



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Back to school

Photos courtesy Chris Hinger and Kelly Vining

Hundreds of local students and staff hit the classrooms and the playgrounds for their first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 3.



Four injured in three-car crash

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A crash on the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 30, involved three vehicles, left four with serious injuries and closed U.S. 160 for several hours.

According to Colorado State Patrol Trooper Sherri Mendez, the crash took place at about 4:25 p.m. on Aug. 30 on U.S. 160 near the intersection with

Trails Boulevard (in the area of mile post 137).

She noted the crash involved three vehicles and six total occupants.

Mendez indicated that a Ford F350 truck with a trailer was driving east-bound on U.S. 160 when it slowed and a Ford F150, also pulling a trailer, collided with the F350's trailer.

The F150 then went airborne and ■ See Crash A16

Recall petition against Medina dropped

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A recall election on Commissioner Veronica Medina is not moving forward.

News that the recall petition would not be submitted for signature verification came during Tuesday's meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in an exchange between audience member Rachel Suh and County Attorney Todd Weaver.

During that meeting's public comment on the commissioners' consideration of vacant land for a county administration building (see related story), the recall petition and the

"hundreds of signatures" of people who agree there is an ethical issue were brought up by Suh.

Suh also suggested that others may not have been able to sign the petitions for fear of "retaliation" from "Veronica's friends," calling the matter "eye-opening."

Weaver then interrupted and warned the commissioners that comment regarding ethics and the recall was not appropriate with the topic of the public comment and may not be allowed due to the ongoing recall effort.

Suh then stated that the campaign is over and the petition would not be turned in.

■ See Recall A16

Commissioners table decision on proposed admin building site

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

At its meeting on Sept. 3, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) tabled its decision to move forward with a letter of intent, as well as a purchase and sale agreement, with Arena Labs for the purchase of five acres property to construct a new county administration building.

With the same motion, the BoCC also tabled a decision on moving forward with a letter of intent with Pagosa Partners I for the purchase of approximately 5.5 acres of land.

That property is located in the Aspen Village development at 2901 Cornerstone Drive.

According to the proposed letter of intent, the property would be \$10.75 per square foot for a total of \$2,584,850.40.

The BoCC recently heard a presentation during a regular work session on Aug. 20 from representatives with Arena Labs in regard to the planned development on the 100 acre property located across South Pagosa Boulevard from Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC).

At the beginning of the Sept. 3 ■ See Decision A8

Town to enter negotiations to purchase property along river

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Sept. 3, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved a motion for town staff to enter into negotiations for the purchase of about four acres of property adjacent to the San Juan River near the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, hoping to expand river access in the community.

While the council discussed the exact cost of the property in an executive session, Community Development Director James Dickhoff explained

in the open portion of the meeting that the purchase price for the property, known as Bob's L.P., is around \$800,000.

Dickhoff noted that public surveys conducted by the town show a "community desire to see more public river access."

He added that the 2012 River Corridor Master Plan and the 2022 East End Multimodal Plan both identified the property as "the last missing link" for expanding public river access.

He described the chance for the ■ See Property A16

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

Meaningful service and work

Time sure does fly. It's been a year since my company, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG), acquired The Pagosa Springs SUN. We have certainly worked through some challenges and there are always stress points along the way, but, all in all, it's been a very fun, reinvigorating time period.

We believe strongly in a local newspaper's role and value in the communities we serve. Today more than ever, there's a premium on trustworthy, accurate news and information, and we like to include lots of local good news.

I'm really proud of the job Shari, Randi and the entire team have done with producing great content and products for our readers. This is where it all starts, and the team has not only excelled through the transition, but has also made great improvements along the way. The SUN and Preview print editions are loaded with local news and ads every single week. We continue to publish engaging niche publications such as the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide (spring/summer/fall and winter), Pagosa Springs Real Estate and Relocation Guide and The Hunt. At the end of last year, we launched a new website to make our news more accessible online, whether it's your desktop, phone or tablet. Original stories do require payment for nonsubscribers to access, but we also post lots of news and

information for free. In our business these days, everything is measurable, and I can tell you that our combined print and digital audience at The SUN is larger than ever.

The SUN's growing and engaged audience positions us to offer local advertisers creative, cost-effective advertising and marketing solutions to help grow their businesses. Traditional print advertising options are very impactful and naturally targeted with papers delivered mostly through the post office every Thursday. We offer local options that reach our audience across many different channels — website, phone and e-edition. And now we're in the process of bringing our digital agency solutions to market in Pagosa Springs. We're really excited to offer our sponsor content program, which will provide local advertisers a new opportunity to tell their story and craft their own advertising messaging. We will be offering Google services (search engine marketing, search engine optimization, display), Facebook, TikTok and pretty much any other platform that could help a local business meet their advertising needs. For businesses looking to hire, we offer our OMG Hired recruitment platform, that combined with print advertising in The Preview, will outperform any other recruitment tactic in Pagosa Springs. Many agencies outsource and/or offshore these

types of agency services, but, at OMG, our fulfillment teams are internal. We aspire to be a one-stop shop that offers the perfect blend of print and digital advertising along with great service to our advertisers.

It's a very challenging time period for newspapers and that's been the case, quite honestly, since around 2008. Many newspapers in the country have gone out of business and continue to face financial pressure that will make it tough to survive. I'm thankful that we have the local team in Pagosa Springs and a very supportive community that continues to make what we do possible now and for many years to come. It's meaningful service and work, and we appreciate all our readers and advertisers.

About the company

OMG is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, OMG has established itself as an industry-leading digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites.

Jim O'Rourke
Owner, CEO

LOOKING BACK



From the Sept. 7, 2023, Pagosa SUN — SUN staff poses with publisher Jim O'Rourke following The SUN's acquisition by O'Rourke Media Group. From left to right are O'Rourke, Randi Pierce, Teresa Watkins, Josh Pike, Hailey Sams, Shari Pierce, Robert Penton, Matt McKinnon and Derek Kutzer. Not pictured are Missy Phelan and Monica Nigon.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 5, 1924

The brick laying at the new school house is progressing in great shape and the building is commencing to assume imposing proportions. When completed, it will indeed be a beautiful structure.

A son was born on August 22nd to Mr. and Mrs. Romolo Garcia at the Mexican Pine Lbr. Co. mill.

Making the circle trip over the two passes, Cumbres and Wolf Creek is getting to be the popular motor trip.

E.A. Biggs of O'Neal park has succeeded in producing a new potato which he has named "Mountain Beauty," specimens of which it was our pleasure to see Wednesday and which are now on display at the court house. The potato is a cross between the Triumph and Burpee's Early Rose, and though he raised a few last season this is the first year they have been placed on the market. The new tuber is solid, pinkish in color and of nice size, with the eyes confined to one end. The hills contain about thirty potatoes, all of which will cheat the potato screen, and the spuds are raised without irrigation.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 2, 1949

The Highway through town and main street are receiving repairs at the present time with the work being done by the State Highway oiling crew.

Additional sand and gravel to build up the road bed have been added at both ends of town just inside the city limits. After this has been worked down a coating of oil will be added.

The street and highway were in pretty bad shape due to the excessive amount of snow and ice last winter and the fact that it has been quite some time since any repair work to that amount to anything has been down.

The main street through the downtown town business section could also stand some work but it appears as if this is not contemplated at this time. The work being done will eliminate a great many of the chuckholes and the washboard effect and with the added material should stand up longer than heretofore.

One of the large barns on the Bill Jackson ranch southeast of town was totally destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. The cause of the fire is undetermined. The barn and 40 tons of new hay were a total loss.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 5, 1974

The Town Board held a couple of special meetings last week plus its regular meeting this week. Main topics at the special meetings were those concerned with water rates and the preparation of annexation and subdivision regulations.

The water rates, as well as annexation and subdivision regulations, are in rough draft and will be considered further before final action is taken. These are matters requiring considerable study and discussion before final action.

Increased water rates appear to be a certainty, although some categories of users may not be affected. Increased costs of materials, labor, supplies, and operation are largely responsible for the need for increased revenue. Too, the town must provide matching funds for the project to replace a portion of the main supply line.

In other actions the Board agreed that future employees of the Town must provide a certificate of physical fitness for any job being filled. This action was brought about by the continuing compensation claims from former town employees.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 2, 1999

August rainfall in Pagosa Country totaled 7.48 inches, a new record that shatters the old record of 5.36 inches by more than two inches.

"Rainfall records are being set all over the state, especially in your part of the state," said Brian Avery, a National Weather Service forecaster from Grand Junction.

By the end of August, the precipitation total in Pagosa Springs since Jan. 1 reached 20.26 inches, well above the annual average precipitation of 19.54 inches. The average January through August precipitation total is 12.31 inches. August rainfall averages 2.52 inches.

August's total precipitation approaches the record for any month since record keeping started in 1939. The overall record was 7.8 inches set in October 1972. In January of 1957, 7.79 inches were recorded. This year's amount ranks third on the all time list. High to move to a new location.

The following weather information is brought to you as a public service by



LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

| Date | High | Low | Precipitation | | |
|------|------|-----|---------------|------|----------|
| | | | Depth | Type | Moisture |
| 8/27 | 87 | 44 | NA | NA | NA |
| 8/28 | 78 | 48 | NA | NA | NA |
| 8/29 | 74 | 49 | NA | NA | NA |
| 8/30 | 79 | 45 | NA | NA | NA |
| 8/31 | 80 | 44 | NA | NA | NA |
| 9/1 | 78 | 45 | NA | NA | NA |
| 9/2 | 79 | 42 | NA | NA | NA |

Pagosa Springs
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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.

Free speech

Dear Editor:
Of all the critical issues on the ballot in November I believe that our First Amendment Rights is one of the more critical. We have seen recently what happens to free speech in countries not protected by a document like our Constitution. Free speech is treated as a threat to those in power, and those who advocate for it are treated as criminals by their very own government.

Can this sort of thing happen here? Of course it can, as we have seen recently. Meta/Facebook founder and CEO, the infamous Mr. Zuckerberg, admitted to putting his thumb on the scale to aid the Democratic party and to help place the feeble Joe Biden in the White House. He did this by suppressing information about the Hunter Biden

Laptop story at the behest of the FBI and the Justice Department. Surveys have shown that many people would not have voted for Biden had they known the details of the laptop story.

The second thing Zuckerberg confessed to was the suppression of any stories about Covid and the vaccine that ran counter to the government narrative. This was done at the request of the Biden/Harris White House. With no dissenting opinions allowed, the government was able to implement draconian measures that destroyed the economy, set school children's learning back several years, weakened our military, and forced millions of people to take a shot they knew nothing about. All because free speech was suppressed.

Even the election of current VP Candidate Tim Walz to Governor of Minnesota was tainted by the suppression of free speech. Walz's opponent in the race was Dr. Scott Jensen, an outspoken critic of the Covid mandates and the use of the vaccine. His opinions were not only kept from the public through media cooperation with the Democratic candidate but when he did speak, he was portrayed as some kind of crazy person who had no idea what he was talking about.

These are but three examples of the suppression of free speech in this country and how it impacts our nation in a big way. However, a more insidious impact on free speech is what we see and hear every day from the mainstream media. Although freedom of the press is the cornerstone of the First Amendment, in recent times the awesome power

granted to the press has been abused and usually agenda driven. The goal is to portray the Democratic party in the best possible light so that those who get their news from the mainstream media hear the liberal talking points over and over. This is not news but rather propaganda akin to what was being fed to the German people under Hitler. Don't believe me? A recent poll found that over 70 percent of likely Democratic and Independent voters have no idea where Kamala stands on 10 critical issues facing the country. The majority of these people admitted to getting their news from Network TV.

Milt Dodge

Immigration vs. emigration

Dear Editor:
These are not the same. The difference is critical to understand the problems we have right now. Emigration is "departure from a place of abode, natural home, or country for life or residence elsewhere." Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Online). People are leaving, emigrating, from countries like Venezuela and Mexico for perfectly valid reasons. In the past, Venezuela has had vast oil reserves, estimated to be 304 billion barrels in 2021. In 2021, the United States was estimated to have reserves of 264 billion barrels.

So Venezuelans should be pretty content but they are not because of their current government. And, they are not producing the same amount of crude oil as they have in the past.

Venezuelans want out, they want to emigrate and they want to immigrate to the nearest place they believe to be a good place to immigrate to, the United States. Because things are so bad, they are willing to walk, in some instances, over 1,000 miles to come to America. Would you do that if the situation were reversed? No, you wouldn't and you know it. Can't take real estate or automobiles with you and it's hard to get money out of Venezuela.

