, status, or legal relationships of the parties under the Bylaws" on the matter.

The suit also alleges breach of contract.

LPEA's attorneys filed a motion to dismiss in October 2025, with the 18-page motion alleging the plaintiffs' "incorrect reading" of the bylaws.

"While Plaintiffs claim that LPEA members are entitled to vote on a 'disposition' of more than 10% of LPEA's assets, that interpretation ignores the plain language of Article IX, which only entitles LPEA members to vote on a 'sale' of more than 10% of LPEA's assets," it states. "Moreover, to read Article IX in the way that Plaintiffs suggest would render the use of the word 'sale' wholly superfluous. Thus, because Plaintiffs are only entitled to a vote if LPEA engages in a 'sale,' and because Plaintiffs do not allege that LPEA's election to receive its patronage capital as a single discounted lump sum payment constituted a 'sale,' both of Plaintiffs' claims fail."

The motion also alleges that the amount of the patronage capital value being more than 10 percent of LPEA's assets "ignores economic reality and is implausible," and that LPEA's choice to receive a discounted lump sum payment did not constitute a sale or disposition of LPEA's assets.

On the topic of breach of contract, the motion to dismiss states in part, "Plaintiffs' interpretation of Article IX fails to abide by black letter principles of contract interpretation."

Dismissal

In the three-page order dismissing the case, Flynn also focused on the sale of assets.

Flynn writes, "Here, Plaintiffs allege that the LPEA Board of Directors' decision to withdraw LPEA's patronage capital balance as a discounted

lump sum payment, rather than continuing to receive patronage capital payments over a period of years had the effect of disposing of more than 10% of LPEA's assets and that therefore the decision should have been put to a vote of LPEA's membership pursuant to LPEA's Bylaws.

"Article IX of LPEA's Bylaws, however, states that LPEA may 'sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of or encumber any of its property as provided by law, in such manner and under terms and conditions deemed by the board of directors to be in the association's best interest, except that: all sales of such assets shall not, in any one (1) year, exceed in value ten percent (10%) of the value of all of the assets of the cooperative, unless a majority of the members voting thereon authorize [it].'"

Flynn's order emphasizes "sales" in the phrase "all sales of such assets shall not ..."

The order adds, "In this court's view, Plaintiff's claim that LPEA members are entitled to vote on a 'disposition' of more than 10% of LPEA's assets is contrary to the plain language of Article IX which only entitles LPEA members to vote on a 'sale' of more than 10% of LPEA's assets and because Plaintiff's do not allege the LPEA's election to receive its patronage capital as single discounted lump sum payment constituted a 'sale,' Plaintiffs' claims must fail. To find otherwise would effectively rewrite the language of Article IX to provide LPEA members with the right to vote on any 'disposition,' not just a sale, of more than 10% of LPEA's assets."

Flynn further wrote, "Even if one were to assume for argument that Plaintiffs' interpretation of Article IX is correct, meaning that a 'disposition' of more than 10% of LPEA's assets required a vote from LPEA members, LPEA's election to receive the 'net present value' of its patronage capital as a single discounted lump sum payment was not a 'disposal' of more than 10% of its assets, instead

LPEA merely withdrew its patronage capital at its present value."

The case was dismissed with prejudice, meaning the same claim cannot be refiled.

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Fires

■ Continued from front
"All three fires, burning south of Chimney Rock on Deep Canyon Road (Forest Road 842) are under investigation to discover their cause."

The ACSO reported later in the evening all of the fires had been contained.

tained.

The sizes of the fires, according to the Forest Service, were:

- Deep 1 Fire, on Southern Ute lands: 2 acres.
- Deep 2 Fire, on Southern Ute lands: 3 acres.
- Deep 3 Fire, on San Juan National Forest lands: 2 acres.

According to the Forest Service, fire danger in the San Juan National Forest was moderate as of Wednesday afternoon.

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Winter weather expected in mountains this weekend

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Winter weather continues to linger in Pagosa Country, with another round of mountain snow on the way this weekend.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), starting today, Thursday, April 30, snow showers are likely along the Wolf Creek Pass area with a high of 39 degrees. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch is possible. The low is forecast to be 26 degrees with snow showers overnight leaving 1 to 3 inches of new snow accumulation.

There is a 90 percent chance of snow showers on Friday, May 1, with a high of 30 degrees forecast. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches during the day is possible. The chance of snow showers will decrease to 70 percent in the evening with a low of 23 degrees expected. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches is possible Friday night.

For Saturday, May 2, there is a 40 percent chance of snow showers with partly sunny skies and a high near 38 degrees forecast. The low is forecast to be 24 degrees with a slight chance of snow showers and then mostly

clear skies.

For Sunday, May 3, the high is forecast to be 44 degrees with a 30 percent chance of snow showers after noon. The low is forecast to be 29 degrees with a 20 percent chance of snow showers in the evening.

Slightly warmer temperatures are expected in the Pagosa Springs area over the weekend, accompanied by rain and snow shower mixes.

Today, Thursday, April 30, the high in Pagosa Springs is forecast to be 62 degrees with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Rain showers are likely to continue into the evening, possibly mixed with snow showers. The low is forecast at 29 degrees.

Rain is likely on Friday, May 1, mixed with snow showers until 9 a.m., followed by rain showers. The high is forecast to be 55 degrees and the low is forecast at 26 degrees with rain showers likely in the evening.

For Saturday, May 2, the high is forecast to be 61 degrees with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. The low is forecast to be 26 degrees with partly cloudy skies.

Sunny skies should return on Sunday, May 3, with a high of 67

degrees forecast along with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. The low is forecast to be 31 degrees with partly cloudy skies.

Long-range forecasts

According to an April 29 press release from AccuWeather, “A quickly developing El Nino is expected to help shape the summer pattern by influencing the tropics and shifting storm tracks, contributing to a divide between wetter areas in the middle of the country and hotter, drier zones farther west and south.”

The press release also notes that AccuWeather long-range experts indicate there is currently a 15 to 20 percent chance of a Super El Nino developing before the end of the year.

“Overall average temperatures are expected to be above historical averages across most of the country this summer,” it adds.

Drought

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM), as of April 23, more than 80 percent of Archuleta County remained in a stage three — extreme drought stage. The remainder of

the county, primarily the western portion, is in a stage two — severe drought.

All of the state is currently in a moderate drought stage or higher, with the northwestern portion of the state mostly falling in an exceptional drought stage.

River flows

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, the San Juan River in downtown Pagosa Springs had a flow rate of 356 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The record high flow for April 29 was recorded in 2019 at 1,730 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 2002 at 139 cfs.

The median flow for this date is 722 cfs, and the mean flow is 814 cfs.

The Piedra River near Arboles was flowing at a rate of 290 cfs as of 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, according to the USGS.

The median flow for April 29 is 822 cfs and the mean flow is 1,070 cfs. The record high flow for this date was recorded in 1979 at 3,650 cfs, while the record low was recorded in 2002 at 96.3 cfs.

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Pavement striping taking place on highways in southwest Colorado

Colorado Department of Transportation

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), in cooperation with Road Safe Traffic, will begin the second phase of the rumble strip and pavement markings project on highways in southwest and south-central Colorado.

The contractor recently completed phase one with the installation of rumble strips at all locations in March.

Once the rumble striping operations were complete, crews took a short break before resuming work with striping operations at the beginning of April.

Current and upcoming striping locations include U.S. 160 east of Pagosa Springs to Alamosa from mile post 157.2 to mile post 233.93.

The project is anticipated to be completed later this summer in July.

Motorists should plan for:

- Monday through Friday with some

Saturday work. Work will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Various lane closures will take place within the work zones with reduced speeds.

- Plan ahead and expect short delays.

- This is a swift moving, mobile operation; although work zones will only be in place for a few hours, motorists are urged to use caution and watch for heavy equipment.

- Through lanes and turn lanes may be temporarily closed to traffic causing brief travel delays.

- Travelers are discouraged from passing the striping truck and crossing over fresh paint, as this may damage a vehicle's finish. Please drive with patience during striping operations.

- Construction schedules could change depending on the weather. Visit COTrip.org for the latest information on road conditions.

Bill

■ Continued from front

counterparts, but that he has not received any reply, possibly because they are waiting on more information.

“But, at the end of the day, I have to say that Sen. Bennett has been particularly good to our community, and this on the surface sounds appealing,” Brown said, noting the county is “out” more than \$13 million from the October 2025 flooding disaster declaration that was declined.

Brown went on to mention that with “not knowing what we don’t know,” his recommendation was to go with the more neutral version of the letters.

That letter states the BoCC “submits this statement regarding the proposed Disaster Declaration Transparency Act with cautious optimism. This proposed bill is intended to improve the consistency, clarity, and accountability of disaster assistance determinations.”

The letter also notes that disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was denied on two occasions.

It adds, “These outcomes have affected the county’s recovery efforts and placed additional strain on local resources. The absence of clearly defined criteria and a transparent appeals process have made it difficult to assess how determinations are reached, particularly for rural communities.”

Brown also read the other letter version that included verbiage that the BoCC “is writing to express support” of the proposed bill, and that the bill “represents an important step towards ensuring disaster assistance decisions are fair, consistent and accountable.”

Brown explained that the BoCC could also choose to take “no position” on the matter.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that after reviewing and hearing both letters read, “I understand the intent, and I appreciate that.”

She added, “We are still trying to recover, and it does make it difficult when funds are not available.”

Medina indicated that with the final document not in place yet, she would prefer to not take a position and wait until the final document is ready.

Commissioner John Ranson indicated that if the BoCC were to approve a letter, he’d prefer the more neutral one.

“I’m tired of their politics,” Ranson said, “I think it’s all for naught.”

Ranson added that it wouldn’t hurt the constituents if the county were to “make an effort” with the letter.

Medina made a motion to not take a position on the matter, but it died for the lack of a second.

Ranson then motioned to submit the more neutral letter read by Brown in regard to the newly proposed bill.

Medina asked for clarification on if that letter is to not to support the bill.

“Essentially, this is a neutral statement,” Brown said.

Ranson’s motion was then unanimously approved.

Bennett’s press release also explains, “Specifically, this bill amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to give Congress a fast and clear way to respond when a president denies a governor’s request for a major disaster declaration. If a president rejects a request in certain cases, such as when FEMA recommends approval or when past decisions support approval, the president must notify Congress within 24 hours and provide a written explanation. After that, members of Congress can introduce a simple joint resolution within a set number of days that directs the president to approve the disaster declaration. The bill also sets up fast-track procedures in both the House and Senate to ensure a timely vote.”

“Disasters don’t care about state lines or politics, and neither should our President’s response,” said Bennett via the press release. “Following the Lee and Elk Fires and the flooding in Southwest Colorado last year, every single member of the Colorado delegation was united: our communities needed federal assistance. The President outright rejected our calls for federal support. As natural disasters increase, Congress must be able to push past political retribution and help our cities and counties meet the challenge posed by these events.”

“The president is putting politics over Americans in crisis. We have to fight for a way forward,” said Hickenlooper via the press release. “Disaster relief should never be tied to politics. Your zip code and your vote should not decide whether you can rebuild.”

According to information accompanying the press release, “During the last year and a half, the Trump Administration denied approxi-

mately 27 percent of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations nationwide, a nearly 72 percent increase in the rate of denials compared to presidential administrations since 2001.

“These denials came after FEMA documented that damage due to natural disasters met its fiscal threshold to warrant aid. The Administration has neither provided substantive concerns with nor justifications for their decisions to deny disaster aid, leaving disaster-affected communities paying the tab.”

Other area and state elected officials have voiced support for the bill, the press release indicates.

“After historic flooding damaged critical infrastructure in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, Colorado’s request for federal support was denied without a clear explanation to understand the decision,” said Shari Pierce, Pagosa Springs mayor, through the press release. “Our community is already financially strained, and this denial exacerbates the burden on our community to try to fund necessary repairs to our infrastructure. This innovative bill gives Congress the tools to advocate for communities like ours that were denied much-needed assistance. I applaud and am grateful for Senator Bennet’s leadership on this legislation.”

“Colorado needs the federal government to be a reliable partner in helping our communities recover from natural disasters,” said Gov. Jared Polis. “Colorado did everything right to receive federal support after last year’s devastating fires and floods, only to be denied twice without justification — leaving impacted communities without

much-needed federal support. This legislation would ensure states get clear reasoning for any denials of major disaster funding, and allows Congress to override any denial that’s not based on the facts. I appreciate Senator Bennet’s leadership on this important issue and urge Congress to support this legislation for Colorado and communities across the country.”

The bill can be found at <https://bit.ly/42AUYQb>.

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Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
April 14 — Information only, Pole Drive.

April 14 — Cybercrime-more than \$1,000 but less than \$2,000, no location listed.

April 14 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, no location listed.

April 16 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Colo. 151.

April 16 — Agency assist, no location listed.

April 16 — Information only, County Road 339.

April 17 — Death investigation, Summit Drive.

April 17 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-residence, second-degree motor vehicle theft, theft-\$300 to \$1,000, County Road 988.

April 17 — Lost/found property, Gold Circle.

April 18 — Death investigation, information only, Nature's Way Court.

April 18 — Lost/found property, Cloman Boulevard.

April 19 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

April 21 — Unauthorized use of financial transaction device-petty, Harman Park Drive.

