



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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County cell, broadband coverage issues discussed with state committee

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Monday afternoon, Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown, along with other commissioners representing Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI), presented to the state's Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee.

The Colorado General Assembly committee is, according to the state, studying "cell phone connectivity in the state with a focus on identifying gaps in cell phone coverage."

It first met on July 9, with a second meeting held on Aug. 12.

Brown presented alongside Fremont County Commissioner Debbie Bell, La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka and Routt County Commissioner Tim Redmond.

The CCI panel was one of several presentations the committee heard on the day.

Brown was the first of the commissioners to speak to the panel.

"I am not an expert on cellphones and/or coverage," Brown began, "but I would like to share with you just some general observations and experiences that we continually experience in Archuleta County. As

■ See Coverage A9

Commissioners voice favor for opting out of Senate Bill 24-131

Bill prohibits carrying firearms in sensitive spaces

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular work session held on Tuesday, Aug. 13, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed its stance on Colorado Senate Bill 24-131, which prohibits carrying firearms in sensitive spaces.

The topic was brought up by commissioner Ronnie Maez, who expressed disagreement with the bill, indicating that other communities such as Montrose, Delta and Moffat have opted out of the bill by resolution or ordinance.

"Legislature slipped it right in," Maez said.

He explained that he talked to Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux about opting out, and that Le Roux "didn't seem very opposed to it."

County Manager Jack Harper noted

that the bill officially went into place on July 1.

Maez explained that he had several constituents inquire about the bill and what the county is going to do in terms of opting out or not.

County attorney Todd Weaver noted there is no deadline for the county to decide on opting out or not.

Maez commented that the bill prohibits people with concealed carry permits from carrying a firearm at a restricted building — even if it is in their car, making it a misdemeanor crime.

"I think it's a bit of getting the camel's nose under the tent, infringing on a lot of peoples' rights to carry and the right to have a firearm," Maez said.

According to the Colorado General Assembly's summary of the bill, SB24-131, unlawful carrying of a firearm in a government building is a class 1 misdemeanor.

■ See Firearms A8

Potential impacts of initiatives 50 and 108 discussed

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed the matter of property tax ballot initiatives 50 and 108 during an Aug. 13 work session.

Under Initiative 50, if the total statewide property tax revenue is projected to increase more than 4 percent over the preceding year, a voter approval would be needed for the government to retain the additional revenue, according to the final text submitted to the Colorado Secretary of State's Office.

Under Initiative 108, funding for counties, school districts, water districts and other districts funded partially or fully by the state could be impacted by a \$3 billion reduction in property tax revenue by a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes commencing on or after Jan. 1, 2025, according to the office. The initiative

would reduce the tax assessment for residential real property to 5.7 percent of the property's actual value.

Initiative 50 has made the ballot, while Initiative 108 is listed by the office as being under signature line review.

The topic was brought up by Commissioner Veronica Medina, who serves on the Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) tax and finance committee.

Medina explained that the committee met a couple times from last year and into the beginning of this year, explaining the committee "came up with some other ways to help counties," which she says was supposed to eliminate the two initiatives, "but it did not."

She added that initiatives 50 and 108 are "still a threat."

She went on to explain that in the last committee meeting, the committee discussed a letter from CCI addressed to Gov. Jared Polis.

■ See Impacts A8

National Night Out



The Pagosa Springs Police Department hosts a successful local event on Aug. 6 as part of the annual National Night Out community-building initiative.

Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs Police Department

Fire district votes to impose fees for out-of-district responses

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors voted to implement fees for responses outside the PFPD at its Aug. 6 meeting.

Fire Chief Robert Bertram opened the meeting by explaining to the board that the fees before them were tabled at the board's last meeting.

At the July 2 PFPD board meeting, the district held a public hearing on the topic of putting in place fees for responses outside the district.

However, after the public hearing only attracted one commenter, the board discussed the issue and decided to hold an additional hearing prior to implementing the fees and to circulate additional information about the proposed fees to the public.

Bertram explained that the district circulated additional information, including two articles in The SUN, but had "not heard much feedback from the public" since the last hearing.

PFPD board chairman LeRoy Latrin moved to approve the changes to the

fee schedule to implement the out-of-district response fees.

PFPD board member Wayne Hooper noted that Bertram previously stated that the goal of the fees is to increase awareness of the district's boundaries and commented that he would like to see the board take the issue of expanding the district's boundaries to a vote by next year's election.

He added that he would like to give those outside the district a choice in whether to join the district or not.

Hooper commented that he could not support implementing the fees unless the district moves forward with "something else."

In response to a question from Latrin about how the proposal relates to the fee schedule, Hooper stated that the district would be charging people outside its boundaries without giving them a choice if it did not move forward with an approach to include more of the county into the district.

He also proposed that the district only bill the out-of-district fees to insurance companies and not personally bill residents.

PFPD board member Ronald Beckman and PFPD legal counsel Dino Ross stated that only billing insurance would violate federal laws concerning kickbacks.

The board then discussed other districts' success with billing insurance for various claims, with Ross explaining that new Colorado laws will now allow districts to charge for responses to emergencies in their district that are outside of a "basic fire response" and can charge fees out of district for any fire services.

Hooper commented that he feels imposing the fees for out-of-district responses is "putting the cart before the horse" and that he would prefer to give citizens outside the district an opportunity to choose if they wish to join the district before imposing fees for responses outside of it.

He added that, if those outside the district rejected joining it, then fees could be necessary.

Hooper and Ross noted that a vote on including new areas of the county into the district would require the approval of 51 percent of the residents

of the area the district is attempting to include.

Hooper reiterated his desire to offer residents outside the district a "choice" on whether to join it or not.

Bertram explained that, currently, anyone outside the district can petition to be included in the district and that the board's job would be to decide if such an inclusion makes sense.

He added that such individual inclusions would be a "piecemeal" approach to expanding the district as opposed to taking the issue to a vote where a large portion of the county outside the district could potentially be included at once.

Bertram commented that imposing fees is intended to be an educational tool to raise awareness of the boundaries of the district and the issue of the district providing services to those living outside its boundaries who do not pay taxes to it.

Beckman commented that the district already responds to calls outside of the district and that he would favor including these areas into the district. ■ See Responses A8

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Opinion

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

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SUN STAFF

Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke, jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com
Publisher, Advertising, Circulation
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com
Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com
Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com
Classified Advertising/Front Office
Cristin Flanagan, classads@pagosasun.com
Hailey Sams, intern
Head Pressroom Robert Penton
Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon
Mailroom William Thomas

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OUR VIEW

The lies of AI

Last week we came across a bit of news that, while interesting and indicative of the times we're living in, made us cringe.

Several articles hit our inbox laying out the course of events: A staff reporter at Powell Tribune in Wyoming saw a quote used in another outlet that didn't seem quite right.

It turns out it — as well as other quotes — weren't quite right, namely because they likely came from generative artificial intelligence (AI) instead of the actual people.

The reporter began calling sources to verify quotes after reading an article on illegal elk hunting, according to Poynter.

As Poynter explains, "The consensus from these calls: The quotes sounded innocuous and plausible — but they were never spoken. That's a common characteristic of generative AI text."

The reporter then met with the reporter whose quotes were in question and that reporter's editor with evidence of at least seven people who were quoted despite never having been interviewed. The use of AI also added incorrect roles and credentials to sources.

The paper issued corrections and that reporter resigned this month.

To those of us who would never dream of using AI in such a way and who believe in reporting things to the best of our abilities with strong ethics, we cringe at what this could do to the credibility of all news organizations.

We've sat through trainings and information sessions on AI. We read articles regularly about the emerging uses of AI in media, ethics with the use of AI and more. We've played around with generative AI over the years, namely to track how accurate it is and if progress is being made on that front.

One of the biggest things we've learned is the fact that generative AI can be a big ol' liar. When it can't find what you're looking for to scrape something from the Internet, it makes it up. And it doesn't cite its sources.

As recently as this summer generative AI told us The Pagosa Springs SUN is owned by a group of local investors and covers international news — neither of which is

true. It also incorrectly stated the year The SUN started and other facts.

What it did manage to get right is that The SUN is committed to providing its readers with accurate, fair and balanced reporting.

Asking generative AI to tell you about people can result in miraculous tales of lifesaving efforts by young children, as well as a number of far-fetched tales.

According to generative AI, current SUN staff members: have a degree in early childhood development and opened a preschool, earned a degree in elementary education and went on to be an influential local teacher, have careers in historic preservation and cultural heritage, and have won national awards for environmental work, among other things.

While that sounds amazing, we, unfortunately, haven't done those things.

Knowing the lies AI tells us about ourselves, we can tell you with certainty we won't be trusting it to bring you local news anytime soon.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 15, 1924

Mrs. Vivian Flaugh, postmistress of Pagosa Springs, has been lying at death's door in a Durango hospital since Sunday night, suffering from a severe attack of bacillus botulism caused from eating canned beans while on an outing trip to Silverton Sunday. We are pleased to report at this time, however, that she is considerably improved and although not entirely out of danger yet, it is thought she will recover. Her husband, Leon Flaugh, who has been at her bedside constantly will return here today or tomorrow.

Though we are unacquainted with the details, we learn that on Thursday of last week, which was the same day that Charles J. Stewart was killed when he fell from a log wagon at the Lon Hardman mill on Stollsteimer creek, Henry Martinez, a logger employed at the Pound Bros. mill on the Little Chama river, was likewise killed when he fell from a log wagon in such a manner that a wheel of the wagon passed over his body, injuring him internally and causing his death. We have no information concerning his survivors.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 12, 1949

Due to the increasing losses of crops and grass from grasshoppers in Archuleta County and as it is too late this year in most cases, to prevent a re-occurrence of the outbreak in 1950, it is important that plans be formulated in time to carry out systemic control measures next year at the proper time and in the proper manner in order to obtain maximum results with a minimum of expense.

Any farmer knows, who has seen an outbreak of hoppers or army worms ruin a good crop or stand of grass almost overnight, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and control may mean the success or failure of a year's farm operations. The County payroll being what it is we must bear in mind that other programs in the County depend on how well the farmers in the area can stand the tax burden. A setback, not only in the market prices, but in crop losses might mean the difference between a normal, prosperous community and a neglected, erosion swept area full of struggling dissatisfied people who must depend upon relief measures to exist. We cannot control serious drought, when it comes, but we can control grasshoppers and losses to our crops caused by them.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 15, 1974

The Archuleta County Fair gets underway Friday of this week. Three days of activity will follow. Main events will be a fat stock auction, 4-H chuckwagon barbecue, exhibits of all kinds, and a kids rodeo.

Loren Alexander who has been appointed Archuleta County Extension Agent, arrived this week and will be conducting his first official duties during the fair.

Due to remodeling work at the High School Gymnasium all events scheduled for the high school grounds and the gymnasium will now be held at the Elementary School. These include the 4-H Chuckwagon Barbecue and the 4-H Dress Reveal.

A large portion of the equipment for the new chair lift at Wolf Creek Ski Area arrived this past week. Heavy rains at the ski area have put the installation schedule slightly behind, but extra time was allowed so the lift will be in and running by the time there is enough snow.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 12, 1999

The speed limits on Park Avenue and Lower Blanco Road have been reduced from 35 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour.

Implementation of the new speed limits will take place as soon as the signs can be ordered and installed, perhaps within two weeks. Property owners along both thoroughfares had requested the changes, which were preceded by an engineering study.

Park Avenue is a collector road traversing the Fairfield Pagosa community in a generally northeast to southwest direction. "My idea is that Park Avenue traffic should be slowed to 25 miles per hour," said Commissioner Bill Downey. "I've observed a lot of foot traffic on that road and it doesn't have shoulders. It will only get worse."

After County Manager Dennis Hunt pointed out that the commissioners are legally bound to comply with recommendations included in the engineering study, Downey agreed to the recommendation. Downey is a retired highway patrolman.



From the June 26, 1986, Pagosa SUN — DIGGING IN — Left to right, Gary Kummel, George Park, Ron Ault, Earle Beasley and Bill Storm gathered for ground breaking ceremonies at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Assoc. recreational center to be built by Fairfield Pagosa. The 13,448 square foot facility will feature a 75 by 35 foot swimming pool, an exercise room and two racquetball courts.

Archuleta County Commissioners Veronica Medina, Chair veronica.medina@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8305 Ron Maez rmaez@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8303 Warren Brown warren.brown@archuletacounty.org • (970) 264-8300		
Pagosa Springs Town Council Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov Matt DeGuisse mdeguisse@pagosasprings.co.gov Madeline Bergon mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov Mat deGraaf mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov Brooks Lindner blindner@pagosasprings.co.gov Leonard Martinez lmartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov		



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8/7	87	47	.19	NA	NA
8/8	89	49	.03	NA	NA
8/9	89	50	.25	NA	NA
8/10	88	53	.78	NA	NA
8/11	89	51	.30	NA	NA
8/12	89	52	.04	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.

Requiem for the Hundred Acre Wood

Dear Editor:
My grandfather, Christopher Rob-in used to tell me about growing up beside the Hundred Acre Wood. For him, it was a place of beauty, magic and deep spiritual significance. Whether Winnie the Pooh, Kanga and Roo, Owl, and Piglet were real, or denizens of his imagination was unimportant. They lived and breathed within my grandfather's heart. His love of the wood took hold of me at a young age. And I vowed to experience a similar place when I grew up. I found it and more in Pagosa Springs in the forest south of Highway 160 between South Pagosa Blvd. and Pinion Causeway. The wood was nearly 100 acres of Ponderosa Pines, separating a friend's house from the highway and cradling distant Pagosa Peak in its huge supporting hands. Every four or so years I would return to my friend's house while he and his family went elsewhere. Then the soul of the place would possess me, and I would give thanks for this rare privilege. It had been five years since my last visit, and in that brief time the hundred-acre wood had been stripped

of its soul. The trees were gone. The geese, the elk and deer had disappeared. In their place stretched a cluster of cramped apartment buildings, an all-but- empty hotel and a U-Haul rental facility, each trumped by an unnecessarily large county administration building.

I brought my hands to my face and wept.

As told to GG Becker by Christopher Robin III, August 12, 2029.

Gail Becker

Unanswered questions

Dear Editor:
Regarding the County Commissioners proposed purchase of five acres of undeveloped land on South Pagosa Blvd, east of the hospital, to build a new county administration building, there are unanswered questions.

I do not dispute that the county needs an administration building. What I do have concerns about is the amount of debt that would be incurred. The cost of the land, 2.178 million dollars, does not include the cost of the building itself and other associated costs such as utilities, roads, and infrastructure. For example, estimated costs of a 30,000 square foot commercial building at \$400/square foot would be 12 million dollars. However, when financing costs are included, the estimated cost of this building could be as high as 20 million dollars. (\$12 million at 6.5% interest over 15 years would result in a monthly payment of \$110,300 or \$1.323 million per year).

Can Archuleta County afford this additional debt, especially considering the \$12 million Detention Center and the \$7 million Justice Center which are also being financed? The Transit Center, another county project, is already over budget, and is only in the early stages of building.

With so much at stake, I believe the financing of such a project and the impact on the county budget needs to be transparent to the taxpayers. I hope the County Commissioners will re-evaluate the proposal to purchase this property.

Karl Becker

Transparency

Dear Editor:
I ask the reader: If the citizens of this community question whether or not their elected leaders are making decisions openly and in the best interests of our community, do we have a sound system? It seems to me that transparency is the bedrock of democracy. The alternative is a system built on cronyism and self-interest, in more colloquial language "the good ole boy/gal" system. Is that what we have?

The August 8th issue of the SUN provides us with some supporting affirmative evidence. Witness the selection of Harper as our new county manager. I know nothing of this man and am depending upon the accuracy of the reporter's information which I have every reason to believe is not only accurate but also acute in highlighting potential issues. I quote, "Harper was fired from this position (city manager of Fulshear, Texas) by the city council in February after city council heard complaints about him in executive session..." Fired! Is this not a red flag even if we do not know why. Do the commissioners know why?

And the vetting process which included: one reference, "some" letters of recommendation; passing a background check; interviews by the commissioners and county depart-

ment heads and other elected officials whose recommendations were never revealed to the public for some reason. Again from the SUN article, despite "several public comments urging them (the commissioners) to delay the selection of a new county manager or seek new applicants due to concerns about transparency of the hiring process and other issues" our commissioners moved forward with their decision. Was there transparency in that decision? Was it made in the public interest? I leave you, the reader, to decide.

Pauline Benetti

Climate change

Dear Editor:
Sorry...here's the very bad news for those harden advocates of left vs right politics...it's unsolvable...can't win...no matter how hard one spins the gobbledook. The same argument has been as long as we have existed. The reason you believe so ardently in either position has less to do w/ ideology but rather genetics and your brain's wiring. Yea, there's patterns of success and failure plus throw in some power/survival threats but essentially you're born with a pre-determined political pole.

Here's where we can all win the survival game..Climate Change!

The good news...anybody alive today has a small risk of really bearing the brunt of the coming disaster on earth. But your grandchildren will definitely suffer the burden of giving up mankind's comfort zones, fear of change, unwillingness to confront the coming death of a lot of our planet zones, mass climate migration and total earth survival war. So make sure your will passes all your guns to them.

Want to fight about something... forget politics, focus on what changes are most valuable to stall the coming end-of-times! Start small, get involved however it seems unchangeable, every contribution add's to the momentum and ignore what your 'Doubting Thomas' neighbor's heckles..just make an effort. Your grandchildren will be the winners.

David Blake

Animal crisis

Dear Editor:
According to CBS News, the number of Coloradans trying to surrender dogs to animal shelters has increased dramatically this year. Yet

instead of offering refuge to animals who have nowhere else to go, many "shelters" are putting out the "no vacancy" sign and refusing to help.

This exponentially worsens the very crisis that shelters should be working to solve. Rejected animals who haven't been sterilized will keep breeding—creating even more animals who have nowhere to go and no one to help them.

This approach also has cruel and deadly outcomes for animals and public safety. In Las Vegas, three dogs were abandoned in the parking lot of a publicly funded animal shelter after it refused to accept them. One dog was run over and so badly injured that he had to be euthanized. In Louisiana, after a publicly funded facility refused to accept a dog, the animal was abandoned in a crate behind a levee on a hot day and died.

In Detroit, where the public animal shelter has been pressured to turn away animals, a man was fatally mauled by roaming dogs. His widow is suing the city and its animal control department, alleging that attempts "... to avoid euthanasia have created a dangerous environment for Detroiters."

Shelters must keep their doors open to every animal in need, and Colorado must focus on prevention, by passing and enforcing comprehensive spay/neuter legislation and offering low- and no-cost sterilization services. These are the humane and effective ways to address this crisis.

Teresa Chagrin
Norfolk, Va.

Keep your hands to yourself

Dear Editor:
Within the past two years of being a parent with children in our school system, a few concerning issues have already arisen. And seeing how the summer is almost over and school will begin shortly, I've found an opportunity to address some issues our children face on a daily basis, especially going back to school. Being a parent is a miracle and a blessing. It is also the most important job in the world because the way we raise our children can have a major impact on the outcome of their adult life, and ultimately a positive or negative impact on our community. Recently,

See Letters A4

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Letters

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Please submit your letter electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted to editor@pagosahun.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.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

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Continued from A3

I've noticed a lack of reminding and reinforcing our children to keep their hands to themselves. I know we can all become consumed within our daily lives of work and social expectations, but because of this, we have become vulnerable to letting our guards down when it comes to the safety and knowing of who is touching our children while we are not around them.

While one analyzes the topic, it can turn scary to sit and ponder who and how many children and/or adults had touched your child that day. One could say, "children touching each other in a playful manner is harmless," but when it leads to boundaries being crossed and private parts being tickled and touched, is when it turns from innocent children playing, to sexual harassment. My biggest reason to write this letter is for hopes it helps prevent a situation that can seemingly be innocent, turning into something terrible which will negatively impact their lives forever. As good sane, sober, moral and prudent parents, we need to protect them by better teaching and reminding our children personal boundaries. Long story short, I've witnessed and had to deal with some disturbing instances with my kids who attend one of these schools. My child was exhibiting disturbing behavior he had learned from other children in class. I witnessed some of this behavior from the children at school first hand. As parents, it is our duty and responsibility to inform our children on the types of touch and which is appropriate and which isn't, in hopes to better protect them.

Unless it's a self defense class that is under adult supervision, no one under ANY circumstances should be touching our children, especially inappropriately. As a proud Father, I am humbly asking for help from all parents and members of the community, as a friendly reminder to help keep our children on track and safe. Talk daily with your child about who touched them that day and you may be saving them from future trauma and/or abuse. Other than saving their life in an emergency situation, none of us should be laying hands on each others children without the proper permission from the parents beforehand, especially in a disciplinary manner. If it's not our child, we need to keep our hands off and lead by example.

Jeremy Gallegos

Understanding Project 2025

Headlines and snippets cannot provide the full picture of a 922-page book. Summaries of Project 2025: Presidential Transition Project, may be correct, but can also be dismissed as cherry-picked or lacking context. If Project 2025 snippets don't concern you, consider the big picture, too. These old adages are useful: the devil's in the details; hiding in plain sight; and death by a thousand cuts. Campaigns have slogans. Governing requires plans and an organization – a blueprint and people who will follow it. The devil's in the details. Project 2025 sets out detailed plans for implementing a conservative agenda, but is it the agenda politicians have advertised to voters in their campaign pledges? Take abortion as an example. Donald Trump says abortion regulation should be left to states. Project 2025 maps out a multi-part national plan for blocking abortion access. In a book that otherwise decries regulation, Project 2025 would bury abortion access through onerous regulation. The strategy is decidedly not the "limited government" approach to personal family matters true conservatives follow.

Or consider agriculture. Here the plan compliments American farmers and asserts they will "continue to flourish" without "unnecessary government intervention." The plan proceeds to reject any Agriculture Department attention to climate change (an "ancillary issue") and dedicates several pages to reforming farm subsidies – which, to me, looks like shorthand for ending them. The plan also takes a swipe at school lunch programs, which apparently now feed too many (hungry?) kids.

All those changes to farm programs are a useful example of hiding in plain sight. The book is written for readers who know specific programs well enough to understand the bureaucratic speak of the authors while sounding somewhat reasonable to the casual reader. Republican backers will say the plan was obvious all along and supported by all of you who vote for Donald Trump. As farms go dry with no support for new crops or kids go hungry, remember they told

you that was the plan all along.

If Congress doesn't end programs Project 2025 rejects, no problem. Just ignore them, drain them of staff and funding, or change them bit-by-bit until they are no longer workable and people give up. That's the motivation for designating thousands of civil servants as "political appointees" who can be fired at the whim of the Office of Personnel Management or agency director. Don't like the authorizing legislation or facts supporting programmatic decisions, no problem. Fire that person and put in a political crony not bothered by facts or the law.

Most troubling, however, are tone and words conjuring battles and armed conflict as legitimate means to implement conservative policy. Legislative action requires compromise, and the demanding work of finding common ground is not in the plan. Project 2025 is not about leadership; it's about takeover. It's the political equivalent of the 1980s Gordon Gekko and billionaire corporate raiders, this time destroying communities for notches in their belts no matter the human cost outside their elite think tanks.

Candace Jones

LPEA election

Dear Editor:

Fellow Electric Coop Members, As a bill paying member of LPEA, you'll receive your ballot to vote for our District 1 LPEA board representative soon. Please vote to re-elect Kirsten to her position.

Kirsten has represented us for two terms, in which she has gained valuable knowledge and experience. She champions transitioning to local renewable energy sources in a practical and measured way. Her imperative is to keep consistent power to all members, with reasonable rates.

The LPEA board has voted to re-configure the source of power coming into the coop. The goal is reducing coal and increasing local renewable sources. This is an important time for experience. Kirsten is passionate about seeing this decision through and guiding the transition as our District 1 Representative. She is a keen thinker. Throughout her 6 years on the board, she has had the opportunity to network at the state and regional level, voted to these positions by her fellow board members; she has been an effective advocate for LPEA.

Kirsten is passionate about transparency; in a time of litigation and non-disclosure agreements, Kirsten is frequently the one asking for information and conversations to be public.

She's our neighbor, our advocate, our friend. Vote for Kristen as soon as you receive your ballot! The envelope already has postage, so no need to find a stamp. You can also drop your ballot off at the Pagosa LPEA office.

Kathy Keyes

Petition regret?