Mexico has the same problem, that is, its people want to leave. Why don't they go to Venezuela? I presume you know the answer to that. The problem in Mexico is drug cartels. They have a ready market right here in the States for their products and they protect that business with whatever level of force is necessary. A lot of our money goes to Mexico and our people are dying from drug overdoses everyday.

To solve a problem, you have to go back to the beginning, which may seem benign. Sounds simple but it not. As long as there is a market for illegal drugs, people will provide them and the buyers will pay for and use them. Getting rid of a bad government is a lot more difficult.

So, the problem is not immigration, it's emigration. Venezuelans and Mexicans would stay home if the situation were better.

William L. Hubbard

LPEA election

Dear Editor:
The election is in process for the LaPlata Electric Association (LPEA) board. The financial consequences of this election have not been adequately spelled out, in my opinion, so please read on.

Kirsten Skeehan, the incumbent in LPEA's voting District 1 is being challenged by Dusty Mars. Dusty is an engineer, farmer, and business owner in Arboles with extensive experience on boards as well as leadership experience in exploring energy solutions. He decided to throw his hat in the ring because of the lack of information coming from the Board as to the decisions that impact consumers and the current board's seemingly sole interest in renewable energy.

LPEA is currently purchasing energy through Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. a non-profit cooperative that has been reliably providing electricity to our community. Earlier this year, the Board signed a letter of intent to extract LPEA from the contract with Tri-State as of April 1, 2026, in order to take charge of local energy and expand the Board's ability to explore renewable energy solutions. However, doing so involves a hefty exit fee estimated to be in excess of \$200 million.

That exit fee, as Dusty Mars points out, equates to about \$6000 per member. Currently, the board has no plan how this debt will be paid. Take a guess. Once the contract has ended, the LPEA can still lease power from Tri-State, but at a retail rate which will be 15-20% higher than the current rate. While residential consumers who pay \$100-150 per month may be able to afford the increase, for farmers in Archuleta County whose electric bills exceed \$3000 per month,

the increase will be substantial and perhaps unsustainable. John Purser, a clear thinking candidate like Mars who is challenging an incumbent in District 4, indicated his concern that Tri-State may be unwilling to supply energy because of the early termination of the contract.

One of Dusty's goals is to improve communication between the Board and the community with the understanding that some of the Board's doings are confidential and cannot be legally shared. However, meeting minutes and newsletter information on the Board's activities are not posted on the LPEA website. Were you aware we have 3 representatives from Archuleta County on the board? Have you been made aware of how they vote on issues and their energy goals for the future? Me either.

Dusty is concerned that the focus of the board seems to be on renewable energy, specifically solar power, not solar panels on individual homes, but "solar farms." There has been little mention of fossil fuels that currently provide our power or of Tri-State's goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. Also there has been no mention of the potential conflict of interest some Board members have, given their financial interest in solar power.

It's time for a change. Vote for Dusty Mars for District 1 LPEA Board member by September 17th by 4pm (by mail) or in person at the annual meeting on September 18th.

Sally Kennedy

'How are we doing?'

Dear Editor:
Greetings Coloradoans,
Colorado is an amazing place to reside, visit and recreate! As the Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, I have the honor of leading a statewide law enforcement agency that provides many services and programs in an effort to make our communities safe, particularly our roadways.

We conduct a public survey every two years to answer the simple question, "How are we doing?" We want to ensure that our members and organization provide Colorado with the best service and support as we fulfill our mission to save lives. We also want to ensure that we live up to our Core Values of honor, duty and respect.

The online survey is open now until September 20, 2024. The Colo-

rado State Patrol is always striving to provide the best service and experience and with your help, we can be even better. I hope you will complete the survey at www.cspsurvey.com.

I encourage you to be candid with your feedback so that all the Colorado State Patrol members and I can better understand how we've met or exceeded your needs. Plus, even more importantly, we can learn how to improve.

We want to know how safe you feel about traveling on Colorado's highways, the professionalism of our members and our services at the State Patrol.

Completing this survey should take about 3 minutes. We want to hear your thoughts.

This is a state-wide survey, so we hope people from every region of the state participate. This will give us the insight we need to move forward. Please share the link to this survey with your friends and family. Anyone who has interacted with a trooper, port of entry officer, emergency dispatcher, or professional staff member can help by sharing their experience.

I thank you in advance for your participation. What you have to say is important to me and drives changes for the future at the Colorado State Patrol.

Sincerely,
Col. Matthew Packard
Chief, Colorado State Patrol
Lakewood, Colo.

Heartfelt gratitude

Dear Editor:
I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for Project Sanctuary Retreat Center who provided the location for a recent trip my husband and I were blessed with. It was an unforgettable week of fly fishing and relaxation. I am deeply impressed by their commitment to serving veterans and their families.

Our recent retreat was a testament to the exceptional work Project Sanctuary does. The serene setting, coupled with the absolute kindest people serving us, created an atmosphere of tranquility and healing. The fly fishing excursions were memorable and rewarding, providing a much-needed escape from the stresses of daily life.

I believe it is important to highlight the positive experiences of those

See Letters A4

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

Continued from A3
 who have benefited from Project Sanctuary's programs. The organization's dedication to providing a safe and supportive environment for veterans is truly commendable. There were several local businesses that contributed to making the experience possible, including the Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors, Pagosa Mountain Rotary Club, Pagosa Springs Fly Fishing Group, Pops at Let It Fly shop, local fishing guides, several landowners who allowed river access, and the very big hearted Stan Zuege. I urge the community to continue supporting this valuable resource and their important mission of supporting veteran families. Thank you for sharing your little piece of heaven in Colorado, and making us feel so welcomed!

Erika Payne
 Liberty Hill, Texas

Unforgettable week

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to Project Sanctuary Retreat Center for providing my wife and me with an unforgettable week of fly fishing and relaxation. This organization is dedicated to serving veterans and their families, and the location couldn't be more perfect.

Our recent retreat was a much-needed escape from the stresses of daily life. The serene setting of Pagosa Springs, combined with the generosity of so many locals, created a perfect atmosphere for healing and rejuvenation. Several businesses contributed to making the trip possible, beginning with Stan Zuege, one of the kindest people I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. There were meals funded or provided by Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors, Pagosa Mountain Rotary Club. The fly fishing excursions were both exhilarating and rewarding, thanks in large part to Pops at Let It Fly shop, Pagosa Springs Fly Fishing Group, local fishing guides, and several landowners who allowed river access.

I believe it is important to share our positive experience with the community. Project Sanctuary's commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment for veterans is truly commendable, and the beauty of Pagosa Springs added an extra layer of magic to our retreat. I urge others to support this valuable organization and the local businesses that contribute to its success.

Keith Payne
 Liberty Hill, Texas

Our health care

When we built our home in Pagosa Country in 1978, the only health care available was a little clinic downtown by the river. Emergency Services were

provided by the Mountain Rangers and their ambulance was a Packard car that stayed parked in a barn in town. All seriously ill patients were transported in that Packard to Mercy Hospital in Durango. Because the inside did not provide a high enough roof inside to accommodate an IV pole during transport, they would open a window, put the IV pole outside and one of the crew would hang onto the pole as they drove to Durango. Mercy me! They proved that "when there is a will, there is a way". Yes, that was medical care "back then".

As the population grew, needs increased and the Dr. Mary Fisher Board got to work on building up our health care to what we have today: A building offering Primary Care in one wing, Emergency Services and hospital rooms in another wing; surgical care in another, and even a cancer center. An additional service is their "Walk-in Clinic" for minor injuries and sudden illness that need immediate care but do not require ambulance response. Simply walk in the front door to the Registration Desk and you will be sent to the right place for the care you need. Of course, there is a top-notch EMS Service of highly trained folks who are available 24/7 for extreme emergencies of all kinds. They are "here" for you.

Something special I have noticed is how all doctors, nurses and medical staff work together with respect and comfort as they care for us. It is obvious that they love what they do, though stressful at times. I believe the leadership of their CEO has laid out the groundwork for working with respect to bring comfort to all in support of good health for you and me. We are so blessed.

They spread love around,
 Patty Tillerson

New choices

After years of neglect, reports on improvements to Archuleta County roadways reads like a maze of confusing mismanagement, with no clear multi-year plan in place.

Commissioner Warren Brown spoke on his major accomplishments for years 2022 and 2023: For '22 he said, "Archuleta County has paved over 4 miles of roadway," (SUN 1/19/23.) For '23 he said that the county was able to complete paving projects on "County Roads 600, 982, and Talisman Drive," (SUN 2/15/24), approximately 3.7 miles of pavement. This year approximately 8.5 miles of recycling has been completed. An average of 5.4 miles of completed pavement/recycling per year over 3 years! This is, sadly, a pathetic measure of accomplishment.

In April of 2022 our commissioners welcomed a group of four of us to present a positive future vision for Archuleta County's own Board of Health. They listened quite respect-

fully. At the end of our presentation, Commissioner Brown commented that we had provided "a lot of information." Then, Dr. Bruss, who was serving on the old Health District Board, was invited to come forward to offer additional comments. Respectfully, what ensued were numerous comments about how impractical, costly, and difficult it would be for Archuleta County to create and maintain its own Board of Health. The challenge was just too great!

A number of weeks later, before the joint resolution was passed to dissolve the Health District, Commissioner Brown stood before the LaPlata County Commissioners in suit and tie, and during the public comment section of their agenda, practically on bended knee, begged the LaPlata County Commissioners to reverse their resolve over dissolving the Health District. Why? Because it would be too hard on vulnerable Archuleta County; insurmountable problems; unnecessary challenges & costs; too unworkable. It was a sorrowful display of visionless leadership.

Today, we have our own effective, functioning County Board of Health due to the talents of numerous people in our community. To be crystal clear: Our own County Board of Health came into existence not because of Warren Brown, but in spite of him. That is a FACT.

If we are ever to break from this vicious cycle of visionless, incompetent, corrupt leadership, we must do things differently, think differently, and vote differently. Voting the same party affiliation out of loyalty will not correct the problems we now face, when those we have elected have not been loyal and honest with us.

Two new candidates offer us a change in vision and experience for our county: John Ranson (Republican) in District 2 with past commissioner experience, and Wayne Hooper (Unaffiliated) in District 1. Wayne offers experience and vision on the most important priorities for our County: Roads, Public safety, and with No Hidden Agendas! Both men are worthy choices.

New direction will come only when we think outside the box and choose to vote outside the political party box. New choices need to be made for real change to be possible.

Dwight Vilhauer

Electric bills

The main reason why the electric bills are so high in California comes down to the State's mandate of massive acquisition of unreliable wind and solar generating sources.

Wind and sunshine are unreliable so wind and solar generated energy often is not available when needed.

The electric utilities must maintain and operate enough reliable

generation (fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydro) to generate power when there is no wind and solar generating output.

The result is a very costly duplication of generating needs that has driven up California's electric prices dramatically.

California's utilities are paying for a glut of solar power at midday that the power grids can't use at times. This drives up the electric prices to the people and businesses significantly.

Green energy advocates who insist that wind and solar generating costs have become competitive are ignoring the added cost of paying for a duplicate backup capacity.

The same thing will happen to our energy rates here in Colorado unless our elected officials and electrical power managers wake up and not let this happen to us.

Jim Welker
 Loveland, Colo.

Protect wild felines

As a lifelong hunter, naturalist, and former game and fish agency bureaucrat, I need to correct circulating mythology about killing cougars and bobcats. Unlike traditional game, predators can't compensate for mortality with fecundity. They self-regulate. They don't require management, which in most of the West means killing. Bobcat trapping is regulated not by science but by fur prices. There's no evidence that killing cougars and bobcats creates more game or decreases depredations of pets and livestock. And there's copious evidence that trophy hunting, in which large cats are selected, skews age structure so that more young, inexperienced animals disperse to human settlements, causing increased depredations. Veteran cougar researcher Dr. Mark Elbroch of the group Panthera offers this: "Cougars don't need to be killed. No problem is solved by killing them. And there are hardly any bobcat regulations in any state. No bag limits, no data on how many are out there." From Dr. Rick Hopkins who has studied cougars since 1979: "For years agencies have made such claims [that killing predators creates more game], but when pushed to provide evidence they can't." Cougars cornered by hounds are executed at point-blank range, often after the sedentary hunter has been radioed in by the outfitter. And many outfitters guarantee kills. Trophy hunting and trapping of predators is not management, nor is it fair chase. I urge all Coloradans who cherish native wildlife, including fair-chase hunters, to vote YES on the Cats Aren't Trophies ballot measure which will protect wild felines.