April 21 — Dog at large, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, Vista Lake.

April 22 — Harassment-public place-obscene language or gesture, unlawful sexual contact-no consent, Harman Park Drive.

April 23 — Careless driving, drug paraphernalia-possess, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, warrant arrest, North Pagosa Boulevard.

April 24 — Information only, Colo. 151.

April 24 — Operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, warrant arrest, domestic violence, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, violation of protection order-criminal, no location listed.

April 24 — Warrant arrest, East Golf Place.

April 25 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, no location listed.

April 25 — Domestic violence, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, violation of protection order-criminal, Butte Drive.

April 25 — Domestic violence, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, violation of protection order-criminal, Vista Boulevard.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

April 13 — Criminal trespass, Lewis Street/Hot Springs Boulevard.

April 13 — Forgery of money, stamps, securities, East Pagosa Street.

April 13 — Open burning, North 1st Street.

April 14 — Agency assist, South 8th Street.

April 14 — Information only, cyberspace.

April 14 — Assault, South 8th

Street.

April 15 — Violation of protection order-criminal.

April 15 — Warrant arrest, East Pagosa Street.

April 15 — Limited gaming-fraud-take money not won, Hot Springs Boulevard.

April 16 — Domestic violence, criminal mischief, U.S. 160.

April 18 — Criminal mischief-\$1,000 to \$2,000, domestic violence, West U.S. 160.

April 19 — Warrant arrest, County Road 500.

April 21 — Leaving scene/accident involving injury, 14th Street.

April 22 — Follow up, East Pagosa Street.

April 24 — Criminal trespass, East Pagosa Street.

April 24 — Criminal mischief, San Juan Street.

April 25 — Driver operated vehicle without insurance, Hot Springs Boulevard.

April 25 — Driver operated vehicle without insurance, South San Juan Alley.

April 26 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, West U.S. 160.

April 26 — Warrant arrest, West U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

April 13 — John Wintersteen Jr., failed to yield when entering roadway, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

April 13 — Rylan Pierce, failed to driving in a single lane, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

April 13 — Samantha Stokes, fol-

lowing too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

April 13 — Rachel Ramirez, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.

April 13 — Benjamin Baros, parked on a designated snow route, fine — \$50.

April 13 — Gregory Rohrer, operating vehicle without insurance, four points off, fine — \$250.

April 14 — Allan Vanness, theft, fine and costs — \$85.

April 14 — Trenton Smith, criminal trespass, fine and costs — \$85.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

April 10 — Leslie Sanders, violation-p/o-criminal-attempt, 117 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.

April 15 — Katie Marie Toner-Antoniuzzi, tail lamp violation, fines and costs — \$60.50.

April 15 — Katie Toner-Anto, unsafe or defective vehicle, fines and costs — \$84.50.

April 15 — Kristeen Reeve, dog at large, fines and costs — \$100.

April 15 — Matthew J. Martinez, driving under the influence-with priors, 24 months probation, 75 days jail, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, fines and costs — \$2,609.50.

April 16 — Peggy L. Sparkman, harassment-strike/shove/kick-attempt, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,216.50.

April 21 — Jennifer Aileen Burns, failed to use turn signal, fines and costs — \$105.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

No report.

Colorado Small Business Development Center launches business recovery guide

State of Colorado

Gov. Jared Polis, the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) recently announced the Colorado SBDC Business Recovery Guide.

The purpose of the guide is to support small businesses before, during and after disasters or disruptions by providing clear and practical guidance to reduce downtime, minimize financial strain, and build a strong and adaptable business.

"Making sure that Colorado businesses have the tools to navigate uncertainty, including natural disasters, helps us to recover quicker and grow stronger. Colorado is home to a strong and growing business community from technology, construction and other small businesses. This guide will help Colorado businesses navigate any challenges they may face following a natural disaster or emergency and keep providing the very best services to our communities," Polis said.

Whether a business is preparing for or navigating a disaster or disruption, this self-paced guide pairs four online courses with one-on-one, no-cost advising.

The guide is free for Colorado small businesses and is available in English and Spanish.

Participating businesses will learn

strategies to minimize operational downtime and financial impacts, how to protect assets and staff, and best practices to support their businesses.

"Colorado is home to over 730,000 small businesses, and we want to ensure they are prepared to navigate a dynamic and changing business environment. From natural disasters like wildfires to unforeseen market disruptions, this new guide is a vital resource, offering clear, actionable strategies to prepare for these moments and navigate them successfully, ensuring our small businesses can thrive," said OEDIT Executive Director Eve Lieberman.

"We've seen increasing interest from Colorado's small businesses in practical, hands-on resources to build resilience. They understand that a prepared business is a sustainable business. The Colorado SBDC Business Recovery Guide meets this need through a comprehensive, simple-to-implement toolkit to help every small business protect their operations, their staff and their future," said Hannah W. Krieger, state director of the Colorado SBDC.

The guide offers an action-oriented roadmap for long-term sustainability through three key stages: reducing risk, crisis management and restoring operations.

Business owners will learn to identify critical functions, safeguard assets and protect cash flow before a disruption occurs.

Whether a business is planning for the future, navigating an active crisis or working to recover, this toolkit provides practical, high-impact insights for every stage.

The Colorado SBDC Business Recovery Guide was funded by a Portable Assistance Grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

For more information, interested businesses can:

- Learn more online at sbdc.colorado.gov/programs-resources/statewide-business-programs/business-recovery-resiliency-guide.
- Access the guide directly at https://coloradobusinesslearning.auzmor.com/paths/85.
- Contact their local Colorado SBDC.

About the Colorado SBDC

The Colorado SBDC is the only statewide, nationally accredited program founded to support entrepreneurs and small businesses at every stage of business.

Since 1987, the Colorado SBDC has driven statewide economic growth by providing public access to expert resources and business guidance, empowering business owners to make informed decisions.

The Colorado SBDC provides no-cost, confidential one-on-one advising, no- or low-cost business training, and connections to community



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Prom 2026



Students show off their formal attire and have some fun at Pagosa Springs High School's prom on Saturday, April 25. This year's iteration of the tradition was themed "Rio."

Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs High School



Sports

BASEBALL

Pirates log grand slam, pair of wins against Centauri

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate baseball team got back to its winning ways last weekend, sweeping its doubleheader with the Centauri Falcons.

The Pirates traveled to La Jara on Saturday, April 25, for back-to-back games against the Falcons after losing four straight.

They won both games, the first 6-5 and the second 17-11.

The Pirates now sit at 10-7 and are ranked No. 20 in 3A with six games left in the regular season.

The first game was a close game, but the Pirates did just enough to win the game, noted coach Jon Wells.

“We played a really good first game,” Wells said. “We had great pitching from Taylor [Wells]. Zach [Pouyer] came in and closed the last inning. Our bats weren’t quite there yet, but we got hits when we needed them. We’re able to score enough runs.”

After three innings the Falcons held a 2-0 lead, but the Pirates were able to tie up the game in the fourth. Centauri added one more in the fourth to retake the lead, but the Pirates took their first lead of the game with four runs in the fifth.

The Falcons cut the deficit to one with two runs in the fifth, but the Pirates shut them out the rest of the way and took the win.

Pouyer had a hit and a run; Taylor Wells had a hit and a run; Aaron Sowle had a hit and an RBI; Kasen Limebrook had a hit, a run and two RBIs; and Angelo Medina had a hit, a run and two RBIs.

“I think the boys went in with a little bit more confidence. And, more than anything, I think they went in with the determination to win both of them.”
Coach Jon Wells

Taylor Wells gave up five runs (three earned) on four hits in his six innings on the mound. He also struck out seven and walked four batters. Pouyer came in for the final inning and gave up two hits and no runs to close the game out.

In the second game, the bats started to heat up a little more, em-

phasized Jon Wells.

“It was a great hitting game,” he said. “I was most excited for Aaron, who’s our catcher, because he really opened the game up.”

Sowle hit a two-out grand slam that opened up a 12-run second inning for the Pirates. He finished with two hits, four RBIs and a run in the game.

Three other Pirates had a multihit games: Sebastian Gonzalez finished the game with four hits, three RBIs and two runs; Pouyer had two hits, three RBIs and two runs; and Medina had two hits, two RBIs and a run.

Jonathan Moncada had a hit, two RBIs and two runs in the game; Limebrook had a hit and a run; and Hudson Davis had a hit and three runs.

Braylon Landry started the game on the mound for the Pirates, giving up four runs (two earned) on four hits in his three and two-thirds innings of work. He also walked three and struck out three.

Kaeden Iguchi threw three and one-third innings in relief and gave up seven runs (four earned) on four hits. He walked five and struck out three batters.

“I think the boys went in with a little bit more confidence,” said Jon Wells. “And, more than anything, I

think they went in with the determination to win both of them. They knew they kind of had to for playoff purposes.”

With six games left, the Pirates will be in the playoffs, but know they need to continue to win games to solidify their spot in the postseason, noted Jon Wells.

The Pirates also traveled to Durango on Wednesday, April 29, to take on the Demons — who are 12-5 and are the No. 4 ranked 4A team — for a double-header.

Results of that doubleheader were not available by press time Wednesday and will be included in the May 7 issue of The SUN.

“I want the boys to play hard, stay focused, stay positive, and really just compete with Durango,” said Jon Wells ahead of Wednesday’s games. “I think that would be kind of a huge step for them as far as confidence and stuff, if they can compete and hang with a team of that caliber for the rest of the season and into the playoffs.”

Next up, the Pirates will travel to Bayfield for a doubleheader against the rival Wolverines, who are 6-12, on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 11 a.m. The Wolverines are the No. 33 team in 3A baseball.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

TRACK

Pirates earn conference honors at Alamosa meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate track and field team competed at the Intermountain League Conference meet in Alamosa on Friday, April 24.

Coach Connie O’Donnell emphasizes in an email to The SUN that the meet wasn’t too cold, but it was windy, as she predicted it would be.

The wind was so strong that it blew a folding chair onto the track, which hit Milo Deitemeyer during his run up on the triple jump, mentions O’Donnell. Deitemeyer wasn’t hurt and ended up having a personal best jump afterward.

The Pirate boys placed first in the meet and were crowned Intermountain League champions. Multiple boys finished first in their individual events and received all-conference honors.

“I’m not absolutely sure, but I think the last time that we won the league was in 2007,” wrote O’Donnell. “We were able to spread athletes out into different events to get points and they all performed very well.”

Colton Lucero placed third in the boys’ 100-meter dash with a time of 11.35 seconds. Creede Dozier placed seventh with a time of 11.74 seconds, and Truman Vasek placed 11th with a time of 12.02 seconds.

Lucero placed second in the boys’ 200-meter dash with a time of 23.20 seconds, Johnny Baker placed seventh with a time of 24.07 seconds, and Hudson Mazur placed eighth with a time of 24.13 seconds.

Mazur placed fourth in the boys’ 400-meter dash with a time of 54.61, and Jacob Castaneda placed sixth with a time of 55.25 seconds.

“Our sprinters had another headwind to deal with which really makes it a challenge to lower times,” wrote O’Donnell. “Senior Colton Lucero competed in his first races and performed very well. It is a bummer that he has been recovering from an injury for most of the season, but he is on track to be able to get to a state qualifying time in the two meets that we have left.”

Rylan Ash placed second in the boys’ 800-meter run with a time of two minutes and 8.90 seconds, and Elijah Julian placed eighth with a time of 2:24.71.

Ash placed third in the boys’ 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:45.17, Weston Sweet placed seventh with a time of 5:09.87, Kieran Kurz placed 12th with a time of 5:33.47, and Eli Nehring placed 25th with a time of 6:06.34.

Jeremiah Jones won the boys’ 110-meter hurdles with a time of 16.36 seconds, Jaycub Carter got 15th with a time of 19.22 seconds, and Zyan Souza placed 18th with a time of 20.40 seconds.

Jones placed third in the boys’ 300-meter hurdles with a time of 42.88 seconds, Carter placed 15th with a time of 48.28, and Souza placed 16th with a time of 49.53 seconds.

“Jeremiah Jones had an exceptional performance at the IML meet,” wrote assistant coach Nik Paniaqua. “He won the 110m Hurdles with a time of 16.35 seconds and secured a 3rd place finish in the 300m Hurdles, setting a personal best time of 42.88 seconds. Jeremiah is consistently lowering his times as the season concludes, and the team is optimistic about his chances of qualifying for the State Meet in both hurdle events.”

The Pirate boys’ 4x200-meter relay team placed fourth with a time of 1:36.09.

The team’s 4x400-meter relay team placed fifth with a time of 3:43.44.

The Pirate boys’ 4x800-meter relay team placed fourth with a time of 9:55.22.

Jones placed third in the boys’ high jump with a jump of 6 feet, 1 inch.

Dozier placed second in the boys’ long jump with a jump of 21-3.75, Jeremiah Dean placed fourth with a jump of 20-6, and Mazur placed sixth with a jump of 19-11.75.

“Creede Dozier and Jeremiah Dean were both able to get their best marks in long jump so far this year,” wrote O’Donnell. “Right now Creede is ranked 9th and Jeremiah is ranked 22nd in the state in 3A. Creede is also ranked 6th in triple jump and tied for 7th in high jump.”