Dear Editor:

Petition Regret? No problem. There's still time to have your signature eliminated from the Petition going around in an attempt to recall County Commissioner Veronica Medina. With the deadline coming up for the Petitioner to submit 1,829 valid voter signatures, the time is now if you'd like to have your name removed from the Petition. If you have reconsidered the cost of a special election costing taxpayers \$37,364, the fact that Medina was overwhelmingly elected by the voters in Archuleta County or you didn't fully understand what you were signing, you can easily have your signature removed from the Petition. Just email or visit the Archuleta County Election office as soon as possible requesting your name be removed. Include your name, the address on your voter registration and the date you signed the

Petition if possible. Your request must be submitted before the signatures are verified by the Clerk's office and that process can begin within days after the Petition is submitted. That could happen any day now. It's that easy. No trying to track down the Petitioner or the Petition you signed. No remorse. No hassle. Better to act now than to wonder if you unintentionally helped break our county government into pieces for no good reason.

Linda Lee

Defining average

Dear Editor:

Like many of my fellow Archuleta County citizens, I read the sensational headline stating that the average home price is up \$100,000. As president of the Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors, I can verify that all of the stats that Mr. Chaney cited were accurate, but I think it's important to understand what it doesn't mean. The reason that the average home price is up isn't because the average home is selling for \$100,000 more than last year. It's because more people than ever before are buying and selling luxury homes and ranches in Pagosa, and these high-dollar homes get lumped in with all homes when calculating average home price.

If you compare apples to apples in our market, the average home in Pagosa (3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, approximately 1500 square feet, situated on less than an acre), prices for the average home have remained incredibly stable. Year to date in 2023 compared to 2024, this average home sold for exactly the same price on average (\$508,000), and the price per square foot only vacillated by \$1 (\$336 per square foot in 2023 vs \$337 per square foot in 2024).

In summary, it's important to distinguish that average home price is not referring to "the average home." If you are looking to buy or sell, you are looking at a market that has remained almost uncannily exact year over year, year to date.

Blue Pitcher Lindner
Editor's note: The above information was not provided to The SUN by the Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors for the article.

Kamala Harris and the media

Dear Editor:

At a June 9th rally in Las Vegas, Trump proposed eliminating the income tax on tips.

Democrats and the media (but I repeat myself) were unimpressed. They claimed it was a bad idea.

On August 10th, at a rally in Las Vegas, (what a coincidence!) Harris proposed the exact same thing.

Democrats and the media screamed with delight at this "dramatic policy initiative."

Which candidate is most likely to enact this change?

It won't be the one who helped enlarge the IRS with 87,000 new agents to go after tip income.

On July 31st, at a rally in Harrisburg, PA, Trump proposed eliminating the income tax on Social Security pensions. Democrats were quick to tell you it was a terrible idea.

What are the odds for how soon Harris copies this proposal too and the democrats and media (but I repeat myself, again) tell us what a wonderfully innovative plan that is?

You just can't trust democrats or the corporate media to be honest. Verify everything.

Harris proved she has no political wisdom when she chose Tim Walz as her VP. Walz is best known for refusing requests to call out the Minnesota National Guard to deal with the Minneapolis Riots in 2020. He let the city burn.

His other claim to fame is install-

ing tampon dispensers in boy's bathrooms. Besides those gems, somehow Team Harris missed his Stolen Valor, or didn't think it important. Bad decision and/or incompetent vetting.

Harris needs no help in Minnesota. It's in the bag. She desperately needs help in holding on to Pennsylvania and could have chosen its popular, moderate governor, Josh Shapiro. She didn't because he is very Jewish, having served in the IDF. That would upset the anti-Semitic AOC/Omar/Talib wing of the party, which is her base. She is gambling that keeping the base intact is more important than winning Pennsylvania and the election.

A former San Francisco homicide prosecutor named Jim Hammer, who worked under Harris, slammed her for striking plea deals with hardened criminals. He wrote in an editorial that Harris "lacked the guts and the willingness to go after tough cases." She was, and remains, soft on crime. Her net zero efforts at controlling the border is proof of that.

The corporate media is trying to memory hole the assassination attempt. So are the Secret Service and FBI. Four weeks after the attempt on Trump's life we still have more questions than answers. Both agencies appear to be stonewalling the investigation. The media is remarkably uncurious about the whole thing.

Why? What happened to "the most transparent administration in history"? I'm not seeing a lot of transparency.

Speaking of transparency, by the time you read this, it will have been 26 days since the democrat elites pulled the nomination from the guy who won it and bestow it on Kamala and she still hasn't had a press conference. Looks like she is copying Joe's basement strategy. Ain't democracy grand?

Barry Smith

Wildfires and climate change

Dear Editor:

This note is written as another point on the "Wildfires" titled note in the Letter section of the paper dated 1 August, 2024. No normally sane person wants out of control wildfires, and the writer correctly states that "Part of the cause is poor forest management...," but then suggests "But the bigger cause is climate change - ..." and after some political posturing further suggests relating to wildfires, "And it could happen here, too, unless we take vigorous actions to combat the climate change that is putting us in danger".

This might be ok to say and use as a rallying cry, but CO2 emissions are a global phenomenon. The US actions related to global climate change have taken our emissions down 21% over 21 years and most accomplished without huge spending initiatives. We are part of a very small set of countries with positive results and we should be commended. But further exorbitant costing CO2 reducing activities taken here in the US would have a minimal

See Letters A5

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Obituaries

Juanita Rivera Baldwin

Juanita Rivera Baldwin, 80, a long-time resident of Pagosa Springs, peacefully went "home" on Aug. 6, 2024, in Tyler, Texas, with her daughter Suzanne and son-in-law Larry at her side. She had been visiting Texas for the last three years.



Juanita was born on May 29, 1944, in Arboles, Colo., to Juan Teodoro and Margarita Carrillo Rivera.

She and her family lived in Allison until 1958, when they moved to Pagosa Springs. She met and married the love of her life, her viejo, Gary Louis Baldwin, on Feb. 9, 1974, and together they raised four children. She loved spending time with her family and friends, going to church, crocheting, sewing, cooking and being outdoors in the mountains. She loved her summer visits to Texas. If you knew Juanita, you knew she loved listening to music, especially Elvis.

Juanita has humbly joined the love of her life, Gary Louis Baldwin; her parents, Juan Teodoro and Margarita Rivera; her brothers, Ike Rivera, Raymond Rivera and Ted Rivera; her sisters, Pilar Martinez, Fabiola Rivas and Alexandra "Sandra" Martinez.

Juanita leaves behind her four children: Charles Martinez and Jean, of Pagosa Springs; Suzanne Martinez Reeves and Larry, of Mabank, Texas; Tina Baldwin, of Aztec, N.M.; and Louis Baldwin and Bryan, of Thornton, Colo.; and her five grandchildren: Nacona Chavez and DJ, of Pagosa

Springs; Cory Reeves, of Houston, Texas; Adam Reeves and Madison, of Odessa, Texas; Sara Reeves and Mason, of Gun Barrel City, Texas; and Haley Lyda, of Aztec, N.M.; and her seven great-grandchildren: Aniya, Kylie and Rylan Chavez, of Pagosa Springs; Saylor and Marshall Blaser, of Gun Barrel City, Texas; Conor and Penelope Reeves, of Odessa, Texas; and her sister, Dolores Gurule, of Pagosa Springs; her sister in law, Dora Rivera, of Durango, Colo.; and numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Juanita's funeral will take place at a later date in Pagosa Springs. She will be missed by many.

Charles Wayne Kuehler Sr. (Wayne)

Family and friends will miss Wayne's beautiful smile, sparkling green eyes, easy-going manner and sense of humor that won him friends wherever he went. Wayne passed away at home in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on Aug. 3, 2024, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. He was born on Oct. 5, 1942, in Houston, Texas, to Beulah Jane Hill Kuehler and Louis Nicholas Kuehler. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, brother (Louis Nicholas Kuehler Jr.) and son (Charles Wayne Kuehler Jr., "Charlie"). Wayne's remaining beloved family includes his wife, Annee Gisler Kuehler; daughter, Debbie L. Shaddox; grandchildren, Charles W.



Kuehler III (Bubba), Christal Dawn Kuehler, Hayley Kerr Bush and Taylor Shaddox Rubins; and nine great-grandchildren.

As a young boy, his family briefly lived above a honky tonk bar that they owned in Pasadena, Texas, and Wayne learned to love classic country music. After graduating from La Porte High School, Wayne served in the National Guard for nine years. Wayne's first marriage was to Mary Williams (Steinhauer) in 1963, and they had two children, Debbie and Charlie.

He met the love of his life, Annee, in 1991 on a ski trip to Steamboat Springs, Colo. They were together for 29 years and were married on March 13, 2004.

Wayne worked for Delta Airlines for 23 years, forming a group of life-long friends. One of the highlights of his career with Delta occurred when he first joined Delta and was working the night shift. An elderly gentleman showed up and asked how he liked working for Delta. Wayne learned later that the gentleman was C. F. Woolman, the founder of Delta Airlines.

Wayne was a true outdoorsman and a natural athlete. He hunted and fished from an early age. He enjoyed saltwater wade fishing and, later, fly-fishing. He became an excellent tennis player and an avid skier. In retirement he took up golf, perfecting his game and becoming a marshal at the Pagosa Springs golf course.

Wayne and Annee discovered Pagosa Springs in 1991, eventually moving there to live and building their dream log home in the Blanco Basin. They could often be seen hiking with their beloved black Labrador retrievers. Wayne developed a close group of friends through golf and through his membership in the Knights of Columbus at the John Paul II Catholic Church.

A memorial Mass and interment will held on Aug. 31, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Pope John Paul II Catholic Community in Pagosa Springs. For Family and friends unable to attend, live streaming of the memorial Mass can be viewed online at: ihmjp2.org. Click on live stream.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs in Wayne's honor.

Heather Marie Wheeler

Heather Marie Wheeler — 4/12/1981 to 8/8/2024. Heather was a beautiful person inside and out. She loved her family and friends dearly. She was the strongest and most giving of anyone that I've ever known. Heather worked hard and played even harder. If she wasn't hustling for her family, she was in a crowd of people making them laugh. Heather was family-oriented and she talked to people, and family if she didn't do anything else. She will be missed greatly by many. I believe we could have used a little more time with her, that's for sure.



Heather is survived by her sisters: Holly Dominguez, Hiedie Wheeler, Elaine Pickering and Rasha Lewis; brothers: Bryan Wheeler, Brett Wheeler; children: Dakota Wheeler, Cameron Wheeler, Devin Wheeler, Hayden Harrell; and many, many others.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father: Anne and Ervin Wheeler; and sisters: Mary Wheeler and Linda Wheeler.



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Letters

Continued from A4

effect on the overall world position of CO2 while penalizing the citizens here disproportionately.

The following brief table is taken from the data in the IEA50 2023 statistics summarizing country emission reports from 2021. The three countries shown represent the top 52% of the world CO2 emitters:

USA: 4,549 Mt CO2, down 21% since 2000, 13.6% of global emissions
China: 10,649 Mt CO2, up 244% since 2000, 31.7% of global emissions
India: 2,279Mt CO2, up 156% since 2000, 6.8% of global emissions

The issue with just focusing on the US is we are already moving in the right direction. Some might say not fast enough, but even going down another 25% wouldn't change the world CO2 emissions outcome, as both China and India have further ambitions and expected growth in power generation resulting in greater CO2 positions for decades to come. Wind, solar, nuclear, and other clean energy solutions should also be pursued, but only when the technology works effectively and economically and importantly when the required subsidies are reasonable.

If as an individual you want to lower CO2 emissions then stop buying products from nations that have the majority of their power produced from coal fired power generation. Also, do your own research about the amount of power consumed by AI generated requests and the stress it will put on our electric grids for years to come. Average energy usage for an AI request is 20-25 times more than a conventional internet search. In other words choose, choose a fit for purpose search solution.

Thanks and Godspeed

Mike Swenson

The honeymoon

Dear Editor:

Seventy-seven years ago this month, Bob and I pledged our love and our lives together forever. We

were ages 19 and 20, fell in love at ages 16 and 17. four days before he left for the Navy, serving in the Pacific to end WWII. When we decided to marry, because he was under the age of 21, his father had to sign a legal paper approving of our marriage before we could get our license!

We heard that Oklahoma City had just opened an Amusement Park that sounded like fun. An Uncle loaned us his car and away we went for our Honeymoon. We had fun, of course, and we heard that a nearby Hotel had a Ballroom for dancing—decided to see if they would let us in. They did and seated us at a table for two right beside the dance floor. Gee, everything was great! I ordered a soda and Bob ordered a beer. No problem until he ordered a second beer and I was afraid he would not be "fit" to drive us back to our Motel and I had not yet learned to drive! Whew! God took care of us and we made it back OK. Yes, cute memories from when we thought we were grown up. Then, how did we celebrate our first Wedding Anniversary? Wow! My dearest brought me and our first-born home from the hospital to our upstairs ga-

rage apartment, a joyful occasion! He presented to me a cup cake with one candle on it Our love lasted a lifetime until his body could no longer serve him and God sent Christ to take him home to enjoy love forevermore.

Life without him for over six years has been lonely but loving memories have kept me going. My life has been very blessed by our three loving children who now are grandparents themselves, all living lives of goodness, of Course.

God's blessings continue,
Patty Tillerson

Vivian Smotherman

Dear Editor:

As a concerned voter in this district, I'm writing to express my strong support for Vivian Smotherman running for Senate District 6 in the upcoming election. Our community needs a representative who truly understands and advocates for our needs. Unfortunately, Cleave Simpson has consistently voted against the interests of his constituents, and it's time for a change.

For example, Simpson voted against HB24-1098, which would have required a valid cause for eviction, leaving many tenants vulnerable. He also opposed HB24-1037, a bill that would have expanded harm reduction services for those struggling with substance use disorders—a critical issue in our rural communities. Additionally, his votes against the "Right to Repair" legislation for agriculture have hurt local farmers by making it harder for them to maintain and repair their own equipment, forcing them to rely on expensive, manufacturer-authorized services.

In contrast, Vivian Smotherman has a clear vision for our district's future. She is committed to addressing wildfire risks, improving infrastructure, and supporting working families. Her focus on creating real opportunities for growth and well-being in our community is exactly what we need in the State Senate.

We deserve a leader who will fight for us, not against us. That's why I'm voting for Vivian Smotherman, and I urge my neighbors to do the same.

Harrison Wendt
Durango, Colo.

Thanks

Hide-away RV

I would like to thank the people at The Hide-away RV Park that assisted me on Tuesday night, July 30 after I collided with a deer across from the park. Thank you for being kind and a good neighbor. Thanks also to State Patrol Officer Guinn as well.

Doug McKelvie

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Business

Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission adopts deep geothermal rules

Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission

On Monday, the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC) adopted deep geothermal operations rules.

This is the first rollout of comprehensive standards to facilitate geothermal energy development following the expansion of the ECMC's focus into energy and carbon management projects beyond oil and gas under Senate Bill 23-285, a law signed by Gov. Jared Polis.

"Colorado has incredible low-cost renewable energy resources like geothermal that can help reduce emissions and save Coloradans money. With the first ever comprehensive standards for permitting Deep Geothermal and ECMC's recent Geothermal Resources Study, Colorado is poised to leverage this clean, re-

newable energy resource," said Polis. "Colorado's geothermal resources can help us meet our clean air and clean energy goals. Geothermal energy can play an integral role in powering the way Coloradans live, work and play, and will help future generations."

The Geothermal Resources Study can be found at https://ecmc.state.co.us/documents/library/GTCC-SUNGS/Geothermal_in_Colorado_Accessible.pdf.

The new standards offer a path to develop Colorado's geothermal resources and incorporate the ECMC's expertise and experience regulating both surface and subsurface energy development activity to be protective of public health, safety and welfare, including the environment and wildlife resources.

"ECMC is proud to have adopted the state's first deep geothermal rules, and having done so in an inclusive

process, with diverse stakeholders" said ECMC Chair Jeff Robbins. "These first-ever rules leverage ECMC's strengths in regulating in a manner protective of public health, safety, welfare, wildlife and the environment."

The standards demonstrate the ECMC staff's strengths in evaluating and permitting surface locations while working with local governments and disproportionately impacted communities to have meaningful input at all points along the permitting process.

The rulemaking also leveraged the ECMC staff's extensive expertise in regulating wellbore construction to be safe and protective, including subsurface injection activities, and in protecting subsurface property rights.

Deep geothermal energy is an emerging industry in Colorado that can utilize hot water and rock in deep subsurface formations to produce

electric power and/or for direct heating uses.

Colorado has several areas with higher than normal temperatures in the subsurface.

These resources are mostly undeveloped and have vast potential for future energy development and heat use. Geothermal energy provides a reliable, clean energy source that decreases Colorado's reliance on fossil fuels.

About the ECMC

The mission of the ECMC is to regulate the development and production of the natural resources of oil and gas, deep geothermal resources, the capture and sequestration of carbon, and the underground storage of natural gas in a manner that protects public health, safety, welfare, the environment and wildlife resources.

Visit the ECMC website, ecmc.state.co.us, for more information.

Taking advantage of business resources

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

This week there were two great opportunities to garner information to help you start or grow your business.

The Chamber hosted three days of marketing training covering topics such as website development and presence, social media and marketing, and AI tricks and tools.

Startup Colorado also produced a weeklong training opportunity called the West Slope Startup Week. This training was held in Durango Aug. 12-16 and was a week's worth of incredible learning opportunities including marketing tips, financial resources, website and brand development, franchising, and so much more.

Did you attend any of these classes? Did you know we worked with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation to help get people registered for CDL, or commercial driver's license, training? Were you able to take advantage of QuickBooks trainings and consultations that we

offered recently in conjunction with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC)? Do you need assistance with starting your business, growing your business, understanding your financials, marketing skills, financial assistance, community data or even an exit strategy?

The Chamber and our partners have many options to assist you. Start with the Chamber. Talking to us first may help alleviate some of the hurdles of finding the right person or organization to speak with. You may have some basic questions that are easy to answer and we can do that for you.

Even if you are a nonprofit and are looking for grant opportunities, through our work with philanthropic agencies, grant writers and our local industry, we can help point you in the right direction or answer some questions on grant opportunities.

What about financial assistance? One of the most common questions we get is if there are grants out there for businesses. We can vet what your needs are, the type of business you are and then give you some resources to follow up with.

Even if you have been a Chamber member for years, have you attended a monthly Maximizing Your Membership class? Do you know the organizations that the Chamber is affiliated with that can help you? Through organizations such as Club 20, Region 9 and the state Chamber of Commerce, we are also able to voice concerns from our businesses or our general community while also garnering information that affects Archuleta County. These partnerships help our business community.

Do you know how one simple tool, like knowing your "InfoHub" account, can make your Chamber membership life easier? This class is free to members or businesses that are thinking of joining the Chamber.

Later this year the Chamber will be offering two Starting Your Business classes — one in English and one in Spanish. This class will cover the basics of starting a business, including resources to help you, general guidelines on business setup, state and local licensing, financial resources, accounting basics, and more. Stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, two important resources are the Southwest SBDC and Region 9.

The SBDC can get you partnered with a mentor to help you on a particular aspect of your business. Region 9 can help you with data and financial assistance. The SBDC comes to Pagosa frequently for free consultations, and many of the follow-up sessions are also at no cost. Region 9 also comes to Pagosa and an appointment can be scheduled with that organization.

The Chamber can help point you in the right direction and vet some of your questions simplifying your business inquiries. The Chamber is more than just a producer of events. We are focused on helping our businesses work smarter, be more successful or help them through trying times.

However, your business needs to reach out and that process is simple. Contact Mary Jo at the Chamber at director@pagosachamber.com or at (970) 264-2360. All sessions are confidential.

Chamber members receive the Chamber's weekly Updates and Reminders. Our classes and those of our partners are listed. Read the updates to know when educational opportunities are held. The Chamber also uses our community's media resources to help spread the word.

Help us help you. Reach out if you have a question or need a resource. We love to connect people to the right resource, and we want to help make your job easier and less daunting.

The easiest part of starting the inquiry process is to reach out to your Chamber of Commerce.

State awards Region 9 funds for economic development professional capacity building

By Laura Lewis Marchino
Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado will receive \$34,000 through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Rural Economic Development Initiative grant program to support training and data platforms that strengthen the skills of the region's economic development professionals.

The funds will leverage Region 9's quarterly educational and training opportunities rotated throughout the region that support stability at the organizational level by strengthening the skills of economic development professionals holding these

positions, many without formal training.

Participants, which include economic development professionals, grant writers and funding partners, implement the knowledge gained from these trainings directly in their communities, building the entrepreneurial landscape and resilient, diversified economies.

"Growing and retaining talent in economic development is an important but often overlooked or unattainable endeavor for small, rural communities," said Heather Otter, economic development project manager for Region 9. "These events provide space and time to learn, brainstorm, celebrate, lament, update and collaborate on

all the good work we do in our communities."

Laura Lewis Marchino, executive director for Region 9, agreed, stating, "Having stable organizations result in more direct support for communities, ensuring the same people are more likely to take on a project from beginning to end. When there is turnover in ED staff, the progress on an initiative or project can be lost."

Please contact Region 9 at (970) 247-9621 or www.region9edd.org for more information.

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Commissioners discuss airport water line upgrades

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Stevens Field, Archuleta County's airport, is in need of a new water supply line and multiple new fire hydrants in order to meet fire flow requirements, according to Jace Johnson, head of airport maintenance.

Johnson gave a presentation to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) during a work session held on Aug. 13, explaining there is a need for a water line upgrade to increase water pressure and allow for more hangar expansion.

Johnson explained that the work is needed for more hangers to be constructed along the bravo taxiway and that the two fire hydrants currently located along the taxiway do not meet the required fire flow set by the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD).

Fire flow refers to the minimum volume of water that must be available per minute from fire hydrants in order to be able to combat a fire in the area.

He noted that the two fire hydrants currently do not meet that requirement and one hydrant at a time produces roughly 830 gallons per minute (gpm). A flow of 1,500 gpm from each hydrant is needed in order to be in compliance with PFPD, Johnson noted.

Johnson mentioned that the airport is "well below where we need to be" in relation to fire flows.

He added that the airport is "kind of at a stopping spot" in terms of constructing new hangars due to not being able to provide sufficient fire flows.

"We really don't have adequate fire suppression for the current, existing hangars," Johnson said.

The bravo taxiway is approximately one-third of a mile long and currently has 58 hangars lining it, with the two hydrants approximately 525 feet apart, Johnson explained.

The PFPD would like to see the hydrants placed no more than 450 feet apart, he added.

Johnson explained that future hangars constructed could also require a stronger fire flow.

He noted that the PFPD requires the 1,500 gpm to flow for a minimum

of two hours.

The existing fire hydrants are currently tied into a 6-inch water line that passes through the airport and extends to the east side of the bravo taxiway, serving the Piedra Estates and The Knolls subdivisions, Johnson explained.

Johnson explained that he began looking into this project last October and has worked with Durango-based company Plummer to have a water model performed that predicts the outcomes of different water line upgrades on the rest of the system.

Johnson noted the county previously approved the funds for the water model to be conducted, which totaled \$6,253.

Johnson explained that the proposal is to have five fire hydrants installed, including reusing the existing two, to serve the current hangars with an additional two hydrants included in the design for expansion.

"A road boar must be performed to get the new line under Piedra Road," he said, explaining that a new water line would tie into an existing 10-inch water line that runs along the west side of Piedra Road.

The new water line would extend onto the airport's property running along Condor Drive, he added.

Johnson also mentioned the construction would need to navigate existing water, sewer and gas lines, "which could be problematic."

The water model determined that a "deadhead" pipeline may not achieve the required fire flow rates, Johnson mentioned, explaining a deadhead pipeline means that the water line would not tie back into the rest of the water system and would only serve the airport's fire hydrants.

If a 10-inch line is connected to the existing 6-inch line, "adequate fire flow should be achieved at all proposed hydrants," Johnson said.

He explained that if both lines are connected, neighboring subdivisions could see increases of upward of 220 gpm depending on elevation, noting the water system in that area is a "gravity-fed system."

Johnson explained that he met with Davis Engineering, who prepared preliminary and construction engineering proposals for the county to review.

He noted the proposal was broken

into three segments: preliminary engineering, costing \$8,000; design engineering, costing \$10,750; and construction engineering, costing \$17,500 — totaling \$36,250.

Johnson also explained that County Manager Jack Harper suggested having exploratory boring conducted along the proposed water line route to better help determine the rock and soil composition of the area.

A proposal from Trautner Geotech for the boring of five 7-foot deep holes along the route is listed at a cost of \$3,400, Johnson indicated, noting that if rocks are present then the project will likely increase in costs.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented he is considering how this helps improve fire suppression at the airport and improve flows in the adjacent neighborhoods.