Ted Williams
 Grafton, Mass.

Two new candidates offer us a change in vision and experience for our county: John Ranson (Republican) in District 2 with past commissioner experience, and Wayne Hooper (Unaffiliated) in District 1. Wayne offers experience and vision on the most important priorities for our County: Roads, Public safety, and with No Hidden Agendas! Both men are worthy choices.

New direction will come only when we think outside the box and choose to vote outside the political party box. New choices need to be made for real change to be possible.

The electric utilities must maintain and operate enough reliable

Thanks

90th birthday party

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended my 90th birthday party. I appreciated the many cards, gifts and camaraderie shared with friends and family. A special thanks goes to Debby Donovan and Kathy Fulmer for hosting my event. I will treasure the memories of this day forever.

With love and gratitude,
 Liz Schnell

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Cathy Nanette Golden

Cathy Nanette Golden, born on Feb. 8, 1960, in Milwaukee, Wis., passed away on Aug. 16, 2024, in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.



She lived a vibrant life, cherishing her roles as a loving wife, mother, sister and friend.

Cathy's true joy was found in nurturing her friends and family. She tirelessly strived to offer everything needed to those she cared for, always placing their well-being above her own. Every gathering became special with Cathy at its heart; her spirit lit up every room she entered.

Obituary

Whether attending music festivals, celebrating birthdays or traveling to Las Vegas with friends, the party truly began when Cathy arrived.

Cathy is survived by her loving husband of almost 45 years, Scott Golden, alongside their beloved children, Jessica Golden and Adam Golden, who honor her legacy every day. She leaves behind her cherished sisters, Sue Gilbertson and Joy Ladzinski, as well as her dear nieces — Mary Hultman, Kelly Ramirez and Diana Dawson, whose lives have been touched by her kindness. Additionally, Cathy relished her role as a grandmother to her beautiful grandsons, Albert "AJ" and Thomas Wray, bringing her immense joy.


Cathy's devotion extended beyond her family; her beloved cat, Chili, was her constant companion for months and remained faithfully by her side until her passing.

Preceding Cathy in death were her parents, Roy Lemke and Mavis Lemke (Ratz), who undoubtedly are cherishing her presence once more.

Cathy will be missed deeply by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her spirit, kindness and boundless love will forever resonate in the hearts of her family and friends.

The family would like to say a special thank you: "Thank you to all of our family-friends-hospice workers, who wrote letters, sent texts, and flowers. Those of you who came to visit near and far. We can never thank you enough. We love you all!"

A memorial service will be held in her honor on Sept. 13, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Daniels Family Funeral Services - Sara Road Chapel, located at 4310 Sara Road, Rio Rancho, N.M., 87124. Friends and family are invited to gather and celebrate the life and legacy of this remarkable woman.



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Business

Workforce training programs available

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Businesses have benefited these past two years from a grant obtained by the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) providing the opportunity to hire interns and be reimbursed for their wages.

This has been a well-utilized and valuable program in our community. Once programs and dollars like these are no longer available, businesses have a difficult time finding the financial resources to continue intern or workforce programs.

As a business owner or someone looking to upskill, reskill or learn a skill, have you looked into the opportunities provided by the Colorado Workforce Center?

In this time when businesses are looking for qualified people, promoting from within or training people to learn your industry has proven very successful, also creating stability and loyalty.

Here are three programs to consider.

The Work Experience Program: This program runs an average of about 12

weeks. The employer provides the experience to a range of occupations or work within the business, the participant gains exposure to the work environment and the various opportunities, and the Workforce Center pays the wages and workers' compensation. This program often involves younger workforce or those perhaps graduating from high school and seeking options. Restaurants, hotels, retail, construction, health care and many more industries would be a great fit.

The On-The-Job-Training Program: Training is provided by the employer for a specific position. The participant gains the skills while engaged in productive work. The Workforce Center pays a portion of the wages and the employer pays a portion. The length of the reimbursement period depends on the rate of pay. This type of program often leads to longer-term employment and candidates who want to learn a skill. Industries such as auto repair, restaurants, hotels and industries within the construction industry should all consider this program.

The Apprenticeship Program: The employer works with the education provider and provides the hands-on

experience component. The employee earns certification or credentials through a combination of classroom and on-the-job training. Funding may be available for wages and/or the cost of the training program. This could also be a longer-term employment scenario due to the training and credentialing expectations.

All of these programs are subject to needs of the employee and the employer and, in some cases, there is age and income verification. However, how can you — the employer or the employee — take advantage of one of these programs? How can you get a qualified candidate that could be productive and might aid with employee retention?

How can you as an employer find out about jobs that might match your interest? The Colorado Workforce Center, while it no longer has an office in Pagosa Springs, is working to increase its presence in Pagosa Springs by working with the Chamber of Commerce and PSCDC. Representatives are here in the community every few weeks.

If you, as a business owner, would like to find out more about these programs, you can contact the Chamber

of Commerce and we will communicate and help set up an appointment between you and the Colorado Workforce Center when the representatives are in town.

As employers, we need to think outside the box. Think about what you have to offer. Think about how you train and what you train. Think about developing that successful pool of employees, creating loyalty and helping someone find a career or skill that makes them feel valuable.

Almost all jobs have a progression system. Even if you start at the "bottom of the rung," you can work your way up and learn along the way. Remember — most of us didn't just fall into the owner/CEO/manager job. We worked our way up and, often, there was someone or some business there to help us.

Your business can be a part of the mentoring system and also get some financial assistance for wages. Again, think about how you are recruiting employees and if there is a way that you can easily utilize the resources already available to you.

Contact the Chamber for more information or to be hooked up with the Colorado Workforce Center.



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PAWSD board discusses funding options for Vista project

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed funding mechanisms for the district's regulatorily required upgrades to the Vista wastewater treatment plant at its Aug. 29 meeting.

Following a discussion, the board directed staff to move forward with seeking funding through a revenue bond publicly issued by the district to finance upgrades to the Vista plant required by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CD-PHE) Water Quality Control Commission Regulation 85, in addition to other collection system improvements mandated by the CDPHE.

Regulation 85 requires that certain wastewater treatment plants in the state reduce the amount of nutrients, such as nitrogen or phosphorus, contained in the outflows of treated water from the plants.

PAWSD Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey opened the discussion, explaining that the district tried to finance its expansion of the Snowball water treatment plant from the Colorado State Revolving Fund (SRF) but that it missed the deadline to apply for SRF funding for the Vista project due to the plans for the project still being reviewed by CDPHE.

He added that the district learned through contacts at SRF that its budget has also been cut and that applications for such funding will likely be extremely competitive in the future.

Due to this, Ramsey stated, staff started looking at other funding options such as the federal Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) or a revenue bond.

PAWSD Business Manager Aaron Burns added that PAWSD has a contractor for the Vista project who needs to start "very soon."

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh asked if WIFIA requires the same level of design approval by the CDPHE as the SRF.

Ramsey indicated he believes it does not.

Walsh added that the CDPHE is "miffed" with PAWSD and suggested that the district may not receive design approval on the timelines that may be required for loan funding.

Burns commented that staff did not feel that the SRF funding would "pan out" in time and explained that he started investigating the district issuing a revenue bond while PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis investigated WIFIA.

He stated that the district reached

out to the investment bank Piper Sandler to help facilitate the WIFIA or revenue bond funding on the recommendation of the district's bond counsel on the Snowball plant expansion.

Piper Sandler was positive about the prospects for the district securing funding in the amounts and on the timelines it needs, Burns stated,

Piper Sandler was positive about the prospects for the district securing funding in the amounts and on the timelines it needs, Burns stated, adding that the district requested \$12 million, including \$10 million for the Vista project and \$2 million for work to reduce inflow and infiltration (I and I) into the PAWSD system to comply with a mandate from the CDPHE.

adding that the district requested \$12 million, including \$10 million for the Vista project and \$2 million for work to reduce inflow and infiltration (I and I) into the PAWSD system to comply with a mandate from the CDPHE.

Walsh asked how the district would account for the \$2.5 million contribution that the Town of Pagosa Springs, through the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID), would be required to make to support the Vista project due to previous agreements between the PSSGID and PAWSD.

He also asked if the PSSGID would be sharing the loan payments instead of paying its \$2.5 million portion of the project upfront.

Burns commented that sharing the loan payments could be preferable, as the PSSGID would share in the interest payments and the cost to the district would be spread out.

The board then discussed the town's status as a disadvantaged com-

munity and if this would allow it to secure better funding terms from the state, with Ramsey concluding that this is unlikely given previous discussions with state representatives.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson asked if the town provided \$800,000 to support the planning for the Vista project, which Burns and Ramsey confirmed.

Hudson went on to suggest that the town could potentially come up with \$2.5 million.

Burns noted that the \$800,000 is the total cost of the project, not the town's share of it.

Hudson commented that he thought that amount was the town's share.

Burns explained that the WIFIA funding or issuing bonds would be more expensive than using the SRF, potentially costing 20 percent more using a 30-year loan term.

The board and staff discussed the requirements that would be included in the WIFIA funding, including American Disabilities Act compliance, American iron and steel requirements, Davis Bacon wages and Build America Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements, with Ramsey noting that some of these requirements would be easy to meet while others, like BABAA, would be more difficult.

Burns added that these requirements would also be involved with SRF funding, but would not be involved in revenue bonds.

Hudson commented that the district's choice seems "pretty clear" and asked if the board was "wasting time" discussing the issue further.

Burns stated that staff wanted to make sure that the board is comfortable with the options and commented that a revenue bond seems the easiest and most practical approach to take.

Walsh asked what the total cost of CDPHE-mandated I and I work would be.

Ramsey explained that the CDPHE requires that the district do \$1 million a year in additional work until I and I is reduced to the mandated levels, adding that he is unsure how long this will take.

Walsh commented that the district might need to ask for \$13 million or \$14 million in funding to support the I and I reduction work.

The group discussed if the district would be able to pursue less aggressive rate increases for the district by spreading out the costs over a longer period of time due to stretching out the payments for Regulation 85, with

Walsh and Hudson speaking in support of potentially reducing the increases due to the altered payment structure.

Burns and Ramsey commented that they would look into what alterations could be made to the rate increases.

"I appreciate all the due diligence and the options, but it's like there's really just one option," Walsh said.

Hudson raised the possibility that the district could pursue a general obligation bond instead of a revenue bond to finance the project, although he commented that this would require voter approval and that it is potentially "too late" to explore this option since it likely would have needed to be voted on in June.

Walsh commented that he also prefers general obligation bonds, but that it might be too late to pursue them.

Burns commented that the district's debt service ratios and other metrics would be covered with either WIFIA or a revenue bond.

The board concluded the discussion by directing staff to move forward with a revenue bond.

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Archuleta County Mountain Express Transit receives new bus

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

Last week, Archuleta County's Mountain Express Transit (MET) welcomed its newest fleet member, a 12-passenger, ADA-accessible, 2024 Ford E-450 Elkhart Coach EC11.

Funded by 5311 Formula Grant for Rural Areas, the county was awarded \$122,084 with a 20 percent match of \$30,521, bringing the total cost to \$152,605. A much-needed replacement bus, this vehicle took two years for the county to obtain.

Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act (FTA) is a formula grant, providing capital, planning and operating as-

sistance for transportation projects serving areas outside of an urban boundary with populations of 50,000 or less. This is the first of four buses and vans the county is set to receive from these FTA grants.

The MET services Pagosa Springs, both uptown and downtown, with multiple stops per day. With prices ranging from \$1 to \$2 per ride, this service is a low-cost alternative to driving during the busy summer tourist seasons.

The MET also offers rides to residents with routes to Arboles, Ignacio and Durango. Registered seniors ride for free or discounted rates depending on the route. Bus passes are available at \$18 for 10 rides.

For more information about the MET bus schedule, visit archuletacounty.org/MET or call (970) 264-2250.

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Town council discusses raising rates for The Springs Resort for geothermal water usage

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At an Aug. 29 work session, the Pagosa Springs Town Council discussed the town's geothermal utility system, in particular its ongoing contract with the community's biggest user of geothermal water, The Springs Resort.

Council member Gary Williams, who's been working on the issue with council member Leonard Martinez, explained that the 2009 contract with The Springs "takes them out of the normal geothermal utility customer line of thinking and puts them in a special category."

The contract gives The Springs 450 gallons per minute of hot water for eternity, Williams explained, and "in that contract they've been paying the town \$8,300 per year for the water."