Jones placed first in the boys’ triple jump with a jump of 42-2, Dozier placed second with a jump of 41-7 and Milo Deitemeyer placed fifth with a jump of 39-8.

“Jeremiah Jones was able to get his best jump of the year in triple jump and is ranked 9th in the state in 3A,” wrote O’Donnell. “He is also tied for 2nd in high jump.”

Emile Schneider placed second in the boys’ discus with a throw of 141-5, Aidan Vega placed seventh with a throw of 125-4, and Lincoln Butler placed 28th with a throw of 87-6.

Vega placed 13th in the boys’ shot put with a throw of 36-3.5 and Butler placed 24th with a throw of 33-6.

On the girls’ side, Lexi Campbell placed eighth in the girls’ 100 with a time of 13.61 seconds. Molly Washburn placed 14th with a time of 13.89 seconds. Abigail Foss placed 16th with a time of 13.93 seconds.

Nina Wood placed fifth in the girls’ 200 with a time of 27.75 seconds, Washburn placed 11th with a time of 29.15 seconds, and Ahrianna Martinez placed 15th with a time of 29.57 seconds.

“Molly Washburn is really coming on in the sprints,” wrote O’Donnell. “She was able to get a season best by quite a bit in the 100 and the 200. She was also a significant part of our

sprint relays.”

Corinna Galabota placed 12th in the girls’ 400 with a time of 1:08.19. Avery Book placed 15th with a time of 1:10.90.

Lily DeClark placed fourth in the girls’ 800 with a time of 2:41.02.

DeClark placed third in the girls’ 1,600 with a time of 5:52.30, Madi Stretton placed 11th with a time of 6:26.22, and Clara Kurz placed 16th with a time of 6:39.23.

Stretton placed fourth in the girls’ 3,200-meter run with a time of 12:43.64.

Annaliese Hinger placed 16th in the girls’ 100-meter hurdles with a time of 21.41 seconds.

Hinger also placed 15th in the girls’ 300 hurdles with a time of 59.14 seconds.

The Lady Pirate 4x100 team placed third with a time of 52.54.

The Lady Pirate 4x200 team placed third with a time of 1:50.98.

The Lady Pirate 4x400 team placed fifth with a time of 4:47.03.

“Another important piece of our relays is Senior Lexi Campbell,” wrote O’Donnell. “She has been such a great team leader and has taken these younger girls under her wing. She is currently ranked 7th in the state in triple jump.”

Campbell placed second in the girls’ triple jump with a total distance of 33-2.

Veda Deitemeyer placed 10th in the girls’ high jump with a jump of 4-7.

Wood placed ninth in the girls’ long jump with a jump of 14-4.5, and Book placed 10th with a jump of 14-3.75.

Malorie Morton placed third in the girls’ discus with a throw of 102-10. Liana Vega placed seventh with a throw of 86-10.

Morton placed third in the girls’ shot put with a throw of 30-7, and Liana Vega placed sixth with a throw of 28-8.

“Our girls are doing well in the throwing events,” wrote O’Donnell. “Neither Malorie Morton or Liana Vega got personal bests this weekend, but they are both ranked in both events at the state level. Malorie is ranked 11th in discus and 24th in shot. Liana is ranked 16th in shot and 23rd in discus. We are really hoping for some big performances from them in these events over the next couple of weeks.”

The Pirate squads will be back in action on Saturday, May 2, when they host their home meet, the Terry Alley Invitational, beginning at 9 a.m.

“The Terry Alley Invitational is this Saturday,” wrote Paniaqua. “It’s a

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Soccer



Lady Pirate Ximena Garcia pushes through Wolverine defenders toward the goal during Tuesday’s matchup with Bayfield. The teams tied 1-1, with Garcia scoring the Lady Pirates’ goal.

Lady Pirates go 1-1-1 over week

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate soccer team went 1-1-1 in their past three games and now sit at 5-6-1 with two games remaining in the regular season.

Last week the Lady Pirates were slotted to host Ignacio on Thursday, April 23, to kick off the week, but Ignacio was not able to field a full roster so they had to forfeit, giving Pagosa Springs the win.

A day later, the team traveled to Alamosa for a rematch with the Mean Moose on Friday, April 24.

The Lady Pirates lost to the Mean Moose 2-1 earlier this season at home, and coach Trevor Gian noted he thought that they had a real shot to beat them in that game.

Alamosa got the better of Pagosa Springs once again, though, beating the Lady Pirates 3-0.

“[I] knew it would be a fight,” said Gian. “You know, we started out, unfortunately, kind of a little flat, gave up an early goal.”

Gian emphasized that he was proud of the way the Lady Pirates responded after the early goal by Alamosa, but the hole they dug themselves on the road against a tough opponent was just too much to overcome.

By the end of the first half the Mean Moose were up 3-0.

The girls came out in the second half and looked like a different team,

noted Gian.

Though they didn’t score, they didn’t allow another goal and, more specifically, they didn’t let Alamosa dictate play the way they did in the first half, emphasized Gian.

The Mean Moose are the No. 16 in Colorado 3A girls’ soccer.

The Lady Pirates were back in action at home on Tuesday, April 28, against their rivals, the Bayfield Wolverines.

The Lady Pirates beat the Wolverines 6-1 in Bayfield earlier this year, but Tuesday’s game was different.

The Wolverines worked a 1-1 tie with the Lady Pirates.

“Obviously, that’s a team we beat previously,” said Gian. “We knew what we could do against them. And at the end of the day, we were a little flat at times, again, just a little late to react to the ball, not as aggressive as I would say in that second half of Alamosa.”

Gian explained that he would have liked to see the girls possess the ball more and find more quality looks.

Ximena Garcia scored the team’s lone goal. She took a through ball played by Katelyn Fricke and found enough space to put the ball in the back of the net.

Bayfield shadowed Garcia all game to try and eliminate her from the game, but she found a way to put one in the back of the net, the coach indicated.

The Wolverines responded though, tying the game up from 18

yards out on a free kick. They kept the Lady Pirates out of the back of the net the rest of the game and the score remained 1-1 until the final whistle.

“I feel like that’s a game we could have finished up at least 3-1,” Gian said. “But, we’ll try to exercise some of those finishing demons at Del Norte. But, again, proud of the resiliency of the team.”

The Wolverines are the No. 44 team in 3A.

The Lady Pirates have two more games left in the regular season.

Their final home game is today, Thursday, April 30, against Del Norte at 4 p.m.

The Tigers, who are 4-4 on the season, are currently ranked No. 36 in 2A and lost to the Lady Pirates 4-2 earlier this season. The team will also honor their seniors against Del Norte for senior night.

The Lady Pirates’ final game is Friday, May 1, at Fruita Monument beginning at 3 p.m.

The Wildcats, who are 3-5-2, are ranked No. 27 in 5A.

As of Wednesday, the Lady Pirates were ranked 32nd in 3A and hold the final playoff spot.

The draw against Bayfield didn’t hurt the girls, but it didn’t help either, noted Gian.

He emphasized that the girls will be looking for results in their final two games in order to solidify a playoff spot.

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Archuleta County School District 50 JT will be accepting sealed bids until 2:00 pm on Friday, May 15, 2026, for two (2) school buses and one (1) passenger vehicle described below.
Bids must include: full name, phone number, the bus/vehicle number, and your bid amount.
To place a bid on multiple vehicles, please use a separate sheet of paper for each bid. The highest bidder for each vehicle will be notified no later than Friday, May 22, 2026, and vehicles must be removed from school district property by 3pm on Friday, June 5, 2026. All payments must be in cash or by certified check made out to Archuleta School District.
Bus #31 – 2010 Thomas gas 14 passenger bus, mileage 133,351 VIN#F1GBJG31K491128447
Bus #32 – 2010 Thomas gas 14 passenger bus, mileage 138,638 VIN#F1GBJG31K391128374
Vehicle #38 – 2007 GMC Yukon gas 8 passenger, mileage 190,032 VIN#1GKFK163X7J196310
For additional information or to view the vehicles, please contact Dave Steadman, Transportation Director, at (970) 264-0394 x608.
Bids should be dropped off at the District Administration office at 309 Lewis Street, or mailed to: Archuleta School District 50 JT
Attn: Eric Burt - Vehicle Bids
PO Box 1498
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published April 23 and 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN* (298708)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
RADIO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Tel.: 970.264.8160
Plaintiff:
Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
v.
Defendants:
Charles H Miel, et al.
Case No.:2026CV30008
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Christopher B. Conley (51651)
Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC
700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901
Tel.: 479.242.5906
Email: tr@eclegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATIO
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S) : DOLORES FAY MATZAT, MIA G JACKSON, WILLIAM T REYNOLDS, EVELYN F REYNOLDS, JAMES E CHATFIELD, THELMA E CHATFIELD, M. MARGARET MCMAINS, HOWARD MCMAINS, CARLA C HALL, MORRIS H RYAN, ANNA L RYAN, MICHAEL D POINTS, EDIE F POINTS, VALERIE MAE HALL, EDWIN LEROY BROWN, SYLVIA J WEBB, DONNA PALMER, MARY MARGARET CROW, CHARLES D RALLS, MARTHA L WEG, VANESSA SHEREE ALVAREZ, JOHN L SUMMERS, MILTON D BRACY, MARY PAULINE BRACY, PATRICK MARK CLOPTON, AMY RUTH CLOPTON, VICTORIA JENSEN, STANFORD L JENSEN, JOE A GOMEZ, LOUANN GOMEZ, MARIA CARROLL, JAMES CARROLL
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.
This is an *in rem* action of judicial foreclosure on your timeshare interest(s) located at Teal Landing Condominiums for failure to pay assessments to Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*
First Publication: April 23, 2026
Last Publication: May 21, 2026
/s/ Christopher B. Conley
Christopher B. Conley
Published April 23, 30 and May 7, 14, 21, 2026 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (298663)

DISTRICT COURT, Archuleta County, STATE OF COLORADO
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2025CV030032 DIVISION NO. 3
INITIAL COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFFS’ SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEEM
Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association v.
Defendants, ANGELA N. GERASOPOULUS et al
Regarding: Condominium Unit 26F, in Condominium Building No. 28, Supplement No. 1 to the Pinon Condominiums, according to the Condominium Map filed for record May 29, 1981, at Reception No. 104685, and as defined and described in Condominium Declaration for Pinon Condominiums recorded March 30, 1981, in Book 178 Page 830, and Supplemental Condominium Declaration No. 1 recorded May 29, 1981 in Book 186, Page 457, and Amended Declaration recorded January 20, 1984, in Book 207, Page 180. LESS AND EXCEPT that portion of the common area known as Valley View Road, as shown on the Replat of Supplement No 1 Pinon Condominiums Map filed January 7, 1982, at Reception No. 108953, all in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado
Also known as: 40 Valley View Dr., #3150, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS, Please take notice:

You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff’s Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Civil Division of the Sheriff’s Office of Archuleta County, Colorado at 9 a.m., on the 24th day of June 2026, at 85 Harman Park Dr., Pagosa Springs CO 81147; phone number 970-264-8430. At which sale, the above-described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder. Plaintiff makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection



Photo courtesy Jessica Carr

Tucker Jacobson, a senior at San Juan Mountain School, has signed a letter of intent to attend Clarendon College in the fall. He will be competing in bareback riding on the college’s rodeo team and studying ag business. He is the son of Keith Jacobson and Becky Jacobson.