"I'm not against increasing the fire flow," Maez said, adding that he would like to see the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) "put some skin in the game" by contributing to the project as well.

He also mentioned the PFPD could also be willing to contribute to funding the project, noting that these improvements would benefit the community as a whole.

"It helps improve everything," Maez added, saying he would like to have more joint conversations with PAWSD and the PFPD.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that he is "not opposed to increasing hangar leases" to help fund the project.

Brown noted that he'd be in favor of raising the fees "a bit," but not "substantially" from the current rate of \$1,500 per year.

Airport Manager Chris Torres explained that receiving funding from the state is a possibility, but that he would need "final numbers" on the actual cost of the project in order to apply for grant funding.

"We have a good chance of getting some funding from the state," Torres said.

Maez commented that a joint effort between the county, PAWSD and the PFPD would likely increase the chance of receiving grant funding from the state.

Harper explained that in order to go after grant funding, the county first needs to move forward with having

the preliminary engineering, design and construction proposals.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that the county needs to spend roughly \$40,000 for the preliminary proposals to become eligible for future funding.

She then asked what the financial benefit would be to the county from the project, to which Torres stated that the county could see more hangar leases and increased fuel sales.

Brown expressed that the county needs to act on this to address public safety concerns.

"Now that we are aware that this is an issue, I believe we have an amount of obligation to fix it before there is an issue that comes about," he said, "because if we know it exists and we don't do anything to correct the issue, then I think the county certainly could be left holding the bag in a number of ways."

The commissioners turned to County Attorney Todd Weaver for insight on how the county could be liable if an incident were to occur at the airport.

Weaver explained that it would depend on a number of factors and that, without a "specific factual scenario," he is unable to say one way or the other.

Development Director Pam Flowers suggested the idea of creating an improvement district that could take on this project and potentially other future projects.

"I like the way you're thinking there because it does improve a lot of the public interest in it," Maez responded, mentioning the residents of Piedra Estates and The Knolls neighborhoods, saying, "They're all taxpayers, too."

The three commissioners agreed to direct staff to gather the information needed to move forward with the project, with Medina indicating the item could be placed on the BoCC's regular meeting agenda scheduled for Aug. 20.

Harper noted that the amount of funds being requested is within his signing authority as county manager.

"I look at it from the public safety side," Maez said, mentioning his experience as a firefighter responding to scenes without adequate water sources. "We need the fire flows."

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County attorney elaborates on county manager hire, next steps on property purchase

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

In an Aug. 7 email received after press time, Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver elaborates on the recommendations of county department heads and elected officials regarding which candidate to select as county manager in the county's recently completed manager selection process.

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners voted in a 2-1 vote to select Jack M. Harper II as county manager following an executive session at its Aug. 6 meeting.

Weaver also discusses the county's next steps concerning the potential purchase of a property near South Pagosa Boulevard and U.S. 160 for the construction of a county administration building after the Archuleta

County Board of County Commissioners tabled a letter of intent and purchase and sale agreement for the property at its Aug. 6 meeting.

The SUN requested comments from Commissioner Veronica Medina and Commissioner Ronnie Maez on both topics, but did not receive responses prior to press time for the Aug. 8 issue of The SUN.

In his email, Weaver notes that he is providing answers to these questions at the request of Commissioner Veronica Medina.

Weaver explains that, in an Aug. 6 executive session, the BoCC heard a summary of the views expressed by county elected officials and department heads following their July 29 interviews with the two finalists for the county manager, Harper and Richard Bellis.

"Some were in favor of one, others

were in favor of the other and some were in favor of neither," Weaver states. "I do not believe there was a consensus for any one option."

He adds that he cannot elaborate more on the issue due to the matter being discussed in executive session.

On the topic of the property purchase, Weaver states, "During the second part of the executive session, the Commissioners expressed a few concerns regarding the property across from the Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Since I was appointed the negotiator for this transaction, I will discuss those concerns with the developer's representative to see if they can be addressed."

He adds that, due to this also being discussed in executive session, he cannot provide further details.

josh@pagosahun.com

Chip seal operations set to take place between Pagosa Springs and Bayfield

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Chip seal operations on U.S. 160 between Bayfield and Pagosa Springs are anticipated to begin next week.

Work was originally anticipated to begin on the stretch on Aug. 14, but weather over the chip seal project west of Durango have delayed the work between Bayfield and Pagosa, according to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

"The recent monsoon rains have put a hamper on the chip seal progress west of Durango," Adair Christensen, Region 5 communications specialist wrote in an email to The SUN. "If the weather cooperates the section between Mancos and Durango will likely be completed by the end of this week and crews will begin chip sealing east of Bayfield early next week."

According to CDOT, since July 29, approximately 15 miles of U.S. 160 have been resurfaced between Mancos and Durango. The chip seal surface must cure for 14 days, then the roadway will receive permanent striping.

2-mile sections a day toward Bayfield, according to the agency.

CDOT notes that there will be single-lane alternating traffic operations and a pilot car, with the speed limit reduced to 40 mph in the work zone.

A travel advisory notes motorists should plan ahead and expect up to 20-minute delays.

Construction schedules could change depending on the weather, the agency notes.

Driving through chip seal projects

According to CDOT, travelers are urged to:

- Slow down: Higher speeds can cause loose stones to scatter, and damage vehicle paint and windshields.
- Increase distance between vehicles: Space between you and other vehicles will help reduce damage caused by loose stones.
- Follow work zone signage: Use caution and consider worker safety when traveling through a work zone.

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1135 Park Avenue, Unit 401
\$619,000

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1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$995,000

MLS # 813551

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

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Cloman Industrial Park
\$390,000

MLS # 807337

.68 Acre, 1500 sq. ft. commercial building located in Cloman Industrial Park. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BTU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/2453RunningHorse>



2453 Running Horse Place
\$2,400,000

MLS # 813104

35.2 Acres with a guest house and set up for horses. The property comes with an extra workshop/garage, a growing dome, a round pen, 3 stall + barn and numerous out buildings. The main house is 5,141 sq. ft. and the guest house is 2,028 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/247DavisCup>



247 Davis Cup Drive, Unit 4258
\$355,000

MLS # 811750

Great condo with the primary bedroom on the main level and a second spacious bedroom on the second level. Updated kitchen with granite countertops and newer appliances. 2 beds/3 baths with 1,345 sq. ft.

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Firearms

Continued from front

The summary also notes, "The act includes exceptions for law enforcement officers, members of the United States armed forces or Colorado National Guard, security personnel, persons carrying as part of the lawful and common practices of a legal proceeding, and persons who hold a permit to carry a concealed handgun (concealed carry permit) who are carrying a concealed handgun in an adjacent parking area. The act permits a local government to enact a law permitting carrying at a local government building included in the act."

According to the General Assembly's summary, the act prohibits a person from "knowingly carrying a firearm, both openly and concealed, on the property of a child care center, other than a family child care home, that is licensed by the department of early childhood or is exempt from licensing pursuant to state law, and that operates with stated educational

purposes (licensed child care center); public or private elementary, middle, junior high, high, or vocational school; or any public or private college, university, or seminary (higher education institution), with exceptions."

The act maintains existing exceptions for carrying firearms on public school property and "adds exceptions for concealed carry permit holders carrying in the parking area of a licensed child care center or higher education institution; security personnel at a licensed child care center or higher education institution; and for a licensed child care center that is on the same property as another building or improvement, carrying a firearm in an area that is not designated as a licensed child care center," the summary states.

The summary also notes that existing law prohibits carrying a firearm within any polling location or within 100 feet of a ballot drop box.

Maez indicated that he is a concealed weapons carrier himself.

He also noted that if the county chooses to opt out, that would not apply to government buildings in the Town of Pagosa Springs.

Maez also mentioned that if the county chooses to opt out, he would like to see it be done through an ordinance rather than a resolution, noting the county should first gather more information and get legal advice on its options.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that people who commit crimes don't care about laws.

"Would we by, in effect, be removing maybe the only ability we have to protect ourselves?" he asked. "I'm not sure that it's the state Legislature's worry to decide how Archuleta County provides security within our own building."

Brown indicated that he is open to more conversations on the topic.

Weaver indicated that an ordinance could be drafted to address specific scenarios.

Brown indicated that his understanding is that there are currently no exemptions, including law enforcement.

"I think if you got a concealed weapons permit, it oughta be fine," Maez said, noting that people who are unlawful "do the bad things."

Weaver indicated that he will be reaching out to other counties that have opted out to see what kind of options there are.

Commissioner Veronica Medina mentioned she would like to see an ordinance as well, noting that resolutions can sometimes just be done as a "feel good" thing with no enforceable action.

"It's just one of those little things... take a little here, take a little there and pretty soon they've taken it all," Maez said.

In a later interview, Weaver indicated the item will likely not go before the BoCC at a regular meeting until sometime in September.

Impacts

Continued from front

She explained the letter basically agrees to "some different terms so that initiatives 50 and 108 don't move forward."

She explained that a special session will still be required to keep the initiatives from moving forward, "which is not the best outcome, because we don't know what we're going to get."

She explained that last time the committee was promised initiatives 50 and 108 would be taken off.

"That didn't happen," she said. Medina explained that the CCI tax and finance committee has agreed to some other terms.

"It still does not help those counties who have not de-Bruced, so we still, Archuleta County, would not receive any backfill," she added.

She explained that the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR, would stay in effect for the county.

"CCI will be sending out a letter, and I would like to be able to say, 'Yes, the commissioners, Archuleta County agrees with it and we would like to sign our name to it,' or we don't and just see how many counties move forward," Medina said.

She noted that during the commit-

tee meeting, the suggestion was well received by most counties.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that most counties in Colorado are already de-bruced, noting Archuleta County is one of maybe four counties that is not de-bruced and still under TABOR.

Archuleta County previously de-bruced for a five-year period, but a ballot question asking voters to extend that in perpetuity failed.

According to The Bell Policy Center, de-brucing is "the act of eliminating government spending limit and allowing that government to retain and spend all of the revenue it collects under existing tax rates."

The revenue cap is part of TABOR and reduces the state's ability to raise revenue and invest more funding into the priorities that Coloradans care about, The Bell Policy Center suggests.

Maez also noted that a portion of revenues generated from property taxes is retained by the state.

"So that hurts us. So, it doesn't come back into this county right now as it sits," Maez said.

Medina commented that if the initiatives go through, "it will hurt us more."

"It will hurt us a lot more," Maez

added.

Maez commented that the county needs to de-Bruce regardless of if the initiatives pass or not.

"We still need to do both, I think," he said. "If they pass, we're screwed, and if they don't, we're still screwed and we're still losing money."

Medina explained that the initiatives do not solely affect counties, and that the initiatives affect other taxing entities as well, such as fire and EMS districts.

"It affects more than just us," she said.

Maez noted that Archuleta School District and Pagosa Fire Protection District are currently de-bruced.

Medina noted that Initiatives 50 and 108 will still affect those entities "negatively," despite being de-bruced. Commissioner Warren Brown noted that the initiatives would cap the entities' tax rate at 4 percent.

"This was dirty pool, in my opinion," Brown added.

He explained that when the CCI board reviewed the presented legislation, "we were very clearly told that 108 and 50 would come off the books if we supported a different bill."

"It's not unlike standard governmental writings, just what you see in

the first paragraph is pretty, but the further you read the uglier it gets," Brown said.

He indicated that he is personally in support of CCI's effort to have the initiatives removed.

"I would like to sign onto it," Medina said.

Maez also commented that he is not opposed to signing on.

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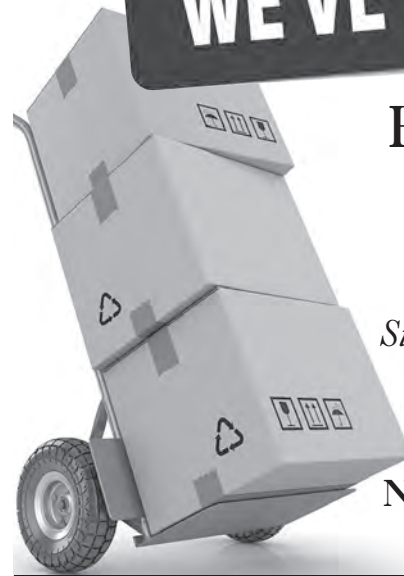
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Response

Continued from front

PPFD board member James Martin added that there is "no benefit" to those outside the district joining it currently since they receive full service and do not have to pay taxes or fees to it.

"The fees would create an 'incentive' for those outside the district to want to join it, he commented.

Bertram noted that the district would not be including the income from out-of-district response fees in its 2025 budget.

"We're not looking at it as a revenue source," Bertram said. "It's trying to solve a problem that's been around for many years."

He added that the district has previously considered imposing fees for out-of-district responses.

"There's a number of ways to approach it, I'm sure. The question is what's the easiest one," Martin said.

Hooper commented that the board discussed the topic extensively at its last meeting and that he did not need to go over the concerns expressed at that meeting again.

"I understand your concerns, but, at this point, how do you get past the fact that this service is being provided now and there's no incentive for them to move forward?" Martin asked.

Hooper replied that one of his major concerns was that, when talking to residents about the fees, he heard a substantial number state that they would not call the PFPD if a fire occurred due to the potential costs.

"You can't force people to call," Lat-tin said.

Hooper commented that he has a

"moral" issue with this potentially occurring and that he would "vote my conscience."

Martin expressed hope that implementing the out-of-district response fees would create an incentive for those outside the district to join.

Beckman commented that Bertram and Ross stated that the district was not obliged to hold any public hearings on imposing the fees and that he felt that it had been sufficiently communicated to the public.

"We went above and beyond two times," Beckman said, referring to the district's outreach efforts.

Hooper commented that PFPD staff did a "good job" in performing outreach to the public concerning the fees.

"I hope this may be a stepping stone to a solution," Martin said.

The board then voted on the fee

schedule changes, with Beckman, Latin, Foster and Martin voting in support and Hooper opposing the changes.

In an interview, Bertram explained that the out-of-district response fees are based on the Colorado Resource Rate Form (CRRF) and Colorado Fire Billing System fees.

He stated that the CRRF and the Colorado Fire Billing System are frequently changing sets of rates for equipment and staff time that are used across the state to bill expenses when one fire district provides resources to another district, such as during a wildfire response or other large emergency.

According to the fee schedule approved by the board, apparatus used in out-of-district responses will be billed following CRRF rates, while staff time will be billed according to the rates used in the Colorado Fire Billing System.

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Coverage

Continued from front
you may or may not know, we're in the very southwest corner and we're a pretty small community of only about 14,000 people. However, we have a ... large of number of visitors to our community, and this is pretty much year-round now. It used to be more seasonal, but it's not."

Brown continued that, with Archuleta County, until recently there were two cell tower sites — Reservoir Hill and Oak Brush Hill — which are line-of-sight towers.

"And, so, it was pretty challenging and still is. We are very mountainous — we have very high mountains, low valleys and some ... very hard-to-reach areas, and we understand in this kind of rural setting that these are some challenges that we have. So, we have diligently been working in bringing better cellphone coverage to our community. We installed a monopole in a community about 10 miles away from Pagosa Springs called Aspen Springs, and it helped a little bit."

Brown also noted that a tower was put up within the limits of the Town of Pagosa Springs on Bastille Drive.

"There was a little bit of a change there, and then we put up a tower on Cloman Boulevard, which is just outside the town limits."

Brown acknowledged the site names likely didn't mean anything to the committee members, but added, "We understand there is a shortfall in our cellphone service, and the life, safety and health of our community very much depends upon having continued service. It's not unusual that our 911 service goes down, as was stated in the previous presentation. Most of our 911 calls come from cellphones, and it's not unusual to experience a fiber cut and, when fiber goes down, our cellphone coverage goes down."

Brown noted that is "particularly concerning" in search-and-rescue settings and other types of incidents.

He further added Hinsdale County installed a 150-foot pole that has helped the immediate area of the tower, which was previously a big dead spot, but they are still working to make improvements.

"We're trying to attract providers to put ... cellphone service up on a tower at our county-owned road and bridge yard. This would provide service for our local fairgrounds and a number of events," he said.

Brown noted that more than 60,000 visited and attended the Fourth of July Parade.

According to a report provided to The SUN by Placer and Visit Pagosa Springs, more than 63,000 people visited Archuleta County between July 3 and July 7.

"Even with good cellphone ser-

vice, arguably, this will put it to the test, and it's hard to get a call out," Brown said.

Brown noted other neighboring communities experience many of the same things on a regular basis.

"I think one of the biggest challenges that we have, as I understand it, is because we're a smaller community, we deal with fewer backhaul capabilities," he said. "And, because of this limited resource, oftentimes we are limited to a single provider that has the ability based upon their size of the company to provide this service."

Brown added that, unlike some of the larger communities, oftentimes the providers looking at a cell tower will request or require that there is fiber to the towers, which is not always possible and sometimes a microwave service has to be used.

"It's limiting us, but it's ... gradually getting better as we go down the line," Brown said, adding there is disparity between the private partners who are looking at profit and the county, which is looking at life, health and safety. "But, I think what we're looking for is a better marriage and partnership that we can come up with so we have more consistent and reliable service to our community."

Bell followed by discussing Fremont County's broadband challenges.

Salka highlighted successes within the southwest region on broadband, pointing out those successes mean telemedicine, not having to use public Internet for homework, and cell use, including calling 911.

He also further discussed cell issues in Archuleta and La Plata counties.

"I do want to stress a little bit more than what Commissioner Brown stated," Salka said. "Archuleta County has been down three times in a matter of not just a couple hours — days — within one year, and that was due to a fiber cut in La Plata County along one of our county roads. And what does that mean? Nobody with a hard line or a cellphone was able to call 911 ... so there was no connection anywhere."

Salka added his focus in La Plata County, as well as in working with Archuleta County and others, has been redundancy.

He further spoke about the high-speed Internet access the work is creating and the access to emergency services.

Salka also addressed concerns with 811 — the number to call to have underground utilities marked before digging.

"That is a major concern that Archuleta County and La Plata County have been working on — to be able to get in front of the [Public Utilities Commission] to be able to explain the concerns that we have," Salka told the committee. "What happens here with Lumen/CenturyLink is that we — for the example of why Archuleta County went down — was we put in a work order to put in new guard rails along our county road. They put the call in, nobody shows up. They put the call again, nobody shows up. Then legally we're able to proceed and move forward on that work since there was no comment on if there was a fiber connection nearby or any other type of connection. And so that proceeded and that's what broke through the fiber line to [bring] down all of Archuleta County."

Salka added 811 needs updates or attention "to make sure that what we

have in the ground is there or not there so we can proceed doing work needed."

Salka also noted that he is hearing from La Plata County residents about a planned cell tower, explaining that they're concerned about the location and possible health implications, but that all he can comment on is aesthetics and location, and if a provider can prove that is the only location benefiting them for their service, there's not much the commissioners can say.

"So, if we can give counties a little bit more of a leg to stand on to have a little bit more of a voice on cell towers ... I would really appreciate that," he said.

Salka summed up by emphasizing the needs for redundancy and streamlining the process to get expanded fiber and other types of connections.

Redmond noted it's interesting to live in mountainous communities where you need direct line of sight for cellphone coverage.

He relayed a time he came across a fire in the middle of Routt County and dialed 911, but was put through to a dispatch center in Moffat County.

"That is a situation that's a problem," he said, adding that dispatch center called the Routt County center to dispatch people to the fire.

He also suggested he's seen signal strength drop to the point where phone calls cannot be made and that service has not kept up with phones available on the market.

He added some residents carry two phones that work with different carriers because different providers offer service in different areas of the county.

He further noted the search-and-rescue and safety implications, suggesting carriers promise service, but do not deliver.

He also echoed Bell's sentiments about broadband service, suggesting a lack of connection can make someone a second-class citizen.

Following Redmond's comments, the committee was able to ask questions of the panelists.

Rep. Matt Soper asked if it would be beneficial to have a liaison at the state to help develop professional relationships "to be able to try to work with local governments navigating whatever we may try to design as an incentive package to help in the future."

Bell suggested that is exactly what Fremont County is looking for, and Brown added that he likes the suggestion, but wondered if that were to be created if there could be rural representation as well as urban rep-

resentation.

Soper then noted that the committee is still in its fact-finding period and asked about what incentives could be offered, such as lowering the assessment for the business personal property tax for an area not served, which he noted would potentially affect county coffers but could help provide critical infrastructure.

Redmond suggested that might be something he would consider, but that it might have to sunset, especially given his county's limits under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Bell suggested Fremont County would likely look at it favorably since Fremont County is doing well financially right now, but noted that there would be few businesses in those really rural areas to help "shoulder the bulk" of financing that infrastructure.

Salka agreed with the other commissioners that a sunset would be good and noted that it also depends on what the legislative session brings, as well as initiatives 50 and 108.

Committee member Kevin Klein spoke about issues with permitting with local governments and asked about how to address issues providers are having with permitting at local levels.

Salka suggested that's something that they would need to "really dive into," as well as the need to have a legal leg to stand on locally.

Brown added that the big call coming out of COVID was connectivity, and Archuleta County dedicated almost 50 percent of its American Rescue Plan funding to connectivity because of its importance.

"It's not a nicety, it's a requirement of today's life," he said.

He added that he would love to see the state — the Colorado Department of Transportation specifically — treat fiber and connection as a utility with regard to easements.

"We want it to work. We've invested greatly to make it work," Brown added.

The committee is scheduled to meet again on Aug. 19 for a trip to Lyons and Boulder, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Following that, the committee is expected to hold another field trip on Sept. 3 and meet again on Oct. 1.

More on the committee and its meetings can be found at <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/cell-phone-connectivity-interim-study-committee/2024-regular-session>.
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The Springs Resort is One of Two Hospitality Companies Recognized in Colorado

The Springs Resort in Pagosa Springs — an award-winning 79-room hot springs resort due to double in size by mid-2025 — has just added to its accolades by becoming one of two hospitality companies in Colorado to earn the prestigious "Great Place to Work" award. That makes the resort, which is home to the deepest geothermal spring in the world, also one of 39 companies across all industries in the state to win the award.

Accolades such as this, that The Springs Resort has garnered over the past four years — as well as winning the 2023 "Best Spa Resort in the U.S." by readers of USA Today and being named one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by Travel + Leisure in 2024 — are a coveted privilege that brings with it a high level of expectation for both the quality of its wellness offerings and its guest service. Since the current expansion will double the number of pools and rooms, the resort is looking to attract a committed and compassionate workforce to fill more than 100 new positions over the next 6-18 months.

The Springs Resort's People and Culture Director, Tom Sottek, explained that it was a two-week process to have the employees answer the GPW survey. And even though the resort has a well thought out employee retention program, results are never guaranteed.

"This award is evidence that our resort's "Noble Purpose" of Caring for the Enhanced Well Being of All continues to be a successful mantra for guiding our talented team," says Sottek. The survey is a wonderful pulse check with our team to better understand their needs. It also provided us the opportunity to review our onboarding process to ensure our associates understand the benefits provided that allow for a work/life balance, while taking advantage of what Pagosa Springs has to offer. And, of course, keeping our focus on our team ends up greatly impacting the guest experience as well.

The Springs Resort's Benefits Package has been thoughtfully



The Springs Resort team celebrates together at the 4th of July parade, reflecting the spirit of a Great Place to Work.

crafted to not only reflect the philosophy of this wellness resort but also to apply to the Colorado lifestyle. Employee benefits include categories and options such as:

- Housing Options:
 - \$200 Housing Allowance (FT)
 - Affordable Housing, Upon Request
- Hot Springs Soaking:
 - Soaking benefit for all associates full and part time up to 8 people.
- Lifestyle Benefits:
 - Free rentals for skiing and snowboarding and tube/kayak/paddleboards for use at local mountains, lakes and rivers.
 - Experiential fund for full time employees that reimburses up to \$300 per year.
 - Partnership with local professional theater company for artistic talent recruitment and complimentary theater tickets.
 - Discounts for room nights

and retail purchase at the resort.

- Employee Events:
 - Monthly Luncheons celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and our Purpose Champion
 - Special holiday events
 - Team outings including:
 - Vacation & Insurance:
 - Paid time off
 - Medical/Dental/Vision

Benefits

- Life Insurance \$25,000
- 401K after 1 year of employment

ABOUT THE SPRINGS RESORT

The Springs Resort, a cherished Pagosa Springs destination, is expanding to nearly double its rooms and geothermal soaking pools, set to open in early Q2 2025. This growth enhances our renowned wellness offerings, including new

event spaces, a full-service restaurant, and innovative features like a geothermal-inspired spa and exclusive adults-only areas. As home to the world's deepest geothermal spring, we continue to lead in wellness, recently being named a Top 5 Spa Resort and #2 Best Hot Springs in the U.S. by USA Today readers. Join us in shaping this exciting new chapter.