The Springs uses the geothermal water to heat floors, baths, sidewalks and the spa, he noted, and the contract document states that the town would keep the water it gives to The Springs at 30 percent below the market value for the water.

After analyzing the numbers with Public Works Director Karl Johnson, Williams said that the town has been "way undercharging our biggest user," and, in addition to that, "we've only been focused on the heat and not the mineral content of the water we provide."

He said that anyone who soaks in mineral water knows about the therapeutic value of the water, adding that it was difficult to "find a fair market price" for "the healing water."

"Our basic recommendation is this: There should be two components to the fee," with the first being the heat of the water and the second being the mineral content, he said.

On the first component, the heat, the town "raised the rate 100 percent" for normal users in the 2023-2024 season, and the fee would be raised 50 percent the following year, Williams explained.

If the town would have applied this raised rate to The Springs as well, it would have paid closer to \$20,000 per year, instead of the \$8,300 per year that it's been paying, he said.

The group looking at these numbers, which included Martinez and Johnson, was being "very conservative" when it came up with numbers of \$2,000 per month, or about \$25,000 per year, that The Springs should be paying for the water, Williams explained, adding that this would still be below the market rate for the heat component.

Mayor Shari Pierce asked the rest of the council what it thought about applying the same level of the raised rates on The Springs as normal customers faced.

"Do we think that's appropriate?" she asked, also asking what would happen to the hot water if the town decided not to continue to extend its contract with The Springs.

Williams suggested, "One thing we thought we could do was heat a community," suggesting public hot springs pools "along the water banks for people to create hot springs pools along that beachy area down there."

Martinez also said, "A community pool for this community is a real option," adding that the town has the potential to start doing things with the water that it has not even thought about yet if The Springs walked away from the contract.

Pierce stated that when she first got on the council, she helped work on the current contract with The Springs "to benefit the community, but that was 15 years ago," and "the community has changed a lot, so I think we're smart to look at this with different eyes today."

Williams then went into "the second part of this," which addressed the value of the mineral water, saying that he had figured a rate for the therapeutic value based on what The Springs charges an individual (\$67) to soak in its mineral springs.

His calculation took the \$67 entry

price for one individual and multiplied it by the 25 pools at The Springs for a monthly fee of \$1,675 per month, or \$20,100 per year, explaining that this mineral fee would be on top of the rate for the heat.

Council member Brooks Lindner asked Williams to explain the rationale behind using this calculation to come up with a mineral fee, with Williams saying that he thinks this is "a modest amount to ask for the town's return on what we're giving them."

"I'm certainly not opposed to it — I have an open mind towards it — I'm just wondering how it will be accepted by others hearing this," Lindner said.

Martinez explained that the group looked "far and wide" for other examples of a "fair market value" for geothermal water that had therapeutic value, but could not find any.

"There's no place in the world ... there's no one ... and we were kinda stuck with that a little bit, like, well, should we be a pilot and how would we approach it?" explaining that The Springs had determined the value by what they are charging for access.

"So, all we're saying is that we're relying on what you [The Springs] determined is a fair market price for a fair market value, and all we're trying to say is this [mineral water] has value."

Williams added that if "they don't want to do this, we'll find something else to do with the water."

Pierce suggested there are other opportunities if The Springs walks away, including a local entity who has reached out to the town about an interest in the water.

Council member Mat deGraaf asked if the town would "be in a better place" if it did not have this contract in place, to which Martinez asked, "Are you asking for an opinion?"

Martinez then stated his opinion that the town should not have entered into the contract with The Springs, but now the best way forward is to "try to get a fairer contract."

"What you guys have presented is very fair, and I think anyone looking at

it would say, 'That's fair,'" deGraaf said.

Council member Madeline Bergon stated that she doesn't want to go down a path "where we are purposely unfair to one of our biggest economic drivers in our community."

deGraaf replied that The Springs has been "quite unfair to the people of this community, when the town has gone out of its way to try to accommodate growth ... and yet, the cost of a local soak continues to skyrocket. Clearly they do not want the 'local' business."

Bergon suggested that keeping prices lower for locals could be added to the contract.

"All we are doing is leaning on what they have determined is the fair market value, and then taking it to the next step to say ... how do we go forward from here, as partners in this thing? That's not a bad place to start," Martinez said.

"If we are in a bad contract, there are ways to get out of that," deGraaf added.

Pierce reminded the council that when the contract was first entered into, The Springs had different owners.

"We negotiated with different people then," she said, adding that the town's main rationale for the original contract was "economic development for the community," but the town may have "a different purpose" now.

Williams suggested that the town should communicate to The Springs that it wants the contract to be fair and wants to be good partners so that The Springs can be successful, but that the new figures on the rates "is our starting point."

He explained that the existing contract could stay in place with the new rates being the only change in the contract.

Bergon stated she wanted a clear breakdown of the price The Springs pays now compared to what it would pay under the new rates.

Williams explained that, under a new addendum to the contract, they currently pay \$12,000 per year for the

water.

deGraaf explained that it would be going from a \$12,000 per year fee for only the heat to \$45,000 per year total, including \$25,000 per year for the heat and \$20,000 per year for the minerals, with Williams explaining that these new rates include the rate raise levels that regular customers are facing.

Lindner said, "I don't think we should do anything to get into an adversarial relationship" with The Springs, but that he thinks that the rates Williams and Martinez came up with are "great."

"In the end, this is a drop in the bucket for them. They are gonna be able to fit this bill and it's gonna make us feel like this is more fair for what they are getting," Lindner said.

Since no final decision could be made at a council work session, the rate change for The Springs' usage of the town's geothermal water will have to come back before the council in a regular or special meeting.

Pierce and Bergon asked about the next steps to get this change officially made, with Pierce saying that she wants it brought back as an agenda item at a future council meeting.

There was also a discussion about the town expanding its geothermal system by obtaining the rights to unused and capped geothermal wells around town.

Martinez said, "We want to be the ones controlling the future of what happens with all of the mineral, thermal water here, so that's a significant strategic step."

Johnson added that new rates would "get the town in a better position with our geothermal asset. I mean, that's what we are known for. And it's not just the town's [water], it's the citizens of the town's [water], and it could get us in a better position where we can look to the future and acquire more water rights to expand the [geothermal] system."

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Board of Health approves 2025 budget

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of Health (BoH) unanimously approved its 2025 budget during a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

The budget was presented to the board by Public Health Finance Officer Stephen Slade and Public Health Department Director Ashley Wilson.

Slade indicated that the total revenues for the department for 2025 are listed at \$1,208,157, and that total expenditures are listed at \$1,172,058.

This leaves the department with a surplus of \$36,099, Slade explained.

One concern that was brought up toward the end of the budget presentation was that the BoH had previously approved a new full-time employee position at its regular meeting held on Aug. 15.

The position title would be the public health planner, with a salary range of \$66,114 to \$92,594, according to agenda documentation from that meeting.

Wilson explained that the newly approved position was left out of the budget and that if it were included, it would put the department's budget over by about \$70,000.

Board president Jon Bruss questioned what the correct process would be then in going about approving a budget that does not include the newly approved position.

Board member and commissioner Warren Brown explained that, in his understanding, the BoH would approve the presented budget and that the newly approved position would go in front of the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). If the BoCC approves the position, more funds could be allocated from the BoCC's budget to cover the costs of the newly approved position.

County Attorney Todd Weaver indicated that an amended budget would be presented to the BoH if the county approves the position and is able to assign more funds to cover the cost.

During the meeting, the board discussed a few of the department's programs, highlighting the health navigation and the sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) programs.

Slade noted those are two programs the department is "trying to stand up right now."

He mentioned that total revenues for the SANE program are listed at \$101,873, with \$86,415 coming from federal grants.

The health navigation program's total revenues are listed at \$94,804, according to the approved budget.

"The primary driver of these programs is special grants through victims compensation at the federal

level, which is what we would be pursuing in order to pay for the bulk of the programming," Slade said.

Bruss asked what the likelihood is of being awarded the federal grant.

"They are federal funds that are competitive," Wilson said, explaining that the county currently does not have that specific program, which makes the odds of being awarded "relatively high."

"The biggest thing about these two programs ... neither would be implemented without funding," Wilson said in regard to the health navigation and SANE programs.

Bruss asked what the likelihood is of being awarded the full amount.

"They're likely to award the full amount," Wilson said, noting that many of the requests for those grants are highly variable and that Archuleta County is on the "lower end."

She noted that the programs will not be implemented if the funding is not received.

Wilson also talked about two new programs in the budget — the insurance assistance and clinic programs.

She noted that the county has been under contract with La Plata County to provide insurance assistance services at a cost of roughly \$17,000.

She explained that Archuleta County has applied to run its own insurance assistance program and was awarded \$50,000 for that.

"So, that was an additional boost in that line item to help support that health navigations position," Wilson said.

She also noted that the department has started billing Medicare and Medicaid services.

"So, we have income coming in," Wilson said in regard to the clinic program.

Bruss also questioned the amount listed in expenditures under travel costs being at \$34,627.

Wilson explained that there has been some staff turnover in the past year, which caused some budget amending, though funds could only be moved to certain line items.

"So, that is very high, Jon, I agree," she said.

Wilson explained that those funds could not be moved into staff wages at the time, but that a full budget revision would occur in November, when funds could potentially be moved around.

Slade also noted the budget includes an anticipated 6 percent wage increase for staff.

The board also discussed the environmental health program, which has an anticipated revenue from charges for service listed at \$51,328, which Wilson indicated is coming from permits issued.

She noted that an increase in permits issued is not included and that the community generally doesn't see an increase in the amount of restaurants as one usually replaces another.

She also explained that the state is changing requirements for restaurants to have all staff members certified under ServSafe, instead of just one certified staff member working at all times.

Wilson explained the department is planning to "offer those classes locally in order to help all the restaurants to fill that requirement."

Bruss inquired about what the department is doing in terms of immunizations, noting, "We're starting to see prepandemic surges in certain childhood diseases."

Wilson explained that the state "does want to see increases in kindergarten immunization rates across the board."

She added that the department has evening and weekend clinic hours to increase those rates.

The department also uses other strategies of working with schools and child care centers to makes families aware and provide service to meet requirements, she explained.

"So, I definitely think as a state we are being tasked with trying to increase, at least at the kindergarten level, immunization," Wilson said.

Slade indicated the department has five programs that were budgeted to "zero out" the revenues with expenditures.

Salary increase

During the same meeting, the BoH also approved a 4 percent merit salary increase for Wilson.

Bruss explained there was a review cycle for the director of public health that went to department managers, along with staff members, with the reviews all submitted anonymously.

He noted that Wilson received a "very favorable overall outcome," meeting all requirements for the position.

Board member and commissioner Veronica Medina mentioned that a 2.63 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is projected for next year and that the board should consider that, along with Wilson's accomplishments, when suggesting a salary increase.

County Manager Jack Harper explained that a salary increase up to 3.5 percent is within the BoH's authorization, but that an increase of 4 or 5 percent would need his approval, as well.

Medina mentioned that it would "not be unreasonable" to propose a total salary increase of 5.63 percent, including the anticipated COLA increase, based on Wilson's performance.

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Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Pagosa Peak Open School, teacher Rue Graham (2023 grant recipient) poses with her students and, from left, Rotarians Melanie Garrett, CiCi Stuart, Kim Moore and President Cindi Galabota.

Rotary Teacher Mini Grant applications now available

By Carol Sturart
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

The September 2024 Pagosa Rotary Teacher Mini Grant applications are now available to teachers at Pagosa Springs Elementary School, Pagosa Springs Middle School, Pagosa Springs High School and San Juan Mountain School, as well

as Valor Academy, Head Start, Our Savior Lutheran School, Pagosa Open Peak School, Wings Early Childhood Center and Seed of Learning.

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If you are a teacher or know one, you can download the application at <https://tinyurl.com/47s977uc>.

County Department of Human Services director gives report

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Isabel Shelton gave a 2024 second quarter report to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) during the BoCC's Aug. 20 meeting.

Shelton stated she will be resigning from her current role with DHS in the coming weeks, but will be assisting the department with the transition process, with Heidi Martinez to become the new DHS director.

Shelton explained that during the second quarter, DHS eligibility staff helped plan a community-wide resource fair that involved working with Rise Above Violence, the county health department, Pagosa Community Innovative, Healthy Archuleta, Vets for Vets, Axis Health System and a few other local organizations.

She noted that DHS staff put together radio and newspaper advertisements for the event.

"We had a lot of people there in the community, but what really happened is all of these agencies came together and learned so much from each other," Shelton said.

She added that the community partners strongly encouraged DHS to hold another resource fair next year.