Public Notices

with this sale.
****BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CASH OR CERTIFIED FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO COVER THEIR HIGHEST BID AT TIME OF SALE.****
Further, for the purpose of paying off, curing default or redemption, as provided by statute, intent must be directed to or conducted at the above address of the Civil Division of the Sheriff’s Department of Archuleta County, Colorado.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
First Publication: 4/30/2026
Last Publication: 5/28/2026
Published In: Pagosa Sun

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CURE AND RIGHT TO REDEEM
RE: Sheriff’s Sale of Real Property pursuant to Order and Decree of Foreclosure and C.R.S. 38-38.101 et seq.
This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated January 9, 2026, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of a lien recorded on July 22, 2024 at Rec. No. 22402989, in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The judicial foreclosure is based on a default under the Declaration of Restrictions Pagosa, recorded on June 24, 1970 at Reception No. 73297 in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The Declaration and notices, as recorded, establish a lien for the benefit of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, **WHICH LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS.**
You may have an interest in the real property being affected, or have certain rights or suffer certain liabilities or loss of your interest in the subject property as a result of said foreclosure. You may have the right to redeem the real property or you may have the right to cure a default under the instrument being foreclosed. Any Notice of Intent to Cure must be filed no later than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of the foreclosure sale.
A notice of intent to cure filed pursuant to section 38-38-104 shall be filed with the officer at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the first scheduled sale order or any date to which the sale is continued. If the sale date is continued to a later date, the deadline to file a notice of intent to cure by those parties entitled to cure may also be extended.
A notice of intent to redeem filed pursuant to sections 38-38-302 shall be filed with the officer no later than eight (8) business days after the sale.
In this regard, you may desire and are advised to consult with your own private attorney.
IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.
Colorado Attorney General
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203
(800) 222-4444
www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov
Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 4503
Iowa City, Iowa 52244
(855) 411-2372
www.consumerfinance.gov

Further you are advised that the parties liable thereon, the owner of the property described above, or those with an interest in the subject property, may take appropriate and timely action under Colorado statutes, certain sections of which are attached hereto.
In order to be entitled to take advantage of any rights provided for under Colorado law, you must strictly comply and adhere to the provisions of the law. Further, you are advised that the attached Colorado statutes merely set forth the applicable portions of Colorado statutory law relating to curative and redemption rights, therefore, you should read and review all the applicable statutes and laws in order to determine the requisite procedures and provisions which control your rights in the subject property.
DATED in Colorado this 6th day of March 2026.
Sheriff of Archuleta County, Colorado
By: /s/ Mike LeRoux
Sheriff Mike Le Roux
ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
1445 Market Street, Suite 350

Denver, CO 80202
Statutes attached: §§38-37-108, 38-38-103, 38-38-104, 38-38-301, 38-38-304, 38-38-305, 38-38-305.5 and 38-38-306, C.R.S., as amended.
Published April 30, May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (299936)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER’S DEED 2026-001 R015797
To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer’s Office:
You are hereby notified that on March 25, 2026, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to DEBRA W CORKISH (“COP HOLDER”):
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 6 Lot: 78 AS 6 Sec: 16 Twn: 34U Rng: 3W
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 163 ALLISON PLACE, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO, 81147
A Certificate of purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of JAMES PARKER (“PROPERTY OWNER”).
On March 25, 2026, DEBRA W CORKISH (“LAWFUL HOLDER”), the current certificate holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer’s Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.
NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10 am on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.
First Publication: 4/30/2026
Last Publication: 5/14/2026
Published in: *PAGOSA SPRINGS SLIN*
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer’s website:
The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.
Dated: March 31, 2026
/s/ELSA P. WHITE
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County, Colorado
Published April 30, May 7, and 14, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (296623)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Colorado law requires the county assessor to hear objections to real property classifications and valuations beginning May 4, 2026. Objections to the valuation or classification of real property must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor’s office no later than June 8, 2026.
Colorado law requires the county assessor to begin hearing objections to personal property valuations no later than June 15, 2026. Objections to personal property valuations must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor’s office no later than July 1, 2026.
For additional information, contact the county assessor’s office at (970) 264-8310 (**telephone number**).
Published April 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (299933)

REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY PROTEST DEADLINES
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT:
Sherri Boyce - Hinsdale
County Assessor PO Box 28
Lake City, CO 81235
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 970-944-2225 ext. 140
PUBLIC NOTICE
Colorado law requires the county assessor to hear objections to real property classifications and valuations beginning May 4, 2026. Objections to the valuation or classification of real property must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor’s office no later than June 8, 2026.
Colorado law requires the county assessor to begin hearing objections to personal property valuations no later than June 15, 2026. Objections to personal property valuations must be postmarked, delivered, or presented in person to the county assessor’s office no later than June 30, 2026.
PLEASE NOTE: During an intervening year, only those property owners that had a value change due to new construction or omitted property will receive a notice of value.
For additional information, contact the county assessor’s office at 970-944-2225 ext. 140
Published April 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (299929)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

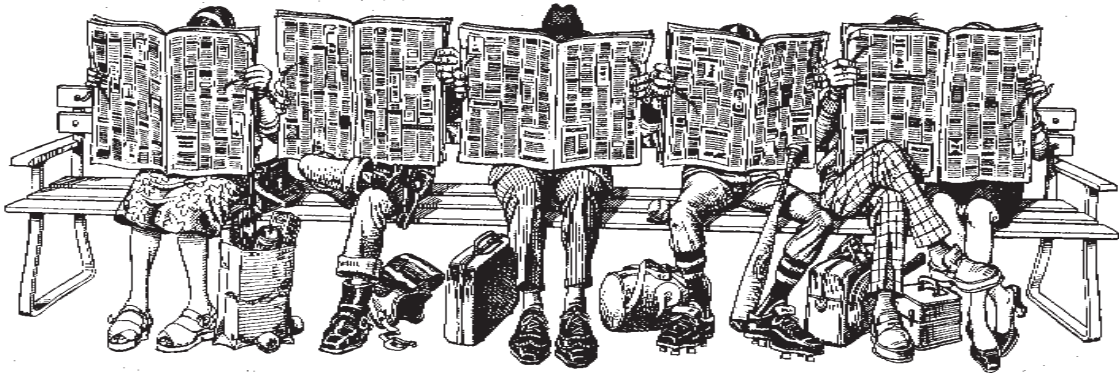
The notices you see on this page include important information from local governmental bodies and attorneys that may be of interest to you. These notices can include information about public hearings, property assessments and changes in assessment, assumed names, name changes, claims notices, public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

Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon*

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

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

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Photo courtesy DUST2

DUST2 will host its free “Girls, Grit and Grime” clinic on Friday, May 8, for girls in grades five through 12. Registration is available at www.dust2pagosa.org/girlsonbikes.

DUST2 to offer ‘Girls, Grit and Grime’ clinic May 8

DUST2
Get ready to kick up some dust and shred the trails, ladies. DUST2 is pumped to get more girls on bikes and grow our awesome riding community with the upcoming “Girls, Grit and Grime” clinic. Expect a great session packed with games, bikes, snacks and plenty of laughs. The free clinic on Friday, May 8, is for girls in grades five through 12. It will run from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park. Sign up at www.dust2pagosa.org/girlsonbikes. Questions? Ask coach Dawn at (909) 855-7140. Whether you’re a seasoned rider or just getting started, this is your chance to celebrate the fearless females already tearing up the trails — and bring even more into the sport.

Allison area community grow dome work progresses

By Peggy Duggan
Special to The SUN

The Allison-Arboles-Tiffany area is excited to see work proceeding on its new grow dome, the Allison Area Community Grow Dome. Its mission is “To promote food security and facilitate community members in growing their own fresh produce by providing gardening education and a venue for starting plants for transplant, growing produce and extending the growing season with an indoor growing space.” This project is truly a community effort. Bob Walkinshaw donated the dome in memory of his late wife, Jane Amundson. Pine River Shares assisted with initial planning and donated some growing mix. A busi-

ness in Durango donated materials to build growing raised beds to put inside it. Molly Turner’s wood shop classes at Ignacio High School are building the panels for the beds as a class project. Mt. Allison Grange members are among those actively involved with the grow dome. Once the panels are completed, there will be several work days scheduled, with volunteers needed to assemble them, help fill them and help with planting. The beds will be filled with organic material (wood chips, maybe shredded paper), topsoil and the mix. The dome needs topsoil for the beds and, once the beds are in place and filled, the grow dome will need some type of irrigation system. It will also need an aerator, water plants and fish for the interior pond,

which helps to maintain the humidity and temperature within the dome, as well as being the direct source from which water for the plants is drawn. On Saturday, May 9, from 2 to 5 p.m. there will be a plant sale to help with these anticipated costs at the TARA Community Center, located at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles. Proceeds from the sale will be used toward the needs of the dome as described above. Donations also will be gratefully accepted. The Allison Area Grow Dome is a community nonprofit, operating under the sponsorship of P.I.C.K. (People Improving Communities and Kids), the Colorado State Grange’s 501(c)(3); thus contributions to it are tax deductible. Also from 2 to 5 p.m. on May 9, the TARA Community Center is hosting a Mother’s Day afternoon tea, with

tea and delicate bites and games for the kids. They suggest, “Make it fun, wear a fun hat and turn it into a mad hatters tea party.” For more information, contact Peggy Duggan at (505) 690-5396 or Angelica Marquez Lucero at (970) 317-5233.

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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

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ARTS & LIFE

Supermom 5K

10 a.m. • Saturday, May 2 • Yamaguchi Park



Photo courtesy Aspire Medical Services and Education



Photo courtesy Aspire Medical Services and Education

Aspire Medical Services and Education’s Supermom 5K will return Saturday, May 2, at Yamaguchi Park. The event brings community members together for movement, celebration and a fun tribute to moms.

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock ‘n’ Rebels, 7 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 6 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Bluegrass Cadillac, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Billy T, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
Pagosa Peak Restaurant: Escolta de Rancho, 5 p.m.

The PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) • ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP

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Jim O'Rourke

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Aspire's Supermom 5K to returns May 2 for morning of celebration, community and family fun

Aspire Medical Services and Education

Aspire Medical Services and Education invites the community to join the second annual Supermom 5K on Saturday, May 2, at Yamaguchi Park.

This family-friendly spring tradition brings Pagosa Springs together for movement, celebration and a fun tribute to the moms who inspire our community.

Participants can choose between the 5K run or the Kids Fun Run, and back this year from our previous Walk for Moms, individuals may also register solely as fundraisers to support Aspire's mission even if they prefer not to run or walk. Every participant or fundraiser receives a personalized fundraising page to share with friends and family.

Check-in will open at 9:30 a.m., followed by a full morning of activities. The event begins with the Kids Fun Run at 10 a.m., an honor guard presentation at 10:30 a.m., and the San Juan Squadron will perform a flyover to officially launch the 5K at 10:45 a.m.

Aspire is honored to welcome volunteers from Vets for Vets and the Daughters of the American Revolution, whose service and support help make this event possible.

Families can enjoy a bounce house, activity booths and a festive atmosphere throughout the morning. Stick around after the race for hamburgers and hot dogs — free to enjoy, with optional donations welcomed.

As always, this event will feature the Superhero Costume Contest, with prizes for the top team costume and top individual costume. Attendees are encouraged to bring their capes, masks, and creativity to celebrate the superhero spirit of motherhood.

Proceeds from the Supermom 5K support Aspire's mission to keep affordable prenatal care; free pregnancy tests and early ultrasounds; and free evidence-based parenting classes, baby/toddler enrichment programs, prenatal education and mental health care accessible to families throughout Archuleta County.

Register today at aspirepagosa.org/supermom5k or call (970) 264-5963.

About Aspire

Aspire is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Pagosa Springs.

As the only prenatal care provider in Archuleta County, Aspire offers affordable prenatal care, early ultrasounds, pregnancy testing, STI/STD testing and treatment, parenting

education, baby/toddler classes, and a baby boutique.

Aspire also partners with local mental health providers to offer free counseling for parents of children ages 0-3, helping families access emotional support during the most formative years of their child's development.

Through group classes, parent-child activities and community gatherings, Aspire creates a supportive

network that reduces the isolation many rural parents experience.

Aspire empowers individuals and families to thrive physically, emotionally and socially by providing medical services, education and community in a safe, supportive environment.

The organization is funded primarily through community events and the generous support of individuals, churches and local businesses.

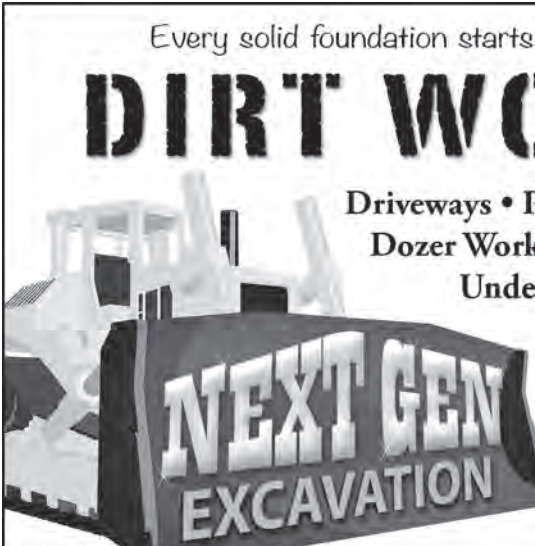
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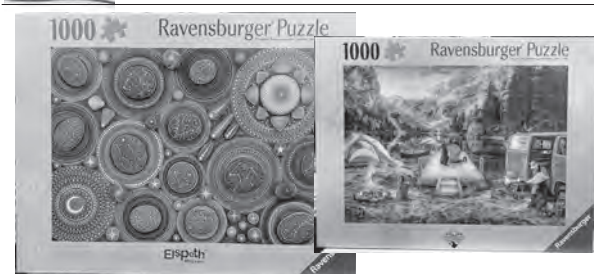
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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Dance Academy
Pagosa Springs Dance Academy dancers try on costumes in preparation for their upcoming spring recital.

Pagosa Springs Dance Academy to hold ‘On Broadway’ recital

Pagosa Springs Dance Academy

The Pagosa Springs Dance Academy invites the community to its annual spring recital this Saturday, May 2, at Pagosa Springs High School.

This year’s theme, “On Broadway,” showcases choreography inspired by the music and storytelling of the Broadway stage, with two unique performances: a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening show at 6 p.m.

Each show will feature different routines, giving audiences two distinct and entertaining experiences.

The matinee will spotlight the studio’s youngest dancers alongside a mix of experienced performers, while the evening show will place a stronger focus on junior and teen dancers, including additional competitive team pieces.

Dancers in both shows will perform to a mix of well-known Broadway classics and lesser-known selections, with music from productions

such as “Hamilton,” “The Sound of Music,” “The Lion King,” “Les Misérables” and more.

Both performances will also showcase the academy’s competitive dance team, highlighting routines they have performed throughout the season. Many of these pieces have earned awards at competitions, and the team is excited to share them with the community.

Community members are encouraged to come support these local dancers, who have worked hard all season to bring this show to the stage.

As a nonprofit organization, all proceeds from the recital go directly back into the studio to support its programs and students.