ABOUT GREAT PLACE TO WORK

As the global authority on workplace culture, Great Place To Work brings 30 years of groundbreaking research and data to help every place become a great place to work for all. Its proprietary platform and For All™ Model help companies evaluate the experience of every employee, with exemplary workplaces becoming Great Place To Work Certified™ or receiving recognition on a coveted Best Workplaces List."

Outdoors



Photos courtesy Evan Barrientos, Audubon Rockies

Audubon Rockies is recruiting volunteer environmental educators to support its Community Naturalist program, including to help with the organization's environmental education program for area schools that takes place at Four Mile Ranch each year.

Audubon Rockies announces volunteer opportunity

By Keith Bruno
Audubon Rockies

Audubon Rockies is recruiting volunteer environmental educators to support our Community Naturalist program in Pagosa Springs.

Our volunteer training event in Pagosa Springs will get you familiarized with our long-standing environmental education program at Four Mile Ranch, including program activities, lessons and frequented trails.

Once confident with the lessons and trails, volunteers will be pre-

pared to lead tours for small groups of K-4 students from early September through mid-October.

As a volunteer environmental educator, you can help inspire a life-long love of nature and conservation in young students.

Event details include the Four Mile Ranch volunteer training orientation on Monday, Aug. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library conference room and the volunteer training at Four Mile Ranch (directions will be provided upon registration) Aug. 27 and 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

On Thursday, Aug. 29, we'll offer a \$20 first aid and CPR course for volunteers located at Four Mile Ranch from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration and details can be found at rockies.audubon.org/events. Registrants are strongly encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible, as each session will cover new material. If you are unable to attend all sessions, that's OK.

Please register for the day(s) you can attend, then reach out to keith.bruno@audubon.org to discuss making up any missed content you may need.

Weminuche Audubon Society August meeting to feature Forest Service staff

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

We are excited to host Anthony Garcia and Kelsey Harkness from the U.S. Forest Service at our evening meeting this month on Wednesday, Aug. 21.

Their presentation will focus on fish and wildlife management on National Forest System lands in the Pagosa Springs area. They'll be discussing a variety of topics, including habitat management, inventory and monitoring for a variety of species, partnership coordination and others.

Both Garcia and Harkness participated in our chapter's Forest Bird Monitoring Project this spring and we are interested to learn how they keep track of other critters who share the woods.

Garcia is the wildlife program man-

ager for the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District. He has been a wildlife biologist for the San Juan National Forest for 28 years, with most of his tenure on the Pagosa Ranger District. He also worked on the Rio Grande National Forest for six years prior to coming to the San Juan.

Garcia has worked on a variety of projects and has collaborated with numerous partners during his tenure as a Forest Service wildlife biologist.

He looks forward to sharing his experiences and information on fish and wildlife management on National Forest System lands.

Harkness works with Garcia as the wildlife technician for the Pagosa Ranger District. Prior to accepting her permanent wildlife technician position, she worked as a rangeland man-

agement technician for two seasons on the Pagosa Ranger District.

The public is invited to join us in learning from them about some of the important programs carried out by our local Forest Service ranger district.

We meet at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street. Enter through the side door closest to the parking lot or let us know to open the main doors for handicap entry. Enjoy refreshments with us starting at 6 p.m. prior to a short business meeting at 6:30 p.m. preceding the presentation.

In appreciation for our meeting space, contributions of nonperishable food for the church food bank are collected at our meetings. If you are unable to join us in person, a link to join on Zoom will be posted on our website, www.weminucheaudubon.org.

Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association announces fundraiser for archery range

By Greg Dykstra
Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association

The Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association recently held a membership and fundraising event at the Archuleta County Fair.

Our goal was to raise \$10,000 for our new archery range, which is going to be built near U.S. 160 and Trails Boulevard.

Our president, JoAnn Pogreba-Dykstra, applied for a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant this past spring and our organization was awarded a conditional \$63,000.

That being said, we need to raise \$10,000 cash to get the project started, since the grant conditions require us to put money up front for expenses and later be reimbursed. We managed to raise more than \$1,300 at the fair, less expenses.

I would like to express my great appreciation to the Pagosa Rotary for allowing us to use their dunk tank to raise funds for our project. We enjoyed having fair participants test their skills at throwing balls at a target, which allowed several club members to enjoy a splash in the tank.

Our tank participants were none other than Pogreba-Dykstra, Community Outreach Chair Chris Boyd, Treasurer and Events Chair Bill McElhinney, and Events Committee Mem-

ber Sam Johnson.

Our winners for the dunk tank draw were Brulin Archuleta, Warren Brown and Duke Ketchum. They each received a \$20 gift certificate from the Ski and Bow Rack.

The Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in 2020 by local firearms and archery enthusiasts.

We are always seeking new members who enjoy the shooting sports.

Our mission is "To provide a safe and enjoyable environment to promote the use, training and education

for all shooting disciplines in the Pagosa Springs area."

If you would like to join our organization as a founding member, please email membership@wolfcreekgunandbow.org. If you would like to donate to our organization, by virtue of funds, land or land lease, please contact us at info@wolfcreekgunandbow.org or leave a message at (970) 585-6563.

Donations are tax-deductible. We are still seeking land to build a firearms range in the Pagosa Springs area to promote safe shooting for pistol, rifle and shotgun users/owners.

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Sports

GOLF

Pirates' Johnathon Smith opens season with win

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate golf team teed off for the first time this season on Thursday, Aug. 8, in Cortez, with Pirate junior Johnathon Smith finishing first.

"Johnathon had a great tournament," coach Mark Faber said. "He won it."

Smith finished first by logging a 72 on the par-72 course, shooting birdie on two holes and par on six holes.

Freshman Tyler Dimond finished tied for 32nd with a score of 102.

Faber indicated Dimond is a freshman who can play, but added, "Sometimes it's hard the first time around."

Senior Isabel Galloway finished 37th with a score of 130, and junior Max Brown finished 38th with a score of 135.

The team finished eighth out of the eight teams present.

"We've just got some stuff to work on," Faber said. "We'll figure it out."

The tournament came after two days of official practice, according to the coach, but he noted some of the team's golfers worked for most of the summer.

Faber explained the team has seven golfers on the roster currently, which also includes Cedar Liverett, who was an alternate for the state tournament last season, but who was not available for the Montezuma-Cortez tournament.

The coach added that the goal for the season is to be competitive, and help some of the team's younger players learn and grow.

On Friday, Aug. 16, the team will be back in action, this time in Alamosa at Cattails Golf Course. The tournament is set to begin at 9 a.m.

Faber indicated he hopes to see the team play closer to its ability at the tournament.

randi@pagosason.com



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

Pirate Johnathon Smith accepts his first-place award at an Aug. 8 tournament hosted by Montezuma-Cortez. Smith shot an even par on the day to open the season with a win.

Parks and rec board, county commissioners hear bike skill park proposal

By Clayton Chaney and
Josh Pike
Staff Writers

The Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Aug. 1, at which it heard a proposal from DUST2 representative Driz Cook for a new bike skills park to be built at Yamaguchi Park South.

Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis explained that the area where the skills park is being proposed is south of the pickleball courts and the new town dog park, beyond the land that is designated for a multipurpose pavilion "if that comes to fruition."

"It's really the last area that I can develop unless something changes with the proposed sanitation building that could possibly go on down there," he said. "There's a really large pile of dirt down there that I need to do something with."

Lewis also explained that the proposal is to use funds from the Conservation Trust Fund, with half being provided by the Town of Pagosa Springs and the other half being provided by the county.

Cook explained that there are different types of bike parks that include downhill parks, pump tracks and skills parks. Downhill parks are usually at ski areas where riders can take a lift up and ride down on a course that has berms, jumps and other features. Pump tracks are usually loops built for learning how to pump and use momentum to move the bike without pedaling.

Cook noted that Pagosa Springs has a small pump track located by the skate park in Yamaguchi Park, but

mentioned that there is no signage and most people "don't really know what to do there."

Cook explained that a skills course park simulates aspects of technical mountain bike trail riding by teaching balance and coordination at slower speeds compared to downhill or jump line parks.

Cook proposed constructing a skills bike park to "provide a place to learn these skills within a contained and safe area."

Cook explained that there are two bike parks near Pagosa — in Farmington, N.M., and in Durango — which both offer more extreme features, noting that Mesa Park in Durango currently being constructed will be the largest bike park in the country.

Cook added that he has more than 20 years of mountain biking experience building parks and trails, and that, in his opinion, "Most bike parks are overbuilt and underutilized."

Cook explained that Pagosa needs a bike park for people to be able to learn skills that will help them build confidence to ride in "real-world conditions" on trails. This includes features like switchbacks, ruts, rock slabs, narrow sections and twisting turns.

Cook added that there are not many technical trails around the Pagosa area and that when folks travel to go mountain biking, "we're not prepared."

He indicated that the proposal is to have a skills park with 10 features that is designed with a "loop" route allowing riders to circle the course. The park will use natural materials such as railroad ties, rocks and lumber.

He explained that the park will be open to the public, and that DUST2

may use the park for events or competitions.

Cook estimated the project to cost approximately \$50,000, noting that material donations are likely.

"I think a lot of that we can get from people and companies at a good rate because they want to donate it," he said, adding that DUST2 is offering to perform the labor with an in-kind donation of \$10,000 that includes 400 hours of labor at \$25 dollars an hour.

He added that DUST2 would also take on the responsibility of maintaining the park, with oversight from the land owner.

Cook also mentioned the features in the park would be modular and adjustable, allowing for regular reviews and adjustments of the course to be made.

Cook provided a couple example features like logs on the trail and progression drops where riders can learn how to roll over or drop off ledges of heights ranging from 1 to 2 feet.

"All these features are based upon what coaches say you need to have," Cook said.

Cook explained that more trails being developed on U.S. Forest Service land around Pagosa are years away

from coming to fruition and DUST2 is a nonprofit group that already performs maintenance on existing trails, noting that maintenance cost on the park would be minimal.

"We're not going to build anything that takes a lot of skill to maintain or a lot of money to maintain," Cook said.

He noted that the interpretive signage at the park will be the bulk of the cost.

"The idea really is that it allows an opportunity for a beginning mountain biker to learn skills in a nonintimidating environment," he said.

Lewis noted that if the project is approved by both the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, construction would begin in 2025.

The board voted unanimously in favor of moving forward with the project, with Lewis explaining that his recommendation to the town council will be to fund the project using the Conservation Trust Fund.

At the Aug. 6 work session of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), Cook and Lewis presented the bike park to the ■ See Skills A12



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EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Viewing, understanding and embracing change

By Robin Young
SUN Columnist

Like it or not, things in our world are constantly changing: technology, our bodies, our environment, even our relationships. This can create a great deal of anxiety. In order to succeed, we need to be able to adapt to the environment. But, how can we do this and still feel like we are moving in a positive direction?

Some people view change as growth, while others are more hesitant or skeptical. When we are faced with transitions, we often resist by telling ourselves our current is good (or at least good enough). Even if it's not ideal, we don't want to let go of the known comfort (no matter how uncomfortable).

How do you view change?

Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- How easily do I adapt to various situations and go with the flow?
- Am I resilient? Can I handle a setback and then re-focus on the goals within a reasonable amount of time?
- What are my immediate thoughts/beliefs/values about the situation?
- What/who is my support system?
- In the past, how have I coped with difficult situations?

What is in your control?

The following questions focus on what you have immediate control over. I encourage you to view change as an opportunity to identify what is in your control versus what is not

through "bubbles." Write down all the things that are going on in your life right now, things that are impacting you. Put them into the appropriate bubble of "no control over," "some control over" and "full control over."

For example: Full control: Investment in project; values/beliefs, personal care like eating, hygiene; education/skills, boundaries.

Some control: Interactions with others; personal budget; hours at work.

No control: Politics; policies; financial and social trends in the world; weather.

Sometimes we are so focused on what we can't control, giving away that energy, that we forget about what we can control. This ultimately makes us feel overwhelmed, helpless, and negative.

Take time to identify what is in your control, then you'll be better able to make use of your energy and proactively approach change.

Tips for embracing change

Remember, in order for anything (even things that are already good) to get better, change is required.

Acknowledge your initial reaction: Much like our activity with the power of emotions, you have to start off with identification. Of course you will have an emotional reaction to change — this is normal. But, be gentle with yourself. Recognize and label your emotional reaction (angry,

frustrated, confused, nervous, fearful), then understand where it's coming from — but don't react immediately. It is impossible to create a plan when you don't know where you are starting from.

Accept the initial discomfort: Change causes distress, but it doesn't mean something is wrong. Just because it's uncomfortable doesn't mean it needs to be immediately fixed.

Pay attention to your thoughts: This includes the things you say to yourself, negative or positive, about you, those around you and the situation. If you notice yourself slipping into defeating self-statements, go back to acknowledging your reaction.

Make room for new, so get rid of the old: We often feel like we are "full" and have no room for new things. In order to make room, we need to clear out the old, unhelpful beliefs or statements. It does not happen overnight, but is necessary in order to keep yourself up to date.

Be thoughtful in your actions: It's easy to get swept into the idea that something happened, and in order to be a "doer" you must take action. Sometimes it's better to stop, identify the situation and trends, then create an educated, thoughtful plan (STOP: stop, think, options, plan). Just because you don't act immediately doesn't mean you aren't considering the appropriate route; it simply means you are identifying which path is best for you and those around you.

Recognize bridges: In order to get from Old A to New Z, it may be nec-

essary to "try out" something new before instituting it. This allows for modification and improvements.

Change takes time: Things outside of us can change in an instant, having both temporary and lasting impacts. However, our core values, beliefs and thoughts are more set and take time to alter. It is impossible to simply "accept" changes without having some alterations in our thoughts, so "accept" that about yourself.

Make sure to use your social supports: Talk with a counselor, friend or loved one. It can be helpful to talk with someone outside of our situation; they can help identify and validate the feelings involved, patterns or scenarios which then can help clarify the path to take.

Don't forget about yourself: A car can't keep driving unless it gets gas periodically. Make sure you take time to "fill your tank" with things you consider simple pleasures: favorite/healthful foods, exercise, TV show, music, time with loved ones, etc.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally on the second Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 246-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on our website, <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

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Skills

Continued from A11

board with a similar presentation to what was given to the Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, pointing out the need for locations to build technical biking skills and the goal of creating a simple and practical park for this purpose.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked if the estimated \$50,000 cost of the park included the \$10,000 in sweat equity that DUST2 is offering and if the group was looking to other entities to help fund the park.

Cook stated that the cost would be \$50,000 in addition to the sweat equity.

Lewis noted that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County have worked together in the past on constructing parks and commented that the town would be willing to contribute \$25,000 from its Conservation Trust Fund, leaving the price for the county at \$25,000.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked how large the parcel where the

proposed park would be located is.

Lewis explained that a portion of the parcel is currently set aside for a potential wastewater treatment plant and that the park could be built in a variety of sizes depending on how much land is available.

He added that the park would be 1.5 acres to start, but could potentially expand to two to three acres depending on space available.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez commented that the county previously worked with DUST2 on a bike trail near the Pagosa Springs High School, which turned out "really well."

He added that this was "money well spent" and stated that he supports the bike park proposal.

"We gotta have someplace for the kids ... and the big kids, too," Maez said. "I think it's very important. I like the way the other bike trail is going right now."

Cook noted that the park would help build confidence and skills for

local bikers.

"I think it's a great plan," Medina said. "I liked it the first time I heard it and I like it even more this time."

Cook commented that the parks and rec board unanimously voted to support the project at its Aug. 1 meeting.

County Attorney Todd Weaver noted that, if there was not space available by Yamaguchi Park, the bike park could potentially be located in the county's Cloman Park.

Cook stated that he was glad to have another option for the location of the park if locating it at Yamaguchi Park is not feasible.

Lewis indicated that the location at Yamaguchi Park was proposed due to it being close to the high school and being a location where many people already ride bikes.

However, he added that the group appreciates having an alternate location.

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Public Notices

District Court
Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address:
Archuleta Combined Courts
109 Harman Park Dr.
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

In the Matter of the Petition of:
Adult: Emily Marie Geren
For a Change of Name to:
Emily Marie Morris
DATE FILED: August 6, 2024 11:22 AM
Case Number: 24C60

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice is given on 8/3/24 that a Petition for a Change of Name of an Adult has been filed with the District Court.

The Petitioner requests that the name of Emily Marie Geren be changed to Emily Marie Morris.
By Cheryl Mulbery, Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk
Published August 15, 22, and 29 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243769)

Lathrop GPM LLP
675 15th Street, Suite 2650
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone: (720) 931-3200
Tom.Rodriguez@LathropGPM.com
Case Number: 2024PR30037

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO C.R.S. § 15-12-801

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Charles Lowell Barry, Deceased
Case Number 2024PR30037
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before December 8, 2024, or the claims may be forever barred.

Thomas A. Rodriguez, #30377
Lathrop GPM LLP
675 15th Street, Suite 2650
Denver, Colorado 80202
Attorney for Personal Representative, Kathleen J. Bryan-Barry
Published August 8, 15, and 22, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243211)

fountains and water channels. Applicant has installed a potable water hauling station near the river from Applicant's subsurface gallery well to provide future subdivision residents with a supplemental water choice. Up to 15 subdivision homeowners whose wells prove unsatisfactory or who choose a cistern would be able to use the hauling station without significant water quality monitoring. One large pond on the Property, near the diversion point, will divert water from upstream into the Pond which will then flow back to the river downstream.

5) Outline of what has been done toward completion of the appropriation and application of water to a beneficial use as conditionally decreed: (a) Applicant has spent \$8,364 on water system expenses including a new pump for the gallery well and pump system, monitoring of the hauling station, and costs associated with the management, maintenance, and repair of the water system; (b) Applicant is the owner of the land upon which any new diversion or storage structure is or will be constructed. (5 pages)

**THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE UNTIL the last day of September 2024, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.courts.state.co.us; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; (970) 247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
Published: before August 31, 2024
Published August 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243455)**

The property is zoned PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on September 3, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 15 & 29, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243411)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
Lucia Gonzales has applied for the GONZALES MINOR SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT REVIEW, creating Lot 1 and Lot 2 in Sec: 15 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W, at 335 Rob Snow Road, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN24-112). The property is zoned RESIDENTIAL (R).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on September 3, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 15 & 29, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243404)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
Omar Pereyra has applied for a CONCRETE BATCH PLANT BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel in Cox East Allison Subdivision, Lot 3, Sec 14 Twn 32, Rng 6W, at 20420 Slate Hwy 151, Arboles, CO (PLN24-105). The property is zoned COMMERCIAL (C).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on September 3, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 15 & 29, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (241987)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
Omar Pereyra has applied for a CONCRETE BATCH PLANT BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel in Cox East Allison Subdivision, Lot 3, Sec 14 Twn 32, Rng 6W, at 20420 Slate Hwy 151, Arboles, CO (PLN24-105). The property is zoned COMMERCIAL (C).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on September 3, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 15 & 29, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (241987)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON AUGUST 22, 2024
INTER-MOUNTAIN PROPANE LLC has applied for a Board Conditional Use Permit, Outdoor Storage to operate their Propane Business on the Parcel in TWN 35, RNG 2W, at 1061 Cloman Blvd, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN24-120). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on August 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 1 & 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (242605)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON AUGUST 22, 2024
Omar Pereyra has applied for a CONCRETE BATCH PLANT BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel in Cox East Allison Subdivision, Lot 3, Sec 14 Twn 32, Rng 6W, at 20420 Slate Hwy 151, Arboles, CO (PLN24-105). The property is zoned COMMERCIAL (C).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on August 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 1 and 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (241986)

Notice of Annual Meeting 2024
The annual meeting and election of Directors for Western Heritage Center, Inc. (WHEC), also the organizer and sponsor of the annual Red Ryder Roundup@Rodeo, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at the WHEC grounds, in the 4-H Hall, 344 Hwy 84, Pagosa Springs, CO.
Only registered members of record as of June 21, 2024 will be entitled to vote. Proxy votes must be in writing designating the person who is to cast the vote (who must also be a registered member of the corporation) and have the signature of member and date. Proxies must be presented at the beginning of the annual meeting at registration. The maximum number of proxies any individual can represent is five. Current board members are: Diana Talbot, President; Bob Kavli, Vice President; Katelyn Bailey, Secretary; Pennie DeClark, Treasurer; and Directors Keith Jacobson, Wes Lewis, Ryan Montroy, Twyne Register, Lane Schaaf, Lisa Scott.
Published August 8 and 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243033)

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) is committed to enhancing our community's growth and economic sustainability through several strategic initiatives. One key initiative is providing affordable housing to ensure local workers have access to quality, affordable homes near their places of employment, contributing to the overall vitality of our community.
As part of this initiative, PSCDC will host the first Housing Opportunity Process for Phase 1 of the Workforce Housing Project in the Trails and Chris Mountain II subdivisions.
Event Details
PSCDC Housing Opportunity Process
August 22, 2024
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Ross Aragon Community Center
451 Hot Springs Blvd, Pagosa Springs CO 81147
During this public event, PSCDC will draw up to 10 qualified homebuyers from the pool of pre-approved applicants who can select one of our newly built affordable homes. A neutral party will draw the names to ensure fairness. Each household drawn will have the opportunity to select one of the available homes to purchase.
Important Information
- To participate, potential homebuyers must first apply with PSCDC, obtain pre-qualification from a bank, and receive verification of Area Median Income (AMI) with

the Archuleta County Housing Authority.
• Homebuyers must be present or have a representative present at the drawing.
• Homebuyers drawn will have 5 minutes to make their home selection. If no desired home is available, the homebuyer(s) will be placed on a waiting list in the order drawn.
PSCDC will hold a second drawing in late September or early October. Details for this second drawing will be announced as available.
Homebuyer applications for 2024-2025 builds will remain open! Interested homebuyers are encouraged to apply. For more information and to submit an application, please visit: <https://pagosapagespringscdc.org/workforce-housing/> or contact Emily Lashbrooke at (970) 264-3023 or Emily@pagosapagespringscdc.org.
Published August 8 and 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (242937)

Public Notice: San Juan Basin Public Health Bar Date Announcement
Please take notice that the San Juan Basin Public Health Department has established a Bar Date of September 3, 2024. All claims against the SUBPH Department must be submitted by September 3, 2024 to be reviewed. All claims must be submitted by this date to be considered for review. Late submissions will not be accepted. For further information on how to submit your claim or any related inquiries, please contact Damon Torkelson at dtorkelson@ccordesca.com.
Published August 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (242934)

SECTION I INVITATION TO BID
Separate sealed BIDs for the 2024 PLPOA Mailboxes at Park Avenue and Vista Boulevard Project will be received by the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at 168 South 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147, until 2:00 p.m. local time on August 29, 2024, and then at said office-publicly opened and read aloud.
The project consists of the construction of an approximately 600 linear feet of asphalt roadway, a small asphalt parking area, approximately 1,200 square feet of concrete sidewalk and approximately 170 linear feet of asphalt trail. The project is located near the intersection of Park Avenue and Vista Boulevard, with the proposed asphalt trail section connecting to the existing Vista Boulevard Trail. The project will include clearing, excavation and embankment, imported embankment, subgrade preparation, gravel placement, concrete curb and gutter, concrete sidewalk, drainage structures and other associated work.
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained on or after August 13, 2024, at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. located at the address mentioned above, upon payment of \$25.00 for each set. No refund will be made for returned copies.
A mandatory pre-bid conference and inspection trip for prospective Bidders will be held August 20, 2024, at the office of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (phone number (970) 264-5055), located at the address mentioned above, at 2:00 p.m. local time.
Date: August 2, 2024
Published August 8 and 15, 2024 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (243134)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

How Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County strives for energy efficiency

By **Monica Nigon**
Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County strives for energy efficiency in all of our builds, from the insulation of the homes to solar panels on the roofs of the garages. As we continue our plan to build 15 homes in five years, we will continue to improve in sustainable practices.

Habitat Archuleta has made several changes in the last couple of years to its building practices that ensure energy efficiency in our homes for local workforce families.

To successfully triple our annual build capacity within the incredibly short build season in Archuleta County, we use factory-built homes delivered in halves via truck and crane that are stitched together by Habitat Archuleta's staff and volunteers. In this way, materials are used efficiently and waste is minimized.

On that note, Habitat Archuleta partners with the Habitat Restore in Alamosa to further minimize waste in the county.