She went on to mention that eligibility staff is currently understaffed and functioning at about 50 percent capacity, "which has been really hard."

She also explained that a lot of staff work went into DHS receiving the C-Stat award from the Colorado Department of Human Service.

"How we did it, I still don't know," she said.

The C-Stat award is given to counties that meet 75 percent or more of monthly C-Stat goals, Shelton explained, noting only 25 counties in the state were given that award this year.

Shelton went on to explain that two of the eligibility technicians moved into different roles within the DHS department.

"The shift in positions has caused an additional workload for those technicians still within the unit. This has taken a lot of planning and prioritizing to meet timeliness for the unit as a whole," Shelton's report reads.

According to Shelton's report, over the quarter (April to June), the DHS department processed 32 audit financial applications, 22 Colorado Works applications, 56 expedited Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program (SNAP) applications, 152 regular SNAP applications and 318 Medicaid applications.

The report also shows the number of redeterminations processed during that time.

According to the report, DHS staff processed seven adult financial redeterminations, nine Colorado Works redeterminations, 185 SNAP redeterminations and 1,180 Medicaid redeterminations.

"Those were our staff functioning at half capacity making that happen for our community," Shelton said.

She also explained the department partnered with Rocky Mountain Microfilm and Imaging to help the county move to a paperless system for uploading documents.

She explained that DHS has a Zircon container housing its documents and that half of the container has been cleared out — approximately 83 boxes of files.

"It was really amazing that they're moving in this direction," she said, noting it will be easier to locate files electronically.

Shelton went on to mention that the department's fraud investigator, who also serves as case aid for child welfare cases, resigned to take a position with the Archuleta School District.

She noted a new hire has already been brought on and is undergoing training.

Shelton explained that she wrote a grant eight years ago to bring on that fraud investigator position. The grant was awarded for funding for one year, with a caveat to manage the budget to be able to keep the position moving forward.

"We're happy that it's still there," she said.

Shelton also provided an update on the amount of funds the department's child support unit has been able to bring into the county, noting a total of \$716,411.37 from January through June of this year.

"With over 500 cases, brought in all that money in our community," she said.

Shelton also spoke about more of the staffing changes the department experienced over the quarter, noting DHS also has a new Electronic Benefits Transfer program coordinator.

She also explained that three caseworkers left the department to take other jobs in the community.

She noted that the caseworkers left due to the on-call requirement.

"There is an on-call requirement for the child welfare unit. There has to be a caseworker on call 24 hours

a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," her report reads.

She added the department has been able to replace two of those positions.

"I feel like child welfare is one of the most complex, challenging, exhausting, exhilarating and satisfying practice arenas in human services," Shelton said.

Shelton also explained that the department has had difficulty filling the family advocate role over the last few years, but was able to fill the position in February.

"At the end of February, Jennifer Read-Lindberg moved from her eligibility role within the department to the family advocate role," Shelton's report states.

Shelton also updated the board on the state of the DHS department and conflicts amongst employees.

She explained that the amount of turnover this quarter has contributed to some workplace conflicts.

She noted there are "a lot of things going on in the community, a lot of domestic violence, a lot of fentanyl use, a lot of removals" that staff has had to deal with.

Shelton explained that she hired an expert from La Plata County to come in and help staff resolve its conflicts.

She noted that staff came up with five main concerns and that they are working through each of them during all-staff meetings.

"The conflict has resolved; all the sudden it's a great place to work," Shelton said.

She added that staff has given positive feedback about having an expert brought in to help resolve conflicts.

Commissioner Veronica Medina expressed praise for Shelton finding a way to resolve workplace issues and creating a positive workplace environment.

"You guys should truly be proud of yourselves — I am," Commissioner Ronnie Maez said. "You guys are a true asset to Archuleta County."

Commissioner Warren Brown also commented on the value of service that DHS provides to members of the community.

"I have dedicated eighteen years of my life to Archuleta County Department of Human Services. I have found professional growth along the way and wouldn't trade my experiences for anything," Shelton's report states.

She explained that she will be staying on through September to help the transition.

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Decision

Continued from front meeting, multiple public comments were made on the topic, with members from the public voicing concerns about the costs of purchasing land and wanting more transparency from the board.

"That's the one thing I really get upset about; everybody here wants to worry about it when the tire meets the road," Commissioner Ronnie Maez said, adding the board has had multiple public meetings and discussions on the matter.

One of the public commenters voiced concern for the project with the potential traffic effects on what is a residential area.

Another member of the public, Bill Hudson, expressed that the current BoCC is one of the most transparent boards he has seen in the county, but that he is unsure why this particular topic has not been treated with the same level of transparency.

Hudson also suggested that the county could pursue acquiring an existing building and have it remodeled.

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that the county attorney and previous county manager instructed the board not to discuss details about the properties because it would hinder negotiations.

She went on to mention that this was an appropriate time to disclose the other properties being looked at: the old Sears building, the property with Arena Labs, a property at Harman Park and the property with Pagosa Partners I.

Medina indicated that she suggested during a previous work session that the county give all the information to a financial advisor to do a cost analysis of each option.

She explained that the only existing building "to surface" as an option for the county to reuse is the old Sears building located at 2800 Cornerstone Drive.

Medina also noted the construction of the new transit center at Harman Park has experienced unforeseen costs due to the rocky terrain of the property.

Later in the meeting, when the items with Arena Labs came up, County Attorney Todd Weaver explained that the item was previously tabled at the BoCC meeting held on Aug. 6.

Weaver also explained that the BoCC approved a resolution during the April 2 meeting which set aside \$3 million for the purchase of property.

He noted that that money comes from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) money, which is federal money, not local taxpayer money.

Weaver mentioned the BoCC has been discussing purchasing property for a new administration building for over a year.

Maez questioned if the administration building would be subject to a homeowners association, with Weaver indicating the county would be exempt.

Maez further expressed that he is "not satisfied with the letter of intent," noting there are multiple unknown details, such as a project timeline.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that he was in agreement with Maez about being unsatisfied with the letter of intent.

Brown mentioned that he "languished over this decision," explaining he has been languishing over it since the county first expressed interest in selling the old courthouse building in downtown Pagosa Springs.

"We have three years left to move people," Brown said, noting that he is not opposed to having additional public meetings to further discuss options.

Brown mentioned he would like the county to look for professional advice from a financial advisor.

"We're elected by the people to make these decisions," Maez said. "The right thing's the hardest thing to do."

Brown mentioned that he would like to have a timeline set as to when the BoCC would make its final decision by, suggesting the first regular meeting in December.

County Manager Jack Harper explained that there is typically no cost to the county to bring in a financial advisor, but once a project is picked, the financial advisor receives a percentage as partner payment.

Harper noted this to be "standard practice."

Brown encouraged the board to engage with a financial advisor, "to give us a real apples-to-apples comparison" in looking at the costs of each option.

Brown noted this would provide the community with transparency about the process.

Maez indicated that he would like to see the county move forward with

the property located in Aspen Village.

"It would be prudent of us to get a financial advisor to show us what the cost would be," Medina said.

Maez spoke about how the previous BoCC went through a similar process with the construction of a new jail and courthouse, and there was still pressure on the board to make the correct decision.

Weaver, in response to public comment received at the meeting, explained that, due to state statute, the new administration building will need to be located within town limits as Pagosa Springs is the county seat for Archuleta County.

Brown explained that he wants to make the "right decision."

"I don't think 60 days will smother the right decision," he added.

"I think it will," Maez said.

"I don't think 60 days is going to kill the right decision," Brown replied.

"We'll see in 60 days," Maez said.

Medina opened the item up for another round of public comment. Some of the public comments included concerns about how the county is able to move forward with a letter of intent before Arena Labs actually owns the property.

Weaver explained that the county would not move forward if Arena Labs does not close on the property.

Other public comments expressed favor for the county to consult with a financial advisor, and that the county has a duty to be fiscally responsible.

One comment mentioned that Harman Park would be the most ideal considering the county already has its new jail and courthouse there, and the transit facility being constructed there.

Maez explained that due to the size of the area available in Harman Park, the administration building would have to be a multistory building, therefore raising construction costs.

Audience member Rachel Suh also commented on the matter, saying that the board also has an ethical decision to make, alleging the public has been misinformed on the matter.

"It is not just a correct and right decision we are making here. We also need to make an ethical decision here," Suh said.

Suh went on to speak about the recent recall efforts of Medina, with Weaver interjecting, saying that was not appropriate in relation to the item that was opened for public comment.

Following disagreement by Suh and additional conversation about the recall effort (see related story), Medina closed public comment and asked, "So, commissioners, what do you want to do?"

Brown motioned to table the decision on both properties until the board is able to identify and contract a location for an administration building while directing staff to bring a financial advisor in who can advise BoCC with cost details of purchasing and remodeling an existing building versus purchasing vacant land and constructing a new building.

Brown's motion also included the BoCC to make a decision no later than the first regular meeting in December.

The motion was seconded by Medina and passed with a split vote of 2-1, with Maez opposing.

Work session

At a regular work session held by the BoCC on Aug. 20, the board heard a presentation from David and Heidi Dragoo, with Arena Labs, in regard to the proposed site for a new county administration building.

David Dragoo explained the site of the proposed new administration building is located off of South Pagosa Boulevard and just east of PSMC.

He explained that the proposed county site is part of a bigger development planned for the area on a property that is about 100 acres in size. The proposed site for the county administration building is in the southwest corner of the property.

At a regular meeting held by the BoCC on Aug. 6, the board tabled the decisions on a letter of intent to purchase the five acres at a cost of \$10 per square foot, totaling at \$2,178,000.

David Dragoo explained that the work session that the master plan for the site has about 58 acres, mostly the southern portion, zoned for residential developments and about 45 acres zoned for mixed-use developments, including commercial developments.

He explained the plan will consist of multiple development phases, beginning with the county's administration building due to utilities being close by.

Dragoo indicated there is a 8-inch main sewer line in the southeast corner of the proposed site.

The developments will occur starting with the new administration building in the southwest corner of the property, with additional phases working eastward, he explained.

"I think that makes sense," he stated.

He added that his organization has been in conversation with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and La Plata Electric Company (LPEA) about the project.

He indicated that both PAWSD and LPEA believe there is sufficient infrastructure in place to serve the first two phases of the proposed developments on the property, which include the new administration building and 96 rental apartments intended to serve the community's workforce population.

"LPEA believes there's sufficient utilities there for electrical for at least the first two phases," he said, adding that redundancies in the system are currently being built in.

He also mentioned that PAWSD "didn't seem concerned at all."

It is estimated to cost around \$200 per foot to be able to bring the utilities from the lot line to the building, he explained, noting that to be a "normal" price.

He also noted there are no environmental issues or wetlands that would affect developments on the 100-acre property.

He went on to mention that Arena Labs is working with partners regionally and locally to support the development, noting he has been in communication with local businesses that are "very supportive of workforce housing."

"I think it's a huge need," he added.

David Dragoo explained there are multiple studies currently taking place in the county, including a traffic study, hotel study and a housing/market study.

"I think those are going to give us a good overview of the feasibility of some future phases, and I think showing the need for housing," he added.

He noted the first phase of housing development will be on approximately 3.5 acres.

Heidi Dragoo indicated that the first housing development may have up to 96 rental apartments that would serve the "missing middle" market.

She explained the units would be priced to accommodate residents that earn between 80 and 100 percent of the area median income (AMI).

According to the Department of Urban Housing and Development (HUD), AMI is defined as "the midpoint of a specific area's income distribution and is calculated on an annual basis."

Along with HUD, the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) calculates and updates AMI levels for counties in the state of Colorado.

According to CHFA, 80 percent AMI for a single-income household in Archuleta County for 2024 is \$52,800, and 100 percent AMI for single-income household is \$66,000.

Heidi Dragoo explained the first housing development will be located directly east of the proposed county administration building site.

She explained the Town of Pagosa Springs has applied for a grant that would help cover the cost of the public infrastructure construction that is needed for the development.

She noted that the grant was submitted in July and that a notice of award would come in November, with funds being made available early 2025.

The public infrastructure would include construction of a road, sidewalks, utilities, landscaping and a "very basic transit stop," she explained.

She also mentioned the town is planning to present the development plans at a public hearing toward the end of October.

"The town has been great to work

with and to partner with on that application," she said.

Heidi Dragoo went on to explain that the Proposition 123 funding is available through the state.

The proposition created a state housing fund with 40 percent of funds going toward affordable housing support administered by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and 60 percent of funds going toward affordable housing financing that is overseen by the Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

"Really, the idea is to create a pathway to ownership for the local workforce," she added. "The state really loves that concept."