With a variety of styles, ages and performances, both shows promise to entertain and leave audiences humming their favorite Broadway tunes.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance at www.pagosadanceacademy.com.

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End of Life Education to hear from coroner on April 30

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

Brad Hunt, the Archuleta County coroner, will be speaking at End of Life Education on Thursday, April 30.

Beginning at 1 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St., Hunt will be speaking and answering your questions.

Use the side door right off the parking lot, which takes you first into the kitchen and then the large fellowship hall. Usually, the front doors to the church sanctuary are locked if no staff is on duty.

Hunt is our county coroner and he has assistant coroners.

State laws have increased what the coroner must do with every death in each county.

Hunt promised that speaking to us will be his No. 1 priority on Thursday, April 30 from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. It might turn out to be the most important thing you do on that day also.

If you ever need to work with him, it can be beneficial to have met him and know what to expect. He is diligent and caring. He will share with us the nature of his work and spend time answering all our questions.

It is possible that the emergency medical response team will be doing informal training (not for certification) on resuscitation, possibly at 2:15 p.m. They will be bringing large dolls or dummies for everyone to practice on. If they do not come, there will be another opportunity later.

Did you know that every law enforcement car in Archuleta County carries an emergency defibrillator for resuscitation? And there are several at public buildings around town, like the library, schools and the community center. That is valuable information to keep in mind. Seconds matter for resuscitation.

We have so much that we need to learn.

On Thursday, May 21, End of Life Education is having a speaker who we've had in the past because new information is being developed in the area of natural funerals. It will be at 1 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

Last year, Karis Meskimen presented the new ideas of green burials, natural burials, human composting and water cremation. Many of the newest ideas were started in other states and then are first presented in Denver and/or suburbs. Meskimen did a great job of sharing new methods of handling bodies that are much better for the environment. She has new information to share with us.

We have not yet spent much important time on Colorado laws that aid a person at the end of life to shorten time of possible great pain or serious discomfort by personally taking a "home-delivered" "cocktail."

The process needs to be doctor-monitored and must follow our state laws precisely. The doctors involved in this process are very busy and may not be able to meet with us. They will provide information and there will

be a presentation and time for all questions on Wednesday, May 13, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Methodist Church. If it is not well attended, we will set another time in the beginning of June.

We hope to see you at these events for an important learning experience and something that you will find to be most helpful.

We almost always realize that we are more capable and stronger than we ever thought we were. We will be learning a great deal at each of these programs and will become better stronger and more complete people.

NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 2.8 of the Pagosa Springs Town Charter, that as of April 6, 2026, there is one vacancy on the Pagosa Springs Town Council. The council seat is an at large seat. During a public meeting to be held on May 19th, 2026 at 5:00 pm, at Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd, the Council will consider the appointment of one new Council Member to fill the vacancy.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any elector of the Town of Pagosa Springs interested in serving on the Town Council may submit a completed application, found on the town website, with the Administrative Assistant, Traci Bishop, at Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd or PO Box 1859 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, on or before May 13, 2026.

For town boundaries, eligibility, or more info call 970-264-4151 or visit www.pagosasprings.co.gov

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to meet May 2

By Keena Carstensen
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society (PPGS) will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, May 2.

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

There will be a short business meeting followed by a program by Leslie Eudy on her historic preservation project to update an online database of historic markers, www.HMdb.org, a searchable database of

historic markers around the world.

Team members planned field trips to locate and update markers and found many new ones in the process. The project began with updating markers in the four closest counties with a goal to cover updates for the entire state.

The genealogical society meets on the first Saturday of each month. It hosts guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to genealogy and history, including the rich history of our area.

For more information, contact Keena Carstensen at keenaaruntherace@gmail.com.

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PAGOSA PEAK RESTAURANT

School district announces upcoming music concerts on May 7 and 8

By Leo Baughman
Pagosa Springs High School

Archuleta School District (ASD) will feature its bands and choirs at its upcoming spring concerts at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS).

ASD Combined Spring Band Concert

The festivities will begin on Thursday, May 7, with the Spring Band Concert.

Under the direction of PSHS Band Director Leo Baughman and Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) Band Director Malinda Burnett, the evening will feature a diverse repertoire performed by the PSHS and PSMS bands.

From classical arrangements to contemporary wind ensemble pieces, the concert highlights the technical precision and collaborative spirit of the district’s instrumental programs.

‘Spring into Song’: Combined Choral Concert

The musical journey will continue Friday, May 8, with “Spring into Song,” a combined choral extravaganza.

This special event brings together the PSHS and PSMS choirs, joined by a special appearance from the Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES) Fourth Grade Honor Ensemble.

Led by Baughman (PSHS choir director), Katrina Thomas (PSMS choir director) and Anika Borders (PSES music teacher), the evening promises a vibrant celebration of vocal harmony, ranging from youthful choral energy to sophisticated high school arrangements.

Event details

Both concerts will be in the PSHS auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Both events are open to the public. Community members, families and music lovers are encouraged to attend and support the fine arts in



Photo courtesy Archuleta School District

The Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) sixth-grade choir performs during its fall 2024 concert. Now the seventh-grade choir, they will be joined by the PSMS fifth-grade choir to showcase their skills in the May 8 choral concert.



Photo courtesy Archuleta School District

The Pagosa Springs High School band performs during the 2025 winter concert. The band will take part in the ASD Combined Spring Band Concert on Thursday, May 7.

our local schools.

These concerts represent the culmination of a year’s worth of dedication, practice and passion. It is a rare and wonderful opportunity to see the progression of our music students all on one stage, from our youngest honor ensemble singers to our graduating seniors.



Photo courtesy Archuleta School District

The Pagosa Springs High School choir performs during the 2025 winter concert. The choir will perform at the “Spring into Song” choral concert on Friday, May 8.

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San Juan Stargazers to continue focus on recent discoveries at May 7 meeting

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

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

Our first James Webb Space Telescope discoveries program was on April 2, and it was great.

Joan Mieritz selected a 40-minute film created by and presented by the European Space Agency as a "Christmas gift" to Europe on Dec. 25, 2025. It showed the movement of the telescope as it was lining up to photograph 30 new discoveries.

For 40 minutes, we slowly traveled through deep space.

In preparing the program I got to watch the film eight times, with no boring moments. As each celestial site was in perfect view, its name silently appeared on the screen. Many of these sites had never been seen before and were not named.

A few of the sites had been photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope. With those, the amazement was the extraordinary improvement in what could be seen and distinguished because of the infrared equipment.

When the 40 minutes was over there was silence in absolute wonder with what we had just seen. We slowly started with questions, but everyone was overwhelmed with wonder.

The next meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. There is a parking lot and convenient side door into the kitchen. The main front doors to the sanctuary remain locked. The meeting will be on Thursday, May 7, and will begin at 6 p.m. with our social hour for visiting and snacks.

At 7 p.m., our program will begin. We will continue where we ended on April 2. The plan is to study four or five sites at a time using the many books that Mieritz has, ones the club has recently purchased or many James Webb websites available.

We plan on having large photos of each discovery on the TV screen, and information will be presented and people might be asked to read a section from a book.

There is so much information from the James Webb, and it is committed to sharing everything discovered to the general public.

We will learn what makes each location significant and unique. There will be time for sharing information, questions, discussions and breaks. I'm hoping it will be exciting and of course educational since it is some of the newest information available about our amazing universe.

Join the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive a regular hard copy of Reflector Magazine, which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member when joining the club.

Make sure that we have your mailing address to get the magazine. The Astronomical League makes it so we do not just belong to a small-town-sized club, but to a national astronomy club with thousands of members and wonderful active opportunities and competitions, awards and rewards.

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

You can join the club at any of our meetings or on our website. Check out our continuously changing website, sanjuanstargazers.org, with new

information and spectacular photos.

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

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Live Alzheimer's webinars to be offered at no charge

By Jim Herlihy
Alzheimer's Association

For Alzheimer's family caregivers, or those who have not yet experienced the disease in your family but want to learn more, the Alzheimer's Association is offering an informative series of free, online webinars.

Seven upcoming webinars will cover a broad range of topics from healthy habits for preserving our brain health to managing finances to deal with this potentially costly disease.

The upcoming online webinars are:

- "ALZ Talks: Scam-Safety for Those Living with Alzheimer's" — noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, April 30.
- "Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances" — 3 to 4 p.m.,

Thursday, May 7.

- "Building Brain-Healthy Habits" — 5 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 12.

- "ALZ Talks: When Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Intersect" — noon to 1 p.m., May 21.

- "The Empowered Caregiver: Communicating Effectively" — 5 to 6 p.m., June 2.

- "The Empowered Caregiver: Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors" — 5 to 6 p.m., June 9.

- "Building Brain-Healthy Habits" — 5 to 6 p.m., June 23.

Like all of the programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association, the webinars are offered at no charge.

To register, go to www.alz.org/help-support/resources/live-learning-webinars or call the Association's free 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

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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.

Healthy Archuleta announces spring gardening opportunities

Healthy Archuleta

As the days grow longer in Archuleta County, many residents begin to feel the pull back to the garden.

There's something about spring in Pagosa Springs, the promise of new growth, the smell of soil warming in the sun and the simple joy of being outdoors that invites people to slow down, reconnect and start planting.

This season, Healthy Archuleta is once again opening the garden gates to the community, offering opportunities for people of all ages and experience levels to learn, grow and connect through food.

Having recently completed a successful biennial food summit, Healthy Archuleta is now turning its focus toward practical, hands-on ways to support the community, and gardening is one of those pathways.

Beginning in May, Healthy Archuleta's Seed to Supper gardening program, also known as Siembra La Cena: Grow It • Harvest It • Cook It, returns with a hands-on, five-week series designed to guide participants from seed to harvest.

Classes will take place on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. on May 6, May 13, May 20, May 27, June 3 and June 10, with that final session serving as a volunteer day in the garden.

Rather than sitting in a classroom, participants will be out in the garden beds themselves, first at Vista Lake Community Garden (located at 230 Port Ave., near the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association admin building) and later at the Pagosa

Springs Community Garden (located downtown along the Riverwalk in Centennial Park), learning by doing.

Along the way, they'll explore everything from building healthy soil and starting seeds to managing pests, watering wisely and harvesting what they've grown. The program is designed to be welcoming and accessible, with all materials provided and families encouraged to participate together.

Gardening in the mountains is not without its challenges. With a growing season of just about 90 days, local gardeners often find themselves watching the calendar as closely as the weather. Late frosts, curious wildlife and limited water can all test even the most experienced grower. And, yet, those same challenges are part of what makes gardening here so rewarding.

With a bit of creativity, using tools like greenhouses, grow domes or high tunnels, the season can stretch well beyond its limits. Fast-growing crops like greens can be harvested in just a couple of months, while summer favorites like tomatoes and squash thrive in the height of the season.

Over time, many gardeners discover that success isn't just about what grows, but about what is learned along the way.

And, the benefits reach far beyond the garden beds. Gardening offers a chance to move your body, spend time outdoors and support your mental well-being. It can ease the strain of rising grocery costs and, just as importantly, create space for connection, neighbors sharing tips

over a fence, families working side by side, and community members coming together around something as simple as growing food.

Now in its fourth year, Healthy Archuleta's gardening program continues to grow as part of a larger vision that supports local food production, strengthens community connections and builds a more resilient, food-secure Archuleta County.

Through partnerships, community gardens and hands-on learning, the work is rooted in the belief that when people come together around food, stronger communities take shape.

As spring unfolds, the invitation is simple: Step outside, try something new and join your neighbors in the garden.

Spots in the Seed to Supper classes are limited, and early registration is encouraged. To learn more or sign up, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/events--happenings.html or register directly at <https://pci.jotform.com/form/261124858566162>.

For updates on upcoming events and opportunities, follow Healthy Archuleta on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

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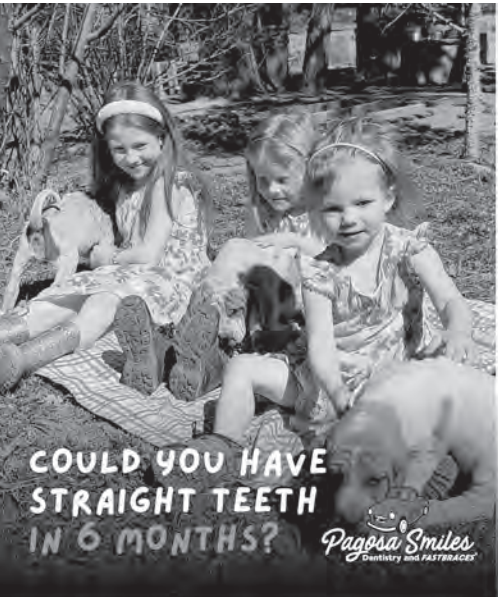
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Continuing the work: Community responds to Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Kaylie Jackson-Hauf
Rise Above Violence

As Sexual Assault Awareness Month comes to a close, we are reminded that awareness is not confined to a single month, and neither is the work.

April has served as a powerful opportunity for our community to come together, to learn, to show support and to take meaningful steps toward preventing sexual violence. But what stands out most is not just the awareness raised, it is the action taken.