Mike Milliard, a Habitat Archuleta board member, said, "What we do is pick up items that are sellable or reusable in construction."

Milliard stated this evolved into a partnership with Pagosa Springs Medical Center in which he and the Alamosa crew helped salvage 140 cabinets while the medical center remodeled a building.

"We're trying to reuse all of those cabinets," Mike said. "We do all the demo for them free of charge, and then it doesn't go to the landfill."

Milliard said that, last year, he and the Alamosa Restore crew shuttled 16-18 truckloads of items just from the medical center. At 1,500 pounds per truckload, this adds up to 25,500 pounds kept out of the local landfill

Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet Aug. 19

By **Lynn Frederick**
Archuleta Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will be meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 19, at Coyote Moon.

The speaker will be Emily Lashbrooke of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC).

You may have read about how PSCDC has coordinated the development of 10 affordable houses in the Trails subdivision.

Come and hear how much more this organization is doing to encourage businesses and job creation in Archuleta County.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month. The club gives local Democrats the opportunity to meet with other Democrats and to hear speakers from the community, meet candidates for local and national offices, and hear about topics of timely interest. All are welcome to attend. Please plan on coming by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch.

For more information, email lynnfederick1@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County works to make its homes energy efficient, including installing solar panels.

and repurposed for other homes in the area.

These numbers don't take into account the weekly pickups of furniture and other household items in Pagosa Springs. Milliard added these are larger items that can't necessarily be donated to other local stores.

While the homes are factory-built, the garages for the homes are stick builds in which locally sourced lumber is used. Furthermore, the crew minimizes roof penetrations, which could lead to roof leaks and energy waste.

According to Gary Williams, a core volunteer and board member for Habitat Archuleta who specializes in sustainability, "We used beams cast off from BWD Construction last year to build a post-and-beam-type front porch on one of our houses."

On the note of keeping the homes warm in the winter, Habitat Archuleta uses high-efficiency heat pumps. These pumps utilize inverter technology to heat and cool the houses.

Williams added that the construction crew uses extra insulation to ensure the homes stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

He said that the folks at Mountain Men Insulation go so far as to cover the crawl space with a waterproof membrane and install sump pumps when necessary.

Paul Kriescher, the executive producer and host of "Heart of a Build-

ing" documentary on PBS as well as the building envelope and business development specialist for Bowman Engineering, offers his expertise in sustainability to Habitat Archuleta by conducting "blower door tests."

"This measures and quantifies where air leaks are happening and how much air leakage is happening," Kriescher said.

He also utilizes an infrared camera to see if there were any changes to the insulation in the homes during transport to their ultimate destinations.

"This measurement ensures the home is more comfortable and less susceptible to having insects or other pests find their way into the home," Kriescher added.

The homes are, if possible, oriented to the south to ensure maximum solar energy usage with rooftop solar panels. When that is not possible, the construction crew expands the roofs of the garages, ensuring that Jonathan Dobson at Dobson Solar and the crew can install solar panels for 20 400-watt panels.

Dobson has been installing rooftop solar panels for Habitat Archuleta for two years.

"Electric bills can be punishing," Dobson said. "We're offsetting those with a photovoltaic system."

Dobson added that working with folks in Archuleta County is "incredibly rewarding. Almost everyone is

over the moon about the investment they make."

He said that working with Habitat Archuleta is no exception.

"In my experience, people who are into it and proud of it are such a joy to work with," Dobson noted.

He added that the solar panels are "grid-interactive," which means the power from these Habitat panels goes into the energy grid during the day. At night, the homes rarely rely on this grid. This guarantees both sustainability and affordability, as these completely electric homes should have very low power bills.

In the future, Habitat Archuleta hopes to adapt a simple passive solar home design to fit one of our sites, Williams said, and will continue to use high-end, energy-efficient appliances and rooftop solar panels.

To learn more about Habitat Archuleta's pursuit of energy-efficient homes, or to get involved with our incredible construction staff, volunteers, subcontractors and donors, contact us at (970) 264-6960 or email office@habitatarchuleta.org.

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EARLY DEADLINES

for the issue of

Thursday, September 5

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, Aug. 30

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3
Too Late to Classify 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3

Letters to the Editor
Noon, Tuesday, Sept. 3

Legal Advertising and Articles
Noon, Thursday, Aug. 29

Change in hours:
Monday, Sept. 2, The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Town council approves downtown street tree plan

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Aug. 6, the Pagosa Springs Town Council voted to move forward with a new street tree plan for the 400 block of Pagosa Street.

The tree project will coincide with Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) main street reconstruction project, slated to take place in the spring/summer 2025 and 2026.

Part of CDOT's project will be to widen the sidewalk on the north side of the 400 block by an additional 3 feet, an agenda document on the matter states.

The town is looking at replacing existing trees along this stretch with mature species with a planted caliper of 4" to 5" and a height of 20 feet, where the trees can be expected to grow as high as 36 feet, the document states.

Tree species being considered by the town are honey locust, maple, oak and linden, all of which have been determined by landscaping consultants to be suitable "for urban concrete areas for Colorado elevations similar to Pagosa Springs," the document states.

The trees "will be installed in large concrete root boxes with 4x4' flush-mounted cast iron grates and irrigation lines to ensure the trees thrive, not just survive," the document states.

Projects Manager David Hillborn explained that town staff have met with downtown business owners to gauge their feelings about the planned improvements along this stretch of downtown to coincide with the CDOT project.

Hillborn noted that the business owners gave staff some "mixed feedback on whether they would like the trees or not," adding that while a few owners opposed the idea, the majority were in favor of the tree plan.

The biggest concern among business owners had to do with signage — a worry that larger trees would hamper the visibility of business signs, he stated.

He explained that the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission previously voted 3-2 in favor of recom-

mending that the tree plan move forward, but that, ultimately, it was up to the council to decide if the town should move forward with the plan.

The cost for planting 10 trees, which would also include flush-mounted tree boxes, an irrigation system and brand-new street light posts with hanging flower baskets, would run about \$161,000, Hillborn said.

The town's larger improvement project along U.S. 160 that will coincide with CDOT's project will cost the town about \$2 million, and the \$161,000 for the tree plan would be a part of this larger town project, he explained.

The town would be on the hook for improvements made along its public right of way that are outside the scope of CDOT's reconstruction project, and the town would need to coordinate with contractor CDOT hires so that the same contractor could, hopefully, carry out the improvements the town is seeking during the project, he explained.

The agenda document states that the tree plan being considered had been "revised" since the original plan, and that the updated plan considers:

- "Avoiding building entrances, existing overhangs/awning encroaching over the sidewalk,
- "Placing trees in line with property lines,
- "Planting mature trees and species that will thrive in a concrete urban environment,
- "Spaced to avoid conflict with new streetlights,
- "Street Trees and streetlights will all be placed in-line with each other along the block, generally at the location of the existing curb."

When opened to questions and comments, council member Brooks Lindner stated that he wanted to "strongly advocate for this," saying that trees "enhance the aesthetic value" of a town, citing other communities where the presence of trees add shade, beauty and character.

To the suggestion by Mark Weiler, a member of the planning commission, "that [trees] don't belong in a

commercial area," Lindner said, "I don't think that's really sound logic, so I would just like to express my view of being very much in favor of this."

Council member Leonard Martinez questioned if the cost of the trees is included in the current budget.

Hillborn explained that the cost for the trees is part of the overall cost estimate of the town's sidewalk improvement project to coincide with CDOT's project.

Council member Matt DeGuise suggested that since CDOT has yet to hire a contractor for its project and the project is not slated to break ground until 2025, the cost estimates for the town's sidewalk improvement project would be part of the 2025-2026 budget process.

"It's really gonna depend on when CDOT chooses their contractor" and how it segments and plans its project, Hillborn added.

"We're preferring to work with that contractor to do the sidewalk improvements on the town's side. It will just make everything run a little bit smoother and easier," he said.

Until all of this is known, he could not say if the tree project would begin in the 2025 or the 2026 construction season.

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed, "I'm not in favor of putting these trees over there."

She indicated she thinks the planter boxes would be too restrictive for the trees to flourish, and for the amount of money being spent, the town could come up with "more creative" ideas for shade and planting the trees, suggesting they'd be better suited for town parks.

Council member Mat deGraaf pushed back on the idea that the trees couldn't flourish in the tree boxes in a concrete urban environment, asking Hillborn to explain what the landscaping consultants have said about the issue.

Hillborn explained that the tree boxes are "open bottom, so they do allow for root growth down, and once the roots clear the bottom section of the box, the roots can also grow out."

He added the concrete boxes "basically just help prevent the bulk of the roots from destroying the sidewalk right adjacent to the grates."

He also explained that the town would be including an irrigation system and this would "greatly increase the chances of the trees prospering, rather than dying," adding that the trees currently in place on the sidewalk do not have an irrigation system.

The currently proposed tree plan would allow the new trees to be healthier than any of the existing trees along the sidewalk, he said.

He added that the four species of trees listed in the plan have been approved for elevations and climates in Colorado to "prosper in urban, concrete environments."

"It seems like, regarding the health issue, they're doing this in a way where those trees are gonna be healthy... they've got an expert landscaper helping on this," Lindner said.

Martinez suggested that he was uncomfortable spending the \$161,000 at the moment, with other, more important items coming down the pike for the town.

However, it was clarified that this amount would be budgeted in future budgets as part of the town's improvement project coinciding with CDOT's U.S. 160 project.

Martinez questioned why it needed to be decided today, with Pierce explaining that the town's improvement project needs to be ready by the time that CDOT chooses its contractor so that the two plans can be coordinated together.

Council member Gary Williams added, "We have one chance to get this right."

Williams noted that the 400 block was the most important segment of the downtown business district, asking, "Why wouldn't we want to make this area more beautiful?"

Williams then made a motion to include a plan for street trees in conjunction with CDOT's U.S. 160 reconstruction project, supporting the general tree locations and tree species as presented, which was seconded and passed by the council.

A roll call vote showed Williams, deGraaf, Lindner and DeGuise voted in favor of the street tree plan, with Pierce and Martinez voting against it. derek@pagosasun.com

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Colorado State Patrol explains fault under new lane-filtering law

Colorado State Patrol

A new law (Senate Bill B24-079) allowing motorcyclists in Colorado to lane filter is now in effect.

With motorcycles now legally practicing this maneuver, some questions Colorado State troopers are being asked are who would be at fault if a lane-filtering maneuver results in a crash.

To answer that question, Colorado motorists and motorcycle riders should refer back to the law, which explains the five rules of filtering in our state:

1. To pass, traffic in the riders lane and adjacent lanes going the same direction must be at a complete stop.
2. The lane must be wide enough to fit the vehicle and motorcycle while passing.
3. The motorcycle must go 15 mph or less.
4. The rider must pass safely and control the motorcycle.
5. The rider must pass on the left and not enter the oncoming traffic lane.

"Based on our law, if vehicles are moving, even slowly or for a short distance, the motorcyclist would be at fault," stated Col. Matthew Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Riders are responsible for ensuring that all conditions are met to safely

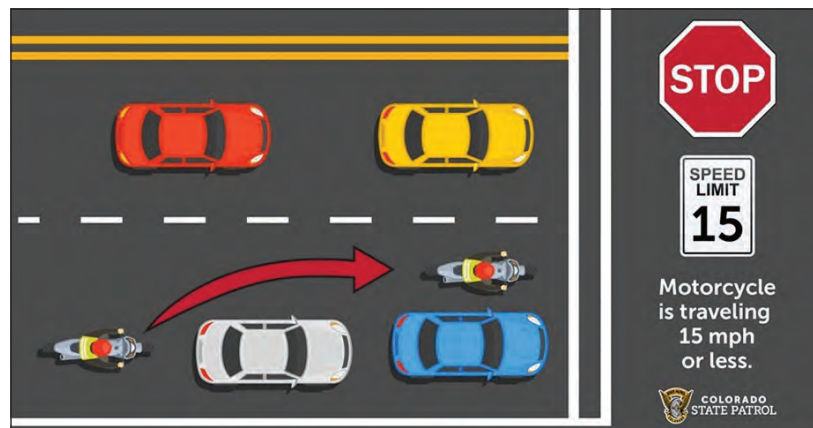


Illustration courtesy Colorado State Patrol

and legally filter."

Riders must also ensure that there is enough room for them to pass on the left side of the vehicle while staying in the same lane. If the lane cannot accommodate both vehicles, the motorcyclist should not pass.

"While there may be times a rider

would like to pass, the conditions may not allow it to be done legally," explained Packard. "Whether you have two wheels, four wheels or 18, one thing no one can legally do is ride or pass on the shoulder of the road. This area is littered with debris, roadkill and other hazards."

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The Pagosa Springs SUN**

Reynolds Ash + Associates announces promotions

Reynolds Ash + Associates are thrilled to announce some exciting updates in 2024! In our ongoing commitment to excellent and growth, we are proud to share the following achievements:

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cody Simons, who has recently obtained his architectural license, and to Dakota Miller, who has achieved licensure as a Professional Engineer. This significant milestone marks the beginning of an exciting journey of professional development and contribution to our firm's work in the area.

It is with great excitement that we also announce the promotion of

Lauren Davis to the position of Partner. Lauren has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, creativity, and a deep commitment to our firm's values and her clients. This promotion not only reflects Lauren's individual achievements but also RA+A's confidence in her vision and ability to drive our collective success forward.



Davis



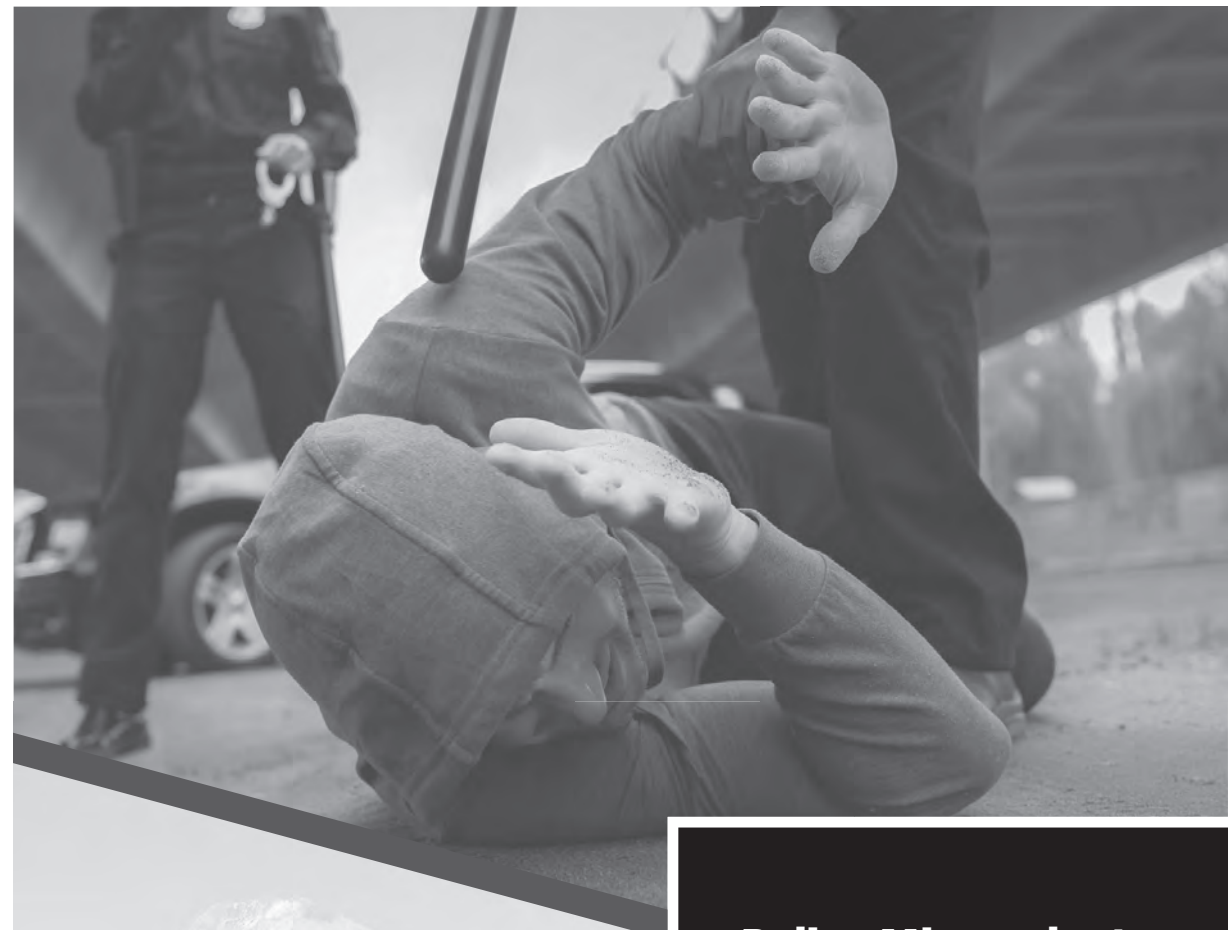
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Miller

Please join us in congratulating Lauren Davis, Cody Simons, and Dakota Miller on their well-deserved accomplishments. We look forward to continuing our journey of innovation and excellence together.

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Dancing with the Pagosa Stars

5:30 p.m. • Saturday, Aug. 17 • Ross Aragon Community Center



Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning

August 15, 2024

Two days left to vote for Dancing with the Pagosa Stars

By Cory Henderson
Seeds of Learning

The lights are set, the cameras are in place, and the Dancing with the Pagosa Stars crew is ready for action on the dance floor this Saturday evening, Aug. 17.

After a summer of practicing, planning — and pining for the Mirror Ball Trophy — our stars, coaches, emcees, volunteers and producers are ready to put on Pagosa's dance show of the year, Dancing with the Pagosa Stars.

This show will not only provide for an exciting Saturday night but will also raise money to supplement tuition for children attending Seeds of Learnings, a local early childhood education center.

Our stars — Veronica Medina, Roy Tinguely, Janna Lilly, Ramon Badell, MorgAnne Foster and Bo DePena — have been working hard to perfect their dance moves and rack up the votes for themselves and, most importantly, the children at Seeds of Learning.

Each \$1 vote goes directly to the school to help pay for critical costs like a reduced tuition fee for the families that qualify, school supplies, teachers' salaries, providing a hot meal to each child and much more.

The star with the most votes at the end of the night will win the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy.

It is still anyone's race, so vote for your favorite star to help them win.

Voting is open through Aug. 17.

Enter vote.dwtps.org into your browser to go directly to the voting ballot. If you don't know who to vote for, visit dwtps.org to read their bios and vote for your favorites.

While your votes will help one lucky star win the Mirror Ball Trophy, a judging panel will determine the winners of the other five awards. The other awards include Best Showmanship, Best Male Dancer, Best Female Dancer, Vogue Award, Most Original and the Red Hot Award.

Our judging panel will consist of volunteers from the Pagosa community who are passionate about Seeds of Learning.

After a summer of hard work, we can't wait to host a night of fun, dancing and fundraising starting at 5:30 p.m. when the doors of the Ross Aragon Community Center open.

Whether or not your star wins the Mirror Ball Trophy, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you too are a "star" for changing the future for an at-risk child.

From all of us at Seeds of Learning and Dancing with the Pagosa Stars, thank you for believing in our school and children.

Live Performers



Friday

Meltdown on Main: The Status Crowes, 5:30 p.m.
Mountain Pizza and Taproom: Dan Evans, 5:30 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Rock N Rebels, 5 p.m.

Saturday

East Side Market: Jonny Keys, 11 a.m.
Mountain Pizza and Taproom: Dan Evans, 5:30 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

Sunday

Mountain Pizza and Taproom: Dan Evans, 5:30 p.m.

Monday

Mountain Pizza and Taproom: Dan Evans, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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Owner, CEO

Jim O'Rourke, jorouke@orourkemediagroup.com

Publisher, Advertising, Circulation

Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Editor

Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters

Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com

Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com

Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

Classified Advertising/Front Office

Cristin Flanagan, classads@pagosasun.com

Hailey Sams, intern

Head Pressroom Robert Penton

Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon

Mailroom William Thomas

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Annual duck race set for Aug. 24

By John DeMarco

Knights of Columbus Council

The ducks are ready to hit the water.

The Knights of Columbus Council #7560 is having its 21st Annual Duck Race in Town Park on Aug. 24 beginning at noon.

Every year plastic ducks can be purchased for a chance to win the race and the first prize.

There are five opportunities to win, and all prizes are cash. The first-place cash prize is \$1,500, second is

\$750 and third place is \$500. There are also two opportunities for two randomly drawn ducks to win cash prizes of \$125.

Tickets are only \$10. Buy some ducks, win some bucks.

The day will start at noon on Saturday, Aug. 24, with music by the Retro Cats; a food court with burgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks; a beer garden; prize drawings; and games. The ducks will hit the water and the

race will begin at 3 p.m. You will not want to miss it, but you need not be present to win.

Tickets are available at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd., Silver Dollar Liquor and at the park on race day.

Come out for an exciting day of food, fun and fellowship and get in on the action. Purchase tickets and your lucky duck just might add some extra cash to your wallet.

Stargazers announce change to August meeting

By Joan Mieritz

San Juan Stargazers

Sometimes you have to trust your club president — there is a necessary change for our Aug. 22 monthly meeting.

Instead of Thursday, Aug. 22, our meeting will be Friday, Aug. 23.

There will be social and snack time at 6 p.m. Please come during that time if you are sharing eclipse pictures to make sure your photos are compatible with our viewing system.

The program will be at 7 p.m. for people to share their 2024 eclipse photos and stories.

We had members from Mexico to Maine and many places in between. If you are not a member but went to some exotic location or had a special experience, please join us and share it with us.

This should be super fun sharing. We hope to see you there.

Free family movie night set for Aug. 17

Special to The PREVIEW

The Pagosa Springs Police Department will be sponsoring a free family movie night on Aug. 17.

A PG-rated movie will be shown at the athletic field at Town Park on Hermosa Street beginning at dark, or approximately 9 p.m.

There will be free food available beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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Photo courtesy Katrina Thomas

The cast of "Mary Poppins Jr." takes a quick photo break while rehearsing their show-stopping number "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." See the show Aug. 15-17 in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' set to fly to town Aug. 15-17

By Katrina Thomas
Pagosa Family School

Pagosa Springs Middle School will present Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins Jr." in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium from Thursday, Aug. 15 and Friday, Aug. 16, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 17, at 2 p.m.

The "practically perfect" musical is based on the classic P.L. Travers stories and the Walt Disney film.

The fifth- through ninth-grade cast and crew includes 41 students from the community led by directors Malinda Burnett, Katrina Thomas, Leo Baughman and Heather Rose.

A truly community event, participating students hail from Pagosa Springs Middle School, Pagosa Family School, Pagosa Valor Academy, Our Savior Lutheran School, Pagosa Peak Open School and home school.

"You are going to be blown away by the talent, hard work and excel-

lence that these students exude. With only eight rehearsal days, these students put on a truly superior-quality show. This only can happen because the students are completely committed and have been working independently on their parts over the summer since their audition the first week of June. Then they come in ready to 'fly,'" commented director Katrina Thomas.

All of London is shouting from the rooftops about this exciting stage adaptation of the classic tales of Mary Poppins. Join the Banks family as they encounter adventure after fun-

filled adventure with their curious new nanny, Mary Poppins.

With colorful characters and an irresistible score, "Mary Poppins Jr." is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages.

Admission is free. Consider making a donation so we can continue this amazing musical theater experience for the middle-schoolers of our community.

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's "Mary Poppins Jr." is presented through special arrangement with and all materials are provided by Music Theatre International.

Don't miss this amazing show.

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Give it a Tri - A PLPOA Triathlon and End of Summer Bash slated for Aug. 24

By Jenifer Pitcher

Pagosa Lakes Property Owner Association

Growing up in Pagosa in the '90s and as part of the Pagosa Lakes Porpoises swim team, I fondly remember the Pagosa Lakes High-Tri as a significant milestone we eagerly anticipated.

Since joining the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) as an employee in 2015, I was thrilled to revive the triathlon tradition in 2017. We introduced the What' SUP Triathlon, a unique event that combined biking, running and stand-up paddleboarding to take advantage of our beautiful lakes and the SUP craze.

After a hiatus in 2020-2021 and a cancellation in 2022 due to lightning, we successfully brought back the event in 2023 with great enthusiasm.

The venue was changed to the PLPOA Recreation Center to provide better amenities such as bathrooms and electricity. Participants had the option to swim or paddle for the water segment, but with only one paddler last year, we've adapted this year's event to a traditional mini triathlon: swim, bike and run.