David Dragoo noted the town has already agreed to provide about \$60,000 in fee waivers for the project.

He explained that one of the "keys" to a vetted grant application is having a project that activates multiple housing sites.

Heidi Dragoo explained that the units would be priced "right below market rate."

She explained that these units would likely house teachers and first responders in the community.

"The folks that run the community," she said.

She also spoke about conversations she's had with local business owners and the challenges their employees face with finding housing.

"We've heard some crazy stories," she said, mentioning stories of multiple employees sharing a one-room apartment and people living off grid and on national forest land.

"It's kind of incredible the stories that we're hearing as we talk with different employers," she said.

Heidi and David Dragoo both explain the importance of a public/private partnership on projects like this, noting that is the only way to be able to afford to complete the construction and still be able to offer rental and ownership opportunities at below-market rates.

Brown asked if Arena Labs has a "plan B" if the grant money is not awarded.

David Dragoo explained that if the grant money is not awarded this round, they will be going after another round of funding.

He also noted that scaling down the project is a way to reduce cost.

"We have been very successful with some other rural communities that we're working with," Heidi Dragoo said in regard to receiving DOLA funding through Proposition 123.

David Dragoo noted that the grant is a "competitive" grant.

He also explained that Arena Labs has been in communication with the Pagosa Springs Development Corporation and making sure that multiple local organizations are not going after the same grants.

He went on to explain that Arena Labs has also been in communication with the surrounding neighborhoods of the proposed developments and that the general consensus is everyone is on board with the project, as long as it does not create more short-term rentals (STRs).

Medina commented that the "way this is being sold" is that the developments will provide workforce housing for the community and that she would like to see a way that the housing developments can never be turned into STRs.

In response to a question from Brown, Dragoo explained the overall timeline for the project could range from 10 to 20 years, depending on a number of factors.

He mentioned Arena Labs is currently in year six of a 25-year development project in Montrose.

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Sports

SOCCER



Gavin Carter takes the ball into open space during the Pirates' season opener against Central Grand Junction on Aug. 31 at Golden Peaks Stadium.

Pirates tie in season opener, win first league game

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team began its season last weekend with a 1-1 draw in its opener against Central Grand Junction.

The Pirates played again on Tuesday, Sept. 3, defeating league opponents Montezuma-Cortez 3-2.

Coach Trevor Gian explained that the Pirates played with a lot of heart and effort in their first game against the Central Grand Junction Warriors.

"For the first game of the season, fantastic," Gian said.

The Pirates took the lead late in the first half with a goal from Milo Dietemeyer, Gian explained.

He mentioned the Pirates found a way to get a goal off a deflection from a ball into the box from Dietemeyer.

The Pirates took the lead into half-time and kept it until the last couple of minutes in regulation.

Gian explained that the Warriors were awarded a penalty kick for a foul inside of the Pirates' box with just under two minutes left in the game, noting it was a "tough call."

The Warriors converted their pen-

alty kick, tying the game at 1-1 with just seconds remaining.

Gian noted the Pirates attempted to push forward with one final attack, but time expired.

He mentioned that the Warriors are "definitely a very good team" that is fast, talented and physical.

Gian expressed that he felt good about the result, but that giving up the tie toward the end of the match was a "little disappointing."

"The result itself was fantastic," Gian added.

He noted the Pirates are still working through some things formationally, and that the Warriors were able to find a lot of space up the middle throughout the game.

He noted that the Warriors only had a couple of quality scoring opportunities, one leading to a "fantastic save" by Pirate goalkeeper Christopher Young-Martinez where the Warriors were able to get in behind the Pirates' defensive back line.

Gian explained that the Pirates switched to man-marking at times throughout the match, which helped shore up things defensively.

Gian also added that with only a few

seniors on this year's team, he is looking for a few freshmen to step up and fill out some of the varsity team's roles.

Gian added that the team is dealing with a couple of injuries, as well.

On Sept. 3, the Pirates hosted their first league match against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers, winning by a score of 3-2.

"It was a tough one," Gian said. Gian explained that the result could've been much different if the Pirates had played with the same level of intensity as they did against Central Grand Junction.

He noted the Pirates "kind of walked into it instead of ran into it" and looked a little complacent at the start of the match.

Gian explained that the Pirates had a 3-0 lead early in the second half after two goals scored in the first half and another scored in the second.

The Pirates' first goal came from Esneyder Paz after a "great buildup" of play, Gian said, adding that Paz had "a great finish."

Gian noted the Pirates had a couple more chances to put away a few more goals.

The Pirates next two goals came from penalty kicks, with Gavin Carter and Chance Ramirez each converting one.

"Hats off to Cortez," Gian added, mentioning the Panthers played with a lot of effort and fight.

He explained that "the game opened up, not in a great way for us," in the second half and that the Panthers started finding more space on the field.

He explained the Pirates "got pulled apart big time."

The Panthers were awarded two penalty kicks in the second half that accounted for their two goals.

Gian explained that there was still about 20 minutes left in the game once Panthers scored their second goal, bringing the score to 3-2.

"It got loud," Gian said, explaining that the crowd started to get rowdy and the Panthers started gaining some momentum.

He noted that, other than the two penalty kicks, the Pirates did not give up many quality scoring chances.

"It's just the way it goes sometimes," Gian added.

The Pirates were able to hold on and come away with a win, and now sit at 1-0-1 on the season and 1-0 in league play.

Gian explained that it wasn't the prettiest game, but that the team "found a way to dig in and get the win."

The Pirates will be back in action this weekend, taking on the Aztec Tigers in Aztec, N.M., on Friday, Sept. 6, at 5 p.m.

Gian mentioned that the team will be working on becoming more balanced defensively and offensively by creating more quality scoring oppor-

tunities, rather than just relying on breakaways or counter attacks.

Additional stats were not available as of press time Wednesday.
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Angel Ramirez battles with a Central Grand Junction Warrior to win the ball. The match ended in a 1-1 draw on Aug. 31.

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Outdoors

September events announced for Chimney Rock National Monument

By Ana Murray

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

At Chimney Rock National Monument, you can view the stars, the full moon or take a tour of this majestic place where the ancient Pueblos used to live.

Chimney Rock offers monthly programs, annual events and guided tours that are fun and educational for the whole family.

September special events

- Art at the Pinnacles: Sept. 5, 10, 21 and 25.
- Art at the Pinnacles: Plein Air Workshop: Sept. 21.
- Autumn Equinox Tour: Sept. 22.
- Birding at Chimney Rock: Sept. 21.
- Flute Music at Twilight: Sept. 14.
- Full Moon Program: Sept. 18.
- Geology Tour: Mornings: Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Afternoons: Sept. 3, 10 and 17.
- Guided Great House Walking Tour: Sept. 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 28.
- Major lunar standstill special lecture: Dr. Kim Malville Sept. 22.
- Major lunar standstill: Sept. 23 and 24.
- Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tours: Mornings: Sept. 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30. Evenings: Sept. 4, 11 and 25.
- Our Solar System: Sept. 6.
- Stars and Galaxies: Sept. 27.
- Free day at Chimney Rock National Monument: National Public Lands Day, Sept. 28.

Registration is required 12 hours in advance at www.chimneyrockco.org for all programs.

Art at the Pinnacles

Art at the Pinnacles is a weekly class offered at various locations within the monument.

Each week a different class will be taught. Choices will be beginning watercolor, beginning pastels or pencil drawing basics. Most classes will be held at 8 a.m. Drawing classes will be held at 5 p.m.

Our teachers are Lise Neer and Kathie Disner, professional local artists, and Denise Fisk, former school art teacher.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$25 for ages 10 and up. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center, (877) 444-6777, is the only way to guarantee a spot for this class. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

To ensure this class is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the class.

Walk-ins cannot be accommodated unless prior permission is obtained from the teacher. Note: If no one has signed up for the class by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the class will not run. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Plein Air Workshop

The Plein Air Workshop is offered once a month on a Saturday. In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the process of "plein air" painting — the act of painting outdoors to capture the spirit and essence of a landscape by incorporating natural light, color and movement — in essence, learning to capture the outdoors while outdoors — and, of course, featuring the scenic vistas at Chimney Rock National Monument.

The first session will begin with a demonstration covering the use of materials, either watercolor or pastel, or both, and tips for composition and technique in the outdoors. This initial study/painting will be used as a reference for a more complete painting later in the day, which will be held indoors at a location in downtown Pagosa Springs.

All materials are provided. No experience is necessary. All levels of ability are welcome. Bring a lunch/snacks/drink as appropriate.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$75 for ages 10 and up. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this class. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is



Photo courtesy Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

As the summer season winds down, there are still opportunities to experience Chimney Rock National Monument in a variety of ways.

nonrefundable.

To ensure this class is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the class.

Walk-ins cannot be accommodated unless prior permission is obtained from the teacher. Note: If no one has signed up for the class by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the class will not run. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Birding at Chimney Rock

This tour is offered on select Friday and Saturday mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. in the quiet off-hours of the monument. This fun and casual two-hour bird walk is led by a knowledgeable birding guide from the Weminuche Audubon Society. These outings will introduce you to the diverse community of birds that spend their summer at Chimney Rock National Monument. Your guide will help you identify various species and explain the unique adaptations that allow these birds to survive here. Birders of all skill levels are welcome to participate. This tour is not recommended for young children.

Participants will be walking slowly on uneven terrain in the lower area of Chimney Rock; thus, no archaeological sites will be included on this tour. Good walking shoes are advised, along with plenty of water and sun protection. Also, bring those binoculars.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, and \$10 for ages 5-12. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this class. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

To ensure this tour is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the tour.

Most tours are at full capacity prior to the event, but walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Tour tickets can be purchased directly from the guide with cash only. Note: If no one has signed up for the tour by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the tour will not run. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Flute Music at Twilight

The Flute Music at Twilight program is offered on select Saturday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. during quiet off-hours of the monument.

It begins from the amphitheater with a relaxing 1/4-mile walk up the nature trail, providing visitors with an experience of the natural environment along with beautiful views of the two pinnacles. Upon returning to the amphitheater, the program resumes with an informative lecture on topics specific to Chimney Rock such as the Ancestral Puebloan culture, archaeoastronomy theories, the major lunar standstill, geology, etc.

As dusk progresses and stars begin to appear, you will be treated to the haunting melodies of a Native American flute played by our own Charles Martinez. Visitors will gaze in wonder at the heavenly skies and

ponder what significance they had for the Ancestral Pueblos when they looked up at the same night skies 1,000 years ago.

This is recommended for ages 4 and up.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this program. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

To ensure this tour is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the programs.

Most programs are at full capacity prior to the event, but walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Tickets can be purchased directly from the gift shop. Note: If no one has signed up for the tour by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the program will not run. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Early Tour/Full Moon Package

This guided tour is offered in conjunction with the Full Moon Program for a more comprehensive study of Chimney Rock National Monument. It starts late afternoon before the Full Moon Program to merge with that wondrous night sky experience later in the evening. The entire program lasts approximately four hours versus the shorter, three-hour Full Moon Program.

This tour takes the visitor on the 1/3-mile paved Mesa Village Trail, then proceeds up the Great House Trail to join the Full Moon Program. At the end of the trail, visitors will enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view from atop the mesa ridge. They will also be afforded the closest view possible of the two pinnacles: Chimney Rock and Companion Rock.

Please keep in mind that the lecture before the moonrise is approximately 30 minutes in length, and the hike back down the high mesa occurs after dark.

The hike up to the Chacoan Great House Pueblo may be difficult for some due to the steep gradient, uneven footing, and elevation ending at 7,600 feet. The elevation gain is 200 feet. Participants should be in reasonable physical condition and willing to hike mostly uphill for 1/3 mile (and return steeply downhill).

This program is not suitable for children under 8, and parents are asked to closely supervise their children for the safety of all attendees. Water, flashlights and a blanket or mat for ground seating (no chairs) are recommended.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$30 for ages 10 and up. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee



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Events

Continued from A13 Full Moon Program

The Full Moon Program is offered once a month to coincide with the full moon and provide a unique backdrop in a sky unhindered by the lights of modern-day civilization.

About an hour before moonrise, visitors will be treated to an informative lecture on topics specific to the Chimney Rock site — Ancestral Puebloan culture, archaeoastronomy theories, area geology, etc.

Then, as the full moon begins to rise, a single flute note follows another and another as you become slowly embraced by the music of Martinez. You'll be torn between looking west to see the spectacular sunset or focusing on the eastern mountain range to see the first sliver of moon.