Throughout the month, individuals, businesses and organizations showed up in visible and meaningful ways. From participating in Wear Teal Day, to attending events, to engaging in conversations that challenge stigma and misinformation, our community demonstrated a shared commitment to supporting survivors and promoting a culture of respect and accountability. Each action, no matter how small it may have seemed, contributed to a larger movement.

Denim Day and the movie fundraiser were powerful examples of that collective effort. These events created space not only for awareness, but for connection, reflection and solidarity. They served as a reminder that when

a community comes together with intention, it can create an environment where survivors feel seen, supported and believed.

One of the most important messages to carry forward is that support does not end when the month does.

Survivors live with the impacts of sexual violence every day, and so must our commitment to showing up for them. This means continuing to listen without judgment, to challenge harmful attitudes, and to foster spaces where people feel safe to speak and be heard.

It also means recognizing the role each of us plays in prevention. Creating change does not require grand gestures; it requires consistency. It is found in everyday actions, in the conversations we have, in the boundaries we respect, and in the accountability we hold ourselves and others to. These small, intentional choices shape the culture we live in.

As we move beyond April, the invitation remains the same: Continue the work. Stay engaged. Stay informed. Speak up when it matters. Support the organizations and individuals doing this work year-round. Most importantly, continue to build a community where safety, dignity and respect are not seasonal values, but everyday

expectations.

To everyone who participated, attended, supported and showed up this month, thank you. Together, we are not only raising awareness, we are building a community that is committed to action, now and moving forward.

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Be Prepared for an Emergency program set for May 9

By Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnist

The Archuleta County Colorado State University (CSU) Extension office and the Archuleta County Public Health Department are thrilled to partner with experts across our community to offer our Be Prepared for an Emergency program on Saturday, May 9, at 9 a.m. at the CSU Extension building located at the County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84.

This free program will last approximately 2.5 hours and cover topics such as how to care for our land, the health of our forests, how to safely prepare for and recover from emergencies, the weather forecast for Pagosa Country, emergency resources, and more.

Organizations and agencies will be on hand after the program to share additional information and answer questions. Preregistration is not required for this free program.

For more information, please call CSU Extension at (970) 264-5931 or email Cindi Galabota at cindi.galabota@colostate.edu.

Seed potatoes, seed onions for sale

Today is your last day to order seed potatoes and seed onions. Place your order today for Colorado certified and non-GMO seed potatoes. Five varieties of potatoes are

Extension Viewpoints

available.

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

Learn to can dandelion jelly

Learn all the latest food safety preservation practices on May 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension office. The cost is \$25 per person/date for one jar of jelly. Call (970) 264-5931 to register today.

Volunteer for the Archuleta County Fair

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

You'll contribute to an annual tradition that brings our community together, supports local agriculture and creates lasting memories for generations to come.

To learn more, contact Tonya Steadmon at tsteadmon@archuleta-county.gov or (970) 264-5931.

HEALTHY SELF

WHY YOUR HEART LOVES EXERCISE SO MUCH

If your heart could speak, it would probably encourage you to get more aerobic exercise, or it would thank you if you are already doing so.

The heart does speak, actually. Its strength and rhythm are its means of communication, and it loves exercise. Today's excerpt explains why.

Your heart is a muscle, and it gets stronger and healthier if you lead an active life. It's never too late to start exercising, and you don't have to be an athlete. Even taking a brisk walk for 30 minutes a day can make a big difference. Once you get going, you'll find it pays off. People who don't exercise are almost twice as likely to get heart disease as people who are active.

Regular exercise can help you:

- Burn calories
- Lower your blood pressure
- Reduce LDL "bad" cholesterol
- Boost your HDL "good" cholesterol

Ready to get started?

First, think about what you'd like to do and how fit you are. What sounds like fun? Would you rather work out on your own, with a trainer, or in a class? Do you want to exercise at home or at a gym?

If you want to do something that's harder than what you can do right now, no problem. You can set a goal and build up to it. For example, if you want to run, you might start by walking and then add bursts of jogging into your walks. Gradually start running for longer than you walk.

Don't forget to check in with your doctor. He'll make sure you're ready for whatever activity you have in mind and let you know about any limits on what you can do.

Source: "Exercise for a Healthy Heart." <http://www.webmd.com>

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

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." Proverbs 4:23 ESV.

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

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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold ‘Rooted in Solidarity’ service

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

In March, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship had planned on offering a service titled “Rooted in Solidarity” and, due to illness, we postponed it to this Sunday, May 3.

We were inspired to share this offering from the “Side With Love” interfaith advocacy campaign as part of our justice-focused programming.

Our Sunday service programs begin at 10:30 a.m. and offer time for worship, small-group engagement and social action. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good.”

As a UU Fellowship, we are part of an association of more than 1,000 congregations in the U.S. Join us this Sunday for a UU inclusive worship service designed for any concerned citizens needing a space to respond to the moments of crisis and collective grief in these unsettling times.

This service offers a liturgy of stories, readings, songs and shared reflections that help communities ground themselves in our history

of showing up in times of need, and help generate the spiritual strength needed to act with clarity and courage right now.

This worship tells stories from our Unitarian, Universalist and UU history — stories of how ordinary people responded and showed up in very different ways to side with love and show up with justice. This service is told through a host of readers and responses led by a worship leader.

We are grateful to Dave Pettus and Susan Kuhns for providing music for this inspired service, “Rooted in Solidarity.”

Other programs this month include:

- May 10: Going Deeper Sharing Circle, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

For this shortened gathering this morning, come for a brief connection and meditation continuing our lament for the earth.

The day will also include a special field trip to Durango. The Four Corners Alliance for Diversity is having The Big Queer BBQ on Sunday, May 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Rotary Park in Durango.

- May 17: Sunday service, 10:30

a.m. The Rev. Michael Brown, retired UU minister, will be visiting from Santa Fe, N.M. More information to come.

- May 24: Action Sunday.
- May 31: Fifth Sunday day of rest.

For more information about other offerings, we encourage a look at our website, PagosaUU.org.

The UU space is used as a Community Hub for the Pagosa community, and offers space for a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.

The Tara Meditation Group is held most Sundays from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Email the fellowship to be added to the list and receive information and notices about this meditation practice.

Qigong practice is held at 1 p.m. on 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 next gatherings will be May 9 and May 23.

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

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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:

- 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.

- May 17, 11 a.m.: Vietnam Veterans Giveback Day. Service with refreshments after. Veterans, sign up for your free treatments by contacting (970) 510-0309.

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



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Paid for by Melinda Ratliff

New library goes green

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

I recently read with great envy that the Durango Public Library was built as a LEED gold-certified building. That's the highest designation you can achieve in terms of environmental sustainability. It isn't cheap up front, but, in the long run, it's less expensive to operate.

The original design for the Pagosa library expansion focused on keeping construction costs low, and only included a few environmentally friendly options such as mineral wool insulation that priced out closely with mainstream building products. But we have found additional ways to incorporate environmentally friendly features into our plans through grant opportunities, and the results are going to be great for our community and our long-term organizational sustainability.

Through a grant from the Colorado Energy Office, we are installing a double level 2 charger for electric vehicles in our parking lot. This will expand our local EV charging options for both locals and visitors and hopefully encourage more people to invest in EVs, contributing to cleaner mountain air.

Library News

We are also concerned with fiscal sustainability. With a limited budget, how do we control operational costs so we can reinvest in direct service? One way is to lower utility bills. We know adding solar panels to our large roof in this sunny mountain town is a really smart way to lower our electric bills. So, we're pursuing a grant that would fund installation of a 42kw array. Together with our geothermal heating system, we would be one big step closer to achieving both environmental and fiscal sustainability.

We're looking forward to reducing our carbon footprint. And it's just the beginning of our sustainability efforts. We've reupholstered our public seating in lieu of buying new, saved cabinets and workbenches from the landfill, and recycled our sturdy old tables to use in the new makerspace.

With larger spaces for programming and a children's teaching garden in place, we are planning programming for all ages that explains

green technology and helps you make better choices. Our gardens will be filled with native pollinator plants. And, we're constantly brainstorming on how to move from paper to digital.

There's so much more we can do and new technologies on the horizon to help us. Watch for upcoming programming to keep you informed.

Thank you, Town of Pagosa Springs

We are grateful to the Town of Pagosa Springs, its staff and elected officials for their tremendous support during this construction process. Their good advice has been instrumental in our success, and they have generously waived multiple fees to help us afford this expansion.

This week's fundraising focus

The public gardens are really coming together, but there are components we still need.

A new flagpole costs \$10,000 and a sturdy picnic table is \$5,000. Garden troughs for the children's teaching garden are \$750 each. Can you help? Email director@pagosalibrary.org.

We are grateful for you.

■ See Library on next page

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PAID FOR BY RANDY BETTS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, 2026.

Library

■ continued from previous page Construction update

We have a fiber optic internet connection waiting for us on the other side of the alley that we are going to connect for an even faster library internet experience. To mitigate any road damage, we will bore a fiber optic pathway underneath the alleyway to run the cable across.

Washable rubber flooring in pretty colors will go into the children's room in May to cushion toddler falls and reduce the traveling noise of happy children. Once all the flooring is installed in the addition, we'll be able to add our new service desk and set up the children's room. How fun.

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.

English as a second language switches to citizenship classes

Join our test prep classes for the U.S. citizenship test on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church on South Pagosa Boulevard.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

It's almost summer, and it's time to get outside. The Ruby Sisson Library has free Colorado Parks passes for checkout that include a backpack with nature guides, binoculars and fun activities. Reserve yours today.

Meet us out in the community

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

Please check the listings in this

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

Activities calendars

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

Online author talks

Join us live or catch the presentation later. Reserve your spot at libraryc.org/pagosalibrary.

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.

On May 7 at 5 p.m., join for an exciting conversation, "On Courage, Turmoil, and the Transformative Power of Love," with Marjan Kamali, bestselling author of "The Lion Women of Tehran."

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.

New books collections brimming with interesting titles

For a full list of new titles and to reserve your copy, go to www.pagosalibrary.org and choose "Search the Catalog" at the top of the screen.

■ See Library on next page

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, April 30

Ruby's Writers Guild. 8:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writ-

ers 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., Com-

munity United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. An Archuleta Senior Center program.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library.

■ See Calendar on next page



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Library

■ continued from previous page

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 and notable nonfiction

- "Atlas of Borders: Walls, Migrations, and Conflicts in 70 Maps."
- "Evergreen: The Trees that Shaped America."
- "The Yates Protocol: Five Simple Steps to Fix Your Blood Sugar and Reverse Type 2 Diabetes."
- "This Vast Enterprise: A New History of Lewis and Clark" is by Craig Ferman.

Immersed in the spiritual

- "Mother Earth is Our Elder: A Northern Indigenous Path Toward Sustainable Living."
- "Secure: The Revolutionary Guide to Creating a Secure Life" is described as a "groundbreaking road map to emotional resilience."

Walks on the wild side

- "My Life with Wolves: How I Became the Storyteller for the Yellowstone Packs" is by Rick McIntyre.
- "The Peregrine Falcon: The Epic Life and Times of the World's Fastest Creature" is by Jim Wright.

• "Nature Speak: Signs, Omens, and Messages in Nature" and "Animal Wise: Understanding the Language of Animal Messengers and Companions" are by Ted Andrews.

New fiction

- "Guilt," by Keigo Higashino, is a psychological thriller from one of Japan's top authors.
- "Permanence," a novel from Sophie MacIntosh, is described as "a brilliant parable about desire, infidelity, and devotion."
- "Lidie: The Further Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton" is the long-awaited work from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley.

New in large print

- "Lunger: The Doc Holliday Story" is a novel from bestselling author Paul Colt.
- "A Perilous Plot," the latest in the Booktown Mystery series from Lorna Barrett, follows the clues from a mysterious urn filled with kitty litter to the truth behind a family murder.
- "A Dark and Deadly Journey," the latest Evelyn Redfern Mystery from Julia Kelly, is about a missing British Intelligence agent during Word War II.

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.pagosalibrary.org, to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

Friday, May 1

Aspen House Groundbreaking. 5:30 p.m., 2079 Vista Blvd. RSVP to admin@aspenhousepagosa.org.

Saturday, May 2

Pagosa Springs High School Varsity Track and Field. 9 a.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Terry Alley Invi-

tational.

Supermom 5K. 10 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. A fundraiser for Aspire Medical Services and Education. For more information, visit www.aspirepagosa.org.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Pagosa Springs Dance Academy Recital. 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. The matinee will feature 24 unique numbers performed by dancers of all ages. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at www.pagosadanceacademy.com.

Pagosa Springs Dance Academy Recital. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. The evening performance will feature 34 numbers across all dance genres. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at www.pagosadanceacademy.com.

Sunday, May 3

Spring Archery Event. 7 a.m., Cloman Community Park. Register

■ See Calendar on page 16



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the American White Pelican.

One of the largest birds in North America, the American white pelican has been spotted fishing at Navajo Lake recently. From winter grounds along the coast, these birds are headed to colonial nesting sites primarily located on islands of inland lakes in midwestern and western states and western Canada.

Adults are snowy white with black flight feathers that are visible when the wings are spread. Their bills, legs and webbed feet are yellow-orange. Although they are ungainly on land, they are strong swimmers and graceful in flight. With a wingspan measuring 9 feet, they are spectacular fliers. A squadron of pelicans glides across the sky in V formation, each bird with its neck folded back.