This shift has inspired a new name and vibe: the Give it a Tri - A PLPOA Triathlon and End of Summer Bash on Aug. 24.

This year, we're excited to include a kid's triathlon and allow both the adult and kid triathletes to be completed individually or as a team.

If triathlons aren't your thing, join us at noon for the community festivities featuring a cornhole tournament, live music, a beer garden, food vendors, door prizes and Rec Center membership specials.

Enjoy our outdoor amenities, including a playground, yard games and volleyball. Bring a chair or blan-

ket to relax on the lawn.

To support your training needs, if you register for the triathlon and are not a PLPOA member, you will be eligible for a \$30 training membership at the Rec Center throughout August.

Event details

8:30 a.m.: Kids Individual and Team Tri (50-yard swim, 1.5-mile bike, 1-mile run).

10 a.m.: Adult Individual and Team Tri (1/2-mile swim, 12.4-mile bike, 3.1-mile run)

11:30 a.m.: beer garden and food vendors open.

Noon to 3 p.m.: live music by Mojo Birds, offering funky, modern roots music.

Noon: cornhole tournament begins.

2 p.m.: door prize drawings.

Exclusive offers for PLPOA residents and property owners

- Newbies membership offer: Enjoy a one-day-only, 20 percent discount on all Rec Center memberships for newcomers.

- Newbies door prize drawing: Enter to win a six-month couples' membership for new members.

- Current members membership offer: Renew between Aug. 19 and 24 for 15 percent off. Simply say, "I want to do the promotional renew," and your renewal payment won't activate until your current membership expires.

- Current members door prize

drawing: Win an extension of your current membership. For example, if you have a family six-month membership, the expiration will be extended by six months for the whole family. Punch pass holders will win a new punch pass.

Remember, you must be present to win any of the exciting prizes. Drawings are exclusively for PLPOA residents and property owners.

More information

Come join us for a day of fitness, fun and community celebration.

All of the detailed links below can also be found on our website: <https://www.plpoa.com/>.

- Triathlon registration: <https://www.raceentry.com/plpoa-give-it-a-tri-sprint-triathlon/race-information>.

- Course maps: <https://www.raceentry.com/race-maps/plpoa-give-it-a-tri-sprint-triathlon>.

- Cornhole registration: <https://form.jotform.com/PLPOA/2024cornhole>.

- Facebook event page: <https://fb.me/e/4KTvnghBF>.

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Sign up with a partner or be paired with a new friend to cook with.

UPCOMING CLASS

August 21: Catherine Siebel with Fearless Cooking - Tapas

September 25 - Ana Smith with SoCo Mountain Lifestyles - Meal Prep

Register for classes through the Ross Aragon Community Center under Adult Programs/Pagosa Cooks

<https://secure.recl.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>



Runway for Rise online voting now available

By Dee McPeek
Rise Above Violence

On Saturday, Oct. 5, 12 team models will show off their recycled creations at Runway for Rise 2024 benefiting Rise Above Violence.

Each team will be competing for votes to raise the most money to support domestic violence programs and be awarded the 2024 Pagosa Prada Award.

Online voting for your favorite teams began on Monday, Aug. 12.

Votes are \$1 and you can vote as often and for as many different teams as you like. Teams will be reaching out to family and friends for support, and every dollar received will be added to their team totals.

Your dollar votes also provide the funds for many Rise programs, including the new Economic Empowerment Program where clients move from short-term safety to long-term financial security.

Ninety-eight percent of people who experience domestic violence also experience economic abuse. This program endeavors to overcome those effects by teaching topics such as budgeting, managing debt and improving credit.

Rise offers incentives for participation, including \$25 for each course module completed, a graduation award and up to \$500 matched savings upon completion of the program.

Heather Rose explained, "My



Photo courtesy Sienna Rose

New to the Runway this year, Rise is delighted to welcome Sienna and Heather Rose as the mother-and-daughter team Paper Roses.

daughter and I are thrilled to support Rise because of its commitment to nurture safety, dignity and healing for women, children and youth. We shouldn't turn a blind eye to domestic violence. Getting to use art, fashion and creativity to fundraise is an incredible opportunity to give

back to this amazing organization."

To vote for Paper Roses and all the other teams comprised of your friends and neighbors, go to www.riseaboveviolence.org.

Each team will be adding teasers about their creations over the next few weeks, so you'll want to revisit and vote often.

If you have any event questions, contact Annie Gian at annie@riseaboveviolence.org.

Help support these teams using their time and creativity to stop domestic violence in Pagosa.

Realtors and Rotary Club to sponsor veteran fly-fishing

By Kenny Rogers
Special to The PREVIEW

From Aug. 26-30, 16 participants and guides of the Pagosa Springs veterans' fly-fishing group will be getting together at the Project Sanctuary Retreat Center (formerly the Snow Wolf Lodge) on Blue Creek Road off of Blanco Road for camaraderie, healing and, of course, fly-fishing.

The participants are disabled veterans with many disabilities, including PTSD.

Fishing will occur at local area rivers. Some areas are provided by local landowners who have allowed the fly-fishing group to access their river property. The volunteer guides

not only help the veterans with their skill sets but teach the novice fly-fisherman the fundamentals of the sport.

Throughout the years, the Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors has been the primary sponsor of this event. Because of rising costs to continue this event, the Pagosa Mountain Rotary Club has stepped forward to sponsor the meals for all the participants and guides during their stay in Pagosa Country.

If any landowner with river access would like to allow this group to fish their section of a river or if any individuals or businesses would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Stan Zuege at (970) 759-0481.

Veterans Crisis Line

free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365.

(800) 273-8255
or text 838255

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CAN WE AS TAXPAYERS AFFORD THIS?

A new proposed County Administration building's total projected long-term debt could be as high as **\$20,000,000!**

Add to this, the cost of the land (\$2.178 million) and infrastructure!

Remember, the County has already committed to pay for a \$12 million detention center and a \$7 million judicial center.

Even if the County could afford this, what other priorities are being underfunded, such as roads and schools?

Three people are deciding how your tax dollars are spent. Let them know how you feel about this debt burden while you can:

commissioners@archuletacounty.org Tel: 970.264.8300

- South Pagosa Concerned Citizens

Author talk to be available via Zoom on library's big screen

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Our highly popular free online author talks continue in August with two more opportunities for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors — with one transmitted live via Zoom onto our big screen.

Join us at the library next Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 5 p.m. to interact with Shelby Van Pelt, novelist and author of "Remarkably Bright Creatures," about a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.

Meanwhile, today, Thursday, Aug. 15, at noon showcases Irena Smith, Ph.D., discussing "The Golden Ticket to College Admissions is Not What You Think: Redefining Success for Parents of Teens."

For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Writers Guild publishes anthology

Ruby's Writers Guild has just published a new anthology, "Tales from the San Juans," which the members say includes "life musings, creative short fiction, retrospectives, poetry, novellas and short observations — all inspired by the beauty that surrounds us."

The book is available at the library for \$21.50, with net proceeds going to the library's building campaign.

Every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m., the guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

Preschool playdough tomorrow

Join us for free playdough exploration and fun tomorrow, Friday, Aug.

Library News

16, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Fairy Tale Theatre tomorrow

All ages are invited to a Fairy Tale Theatre from 2 to 3:30 p.m. tomorrow, Aug. 16, when you can read and act out your favorite characters. Aesop's fables and fairy tales will be our source for fun stories we will enjoy together.

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Pokemon Club Saturday

If you're aged 6-11 and love Pokemon, this free club is for you. Bring your cards on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Knitting and crochet lessons

Learn to knit or crochet on Monday, Aug. 19, at our free gathering from 2 to 3:15 p.m. for ages 8 and up. Supplies will be provided.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 19, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Adult DIY next Tuesday

At the free in-person adult DIY next Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 1 to 2:30

■ See Library on next page

Trinity Anglican Church



We celebrate the Lord's Supper this Sunday.

Come join us at 10am.

Following the service is potluck under the pines!

246 Harman Park Dr. • trinityanglicanchurch.org

Join us in supporting Veronica Medina!



Veronica is one of the Stars in this year's Dancing with the Pagosa Stars fundraiser for Seeds of Learning.

She is focused on this event to support early childhood education in our community.

One of the reasons we love Pagosa Springs is that when someone is facing hard times, everyone comes together to support them.

One of the Medina's sons was involved in a terrible accident in June, which has forever changed their lives.

In spite of this, Veronica remains committed to fundraising for Seeds of Learning through Dancing with the Pagosa Stars.

Veronica's friends ask for your thoughts and prayers for the Medina family. We also appreciate your support and contributions on behalf of Veronica.



1 vote is \$1,
100 votes is \$100.

No donation is too big or too small.

Please vote for Veronica Medina at this QR code, or visit VoteVeronica.dwtps.org

21st Annual Knights of Columbus Duck Race
Buy some ducks and win some bucks!

August 24 • Noon • Town Park
Food • Live Music • Games
DUCK RACE at 3 PM
ONE LUCKY DUCK \$100

1st place \$1500 • 2nd place \$750 • 3rd place \$500
Two Random Ducks \$125

Tickets available at Pope JP II Church office,
Silver Dollar Liquor Store & on race day at the picnic.
You do not need to be present to win the Duck Race.
All proceeds go towards community and church projects.

Library

■ continued from previous page

p.m., we will create hoop art with doilies, ribbons, natural stones and other items we have in our crafts room. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. There is no minimum skill level needed.

Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Free play for kids

Family storytime next Wednesday, Aug. 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. will be a free play session.

Tween rock hounds

Get together with tweens every Wednesday this month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for free sessions to uncover the mysteries of gems, minerals, crystals and rocks.

Dungeons and Dragons

Today, Thursday, Aug. 22, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Create a character and join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

Downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download

the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Spanish-language books

"Equilibra Tu Glucosa" ("Balance Your Glucose") by Ismael Galancho is a guide to improve your metabolic health and reduce body fat. "Cocina Bonito, Cocina Sano" ("Cook Beautiful, Cook Healthy" by Estefania de Andres offers 88 delicious and healthy recipes plus essential kitchen tips. "Como No Matar Tus Plantas" ("How Not to Kill Your Houseplants") by Veronica Peerless is a new edition outlining how to care for more than 100 houseplants. "El Huerto Autosuficiente" ("Grow Food for Free") by Huw Richards shows how to grow fruits and veggies in your home garden.

DVDs

"The Long Game" is the true story of five young Mexican-American caddies in Texas who make it to state as players against all odds with help from two coaches who believe in them.

Nonfiction

"It's Not Hysteria" by Dr. Karen Tang is a guide to women's health conditions including period problems, pelvic pain, menopause, sexual health and more. "Sing Like Fish" by science writer Amorina Kingdon explores how underwater animals tap into sounds to survive and how human noise can endanger them. "White Poverty" by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II offers an approach to dealing with endemic American poverty. "Next Level" by Stacy T. Sims is a guide to help active women deal with menopause. "Roctogenarians" by Mo Rocca and Jonathan Greenberg is a collection of features about late-in-life achievers.

Large print

"Lost Man's Lane" by Scott Carson follows a teen's experience as a summer intern working for a P.I. "Patchwork Quilt Murder" by Leslie Meier is a Lucy Stone mystery. "A Refiner's Fire" by Donna Leon is a Commissioner Guido Brunetti mystery. "The Glassmaker" by Tracy Chevalier is set in 1486 Venice. "Flashpoint" by Catherine Coulter is an FBI thriller. "Some Murders in Berlin" by Karen Robards

features a psychological profiler.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"A Guest in the House" by Emily Carroll tells of a woman who just married a man whose wife died of perhaps not natural causes. "Bad River" by Marc Cameron is an Arliss Cutter thriller.

Donation guidelines

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

Guidelines for donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2013 or later, nonfiction books published 2018 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

"In my profession, I can only ever play the age that I am, at least until AI takes over completely. Then the plastic surgeons will be out of a job." — Diane Lane, age 59, American actress who has starred in film and on TV, and continues to work.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.

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Oils

Thursday, August 22nd

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Farmers market vouchers for older adults still available

By **Rose Chavez**
PREVIEW Columnist

If you love to shop at the Pagosa Farmers Market, are 60 or older, or if you are 200 percent of poverty, please call Deb Herera of the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging at (970) 403-2164 to put your name on the list for \$50 in vouchers to redeem for local foods.

Then, visit the Pagosa Farmers Market any Saturday during the growing season (running through the end of September) to redeem your vouchers with local food artisans and growers in southwest Colorado and northern New Mexico.

The Pagosa Farmers Market is located at the Tennyson Sculpture Garden on Lewis Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Bingo

The Senior Center will be hosting bingo twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Bingo will be on Aug. 23, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and Oct. 11.

Participation is free, and we ask you bring yourself and a friend for joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses 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.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Emotional Freedom Technique sessions

Join Judith Newman at the Pagosa Senior Center (451 Hot Springs Blvd.) the second Wednesday of each month — Sept. 11 and Oct. 9 — to

Senior News

learn and/or refresh your Emotional Freedom Technique, also known as tapping skills, to support yourself with self-care, relief from anxiety and community support.

All classes start at 10 a.m. and last 45 minutes to an hour. Please bring a friend or come alone. All are welcome.

Healthy aging and yoga therapy classes series

The healthy aging yoga series continues to be offered in person at the Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Classes will be structured by therapeutic yoga tools and techniques with chair movement, standing stretches, gentle postures, breathing practices and reflective meditative moments.

Monthly themes for the series will include topics such as sustainable strength for healthy aging individuals, brain health, heart and cardiovascular health, mental and emotional well-being, community connections, and stress management, to name a few.

Classes will be educational for participants to utilize practices in daily life and are meant for all levels of experience with yoga.

Mats and chairs will be provided at the Senior Center; some blocks and Therabands are available, too. The addition of yoga props is always welcomed.

We are requesting that individuals who are new to joining the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with AJ

■ See Senior on next page

Maybe it's just earwax.

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65 Caballero Drive
\$839,000

MLS # 811817

This home is perfectly located on approximately an acre of land in the Pagosa Lakes area. Open the back door and a 700 sq ft deck will provide additional space for a BBQ grill, plenty of outdoor seating, and a new hot tub for your relaxation and enjoyment. 4 beds/2.5 baths with 2,350 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/65Caballero>



1135 Park Avenue, Unit 401
\$619,000

MLS # 813453

Beautiful end unit townhome in Whispering Pines! No neighbors directly behind you as this area has a picnic table, a gazebo and feels like an extension of your own backyard right off the lower patio. 2 beds/2.5 baths with 2,044 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1135ParkAve>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$995,000

MLS # 813551

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>



Cloman Industrial Park
\$390,000

MLS # 807337

.68 Acre, 1500 sq. ft. commercial building located in Cloman Industrial Park. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BYU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater.



2453 Running Horse Place
\$2,400,000

MLS # 813104

35.2 Acres with a guest house and set up for horses. The property comes with an extra workshop/garage, a growing dome, a round pen, 3 stall + barn and numerous out buildings. The main house is 5,141 sq. ft. and the guest house is 2,028 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/2453RunningHorse>



247 Davis Cup Drive, Unit 4258
\$355,000

MLS # 811750

Great condo with the primary bedroom on the main level and a second spacious bedroom on the second level. Updated kitchen with granite countertops and newer appliances. 2 beds/3 baths with 1,345 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/247DavisCup>



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR®, BROKER
C: 970.759.8109
ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
www.shelliehogue.com



Gail Brault
REALTOR®, Broker Associate
C: 970.946.2051
GailBrault1957@gmail.com



Barbara Swindlehurst
REALTOR®, BROKER/ OWNER
C: 303.618.7423
Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com

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Seniors

■ **continued from previous page**
 Connors directly by emailing ajconnorslove@gmail.com.

T'ai Chi Chih

The Senior Center offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the dining hall to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life.

T'ai Chi Chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this practice.

All classes will be free for older adults (age 60 and better) and will last approximately one hour in the dining hall.

No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call (970) 264-2167.

Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of "Senior Conversations" with local Bill Salmansohn.

He will lead the group through mindfulness exercises and discussion of various topics pertaining to aging in Archuleta County. Explore and discover for yourself answers to your questions and concerns.

The meeting will be held in the Senior Center in the dining hall. Snacks will be provided.

Pagosa Springs Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community

Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week, including Fridays.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage. Some popular menu items include Frito chili pie, pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, Singaporean pork ribs, vegetarian lasagna, Hawaiian shrimp with coconut rice and always a beautiful green salad. Many of our items are locally sourced and organic.

Our chef works with a team of local food professionals to hand-prepare your meal for dine-in service in our cozy dining room (with an amazing view of the San Juans) or for takeout (via our convenient drive-through). Our menu changes daily.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Aug. 15 — Beef stroganoff with egg noodles, glazed carrots, garden salad, peach cobbler, dinner roll and milk.

Friday, Aug. 16 — Fish sandwich with tartar sauce, sweet potato fries, garden salad, fruit, lemon bars and milk.

Monday, Aug. 19 — Chicken and dumplings, roasted cauliflower, gar-

den salad, fruit, cookies and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 20 — Greek Spinach and Feta Pie, Lemon Greek Potatoes, Garden Salad, Fruit, Hazelnut Crunch Bar, Milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 21 — Baja fish tacos, cabbage slaw, zesty black beans, garden salad, fruit, Key lime pie and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 22 — New Orleans corn and sausage bisque, simmered greens, southern biscuit, garden salad, pistachio fruit salad and milk.

Friday, Aug. 23 — Teriyaki beef and peppers, coconut rice, garden salad, vanilla yogurt, fruit and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Meals on Wheels volunteer opportunities

Do you love your community and have a passion for helping your fellow community members live their healthiest lives? ASI has multiple volunteer positions to deliver hot healthy meals via our Meals on

■ **See Seniors on next page**

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July-August 2024

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Includes local Pagosa Springs bus route, and services to Durango (Thursdays) and Arboles (Mondays).

Plus, NEW service to Aspen Springs 3 times every day Monday through Friday.

Call the MET to reserve your seat 24 hours in advance to Durango or Arboles (970) 264-2250.



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archuletacounty.org



We're Celebrating!

Join us for a **Ribbon Cutting**
Saturday, September 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
 at our new location
191 Talisman Dr. #103

See our new offices and enjoy refreshments!

JoAnn Jacober-Howell has worked with us since 1978. Come, wish her well as she is retiring!

JJ ACCOUNTING SERVICES

970-264-5330 • 191 Talisman Dr. #103 • FAX 970-264-4451

Seniors

■ continued from previous page

Wheels service to homebound older adults.

The time commitment is about three hours per day. We'll provide you with training materials. If you are interested, contact Rose Chavez at rosa@psseniors.org.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its para-transit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

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.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-n-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

COVID-19 test kits available

Stop by the Senior Center to pick up a pack of six free COVID-19 tests for your personal use. These kits are available to anyone in the public who needs affordable access for health promotion and disease prevention.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call 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) 264-0501, ext 2.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed over the last couple of years.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

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LONG-TERM SLEEP DEPRIVATION MAY RESULT IN HEART DISEASE

Who doesn't appreciate a good night's sleep?

Its benefits are well known and appreciated by us all.

For those suffering from or looking to avoid heart disease, a good night's sleep is vital for disease prevention, management and even reversal.

Today's excerpt explains more.

Sleeping less than six hours a night may make you more likely to have a heart attack, stroke, or heart failure.

A new study puts numbers on that risk. The study, based on more than 3,000 people older than 45, shows that people who sleep less than six hours per night are about twice as likely to have a stroke or heart attack as people who get six to eight hours of sleep.

And they are about 70% more likely to have congestive heart failure.

"The optimal sleep time appears to be six to eight hours," says Rohit R. Arora, MD, chairman of cardiology at Chicago Medical School.

The new study, presented in Chicago at the American College of Cardiology's annual meeting, isn't the first study to link sleep and heart health.

But it's one of the largest surveys to do that, Arora says.

That means a lot of Americans could be at greater risk for heart trouble because of their sleep habits.

Nearly 30% of U.S. adults report sleeping no more than six hours per night, according to a national health survey.

Source: "Too Little Sleep Bad for Heart". By Charlene Laino. <http://www.webmd.com>

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

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3

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

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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J.C. Higgins, Al's first love

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Writing on this subject might be jumping the gun, looking down a barrel before the season starts, but it won't be long until the hunters are back in town. With fancy hunting gear, hopes and dreams, they come for the thrill of the hunt.

Pagosa is a hunters' town. Go to Walmart and sit in the parking lot. Everyone is in camouflage except a few of us. Husbands, wives, children and even their service dogs come to the store in camo.

Even though my Sweet Al can't limp up those mountains or chase down a deer anymore, he is always ready to pull the trigger on another story about his hunting days on the mountaintop or in the cornfield.

Each morning, my Sweet Al and I walk to the river and share a Bible study and a devotion. His attention span is getting shorter, but this book, "The Hunter's Devotional" by Steve Chapman, keeps Al focused on the subject. He wants me to read more than one.

I was told to keep the elderly engaged. When their memories are slipping, ask them to tell their stories. This stirs their memory and helps them think. This morning I asked Al to tell me how old he was when he first caught buck fever.

"When I got my first gun."

Amazing how he can't remember what he had for breakfast, but he can remember every detail about every hunt. He came alive, a twinkle sparked in his eyes, and he looked as if he was smitten with puppy love.

"I was 12 years old when I got my first gun, a J.C. Higgins bolt-action 12-gauge Model 10 shotgun. I went to the pawnshop on South Gibson in Albuquerque and bought it for \$75. A serviceman, being shipped out, hocked it and I got it."

"That was 74 years ago." I made a quick assessment.

"When I pointed that gun at a bird, it hit it every time. In a split second, when I threw up the gun, it fit exactly in the crook of my arm."

I'm not surprised how he came alive. Hunting is in his blood.

In love, he continued to talk about his first gun. "It's a sweet gun. Not a pretty gun, a rough finish, not all polished up, but always ready to take out and shoot a few birds."

"You could leave it out in the rain, throw it in the back seat, and take it anywhere."

"Your J.C. Higgins sounds like a faithful girlfriend."

"She is. The year I was invited to go on a hunting trip of a lifetime, I went with my brother and his rich friends. They were all carrying their \$1,300 guns. My brother rented a big cornfield for the week in South Dakota. There were nine of us. We went into the field. They carried their brand-new, shiny guns. I carried my old J.C. Higgins. "They would flash their guns, show



high with my J.C. Higgins by my side." Al has promised each grandson a gun and the rest of the family, too. It's funny, they each picked the best-looking gun. Al grinned. No one looked at the old ragged and scratched J.C. Higgins.

I asked Al if they had picked the J.C., could he have turned loose of his first love?

"Nope. If they had known the history, happiness and success of my sweet

■ See Lane on next page

off their latest purchase and brag about how much their little beauty cost to have a trophy on their arm. I would pull out my old tried and true. They lifted their eyebrows in doubt. But when I stepped into that cornfield, the pheasants were in my bag."

My brother yelled, "Al, stop shooting all the birds; leave some for the other boys."

"At the end of the day, in the bunkhouse, I divvied up my birds with the guys who hadn't shot one pheasant. I was invited back a few times over those years. My brother was flying high with his rich and famous friends. I was flying

high with my J.C. Higgins by my side."

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			6	9		3		
		9	2					
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4		1						
	9					7		

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

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Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs to discuss 'Moving Past the Past'

By Lurah Brock Young

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Recently, I asked a group of friends what they might want to talk about in our next discussion. The topic of past lives was first on their list. "Why?" you might ask.

Our past lives are a fascinating subject. Each of us has had many past lives, including being rich, poor, male, female, and we have lived in many different times and countries.

One of the key reasons for studying past lives is that they affect who we are today. People we have known before and our experiences in those lives have combined to help make us who we are today.

When we meet these people again this lifetime, we often have karma to resolve. How do we resolve karma when we do not understand how it happened and what we can do to resolve it?

There are ways. When I began the

search to prove I had lived before, I found that my dreams provided part of the answer. There are other ways to understand our past lives and even present life karma that enable us to resolve challenges with people and how we react. We can gain understanding to ensure we don't make those same mistakes again.

Would you like to live a more open and loving life by tapping into Divine Spirit and understanding how your past lives influence who you are today?

Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs on Sunday, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m. for a lively discussion of "Moving Past the Past: Breaking Free from Karma and Reincarnation."

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

This free event is sponsored by Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and beliefs. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

To join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs, visit <https://www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/>.

To learn more about Eckankar, visit <https://www.eckankar.org> or <https://eckankar-colorado.org/>.