The entire program lasts approximately three hours including check-in, driving to the mesa top and hiking the Great House Trail. At the end of the trail, visitors will enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view from atop the mesa ridge. They will also be afforded the closest view possible of the two pinnacles: Chimney Rock and Companion Rock.

Please keep in mind that the lecture before the moonrise is approximately 30 minutes in length, and the hike back down the high mesa occurs after dark.

The hike up to the Chacoan Great House Pueblo may be difficult for some due to the steep gradient, uneven footing, and elevation ending at 7,600 feet. The elevation gain is 200 feet.

Participants should be in reasonable physical condition and willing to hike mostly uphill for 1/3 mile (and return steeply downhill). This program is not suitable for children under 8, and parents are asked to closely supervise their attending children for the safety of all attendees. Water, flashlights and a blanket or mat for ground seating (no chairs) are recommended.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$25 per person. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this program. This program often sells out; reservations are strongly recommended. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the program.

Walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Program tickets can be purchased directly from the gift shop. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Special note: Visitors are offered the option to take an early, guided tour of the Mesa Village Trail before the full moon program. This Early Tour/Full Moon Package is \$30 and is available through the Recreation.gov website or the call center under the title Early Tour/Full Moon Package. Check-in times are listed in the Early Tour/Full Moon Package description.

Geology Tour

The Geology Tour is offered weekly on Tuesday late afternoons and Saturday mornings.

This 2.5-hour guided tour explores the local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the Ancestral Puebloans who lived at Chimney Rock more than 1,000 years ago.

Tour participants will be taken on a journey through geologic time to learn what the rocks present at Chimney Rock today tell us about the geography of southwestern Colorado over time.

Participants will also learn how to identify common rocks and fossils in the area. Rock types impact structures, pottery, tools and soil productivity. Geologic processes determine the landscape at Chimney Rock and play a central role in climate. The relationship between the two pillars (Chimney Rock and Companion Rock) and the South San Juan Mountains in terms of astronomical observations will be discussed. The tour also covers the key points discussed in the archaeological-focused tours like the Great House Tour. No prior knowledge of geology is required.

The hike up to the Chacoan Great House Pueblo offers great views and photo opportunities, but may be difficult for some due to the steep gradient, uneven footing, and elevation ending at 7,600 feet. The elevation gain is 200 feet. Participants should be in reasonable physical condition and willing to hike mostly uphill for 1/3 mile (and return steeply downhill). The tour length includes 30 minutes for the hike to and from the Great House Pueblo.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 en-

trance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free.

Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this tour. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

To ensure this tour is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the tour.

Most tours are at full capacity prior to the event, but walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Tour tickets can be purchased directly from the guide with cash only. Note: If no one has signed up for the tour by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the tour will not run. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Guided Great House Tour

The Guided Great House Tour is offered on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

This guided tour takes visitors 1/3 mile up the Great Pueblo Trail, making several stops along the way to learn about the ancient Puebloan structures built more than 1,000 years ago and their connection to the Chaco culture located 90 miles southwest of this spot. At the end of the trail, visitors will enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view from atop the mesa ridge. They will also be afforded the closest view possible of the two pinnacles: Chimney Rock and Companion Rock.

Peregrine falcons are often sighted on the left side of Companion Rock, so cameras are a must.

The hike up to the Chacoan Great House Pueblo may be difficult for some due to the steep gradient, uneven footing, and elevation ending at 7,600 feet. The elevation gain is 200 feet. Participants should be in reasonable physical condition and willing to hike mostly uphill for 1/3 mile (and return steeply downhill).

Check-in is at the plaza kiosk at 10 a.m. The tour begins at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$12 for ages 13 and up and \$6 for ages 5-12. It is recommended for ages 5 and above due to uneven, rocky steps and steep drop-offs.

Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this class. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

To ensure this tour is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the tour.

Most tours are at full capacity prior to the event, but walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Tickets can be purchased at the gift shop. Note: If no one has signed up for the tour by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the tour will not run. The tour may be canceled because of insufficient attendees.

No refunds will be issued for no-shows. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Activity Pass fee must be paid (or applicable federal pass used) since this program occurs during the monument's regular daily opening hours.

Major lunar standstill special lecture

September will feature "New Light on Chimney Rock: The Sun, Moon, and the Great Supernova of 1054," a special lecture by Malville.

The magnificent astronomy of Chimney Rock National Monument may have had its start in the decade of the 1050s when the residents of the high mesa discovered both the supernova of 1054 and the standstill moon appearing above their eastern horizon.

This talk will discuss the evolution of Chimney Rock into a major ceremonial site by 1093. Of the world's many places where archaeological evidence of major lunar standstills has been discovered, Chimney Rock is unique in the depth and breadth of its astronomical and cultural complexities.

Malville obtained his BS in physics from Caltech. After spending a year in the Antarctic, he came to the University of Colorado and got his Ph.D. in solar physics. Malville's first teaching position was at the University of Michigan. Returning to Boulder, he was on the research staff of the High Altitude Observatory of NCAR, and then he moved back to the University of Colorado, where he served as chairman of the Department of

Astro-Geophysics. His research interests have ranged from the aurora, solar physics and, more recently, archaeoastronomy.

In 1997 he was a member of the team that revealed the world's oldest known megalithic astronomy at Nabta Playa near Abu Simbel in southern Egypt. In 2003 he was involved in the rediscovery of Llactapata and its sun temple, previously lost in a cloud forest near Machu Picchu. He is presently professor emeritus in the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at the University of Colorado.

This is a free event.

Major lunar standstill

Most people are familiar with the moon's cycle and how it changes its shape from crescent to full, as well as changing its rising position along the horizon.

But, unknown to many, the moon has a much longer cycle called the major lunar standstill. Every 18-19 years, the moon's tilted orbit aligns with the earth's axis, bringing it to its farthest northern or southern rising position. At Chimney Rock National Monument, during this major lunar standstill alignment, the moon dramatically rises between the impressive rock pinnacles — Companion Rock and Chimney Rock.

It is a timely, but very short-lived event when this amazing alignment happens. A thousand years ago, when the Ancient Puebloan people built the Great House and ceremonial spaces at Chimney Rock, they did so with a purpose — as many of today's scholars believe — to view this rare and spectacular event.

Two consecutive September night events will be held at the Chimney Rock National Monument Amphitheater to explore the current major lunar standstill at this important Native American site and its relationship to Stonehenge and other worldwide locations.

These late-night presentations will feature telescopes and stargazing under the monument's majestic dark skies; presentations on astronomy, archaeology and culture from leading experts; Native American music; and, most importantly, a live-streamed viewing of the crescent moon rising between the natural pinnacles.

Chimney Rock National Monument is one of just a few places on earth where the moon rises between two natural rock pillars during a major lunar standstill.

Because access to the upper area of the monument requires strict restrictions for safety concerns, these events will be held in the accessible outdoor amphitheater near the Visitor Center. And there — after a wonderful program preceding the event — the long-awaited and anticipated rise of the moon between the pinnacles will be shared via satellite from our crew on the upper mesa.

On Sept. 23, check-in will be at the visitor center kiosk from 8 to 9:45 p.m., at which time the gate will be locked. The amphitheater program will commence at 10 p.m. for stargazing and presentations by guest speakers. The major lunar standstill live-stream event will begin around 11 p.m., with the actual moonrise between the pillars at 11:13 p.m. The view of the moonrise from the amphitheater will occur shortly thereafter.

On Sept. 24, check-in will be at the visitor center kiosk from 9 to 10:45 p.m. The amphitheater program will commence at 11 p.m. for stargazing and presentations by guest speakers. The major lunar standstill live-stream event will begin around 12 a.m., with the actual moonrise between the pillars at 12:15 a.m. The view of the moonrise from the amphitheater will occur shortly thereafter.

Please dress warmly and consider bringing blankets and cushions for your comfort on the stone seats. A flashlight is also suggested. No alcohol, smoking/vaping or drugs are allowed. Come join us in celebrating this rare event — the next major lunar standstill won't happen for another 18 years.

Since we have no control over the weather and cannot guarantee the moon's sighting at the exact time of the major lunar standstill, a refund will not be issued in the unfortunate event the moonrise between the pillars is not visible. All other amphitheater programs will continue as scheduled.

This major lunar standstill event may be modified or canceled due to weather or conditions outside of our control. If the event is modified due to weather, no refunds will be issued for any reason. If canceled, refunds can only be issued by contacting Recreation.gov, which issues the reservation.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 5-12 and free to those under 5. Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call

center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this program since seating is limited. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the program. Walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available and can be purchased at the gift shop during the check-in time for each date. Tickets are \$25 and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to check the Recreation.gov website to make sure the event is not sold out before you come as a walk-in. No

See Events A15

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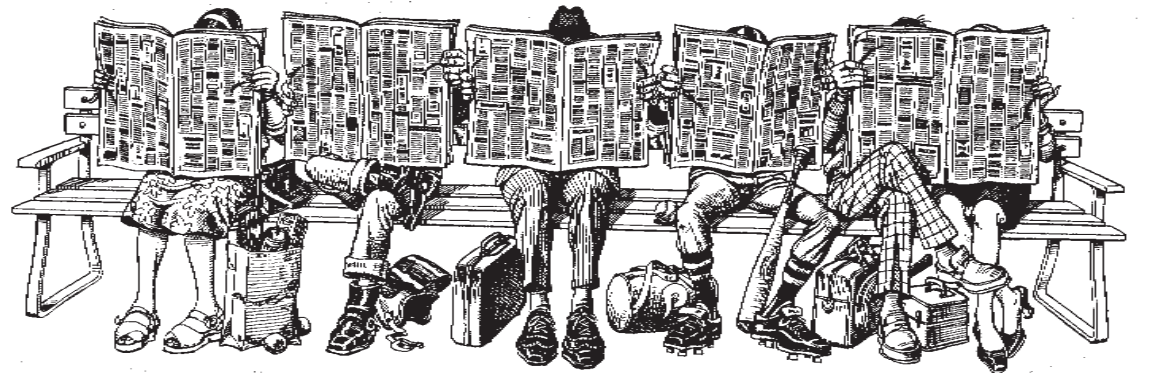


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Events

Continued from A14
 refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour

The Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour is offered on Monday and Friday mornings from 8 to 10:15 a.m., and on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7:15 p.m.

This engaging two-hour tour will spotlight several topics aimed specifically at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Puebloans who inhabited the area more than 1,000 years ago. The tour delves into the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chaco Culture, the significance of the mesa top Great House Pueblo and the day-to-day lives of the inhabitants of Chimney Rock.

The tour takes visitors along both the Mesa Village Trail and the Great House Trail to learn specifics about the structures along the way — their significance and uses. At the end of the trail, visitors will enjoy a 360-degree panoramic view from atop the mesa ridge.

They will also be afforded the closest view possible of the two pinnacles: Chimney Rock and Companion Rock. Peregrine falcons are often sighted on the left side of Companion Rock, so cameras are a must. The tour will be conducted in the quiet off-hours of the monument.

The hike up to the Chacoan Great House Pueblo may be difficult for some due to the steep gradient, uneven footing, and elevation ending at 7,600 feet. The elevation gain is 200 feet. Participants should be in reasonable physical condition and willing to hike mostly uphill for 1/3 mile (and return steeply downhill).

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free.

Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this class. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable.

To ensure this tour is scheduled, reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the tour.

Most tours are at full capacity prior to the event, but walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available. They will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame.

Tour tickets can be purchased directly from the guide with cash only. Note: If no one has signed up for the tour by online reservation within the allotted time frame, the tour will not run. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Our Solar System

Our Solar System program is offered on a Friday each month which affords the best viewing of the moon's surface using a telescope. Although the focus will be on the moon and its diverse qualities, other night sky objects will be identified and studied, as well as a presentation explaining the significance of the night sky to the Ancestral Puebloans.

This special sky opportunity affords an exclusive view of heavenly bodies from a place where the Ancestral Puebloans lived, observed and studied the celestial skies daily more than 1,000 years ago.

At this altitude, nights begin to cool rapidly after sunset, so an appropriate jacket and other gear will enable you to remain comfortable. Also suggested are lawn chairs; a regular flashlight, a flashlight with a red lens (available for \$4); and blankets, pillows and cushions. Note: The program will be adjusted according

to current weather conditions and take place as scheduled.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free.

Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this program. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the program.

Walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Those tickets can be purchased directly at the gift shop. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Stars and Galaxies

The Stars and Galaxies Program is offered on a select Friday each month when the earth is closest to the new moon. When a new moon occurs, the night sky is at its darkest, highlighting thousands of stars against the vast blackness of space — a unique experience at Chimney Rock, isolated from the artificial lights of modern-day civilization.