A pelican is all about its beak, captured in an old limerick written by Dixon Lanier Merritt: "A wonderful bird is the pelican. His bill will hold more than his belican." The pelican's bill is the longest in the avian world, its means of survival and is responsible for its prehistoric look. Breeding white pelicans develop a bony projection near the tip of the upper bill that wears off later in summer. The bill's pouch, full of blood vessels, is opened and fluttered to cool off on hot days.

Unlike the brown pelican, the American white pelican does not dive for fish. Instead, while swimming it uses its large expandable pouch, capable of holding 3 gallons, for scooping fish from shallow water. Before throwing its head back to swallow its catch whole, it tilts forward to strain water from its pouch. Each bird consumes more than 4 pounds of food daily.

Flocks of pelicans often feed cooperatively, lining up and driving fish ahead of them to shallow water. In movements described as a ballet on water, they will encircle a school of fish and dip their heads underwater in synchrony to scoop up fish. They are also known for stealing food, especially from other pelicans or from cormorants. While generally their typical prey are fish species with little commercial value, they can be pests at aquaculture ponds.

Spring migration season is a great time to get out and spot birds like these passing through. You never know what you might find.

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

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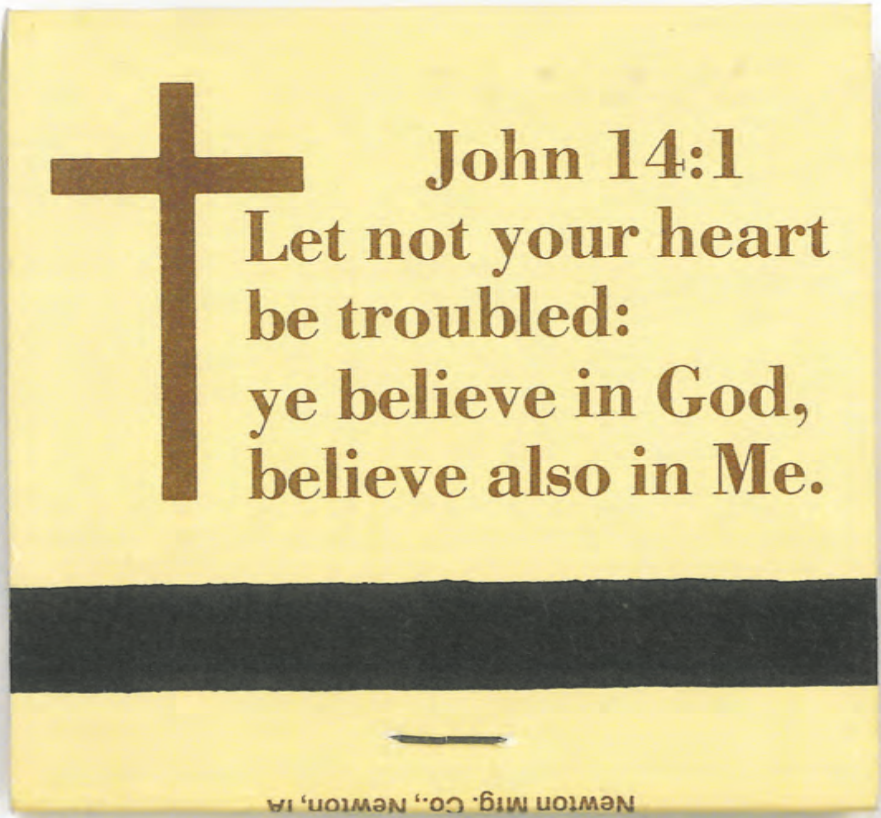
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TESTIMONIAL
OF A
DEAF WOMAN
DIAGNOSED
WITH
SCHIZOPHRENIA



I sat in my rocking chair. Pieces of my life lay at my feet, shattered into a million pieces. I was one of those who had been hospitalized for mental illness, labeled a schizophrenic, given tranquilizers, and sent home.

I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord just the month before. Experiencing the joy of the newly reborn, I thought I was on my way. I gave up cigarettes, a habit of six years standing. My life had just begun. I had a church to go to, Christians to fellowship with, and even deaf people (of which I am one) were being ordained to the ministry.

Farmington State Hospital, the scene of much confusion. Patients sat around and many of them smoked to pass the time. Bewildered and disoriented, I took up the habit again. My mother and a friend came to visit. I did not know what to say to them, and so merely chain-smoked.

Given a pass to go home for a few days, I regarded surroundings that should have been warm and familiar as threatening. Used to hospital routine, I got up at 6:00 a.m., dressed, and frantically paced the floor. I was glad to be taken back to Farmington where routine provided the only security I knew at the time. Soon, I was discharged permanently. My doctor did not talk with me, but relied mainly on nursing reports. I asked Mom, "What happened?" She gently replied that I had been mentally ill. Aghast at this, I cried, "Me?" I had been proud of my mind, my abilities, my drive and motivation. Now, I had nothing except for the love of my mother and grandmother to sustain me.

Days and weeks passed. I sat in my rocking chair and rocked. In my anxiety and depression I rocked so much that I broke three springs. Where do I go from here? Will my friends reject me because I had lost control of my mind? What of those people who had seen me during my breakdown? What did they think? I was desperate. Pride of accomplishment, which had been my mainstay in life, was taken from me. I was naked and vulnerable. People who had been involved in the circumstances of my breakdown had seen my inner self that all of us keep private. This was very humiliating.

Time went on relentlessly. I was not interested in people, books, TV, magazines, nothing. I spent much time staring into space. Why? I had just started to live. I didn't understand. I cast around, looking for something to hold onto. My eyes fell on a little brown book with Jesus' words printed in red. "Yes! I want only to know what Jesus said while He was among us so long ago.

I devoured His words, striving to understand. The words, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me" drew my eyes like a magnet. I read these words over and over again. I felt Jesus was saying to me, "I know you are crushed (John 14:1). I know your heart is broken. I know you do not understand. But, I beseech you to trust Me. Don't do anything to harm yourself. I ask you to trust Me." Hope, real tangible living hope, seeped quietly and surely into my bones. I was on the road to recovery.

Dear reader, I share this story to affirm the reality and power of the Bible. I would like to honestly say that I am not sure I would still be alive today if I had not been converted to Christ before my breakdown. I had a full bottle of Thorazine, a powerful tranquilizer. It was not until later that I learned that if I had taken these pills, I would not have survived. The struggle for wholeness continues. I have been hospitalized a few times since then. Problems I still have, and they are sometimes hard to live with. With John 14:1 as a guide, I continue my search for understanding. Counseling is giving me insights to work with.

I would like to end my account with a verse from the book of Psalms: "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." (Psalms 12:6). The words of Jesus gave me what I so desperately needed: the word of assurance that He was in control of my life, that He understood; and that I could trust Him with the unanswerable questions. I learned that Jesus is, indeed, worthy of my trust.

The testimonial is included in the book "TO HELL AND BACK" = GO TO WWW.STRETCHERBEARERS.COM, CHAPTER 7

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from page 14**
between 7 and 8 a.m. Open to all levels of archers. Participate or just watch. For more information, see the calendar at wolfcreegunand-bow.org.

Monday, May 4

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

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

American Sign Language Class. 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Tuesday, May 5

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events.

Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

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

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

Citizenship Class. 2-4 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This Sisson Library program helps immigrants and people preparing for citizenship with classes, training materials, tutoring, informational resources and ways to connect to the community.

Tween Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesday, May 6

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join 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

■ **See Calendar on next page**

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 It may be raw
- 5 Gilbert of "The Conners"
- 9 Plant support
- 14 "Giant" author Ferber
- 15 Make arrange-ments
- 16 Glass-polishing powder
- 17 Stabbing in the back
- 19 Leafstalk angles
- 20 Not quite right
- 21 Forever
- 23 Computer capacity
- 24 Unmusical
- 26 Mary Kay rival
- 28 Do away with
- 29 Tend the sauce
- 33 Daisy-like flowers
- 35 Type of terrier
- 37 Prosecuted again
- 39 Through the ears
- 40 Turns to ashes
- 42 Steep-sided hills
- 43 Calcutta wear
- 44 Draft source
- 45 In ____ of (rather than)
- 46 Arranges in sequence
- 49 Old name for Tokyo
- 52 Former Secre-tary of State Albright
- 55 Laser's kin
- 57 Dye-yielding shrubs
- 58 Like a nonagon
- 60 Ran off with
- 61 Comprehends
- 62 Truth alternative
- 63 Canary's kin
- 64 Opening for a coin
- 65 Ogler

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20						21			22					
23					24	25								
		26	27				28				29	30	31	32
33	34						35			36				
37						38		39						
40							41		42					
43						44			45					
				46	47				48			49	50	51
52	53	54								55	56			
57							58			59				
60							61				62			
63							64				65			

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DOWN

- 1 Hinder, legally
- 2 Fluid build-up
- 3 "Star Trek" warp drive fuel
- 4 "____ and the Real Girl" (2007 film)
- 5 Bond, e.g.
- 6 1979 sci-fi classic
- 7 Tirade deliverers
- 8 "Rugrats" brat
- 9 Doctor's orders
- 10 University in San Marcos
- 11 Seed cover
- 12 "A View to a ____" (Bond film)
- 13 Effortless
- 18 Oregon city on the Columbia
- 22 Bridge call
- 25 Fill with anxiety
- 27 Very thin pasta
- 30 "Voices Carry" pop group
- 31 Emerald ____

- 32 Actor Jonathan ____ Meyers
- 33 Javelin paths
- 34 "Will be", in a Doris Day song
- 36 "It is what it is" and others
- 38 Business inter-actions
- 41 Springer or Brittany

- 47 Merlin of football and TV
- 48 ____-one: long odds (2 wds.)
- 50 Tractor surname
- 51 Court call
- 52 M, to Einstein
- 53 Penny ____
- 54 Last name in fashion
- 56 Assistant
- 59 PA time zone

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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

Thursday, May 7

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., Yamaguchi Park. An Archuleta Senior Center program.

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.

Citizenship Class. 2-4 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This Sisson Library program helps immigrants and people preparing for citizenship with classes, training materials, tutoring, informational resources and ways to connect to the community.

Online Author Talk. 5 p.m., virtual. "On Courage, Turmoil, and the Transformative Power of Love" with Marjan Kamali, author of "The Lion Women of Tehran." Go to the library's website, www.pagosalibrary.org, to watch live via Zoom or view the recording later.

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

Archuleta School District Combined Band Concert. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa

Springs High School auditorium. The concert will feature the Pagosa Springs Middle School and Pagosa Springs High School bands.

Friday, May 8

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Girls, Grit and Grime Bicycle Clinic. 2:30-5:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. A free clinic for girls hosted by DUST2. Sign up at www.dust2pagosa.org/girlsonbikes. Call coach Dawn at (909) 855-7140 with any questions.

Archuleta School District Combined Choral Concert. 6:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. The concert will feature the Pagosa Springs High School Concert Choir, the Pagosa Springs Middle School fifth- and seventh-grade choirs, and a fourth-grade honor ensemble.

Saturday, May 9

Be Prepared for an Emergency Workshop. 9 a.m., CSU Extension building, 344 U.S. 84. Learn how to prepare for emergencies and protect your land.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan

St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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Driving in the golden years: knowing when it's still safe

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Determining when it is safe for seniors to continue driving is an important issue that balances independence with safety.

Aging can bring changes in vision, reaction time, flexibility and cognitive function, all of which can affect driving ability.

However, age alone is not a reliable indicator. Many seniors remain safe, capable drivers well into their later years.

Warning signs such as frequent close calls, difficulty staying in lanes, confusion in familiar areas or slower response to traffic signals may indicate it is time to reassess driving habits. Regular check-ups with health care providers, including vision and hearing tests, can help seniors stay aware of any changes that might impact their ability to drive safely.

There are also proactive steps seniors can take to maintain confidence and safety behind the wheel. Limiting driving to daylight hours, avoiding high-traffic areas and keeping up with vehicle maintenance can all make a difference.

Many communities offer driving refresher courses specifically designed for older adults, helping them stay updated on road rules and safe driving techniques.

Family members can play a supportive role by having open, respectful conversations about safety concerns. Ultimately, the goal is to help seniors remain as independent as possible while ensuring their safety and the safety of others on the road.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) will be hosting an upcoming AARP Smart Driver Course designed to help participants refresh their driving skills and enhance their knowledge of current road rules and potential hazards.

This valuable course can improve driving confidence and promote safer driving habits for older adults

Senior News

and the community as a whole. Participants may also qualify for a discount on their auto insurance upon completion of the course. Additional details, including dates and registration information, will be announced soon.

Holiday closure

ASI will be closed on May 25 for Memorial Day. No meals or services will be provided that day.

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.

Please note that ASI will be closed Monday, May 25. Senior Conversations will be held on Friday, May 29, that week.

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

■ See Senior on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



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

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

SUDOKU

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

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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!