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Lane

■ continued from previous page
thing and the years of joy it brought me, they would've fought me for it. There's nothing like it. When I take hold of her in my arms, caress her, oil and clean her up, I think of all the memories I made with her."

Final brushstroke: Those distant memories give the elderly the capacity to remember. Let them live their stories, even if you've heard them a million times. Their memories will keep them young at heart.

From my readers:

"So enjoyed your article, Save the Last Dance for Cindy. We met them at Bridge at the senior center and quickly became dear friends. We went with them everywhere when we were here and practically met the entire town.

They were what I call 'real people' with nothing to prove except their real love for all and their generosity. Thanks for writing such a heartfelt article. They are truly missed. Thanks again, Claudine & Mark McAnelly"

"Thank you, Betty - What a tribute to Ron and Cindy Gustafson in her article Save the Last Dance for Cindy. What a tribute to their legacy in Pagosa. It touched the hearts of all their friends, Veterans and Women Helping In Pagosa Springs (WHIPS) and their families. So touching." - Nancy Ford.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com. I'd love to share them with the other folks in Pagosa.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Unitarian Universalists to introduce 'Love at the Center' theme

By DeAnna L. Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

On Sunday, Aug. 18, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will introduce the theme of "Love at the Center," with the Rev. Ruth Rinehart joining us in person.

Rinehart is a returning guest minister to Pagosa and will share on love as a core value of Unitarian Universalism.

She states that love is an overused word, too often too trite. Powerful and fierce, it is not saccharine or sugary.

Rinehart asks us to consider how we stay grounded in love at our center, at our core, in this world we live in. How do we live into "Love at the Center," with a practice of love guiding our thoughts, words and deeds?

We are excited for the opportunity to host Rinehart again and invite all to come, be with us, for reflection, lamentation, connection and love.

For some background on this emerging theme within Unitarian Universalist circles, a new article of the bylaws was approved by the delegates during the annual meeting of the UU Association of Churches (UUA.org) this past June. This article made changes to the Values and Covenant of the denomination, which holds love at the center, but also includes equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity, justice and interdependence. The six values centered around love are inseparable from one another and speak to love being the power that holds us together in community.

Rinehart is a community minister, affiliated with Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, where she lives in her suburban permaculture homestead with her partner, David Hurlbut.

She believes passionately in the Unitarian Universalist movement toward collective liberation for all

and appreciates returning to the Pagosa Springs UU fellowship to lead worship.

Pagosa UU Fellowship in-person services are normally on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10:30. Find us in Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. Online services continue through Zoom using the following meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8991941305>

In-person meditation practice is held most second and fourth Sundays at 9 a.m. If you are interested in meditation Sundays, we encourage you to email PagosaUUF@gmail.com so you can be added to the contact list. This way you will be informed of cancellations and other notices.

We welcome diversity and invite everyone to share in our faith community. For additional information about the fellowship, please see the website www.pagosauu.org.

New Thought Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
New Thought Center for Inspirational Living

The New Thought Center for Inspirational Living has several upcoming events.

Every Thursday, 6 p.m.: Illuminations. Various subjects and speakers. A love donation will be accepted.

Join our Facebook page for announcements: Pagosa New Thought.

Aug. 22, 6 p.m.: Niara Isley, author

of "Facing The Shadow, Embracing the Light: A Journey of Spirit Retrieval & Awakening," will speak about her experiences that inspired her to write about her Journey. A love donation will be accepted.

Aug. 23, 5-7 p.m.: Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. Come visit and learn about new programs and experiences for the body, mind and spirit inspirations. Admission is \$8 for Chamber guests.

There will be food, music and a bar.

About us

The New Thought Center is a 501(c)(3) and promotes philosophies similar to Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. The SpiritHeart Band provides live music every Sunday. We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge.



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Food drive to support area food pantries set for Aug. 31

Healthy Archuleta

Community food-sharing opportunities allow us to gather together to support our community as a whole.

Healthy Archuleta is partnering to host a food drive on Aug. 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Market.

Those who are able to are encouraged to share what they can to help the Food Distribution Center better support the Archuleta County Food Pantry Network with foods that our neighbors can use.

Join Healthy Archuleta in supporting the food security of our local community. A collection table will be set up at the store with a list of food items that our neighbors can use this summer and volunteers ready to collect donations.

These items will help stock the shelves of the Food Distribution Center, which supports the food pantries in Archuleta County. Come participate in a community food-sharing opportunity.

If you would like to make donations to the food drive outside of the hours, there is a collection bin at the UPS Store located at the front of the store.

For more information on the Healthy Archuleta Food Drive, visit <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/food-drive.html>.

Conversations in the Garden

Conversations in the Garden take place at the Pagosa Springs Community Garden (PSCG) downtown.

Situated right along the Riverwalk, overlooking the San Juan River, the garden is a small but active area for enthusiastic local gardeners to fill raised beds with all types of vegetables, herbs and flowers. This season has especially seen the benefits of afternoon rain showers, providing additional moisture to thirsty vegetation and giving those working in the garden a cool break from the heat.

Conversations in the Garden have been a gathering of folks wanting to chat about the pleasures and sometimes challenges of growing in our climate and elevation.

Topics have included dealing with local wildlife, insects (both the good and the bad) and weed control.

These gatherings are scheduled to continue on Saturday mornings

later this month and twice more into September. Please join us at 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays, Aug. 24, Sept. 7 and 21. These garden conversations last about an hour.

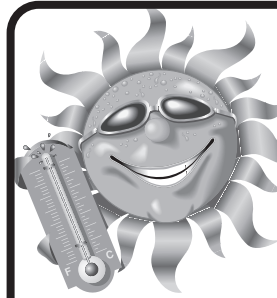
Also, this season, the PSCG has partnered with Healthy Archuleta's youth interns as well as members of CLAC en Español to learn more about gardening in the mountains.

These groups have made several visits to the community garden to assist with pulling weeds, laying out mulch in between the beds and along the paths, along with watering and composting. Their efforts will go to not only feed their families, but also provide needed fresh produce to some of our local food pantries.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Community news.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Jeffrey Reichel

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

Birds known as grosbeaks all possess big, chunky bills which they use to crack open hard-shelled seeds, but they are not necessarily closely related to each other. Evening and pine grosbeaks are members of the finch family. The other grosbeaks in the United States, the rose-breasted, the black-headed and the blue, are all members of the cardinal family, which includes colorful red, yellow and blue birds.

Deep blue body color and chestnut-colored wingbars are marks of the male blue grosbeak in breeding plumage. Females and immature males are cinnamon-colored with brown wingbars. A large, triangular bill dominates the face.

These striking birds nest across the southern United States and they have been extending their range northward. They winter or are resident birds in Mexico and in parts of the Caribbean. Within the areas where they are found, they are widespread, but not found in abundant numbers.

Blue grosbeaks are denizens of tangled vine and shrub habitats. They thrive in abandoned agricultural land but tend to avoid suburban habitats. In the southwestern U.S., they most commonly nest near water in streamside thickets. On occasion they show up to gather seed from the ground under backyard feeders.

In summer, a male often gives away his otherwise hidden location when he sings his rambling song from high exposed perches. Pairs may defend a breeding territory ranging from two to 20 acres where the female builds a nest low in a small tree or shrub. In southern parts of their breeding range, the female commonly leaves care of the fledglings to the male while she builds a second nest and hatches a second brood.

Their heavy bills allow them to eat large insects, including grasshoppers and crickets. They hover and glean insects from foliage, sally out to catch flying prey and hunt on the ground. Before feeding an insect to their nestlings, they carefully remove the head, wings and legs. Later in the season they also eat seeds and waste grains.

Along with the black-headed grosbeaks, blue grosbeaks will be departing soon, not to return until next spring.

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

Dr. Joanna Estes to be guest speaker for End-of-Life Education group

By Joan Mieritz
End-of-Life Education

End-of-Life Education will have a guest speaker on Monday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. using the Ruby Sisson Library's large meeting room. If you would like to bring cookies, coffee and tea will be available.

Dr. Joanna Estes will share relevant information from her experience of being an MD and dealing with death.

She will share the medical perspective of end-of-life care. She will detail the procedure involved in utilizing MAiD CO. She will also distinguish between hospice and palliative care. Then, she will answer all of our questions. This may be a very important talk that you won't want to miss.

If you have never come before, feel welcome to join us. We have been meeting for six months, but participation varies for each speaker and time.

End-of-life can be a difficult topic which seems to be better handled when we join together to deal with it. Most people find that topics like this are actually empowering and helpful for living life to the fullest.

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Reynolds Ash + Associates announces promotions

Reynolds Ash + Associates are thrilled to announce some exciting updates in 2024! In our ongoing commitment to excellent and growth, we are proud to share the following achievements:

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cody Simons, who has recently obtained his architectural license, and to Dakota Miller, who has achieved licensure as a Professional Engineer. This significant milestone marks the beginning of an exciting journey of professional development and contribution to our firm's work in the area.

It is with great excitement that we also announce the promotion of

Lauren Davis to the position of Partner.

Lauren has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, creativity, and a deep commitment to our firm's values and her clients. This promotion not only reflects Lauren's individual achievements but also RA+A's confidence in her vision and ability to drive our collective success forward.



Davis



Simons



Miller

Please join us in congratulating Lauren Davis, Cody Simons, and Dakota Miller on their well-deserved accomplishments. We look forward to continuing our journey of innovation and excellence together.

- paid advertisement -

Veterans Crisis Line

free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365.

(800) 273-8255 or text 838255

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Aug. 15

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presented by Pagosa Springs Middle School.

Virtual Author Talk: Irena Smith. Noon, virtual. Listen live or recorded. "The Golden Ticket to College Admissions is Not What You Think: Redefining Success for Parents of Teens" with Irena Smith, Ph.D. For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Spanish Fiesta Debrief Meeting. 5:30 p.m., Senior Center.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presented by Pagosa Springs Middle School.

'Escape to Margaritaville.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Aug. 16

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Preschool Playdough. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for playdough exploration and fun.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Indoor Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presented by Pagosa Springs Middle School.

Community Coffee. 1-3 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com.

Fresh Conversations. 1:30 p.m.,

Senior Center. A nutrition education program with recipe tastings.

Fairy Tale Theatre. 1-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Read fairy tales and act out your favorite characters.

ComFest. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Live music. Drink proceeds will benefit Wings Early Childhood Center.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presented by Pagosa Springs Middle School.

'Beauty and the Beast.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Aug. 17

Geology Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Art at the Pinnacles: Plein Air Workshop. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Participants will be introduced to the process of plein air painting. All materials will be provided. Tickets are \$75 for ages 10 and up. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Riverwalk Naturalist Tours. 8 a.m., Native Plants Garden on the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site in Centennial Park. Join naturalist guides on a tour of discovery through the Riverwalk wetlands conservation area. Tours are free and last approximately 1-1.5 hours. The 1.5-mile paved trail is wheelchair accessible. Please bring water, sunglasses, a hat and your curiosity. Cameras and binoculars optional. Pets should be left at home. No reservations are needed. This program is sponsored by the Weminuche Audubon Society,

■ See Calendar on next page

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ANNIVERSARY
AUGUST 15-17

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Preview Calendar

continued from previous page
Pagosa Wetland Partners and The Springs Resort. For more information, email pagosawetlands@gmail.com.

Pickleball Social Round-Robin. 8:30-11 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. Two courts will remain available for open play.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 9 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Preseason scrimmage.

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. Come at 9:30 a.m. for social time with friendly, creative quilters. Stay to learn about sewing machine maintenance and how to make a raggedy quilt, as well as show and tell and yummy treats. Please use the rear entrance.

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 10 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

LEGO Club. 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.

'Beauty and the Beast.' Noon, Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Pokémon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon too. No experience is required.

'Mary Poppins Jr.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Presented by Pagosa Springs Middle School.

Dancing with the Pagosa Stars. 5:30 p.m., Community Center. Visit dwtps.org for tickets and to vote for your favorite star.

Flute Music at Twilight. 6 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

'Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Family Movie Night. 7:30 p.m., Town

Park athletic field. The Pagosa Springs Police Department is sponsoring a free family movie night. Free food will be available at 7:30 p.m., and a PG movie will be shown at dark (approximately 9 p.m.). Bring your blankets and chairs.

Sunday, Aug. 18

'Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, Aug. 19

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m.,
See Calendar on next page

Silver Thread Studio Tour

Saturday August 17 9am - 5pm

Studio & Gallery Tours Demonstrations • Q&A Art for Purchase

A self-guided scenic driving tour along the Silver Thread Byway: South Fork, Creede & the Upper Rio Grande



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 South Fork or Creede Visitor Center

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Complain
- 5 Construction site sight
- 10 Lowlife
- 14 Tech support caller
- 15 Baklava ingredient
- 16 Greedy cry
- 17 One way to ride a horse
- 19 HS subject
- 20 Sunday speaker
- 21 Remote
- 23 Study aide
- 25 Engine sound
- 26 Inbox contents
- 29 2022 film, "Talking"
- 31 "Take On Me" pop trio
- 34 See-through item
- 35 Ballgame segment

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
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52	53					54			55			56	57	58
59					60			61						
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

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DOWN

- 1 Transition point
- 2 Where India is
- 3 Many wines
- 4 More attractive
- 5 Patient record
- 6 Reel's partner
- 7 Fireplace piece
- 8 "Little House on the Prairie" merchant
- 9 Morning coffee, for one
- 10 Bad-mouth
- 11 Go against
- 12 It may be hard to resist
- 13 Pinochle combo
- 18 Music genre
- 22 Pulmonary pair
- 24 Deed holders
- 26 Hobbyist's glue
- 27 Pale purple
- 28 Word for a loner
- 30 Squander, say
- 32 To-do

- 33 Pester
- 35 Bulky herbivorous dinosaur
- 38 Color of honey
- 40 Like some resorts
- 43 Type of wage
- 47 Scrape, as the knee
- 49 Photo finish
- 51 Calls out
- 52 Java holders
- 53 Writer Quindlen
- 54 Exploding star
- 56 Fiesta fare
- 57 Hermione
- 58 Snorkeler's haunt
- 61 Stout

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

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.

End-of-Life Education. 10 a.m., Sisson Library. The End-of-Life Education group will hear from Dr. Joanna Estes.

Indoor Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. The speaker will be Emily Lashbrooke of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation. For more information, email lynnfrederick1@gmail.com.

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

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Come learn to knit or crochet. All supplies will be provided. For ages 8 and up.

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Full Moon Program. 8:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Tickets are \$25 per person, or \$30 with an early, guided tour. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

Labyrinth Guided Tour. 9:30-11:30 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join a docent for a guided walk. Walking the labyrinth can bring a sense of releasing, receiving and renewal. The labyrinth is available from dawn until dusk and is located in the wooded area behind the parking lot at the wooded cross.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger.

We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Adult DIY. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Hoop art with doilies, ribbon, natural stones and other items from the craft room.

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

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

Geology Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for

ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Art at the Pinnacles. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Tickets are \$25 for ages 10 and up. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Riverwalk Naturalist Tours. 7 p.m., Native Plants Garden on the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site in Centennial Park. Join naturalist guides on a tour of discovery through the Riverwalk wetlands conservation area. Tours are free and last approximately 1-1.5 hours. The 1.5-mile paved trail is wheelchair accessible. Please bring water, sunglasses, a hat and your curiosity. Cameras and binoculars optional. Pets should be left at home. No reservations are needed. This program is sponsored by the Weminuche Audubon Society, Pagosa Wetland Partners and The Springs Resort. For more information, email pagosawetlands@gmail.com.

■ See Calendar on page 21

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- AUCTION
- BARGAIN
- BOGO
- BUDGET
- CODE
- COUPONS
- DEALS
- DISCOUNTED
- EVENT
- FREEBIE
- GARAGE
- HAGGLE
- HOLIDAY
- INVEST
- LOYALTY
- MONEY
- NEGOTIATE
- PERCENTAGE
- PRICES
- SALE
- STEAL
- TRANSACTION
- YARD

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EARLY DEADLINES

for the issue of

Thursday, September 5

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, Aug. 30

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3
Too Late to Classify 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3

Letters to the Editor
Noon, Tuesday, Sept. 3

Legal Advertising and Articles
Noon, Thursday, Aug. 29

Change in hours:
Monday, Sept. 2, The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 17

Wednesday, Aug. 21

Pagosa Catholic Quilters. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms. For more information, contact Maxine Everaert at quilters@ihmjp2.org.

Free Play. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Indoor Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Tween Rock Hounds. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Get together with friends to uncover the mysteries of gems, minerals, crystals and rocks.

Virtual Author Talk: Shelby Van Pelt. 5-6 p.m., Sisson Library or virtual. Listen live or recorded. An exploration of friendship, reckoning and hope with novelist Shelby Van Pelt, author of "Remarkably Bright Creatures." For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>. The library will be showing this on the big screen.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis Street. Social time begins at 6 p.m., followed by a short business meeting and program. Anthony Garcia and Kelsey Harkness from the U.S. Forest Service will speak. If you are unable to join in person, a link to join on Zoom will be posted at www.weminucheadubon.org.

'Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Thursday, Aug. 22

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Dungeons and Dragons. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 5-7:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult

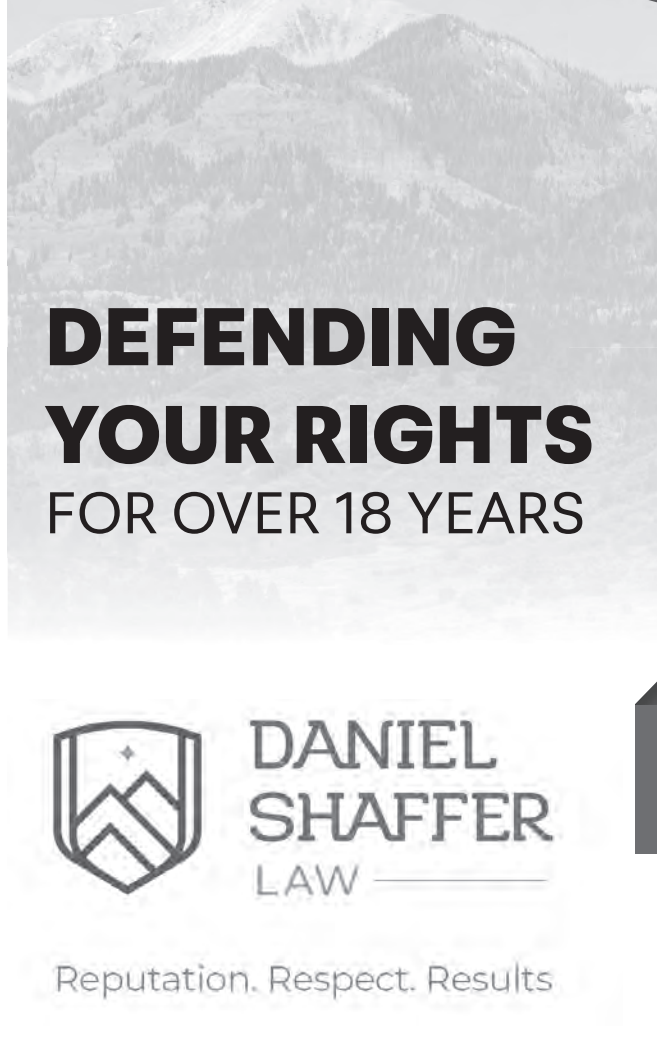
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Preview Calendar

264-2209 for more information.

'Escape to Margaritaville.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Aug. 23

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spotlights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Birding at Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A fun and casual two-hour guided bird walk. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, and \$10 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Own Pellet Dissection Lab. 10-11:30 a.m., Sisson Library. Drop by the library to learn about owl pellets and see what they contain.

Pagosa Springs Studio Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Indoor Pickleball. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Community Coffee. 1-3 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Read with Maple, a therapy dog who loves stories.

Friday Flix. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Participants will choose between a selection of PG-rated movies.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free. Those under 18 must have an adult chaperone. For more information, contact (970) 264-2167.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., with the program following at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring eclipse pictures and stories to share. For more information, visit sanjuanstargazers.org.

'Escape to Margaritaville.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Aug. 24

Geology Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-15, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Riverwalk Naturalist Tours. 8 a.m., Native Plants Garden on the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site in Centennial Park. Join naturalist guides on a tour of discovery through the Riverwalk wetlands conservation area. Tours are free and last approximately 1-1.5 hours. The 1.5-mile paved trail is wheelchair accessible. Please bring water, sunglasses, a hat and your curiosity. Cameras and binoculars optional. Pets should be left at home. No reservations are needed. This program is sponsored by the Weminuche Audubon Society, Pagosa Wetland Partners and The Springs Resort. For more information, email pagosawetlands@gmail.com.

Conversations in the Garden. 8:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Community Garden. A gathering to chat about the pleasures and challenges of

growing at the local climate and elevation.

Pickleball Social Round-Robin. 8:30-11 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. Two courts will remain available for open play.

Pagosa Springs Studio Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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. For more information, call Marie Rasco at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Guided Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

■ See Calendar on next page



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'I'll give you a daisy a day'

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

An old friend of mine, Stan, was in assisted living. I was determined to visit him, but life got in the way. Finally, one Sunday, despite my busy schedule, I dropped everything and made my way there.

When I got to the building, I asked a caretaker which room he was in. He pointed me down the north wing and said, "Second door on the left."

I knocked on the door to Stan's room, which stood ajar. He looked up and smiled. "Well, I'll be. I feel honored to have the busiest man alive visit me."

I laughed. Stan and I had worked together on a lot of church assignments, and he knew between my large family, work, and the church and community things I was asked to do that my life was hectic.

"Shoot," I said, "I had to come up here to make sure you were behav-

ing yourself and weren't tearing up this place."

He laughed. "Yeah, me and my walker are really tearing up and down the hallways."

As we visited, our conversation turned to his wife. She had passed away a few years earlier, and Stan missed her desperately.

"You know," he said, "I remember on nights like this, she would make hot chocolate, and we'd sit in our

recliners and sip it." He then laughed again. "While we did, sometimes I'd sing the song, 'Tea for Two.' Neither of us drank tea, so I'd sometimes sing 'hot chocolate,' but it didn't flow well with the music."

He paused with a big smile, and then, as if alone with her, he started to sing. "Picture you upon my knee, just tea for two and two for tea, Just me for you and you for me, alone! Nobody
■ See Daisy on next page



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The Springs Resort is One of Two Hospitality Companies Recognized in Colorado

The Springs Resort in Pagosa Springs - an award-winning 79-room hot springs resort due to double in size by mid-2025 - has just added to its accolades by becoming one of two hospitality companies in Colorado to earn the prestigious "Great Place to Work" award. That makes the resort, which is home to the deepest geothermal spring in the world, also one of 39 companies across all industries in the state to win the award.

Accolades such as this, that The Springs Resort has garnered over the past four years - as well as winning the 2023 "Best Spa Resort in the U.S." by readers of USA Today and being named one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by Travel + Leisure in 2024 - are a coveted privilege that brings with it a high level of expectation for both the quality of its wellness offerings and its guest service. Since the current expansion will double the number of pools and rooms, the resort is looking to attract a committed and compassionate workforce to fill more than 100 new positions over the next 6-18 months.

The Springs Resort's People and Culture Director, Tom Sottek, explained that it was a two-week process to have the employees answer the GPW survey. And even though the resort has a well thought out employee retention program, results are never guaranteed.

"This award is evidence that our resort's "Noble Purpose" of Caring for the Enhanced Well Being of All continues to be a successful mantra for guiding our talented team," says Sottek. The survey is a wonderful pulse check with our team to better understand their needs. It also provided us the opportunity to review our onboarding process to ensure our associates understand the benefits provided that allow for a work/life balance, while taking advantage of what Pagosa Springs has to offer. And, of course, keeping our focus on our team ends up greatly impacting the guest experience as well.

The Springs Resort's Benefits Package has been thoughtfully



The Springs Resort team celebrates together at the 4th of July parade, reflecting the spirit of a Great Place to Work.

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 4-5:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who have gone through, are going through or are considering divorce and features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or the church at admin@centerpointpagosa.com. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org. There is a \$20 fee for the workbook. Scholarships are available.

'Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Aug. 25

Pagosa Springs Studio Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

'Escape to Margaritaville.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. Doors open at 5 p.m., early-bird bingo at 5:45 p.m., bingo from 6-8 p.m.

crafted to not only reflect the philosophy of this wellness resort but also to apply to the Colorado lifestyle. Employee benefits include categories and options such as:

- Housing Options:
 - \$200 Housing Allowance (FT)
 - Affordable Housing, Upon Request
- Hot Springs Soaking:
 - Soaking benefit for all associates full and part time up to 8 people.
- Lifestyle Benefits:
 - Free rentals for skiing and snowboarding and tube/kayak/paddleboards for use at local mountains, lakes and rivers.
 - Experiential fund for full time employees that reimburses up to \$300 per year.
 - Partnership with local professional theater company for artistic talent recruitment and complimentary theater tickets.
 - Discounts for room nights

and retail purchase at the resort.

- Employee Events:
 - Monthly Luncheons celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and our Purpose Champion
 - Special holiday events
 - Team outings including: rodeo, rafting, hot air balloon rides and theater performances
- Vacation & Insurance:
 - Paid time off
 - Medical/Dental/Vision Benefits
 - Life Insurance \$25,000
 - 401K after 1 year of employment

ABOUT THE SPRINGS RESORT

The Springs Resort, a cherished Pagosa Springs destination, is expanding to nearly double its rooms and geothermal soaking pools, set to open in early Q2 2025. This growth enhances our renowned wellness offerings, including new

event spaces, a full-service restaurant, and innovative features like a geothermal-inspired spa and exclusive adults-only areas. As home to the world's deepest geothermal spring, we continue to lead in wellness, recently being named a Top 5 Spa Resort and #2 Best Hot Springs in the U.S. by USA Today readers. Join us in shaping this exciting new chapter.

ABOUT GREAT PLACE TO WORK

As the global authority on workplace culture, Great Place To Work brings 30 years of groundbreaking research and data to help every place become a great place to work for all. Its proprietary platform and For All™ Model help companies evaluate the experience of every employee, with exemplary workplaces becoming Great Place To Work Certified™ or receiving recognition on a coveted Best Workplaces List."

New program lets eligible Coloradans receive a bonus when they buy healthy foods

By **AnneMarie Harper**
Colorado Department of Human Services

Coloradans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can now buy more healthy food thanks to an innovative new program.

Colorado is one of three states — along with Louisiana and Washington — that were chosen to pilot an electronic healthy incentive project, known locally as the Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus program.

It immediately issues a credit — equal to the amount spent on qualifying fruits and vegetables — to a participant's EBT card.

"The Colorado Department of Human Services [CDHS] is excited to work with Nourish Colorado to implement this program. Because of our partnership Colorado families can enjoy more of the nutritious foods that

they love most," said CDHS Executive Director Michelle Barnes. "This will be a benefit for not only the families, but also for local retailers and farmers, as customers will be able to purchase more products, and more food dollars will stay in the local economy."

SNAP recipients do not need to sign up to participate in the Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus program. They will automatically receive their bonus when they buy eligible fruits and vegetables from participating locations.

SNAP participants will be reimbursed for spending up to \$20 per transaction on eligible items, up to \$60 per month. With no daily or weekly limit on the number of transactions, shoppers purchasing eligible items can visit multiple vendors in the same day and/or make small purchases every day up to the \$60 total monthly limit.

The \$60 bonus balance starts over

on the first day of each month and will continue to be available monthly while funds are available. The bonus amount that SNAP participants receive through the Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus program can be used to purchase any SNAP eligible item at any SNAP retail location.

Eligible foods include fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as frozen fruits and vegetables without added salt, sugar or fat. At farmers markets, participants can also receive a bonus for buying dried fruits and vegetables without added salt, sugar or fat; and dried beans.

The Colorado SNAP Produce Bonus program is available at select farmers markets, as well as small to large food retailers across the state. More locations will be added in the coming years. A list of currently participating locations can be found on CDHS's website.

Daisy

■ continued from previous page near us, to see us or hear us ..."

As he sang, I saw some movement out of the corner of my eye and turned to the door. An old gentleman, Bob, had paused his wheelchair there. He listened, and when Stan finished, Bob said, "I love that song. I used to sing it to Ellen before she passed away."

Bob was an old, die-hard member of our community. Like Stan, he had worked hard all his life and raised a wonderful family. His wife had also passed away a few years earlier.

"You know," Bob said, "there was one other song I liked to sing to Ellen on special occasions, like Mother's Day, her birthday, or the birth of one of our children, when I brought her flowers. I always made sure there was a daisy in it, and then I'd sing, 'I'll Bring You a Daisy a Day.'"

He then started to sing, starting with the chorus. "I'll give you a daisy a day. I'll give you a daisy a day. I'll love you until the rivers run still.

And the four winds we know blow away ..."

He followed that with the first verse, and Stan joined in. I had heard my grandfather sing it many times and joined in on the parts I remembered. When we finished, we all laughed.

"If only our wives could hear the three of us," Stan said.

Bob nodded. "Two old coots and a young buck singing songs most people long forgot."

Bob paused a moment, then said, "I'd give anything to hear the recording of that song again."

We talked a bit longer and, before I left, I promised Bob that I would get him the recording. But the next few weeks were busy. Then I got the news that Stan had died.

I thought about our Sunday night together and my commitment to Bob and set out to get the recording. There was no easy way to do it then. I had to get an old record and copy it to a cassette tape. I finally got it made and headed on my way to the assisted

living center. I stopped and picked a beautiful daisy from the roadside on the way.


Once at the assisted living center, I asked where Bob's room was. The assistant said, "I'm sorry, but Bob died this morning."

I felt devastated. I had not been able to fulfill my commitment to him. However, I left the tape and the daisy for his family.


Later, when I went to the viewing, I saw the daisy, with more added, sitting by the casket with the song playing in the background.

I smiled, thinking that maybe my two friends had once more taken a daisy on their way to join their sweet wives.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Coal continues its precipitous decline

By Peter Gartrell
PREVIEW Columnist

The coal mining industry reacted with outrage when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently announced plans to stop issuing new coal leases on the eastern plains of Wyoming and Montana.

From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the National Mining Association predicted “a severe economic blow to mining states and communities,” while the industry’s political allies likened the move to declaring “war” on coal communities.

The truth is that coal has been steadily falling from its past dominance as energy king for nearly two decades. Domestic coal consumption dropped to 512 million tons in 2022, down 55 percent since its 2007 peak.

With the downward trajectory expected to continue, the Biden administration’s decision to end coal leasing in the Powder River Basin — the nation’s largest coal-producing region — reflects clear market trends. And far from killing coal, the administration’s plan allows mining to continue as the market transitions.

Billions of tons of previously leased federal coal remain available for mining from 270 tracts across the nation, which combined cover an area larger than Rocky Mountain National Park. One Montana mine has enough coal to keep operating until 2060. Taken together, economic effects related to ending new coal leasing in the Powder River Basin may not be felt until the 2040s and beyond.

Coal companies are well aware that U.S. energy markets have rapidly changed, a fact they soberly tell investors: “Over the last few years, customers have shifted to long-term supply agreements with shorter durations, driven by the reduced utilization of (coal) plants and plant retirements, fluidity of natural gas pricing and the increased use of renewable energy sources,” Wyoming’s largest coal producer, Peabody Energy, disclosed in its 2023 financial filing.

Even with declining markets, the Biden administration did not come to the decision on its own. Arguing that the BLM’s past reviews of coal’s

Opinion: Writers on the Range

contributions to climate change were inadequate, a coalition of environmental groups sued the government and won. That forced the agency to revisit if more coal leasing was warranted.

“For decades, mining has affected public health, our local land, air and water, and the global climate,” said Lynne Huskinson, a retired coal miner.

She’s a member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council, a Wyoming landowners’ group that was among the plaintiffs.

Now, she said, “we look forward to BLM working with state and local partners to ensure a just economic transition for the Powder River Basin as we move toward a clean energy future.”

Huskinson lives in Gillette, Wyo., where a dozen highly mechanized strip mines sprawl across the grasslands of the Powder River Basin. The Wyoming mines alone produce 40 percent of U.S. coal while employing less than 10 percent of the nation’s 44,000 coal workers.

The Basin’s mines have leased 8 billion tons of federal coal since the 1990s, a cheap and plentiful supply for the industry. The leasing process allows companies to nominate desired tracts, and then bid with little or no competition. Winning bidders often pay less than \$1 a ton for coal, plus a nominal annual rent and a royalty after final sale.

There is little question that leasing helped launch and sustain the region’s energy boom. But in his 2022 decision, Judge Brian Morris of the Federal District Court of Montana cast his eye toward the future. Morris wrote that federal law required the BLM to consider “long-term needs of future generations” that included “recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historical values.”

The judge also gave the federal

agency an out: “Coal mining represents a potentially allowable use of public lands, but BLM is not required to lease public lands.”

Morris’ words cleared the way for the BLM to stop leasing, a decision that dovetails with a Colorado College poll that found most residents in eight Rocky Mountain states — including Wyoming and Montana — want Congress to prioritize conservation over energy development on public lands.

The legal wrangling will likely continue, with the BLM reviewing protests from the coal industry and its political allies that lay the groundwork for more lawsuits.

For now, though, it seems the Biden administration’s decision to keep coal in the ground not only follows the market and the law, but public opinion, too.

Peter Gartrell is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent non-profit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is a consultant in Washington, D.C., and covered coal leasing issues as a journalist and congressional staffer. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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IMMEDIATE OPENING for CDL Driver / Equipment Operator. Experience is forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

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JOIN OUR TEAM Here at ROOT, we are on a mission where it's not just about what we build, but who we build up. We are looking for a few good leaders to join our crew. Root House is looking for an incredibly action-oriented leader for our Shop Manager, responsible for leading and improving our Relationship-Based and Performance-Driven operations, on both sides of the counter. Root House is also looking to actively grow our coffee subscription program locally and beyond. We are interested in any coffee lover who enjoys sales through building relationships over conversations with and about coffee. Root is hiring a Director of Hospitality + Brand Development. This leadership position will develop better customer and team experiences and help us keep telling a better story through digital media and market growth across all Root brands. Send resume to Howdy@roothouseco.com.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

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LOCAL PROPANE COMPANY looking for full-time office help. Company offers a great work environment, competitive pay and benefits. Applicant should enjoy working with people over the phone and in person, and have experience working on computers. Good customer service skills are a must. Interested applicants should apply in person between 10a.m. and 3p.m. at Inter-Mountain Propane, 449 San Juan Street in the old county building. Enter through doors under Inter-Mountain Propane sign. Ask for Sherri. If in need of directions, call (970)264-1301.

LOOKING FOR PART- AND FULL-TIME workers to help children, elementary and middle school, with daytime and after school tutoring. Various openings available. (480)334-1581 or director@educationislife.org.

MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/personal time, performance-based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL is hiring a church and school secretary. Please contact Leah Hellrich for position details at (816)585-2892.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is hiring a Kindergarten Teacher. Please contact Leah Hellrich for position details at (816)585-2892.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is looking to hire a Preschool Aid. Please contact Leah Hellerich if you are interested in the position at (816)585-2892.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is looking to hire an Aftercare Teacher for our school. Hours are M -Th from 3 -5:30 p.m. and Friday from 1:15 -5:30 p.m. Please contact Leah Hellerich if you are interested in the position at (816)585-2892.

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PAGOSA BAKING COMPANY is hiring a full-time dishwasher. Call (970)264-9348 or come in for an application. 238 Pagosa Street.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover from surgeries, injuries, accidents and other health issues to join our team. No prior experience necessary. We offer competitive pay, \$16- 18 per hour, and benefits including paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401k plan, and a profit-sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT 117 Navajo Trail Dr., Suite T or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL Busy heavy equipment rental company is seeking front desk clerk to answer phone, take messages, make reservations, create customer contracts, check customers in/ out, and take payment. Must have communication skills, math skills, customer service, and computer knowledge. To apply, email ppine000@centurytel.net, apply in person at 305 Bastille Drive or go to our website pinevalleyrental.com to submit an application online!

PINE VALLEY RENTAL is seeking a yard/shop service technician to maintenance heavy machinery, excavators, skid steers, plus small engines and much more. Hydraulics, electrical and basic mechanical knowledge is required. Helping assist customers loading/ unloading goods, strong communication skills required. Apply through our website pinevalleyrental.com, email a resume to ppine000@centurytel.net or apply in person 305 Bastille Drive. Come join our crew!

PONDEROSA LUMBER IS SEEKING a person for a yard associate/ driver position. Lumber experience and/or CDL license is a plus, but not necessary. Duties may include delivering loads to job sites, as well as helping customers in the yard, loading/ unloading trucks and providing inventory support. We offer competitive wages based on experience and a benefit package that includes Holiday Pay, Paid Time Off, 401(k) and Medical/ Dental insurance for full-time employees. Please apply in person at 2435 Eagle Drive in Pagosa Springs.

RESPONSIBLE LABORERS WANTED. \$23/ hour. Must have own car. Be able to lift 60lbs, be on time, work 8 hours/ day, 40 hours week. Call (970)398-1100.

RN OR LPN NEEDED for a busy medical practice. Looking for a Full Time Employee. Work week is a 4 day week. Start day is ASAP. We look forward to meeting and working with you. Please email resume and letters of interest to info@pagosamedicalgroup.org.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

HELP WANTED

SAN JUAN HOMES, a well established builder here in Pagosa Springs is seeking a motivated, responsible person with framing experience to join our team. This is a full-time, 40 hours a week position that is year-round. Must be capable and comfortable with working on a roof and high locations. Must have DL, transportation, and housing. We offer competitive pay based on experience, 401k and paid time off. To schedule an interview, please call our office at (970)697-1107 or email sjhomes@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR /TEACHER: Restorative Practices. Pagosa Peak Open School is looking for a passionate person to join their team. The Restorative Practices Coordinator will help build positive school culture, coach staff, and work with students and families on implementing Restorative Practices in our school. This is a 30 hr/ week (during the school year) position with a salary range of \$30,000 - \$35,000. Please reach out to the school director, Emily Murphy, at emurphy@ppos.co.

SEEKING PART-TIME Digital Marketing Manager with sales skills, great personality and active social media knowledge on multiple platforms. Text: (928)246-1321.

SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

SUMMIT TRANSPORT has immediate openings for laborers in the heavy equipment, utilities, and construction trades. Also looking for skilled equipment operators. Call or text Mike (970)749-4797.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a **Utility Operator** in the Public Works Utility Division. The individual selected for this position will perform a variety of duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of the Sanitation District collection system, pump stations, and Geothermal System. Some of these duties include: sewer main and geothermal main locates and small lift station maintenance. 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.

TRI-COUNTY HEAD START is NOW HIRING caring and talented Toddler and Preschool Teachers at our Pagosa Springs locations. Sign on bonus of \$1,500 - \$2,000. To find out more about these employment opportunities and apply online at tchs4c.org/careers/. Positions are open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.

TRIMMER WANTED. We are looking for a trimmer to join our Pagosa Craft team. Pay is based per pound. Flexible hours- Previous trim experience preferred. 21+ only, MED badge required. Please bring a resume into the store at 127 Goldmine Dr.

HELP WANTED

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is hiring a Full Time Staff Accountant. Those with Bookkeeping, Payroll, Accounts Payable or public accounting experience are encouraged to apply. Familiarity with Microsoft Excel is preferred. Attention to detail, and organizational skills are required. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the year. This is a year-round position, with longer hours during the winter operating months, and a shorter work week in the summer months. This position offers skiing privileges and the compensation starts at \$34 per hour depending on experience. Full slate of insurance benefits and PTO available after a probationary period. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is hiring an Accounting Assistant. Those with Bookkeeping, Accounting, Clerical or Human Resources experience are encouraged to apply. The office is located at the Ski Area located on top of Wolf Creek Pass and requires commuting throughout the winter months. This position offers skiing privileges and the compensation starts at \$24 per hour depending on experience. Please email resume to: Payroll@WolfCreekSki.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

DREAMING OF OWNING your own clothing boutique? The Emerald Fox Boutique is For Sale! \$79k. Call Bianca at (505)507-1152. emeraldfoxboutique995@gmail.com.

GAS STATION, CONVENIENCE STORE comes with nine long-term leases, high producing. \$1,650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FOR SALE

2015 COACHMAN CATALINA bumper pull trailer, 8 x33, one slide, very good condition, made by Forest River. \$15,000. (970)382-1510.

BICYCLES 2016 Surly LHT, size medium with extras, \$900. 2019 Salsa Horsethief, size small, carbon. \$2,600. Both excellent condition. (970)264-0373.

DEAL OF THE SUMMER! Great for fall excursions. 2020 LANCE bumper pull TRAILER, model 2375. Original owner, used twice, new. \$40,000 \$35,000. Call or text (970)749-4640.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD?! Get stocked up now and GUARANTEE yourself dry seasoned wood this fall. Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine mix. Contact FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$240 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

FOUR PATAGONIA SNOW TIRES 265/ 65R/ 18. Used one season (approx. 2,000 miles). Excellent condition. \$350 OBO. (407)921-1554.

FOR SALE

LOOK TRAILER, 5' X 8" enclosed. Excellent condition. \$2500. (970)946-2268.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

OVAL HICKORY KITCHEN TABLE with 6 chairs. Glass top 42" x84". \$250. (970)403-9472.

PINE ASPEN MIX. Get it while it's hot. (970)903-0731.

RED OAK ENTERTAINMENT CENTER. 4' wide 6' tall 2' deep. 38 1/2 x24" center opening. Fits 42" flat screen. \$150. (970)403-9472.

SEASONED FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Priced for early stock up. (719)937-8707.

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).

TWO 50-GALLON STEEL DRUMS with lids. Used, great condition, \$45 each. Can be seen on Thursday or Friday at Pagosa Springs SUN, 457 Lewis Street.

YOKOHAMA TIRES WITH WHEELS came off 2023 Toyota Rav 4. Less than 500 miles. \$1,600. (970)403-9472.

LIVESTOCK

HAY FOR SALE. \$950 bale. No rain. Located in Tiffany. No delivery. Text (970)749-1307.

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.

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES. Ready to go Aug. 7. Full DNA, chipped, wormed, shots, 30 days insurance, lifetime support. \$3,500. (719)640-6404. www.DuneView-Frenchies.com.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

FOR POOCH SAKES GROOMING. Appointments available with Kelly (303)819-2015. Mobile appointments with Barb (970)903-1290.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N. Text Pet Info to (469)667-4480. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews available. Look for info on: leslieslittles.com.

PagosaSUN.com

AUTOS

2000 SUBARU OUTBACK. Very good condition. Body is in good shape and interior is in excellent shape. CD and cassette player. All wheel drive and heated seats. Very good in the snow. It has been serviced every 3000 miles. New radiator, tires, battery and other parts. Runs great. 150,000 miles. \$6,500. (970)946-4615 or rwkern61@gmail.com.

2001 BUICK LESABRE 122k miles. FWD. Sold as is. Mechanically sound. Body in great condition. \$2,650 OBO. (310)245-0555.

2001 Toyota 4Runner. 305,000 miles, in good shape. \$8,000 OBO. (970)946-8687.

2015 FORD FOCUS. One owner, runs, drives like new. 108,400 miles, cold AC, manual shift. \$6,500. Text me if I don't pick up. Call (231)570-0055.

DEAL OF THE SUMMER! Great for fall excursions. 2020 LANCE bumper pull TRAILER, model 2375. Original owner, used twice, new. \$40,000 \$35,000. Call or text (970)749-4640.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE. 2000 Wide Glide. 8k miles, new tires/ carb, stage 1 mod, HD custom paint. Never stored o.s. \$9k. (512)618-2930.

YARD SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

HUGE MOVING SALE. Starting Saturday, August 10 -Every Saturday and Sunday in August. 8 -3. 418 South 7th Street.

JUST ANOTHER GARAGE SALE? Come and see all the great items. Lovely vintage items, 3B table, books, books for science fiction fans, so much more. 232 Carpin Circle, Friday and Saturday, 9 -4.

MOVING SALE. Furniture, upright freezer and household items. Saturday 8/17. 9a.m. 1135 Park Avenue, Unit 804 (Whispering Pines).

MULTI FAMILY SALE in one location. Saturday August 17th, 8 -2. No early birds. 96 Saddle Circle.

WE HAVE MORE NEW ITEMS TO SELL! Dining table and chairs, sofa, ottoman, bar stools, desks and more. 8 -4 Friday, Saturday, August 16 -17. 140 Seminole.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

2000 SF (WITH ADDITIONAL LOFT STORAGE) flexible commercial/ industrial space on the western side of Pagosa Springs. 15' Ceilings with 2 14' overhead garage doors. 3 Phase Electric. Will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized. Available August 1st. \$2,100. (415)999-7931, raswheel@gmail.com.

2000 SQ. FT. SHOP/ WAREHOUSE 14x 14 overhead door. Restrooms and natural gas. Good parking. \$1700 per month. Call Doug (970)946-3762 or (970)731-4792.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them." ~ Michael Gamba

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ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE for rent on 2nd floor with private bathroom. \$400/ month including utilities and WiFi. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

Ground floor, private bathroom, recently updated, centrally located. (970)946-8687.

PRIVATE OFFICE Uptown at 543 Park Ave. 10 x12. \$150 price includes utilities. (970)300-9444 or info@pagosaselstorage.com.

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

1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH apartment, centrally located. Ground floor entry. Water, sewer, gas, fiber optic Internet included. Available October 1st. (970)946-8687.

3 BEDROOM 1200 sq. ft. 5 minute walk to Pagosa Lake. Washer/ dryer, dishwasher, etc. Some utilities paid. No pets. \$1,450. Call John for details and photos (720)960-4910 or (303)881-1407.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH furnished condo on Lake Hatcher. 6 months lease. \$2200 /month. Deposit required. Available November 2024. (720)333-1622.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

BEAUTIFUL 2240 SQUARE FOOT 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas located on quiet cul de sac. Natural gas in floor heat. No Pets and No smokers. \$2500.00 per month plus utilities. 1st, last and security deposit. (970)946-6917.

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM HOME. Top of the water shed. 4 miles out Snowball Road. Huge mountain views. Live water. Irrigated. One minute to National Forest and trout streams. \$3200. (970)946-6274.

FURNISHED LAKEFRONT LOG CABIN. Two beds, two bath with garage. Six months or less. Start Nov. 1st. Core area. No pets. Utilities negotiable. \$2900 month. (970)946-4967.

HOME FOR RENT. \$1,850. Pines Drive. Two bedroom plus office. Available Oct 1st. 9 months lease only. mnenergy88@gmail.com.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE! Contact Team Pagosa by calling (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to see listing pictures. TP-21: Rustic unfurnished 2 bed 2 bath mobile on 3 acres with large covered deck and patio, water must be hauled -pet friendly- \$1800/ month. TP-26: Unfurnished 3 bed 2 bath 2 car. Wood burning stove. Lake Hatcher area. Pet OK. \$2250/ month. TP-29: Unfurnished downtown 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment. No pets. All utilities included. \$1200/ month. TP-30: Sweet furnished loft bedroom 2 bath condo. Washer/ dryer and updated kitchen. Great views. Call for more info. Available 9/01/24. \$1750/ month. No pets. TP-31: Single story 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home. \$2650/ month. No pets. Available around 9/09. Call for more info.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 46 Eaton Drive, Suite #1, pagosaspringsrealty.com.

COMMERCIAL

BAR AND GRILL IN ARBOLES on 1 Acre for \$450,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

DOWNTOWN, MULTI-FAMILY .52 acre -3 lots, views, close to river, all utilities available. \$500,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LARGE BUILDING AND LAND in prime business location. \$1,250,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

NEW CONSTRUCTION WAREHOUSES / WORKSHOPS available to rent. Cloman Park 1100 to 2200 sq. ft. 1.20 a sq. ft. Contact: (720)470-2653. rowfmanagement.com.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Whether Buying or Selling



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

HOME FOR SALE. 3200 square feet on 3 acres. 181 River Forest Drive. Motivated seller. \$730K (970)585-9181.

MOTIVATED SELLER. Artesian well, hobby farm. Two bedroom, two bath. 1.7 acres. No HOA. \$650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

Planning to buy or sell a property? Call me today!

Christie Calderwood
970-946-6856
christie@jimsmithrealty.com

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.1 ACRE WITH RV GENERATOR and system tank, circular drive in, tall cool pines. NO HOA! \$75k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.1 ACRE WITH TALL PINES on flat buildable land with drive in. NO HOA! \$70k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.2 ACRES, MOUNTAIN VIEWS, electricity near, No HOA, close to town. \$35,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.48 ACRE LAND. Highway frontage. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.28 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

5.25 ACRES Mountain views flat buildable. Located between Allison and Ignacio. \$95,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.

READY FOR YOUR DREAM HOME with utilities installed and insulated pump house. No HOA. 1 acre. \$159,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

TWO ADJACENT 5 ACRES LOTS. Available Separately. Meadows 4. Details at www.BLANCA257.com. Scott (970)731-4421 or fscott409@outlook.com.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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