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

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WHISPERING PINES

Senior

■ continued from previous page flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Tai chi chih

Starting in May, tai chi classes will be held at Yamaguchi Park from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

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 Fridays, May 8 and May 22, at 1:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold

monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox's Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There

■ See Lane on page 22



Trinity Anglican Church

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LOTS OF LAUGHS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AMUSING
BANTER
CHUCKLE
COMEDY
FACETIOUS
FUNNY
GUFFAW
HILARITY
IRONY
JESTING
JOCULAR
LEVITY
MERRIMENT
PARODY
PUNCHLINE
QUIP
SATIRE
SLAPSTICK
SNICKER
TEDIUM
TICKLE
UPROARIOUS
WITTICISM
ZANY

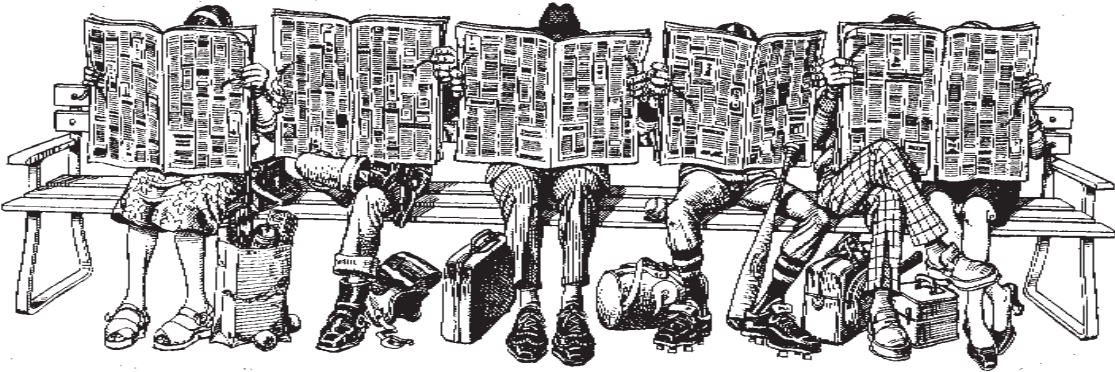
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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Photos courtesy Shellie Peterson

Scene ... Rotarians and Interactors roll up their sleeves on April 23 to celebrate Earth Day the best way they know how — by getting their hands a little dirty. Together, the groups tackled weeds, shared some laughs and made the park a little brighter for everyone who enjoys it. For Rotary and Interact, small acts and strong roots make lasting impact. The site is located downtown next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership domes.



Senior

■ continued from page 19

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 30 — Teriyaki pork ribs, coconut rice, gingered carrots, garden salad, fruit, chai pudding and milk.

Friday, May 1 — Shrimp scampi over linguine, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, May 4 — Navy bean and bacon soup, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, blueberry cobbler, and milk.

Tuesday, May 5 — Bavarian bratwurst, baked potato salad, sweet and sour cabbage, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday, May 6 — Philly cheesesteak on hoagie roll, cheesy cauliflower, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, May 7 — Butternut squash, mushroom and sage lasagna; garlic bread; garden salad; fruit; and milk.

Friday, May 8 — Fish sandwich with tartar sauce, coleslaw, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express

Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

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

Call to place your ad today!
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Financial missteps that can affect your credit score

Special to The PREVIEW

The importance of a good credit score cannot be overstated. Adults who handle credit responsibly may save tens of thousands of dollars in interest charges over the course of their lives, as a strong credit history helps to elevate credit scores. The higher an applicant's credit score, the more favorable loan terms for big-ticket items like vehicles and homes will be.

Though the significance of a strong credit history is a lesson in financial literacy emphasized to many people as early as adolescence, it's still easy to make some mistakes along the way.

Many people's first encounter with credit comes around the age of 18, a point in time when young men and women may not recognize the gravity of their financial decisions. That makes it easy to fall into some bad habits that can unfortunately have a long-term, negative impact on individuals' financial futures.

The following are some common credit missteps that consumers can look to avoid as they seek to build strong credit histories:

- **Missed payments:** The credit reporting agency Equifax notes that even a single late or missed payment can lower a person's credit score.

Though it's always best to set up automatic payments so no payment is ever missed, those who haven't taken advantage of that capability who miss a payment should know that it generally takes 30 days for a missed payment to affect a credit score. If you simply forget to make a payment, Equifax indicates that some lenders and creditors may not even report a missed payment if a full payment is made within 30 days of the initial due date. If you missed a payment because you can't afford to pay off the balance, then chances are you're committing another common misstep.

- **Overreliance on credit:** Utilizing credit too much is another common mistake that can quickly land consumers in debt. Resist using credit to finance unnecessary expenditures, like dining out or a night of entertainment. Only use credit to make purchases you know you can afford to pay off in full come your monthly due date. Credit utilization ratio is another metric used to determine credit score, and it refers to the percentage of your overall credit availability you use each month. The financial experts at Chase suggest a good credit utilization ratio is 30 percent or less. If you're routinely maxing out your credit card(s) and can't afford to pay the balance in full

each month, then your utilization ratio might be around 100 percent and might even be higher once interest charges are factored in. A high balance on an existing card too often compels young consumers to make another costly misstep.

- **Opening too many credit accounts:** It's hard to turn down what feels like "free" money, and many consumers new to credit might open new credit cards, particularly if a current account has a high balance. Too many credit cards can land consumers in considerable amounts of debt. Equifax notes it's generally recommended that consumers have no more than three credit cards, but some consumers who struggle to make payments each month might be better off with just one card.

Some common missteps can make it easy to fall into credit card debt, which can adversely affect consumers' credit scores. Avoiding those missteps can set borrowers up for a lifetime of financial freedom.

Community events.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

Classifieds

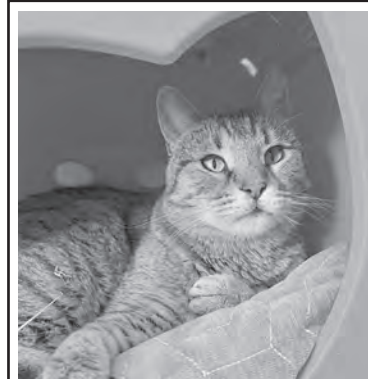
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This very friendly 3-year-old female is ready for a home of her own! Cara is playful and does very well with other cats! Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

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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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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PAGOSA SPRINGS GOLF CLUB /Square Top BBQ immediate openings DOE: Server/ Bartender \$12.14 - \$15 /hr+Tips, Kitchen staff \$17 -20 /hr, Housekeeping \$18 /hr, Grounds Crew \$17 - \$19 /hr. Seeking reliable, outgoing and honest applicants with excellent customer service skills for our team. Full /part-time positions available. Will train. Apply in person at 1 Pines Club Place.

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SAN JUAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT seeking District Manager. Part-time, non-exempt position (12-15 hours /week, set schedule 3 days /week plus extra hours for special projects). Hourly rate \$20-\$25 DOE. Email sanjuandc1@gmail.com for more information. Closes May 12, 2026.

THE COLORADO GARDEN COMPANY seeks Garden Center Associate. Contact Marie at (970)303-9467 or bring resume in person to apply.

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ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **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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Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

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Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a **Public Works Director** in our Public Works Department. The individual selected for this position, under policy direction of the Town Manager, plans, organizes, directs and integrates the Town's public works and utilities activities and functions. This role provides expert professional assistance to Town management in areas of expertise including engineering, wastewater collection, geothermal, street maintenance, project management, fleet and facilities management, storm water and drainage. This is a full -time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

WE ARE LOOKING for an office assistant to join our lively, fast-paced team. Excellent phone and customer service skills, and attention to detail required. Responsibilities include answering calls, handling routine correspondence, assisting with bookkeeping tasks, processing invoices, and scheduling. Experience with QuickBooks is beneficial. Interested applicants can pick up an application at Mountain Home Security, 301 N Pagosa Blvd Unit B-3, weekdays from 9a.m. to 4p.m.

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FOR SALE — 2000 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA. 73,000 miles, new tires, new top, new battery, new windshield, winch, 4" lifts, good condition. \$8,900. (970)731-9714.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

THE MINERAL COUNTY Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is accepting sealed bids for a: 2017 Ram 2500 4X4 tradesman pickup 4D 6 1/3 ft. bed with 98,181 miles, 6 -cylinder, 6.7L Cummins Turbo Diesel Engine, DEF / CAT Deleted with EFI Live Programmer, 2 -inch leveling kit, headache rack, heavy duty brush guard with winch, Hard folding Tonneau Cover, BedRug kit, After market steps, and after market seat covers. The truck can be viewed at the MCSO Monday through Friday during normal business hours. (719) 658-2600. The sealed bids must include bid amount, full name, phone number and email address and be submitted to the Sheriff by 12 May 2026. Sealed bids will be opened at the Mineral County Commissioner meeting on 13 May 2026. There is a minimum bid limit. The highest bid will be selected and final payment of cash, cashier's check or certified check for the truck will be required by 20 May 2026, or the next highest bid will be selected, and final payment will be required one week later.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

COMMERCIAL -GRADE KITCHEN available at Colorado Garden Company. Ideal for grab-and-go or catering. Contact Ayax at (970)946-0405 for details.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

THE COLORADO GARDEN COMPANY offers bar space for juice or beverage concept. Contact Ayax at (970)946-0405 to discuss opportunity.

FOR SALE

2008 OUTBACKER TRAILER, \$15,000; ro-toiller, \$500; generator, \$500; horse saddles, blankets, etc., chairs, small tools. Call Gary, (970)398-9223.

21.3 CU. FT. FROST FREE upright GE freezer. Looks new, 6 years old, \$1,200 new, \$300. (303)840-7323.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD SALE. The Dump Truck special is back. Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$500. Pine mix. Only while supplies last. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

RAV VAST B ARABIAN NIGHT indigo steel tongue drum Middle Eastern scale. Case and pro stand. Like new, \$900. (970)731-3117.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

LIVESTOCK

NICE BARN FOR RENT in Meadows 2, available May 1. Three 12'x12' stalls, tack room, breezeway, trailer parking (1) and one acre turnout with smooth wire. Two horse maximum. Self care by horse's owner. \$400 per month. (970)946-2728.

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.

GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES. Registered F1b, Will Deliver, DoubleCDoodles.com, (575)235-8739.

YARD SALES

A MOVING SALE by Mountain Cactus Estate Sales. Mountain /woody decor, tools, furniture, gently worn clothing, SUP, snow shoes, patio furniture, basketball net, cleaning supplies, gardening, and more. 8a.m. -2p.m. Saturday, April 2. Half off at noon. 865 S. Pagosa Blvd.

COME PARTY WITH ME. Tupperware Sale Thursday, April 30, Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, 11a.m. - 2p.m. 47 Edinburgh Cr. Check out April and May Deals and new the "Tupperware glass." Lots of bagged Tupperware Bargains and special treats.

COMPLETE ESTATE SALE. Everything must go. Slate pool table, bar with 8 barstools, leather couches, dining table with 8 chairs, 3 bedroom sets, children and baby items free, office desk, barstools, 10'x12' area rugs, kitchen items. Saturday, May 2, 8a.m. -4p.m., 741 Majestic Dr. Cash.

(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

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YARD SALES

GOT STUFF? Let us help. C.K Estate Sales now booking for this coming summer. Call or email for a free consultation today. (970)946-3331 or ckestatesales.co@gmail.com.

YARD SALE. Rototiller, saddles, blankets, chairs and lots of stuff. 626 S. 7th Street. Friday and Saturday, 8a.m.

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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

PROFESSIONAL SUITES: 126 sq. ft. shared reception, break room, and washer /dryer. Utilities included. Prime location. Just remodeled. (701)263-2410.

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE, available immediately. For information, call (970)903-2817.

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

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME for rent. Fenced backyard, 2 car garage, covered back deck, small pet negotiable. \$2,650 per month. For more info call (970)946-1570.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

DOWNTOWN 2 BEDROOM, 1 bath home with views. One pet allowed with approval and \$25 /month pet rent. One year lease required. \$1900 /month. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or visit the website at teampagosa.com.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA SPRINGS APARTMENT for rent. Modern 2 bedroom, Energy Star efficient, brand new build, private deck, available now. No smokers, no pets. (720)470-2653.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOVELY NEWLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home on wooded lot. \$2800 /month Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.com.

NEWLY REMODELED 2 BEDROOM in four plex, Pagosa Lake views, covered deck, 800 sq. ft., W/D, dishwasher, 5 minute walk to lake, most utilities paid, \$1,450. Call John (720)960-4910 or Lee (970)946-3856.

ON BEAUTIFUL PAGOSA LAKE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished upstairs unit. No garage. \$1,500 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.

SEEKING RESPONSIBLE, GROUNDED ROOMMATE for home 10 miles down 84. Furnished room, most utilities included, \$700 per month. Passive solar home. Ideal for someone who wants quiet atmosphere or who works from home. Other roommate is a professional and travels 80% of the time. No smoking, no pets. (970)946-2728.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOME FOR SALE. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, 2060 sq. ft., freshly painted inside and out. New appliances, granite countertops, 970 sq. ft. workshop. Appointment only, (970)403-6356.

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to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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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. \$450K.

EXCEPTIONAL DOWNTOWN BUILDING LOTS and development potential. River, huge divide views, location. Nothing like it. Call (970)398-9136, or builder7@fastmail.com.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Harman Park 1.5 plus acres with highway frontage, \$325K; Aspen Springs 1.5 plus acres with highway frontage, \$65K; West Golf with sewer and water taps paid and installed, \$70K. All OBO. Holly (970)946-0037.



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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