This special sky opportunity affords an exclusive view of heavenly bodies from a place where the Ancestral Puebloans lived and observed and studied the celestial skies daily more than 1,000 years ago.

Featured will be a presentation explaining the significance of the night sky to the Ancestral Puebloans.

Telescopes will be utilized to observe several different sky objects in our Milky Way galaxy, which looks to the naked eye like a dense, low cloud. In actuality, it is millions of light years away and contains billions of stars.

At this altitude, nights begin to cool rapidly after sunset, so an appropriate jacket and other gear will enable you to remain comfortable. Also suggested are lawn chairs; a regular flashlight, a flashlight with a red lens (available for \$4); and blankets, pillows and cushions.

Note: The program will be adjusted according to current weather conditions and take place as scheduled.

Check-in is at the Colo. 151 entrance gate. Please adhere to the check-in timeline. The gate will be promptly locked at the end of that time.

Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free.

Making a reservation through the Recreation.gov website or the call center is the only way to guarantee a spot for this program. Recreation.gov charges a \$1 reservation fee that is nonrefundable. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the program.

Walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must arrive during the specified check-in time frame. Those tickets can be purchased directly at the gift shop. No refunds will be issued for no-shows.

Purchasing tickets

For tickets for any of these special programs, please visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

A booking fee applies to each ticket purchased online or through the call center.

Purchasing your tickets in advance is the only way to guarantee a spot for the monthly and annual programs. Reservations will be cut off 12 hours prior to the start of the tour. Most tours/programs fill up, but walk-ins will be accommodated if space is available.

Chimney Rock uses a fee system. All vehicles and motorcycles are subject to an activity pass fee of \$20. The activity pass fee provides five days of access to Chimney Rock National Monument.

To purchase your required activity pass, you can:

- Purchase your activity pass in advance at Recreation.gov.
 - Download the Recreation.gov mobile app to purchase your pass in advance or arrive on-site and use the app to provide payment (Android or iOS) by scanning the on-site QR code.
 - Arrive on-site and pay cash.
- Interagency, Access, Senior, Military and fourth-grader park passes are accepted for national monument access.

Include Chimney Rock in your plans this summer. This Ancestral Puebloan cultural site is located 17 miles west of Pagosa and 3 miles south on Colo. 151.

To view the Chimney Rock National Monument calendar of events, go to www.chimneyrockco.org.

CRIA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that runs the gift shop and interpretive programs/tours at Chimney Rock National Monument in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the San Juan National Forest.



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preview

ARTS & LIFE

A Weekend with Anne Hillerman

Sept. 13-14



Photo courtesy Roberto Rosales

September 5, 2024

Acclaimed mystery novelist to visit Pagosa

By Leslie Cole

Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Friends and Foundation

Anne Hillerman, daughter of Navajo mystery writer Tony Hillerman, had big shoes to fill when she set out to write her first detective novel more than a decade ago.

But to hear her tell it, she also had unfinished business with Leaphorn and Chee, the Navajo Nation police officers who solved crimes, characters that made her father into one of the Southwest's most treasured authors.

Hillerman will be in Pagosa Springs Sept. 13 and 14, appearing at events benefiting the Mountains of Opportunity building campaign to fund the library's upgrade and expansion. See below for a list of events.

She recently published her ninth thriller, "Lost Birds: A Leaphorn, Chee and Manuelito Novel."

Before she continued the mystery series her father Tony Hillerman created starting in 1970, Anne Hillerman was a journalist and writer of nonfiction books.

After Tony Hillerman died in 2008, she compiled a photographic tribute to her father's work ("Tony Hillerman's Landscape: On the road with an American Legend"). Somewhere along the way she realized that not only were scores of people "grieving over the loss of these beloved characters and stories," so was she.

"I had grown up with these characters and I hated to see those stories end," Hillerman said in a recent PBS interview. "And even more than that, I hated to see the

series end without there being a strong Navajo woman to be in the spotlight."

Her first novel, "Spider Woman's Daughter," fulfilled that promise and more. The story pulled readers through a web of intrigue and deception and reunited them with Navajo policemen Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee. And importantly, it elevated a marginal character from her father's stories, Bernadette Manuelito, "to be a crime solver with the guys."

Eight more books followed, combining history, mystery, ancient lore and Southwest landscapes.

Today, Bernadette Manuelito, or Bernie, is America's most popular Native American female law enforcement officer, according to one reviewer.

"Bernie has just such a tremendous life force," said Anne Hillerman, who splits her time between Santa Fe, N.M., and Tucson, Ariz., with frequent trips to the Navajo Nation. "She has just kind of pulled me along through this series."

While Manuelito is the major player in many of Anne Hillerman's books, her latest novel, "Lost Birds," published in April, returns the spotlight to a now-retired Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn. He's tracking down the birth parents of a Navajo woman adopted by non-native parents prior to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. It's a gripping mystery that explores emotionally complex issues as Leaphorn tries to find the truth.

■ See Novelist on next page

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The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Johnny Keys, 5 p.m.

Saturday

East Side Market: Open mic, 11 a.m.
Mountain Pizza and Taproom: Dan Evans, 5:30 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

Sunday

Mountain Pizza and Taproom: Dan Evans, 5:30 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 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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Alan C, Google review

Novelist

■ continued from previous page

Places are equally important characters in Anne Hillerman's books. Bear's Ears National Monument in winter features prominently in "The Way of the Bear," her previous novel, which she says is about the resilience of life.

"I like to write books that build on people's optimism," she said. "That's one of the joys for me of writing fiction as opposed to my days as a journalist or writing nonfiction."

A weekend with Anne Hillerman

Anne Hillerman events benefiting the library expansion:

• Sept. 13: Friends of the Library Movie Night, at Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 7 p.m.

Pick up a signed copy of "Lost Birds" and join the author to watch and discuss the first episode of "Dark Winds," the AMC series based on several Tony Hillerman books. Anne Hillerman is an executive producer for the show. Tickets are \$30 advance or \$35 at the door and include wine/beer and light snacks. Join the Friends of the Library at Pagosalibrary.org.

• Sept. 14: Writers workshop at the library, 9 to 11 a.m.

Explore the writing craft with Anne Hillerman and husband Dave Tedlock, who has taught writing at Roger Williams University, Iowa State University and the Harvard Business School. The workshop is limited to 20 participants. Tickets are \$25; a combo ticket, \$65, includes admission to the Fireside Chat.

• Sept. 14: Ruby's Meet and Greet with Anne Hillerman, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., at the library.

Meet the best-selling mystery author and purchase a signed book. Anne Hillerman's thought-provoking mysteries bring to life the terrain, people and lore of the American Southwest and Four Corners region. This event is free.

• Sept. 14: Fireside Chat, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave., 6 p.m.

Anne Hillerman will sit down with Rick Holter, a former NPR journalist

who now lives in Pagosa Springs, for a live interview and conversation. Admission includes craft hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Tickets \$50 advance or \$55 at the door.

All events benefit the Mountains of Opportunity campaign to upgrade and expand Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

Purchase tickets at Pagosalibrary.org or at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library (cash or check only).

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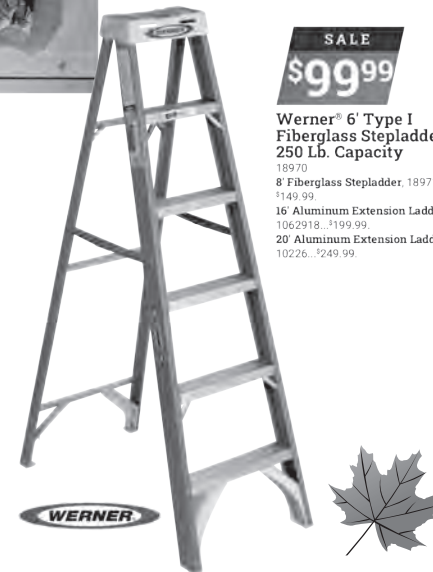
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Photo courtesy Lisa Scott

The Pi Beta Phi San Juan Alumnae Club gathered at the home of Lisa Scott on Aug. 27 for an outdoor summer lunch that honored three former Pagosa residents who were visiting — Lynn Constan from Tennessee, Mary Bailly from Wyoming and Constance Clark from Mexico. Seated left to right are Lisa Scott, Paula Tennant, Bailly and Mary Rothchild; standing left to right are Carole Howard, Kara Cook, Melissa McDonald, Kelly Maestas, Clark and Constan. The event also celebrated Founders' Day and the club's Golden Arrows (ladies who have been members of the sorority for 50 years or more). Pi Beta Phi was founded in 1867 at Monmouth College in Illinois by 12 creative and courageous women at a time when only five state universities admitted women. Today there are 135 collegiate chapters in the U.S. and Canada and nearly 300 alumnae clubs around the world.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to hear about bounty land records Sept. 7

By Carolyn Paschal
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society is pleased to announce Eilene Lyon as its featured speaker at the Sept. 7 meeting.

The topic is the "Bounty" in bounty land records.

U.S. bounty lands have been issued to veterans dating back to the Revolution.

Attendees will learn about the history of these records, how to request them and what types of documentation these files contain. Understand

that land patent records often have different warrant holders and patent recipients and why. Bounty land files can fill in gaps in military service records and offer clues about family relationships. They can even contain physical descriptions and other genealogical data.

Lyon, who lives in Durango, shares her passion for family history by giving presentations on research, writing and genealogy to local, regional and national audiences, helping others to know their ancestors in historical context and with increased passion.

Lyon has spent decades research-

ing her family and others' families to piece together narrative stories about the past.

We will be meeting Saturday at 10 a.m., followed by a short business meeting, at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street (enter through the side door from the parking lot.)

The public is invited to attend the meeting in person. Young people are especially encouraged to come.

You can also join on Zoom. For a link to join the meeting, you can contact carolynpaschal@gmail.com or visit our website, pagosapeakgs.org.

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Photo courtesy Chris Roebuck

Chris Roebuck photographing a seal on an ice floe during one of his Antarctic journeys. Roebuck will be the featured speaker at the Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting on Sept. 11.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club presentation: 'From Polar Bears to Penguins'

By Andy Butler
Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The next meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Join us for socializing at 6 p.m. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Please enter the church through the side door next to the parking lot.

This month's presentation will feature Chris Roebuck, whose program will be "From Polar Bears to Penguins."

Roebuck's presentation chronicles four trips to photograph these creatures found near the poles. This included two trips to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, to photograph polar bears and other Arctic wildlife. He did one of these trips in the early winter season and the second in sunny summer to catch the wildflowers.

Roebuck will also feature photos from two trips to Antarctica. The first of these was unsuccessful, ending in tragedy due to a boating accident and an immediate return to port. The second attempt was a successful Antarctic expedition to photograph landscapes, penguins and wildlife while visiting the seventh continent.

Roebuck is a student of the photographic arts. After retirement he returned to school to learn about digital imaging.

He has dedicated his remaining years to photographing beauty and traveling the world to experience

wilderness, wildlife and the accompanying excitement this provides.

Roebuck resides in Pagosa Springs and has been a Photography Club member for several years.

The presentation will be followed by our monthly image share, for which Photography Club members may bring up to five images each to share and discuss.

This meeting will also be available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to members; others who wish to attend may request the link by email to abutler@mac.com.

September excursion

On Friday, Sept. 5, Photography Club members will take part in a photographic excursion to the Aztec, N.M., area.

There are numerous photogenic arches in this part of New Mexico, and we will visit and photograph several of them on this trip.

Club members interested in going on this outing should let Gregg Heid know (goheid@yahoo.com). We will meet at his place at 8 a.m. on Sept. 5.

Digital Photography Contest

The Photography Club's seventh annual Digital Photography Contest is now open.

Digital image files should be entered by Oct. 9.


Each photographer may enter up to six images, two each in three categories.

This year the categories are Na-

ture, Portraits and Manmade/Other. The entry fee is just \$10, independent of the number of photos submitted.


After judging, ribbons and cash awards will be presented at our awards celebration on Nov. 13.

■ See Photography on next page



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir will be starting rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept. 10, for its 2024 concert season. Performances will be on Dec. 13, 14 and 15. Registration will start at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, and the fee to register is \$20. No auditions are necessary and all singers are welcome.

Community Choir to start rehearsals for Christmas concerts

By Heidi Tanner

Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Community Choir in Pagosa Springs will begin rehearsals for our Christmas concerts on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Rehearsals are held in the band room at Pagosa Springs High School weekly on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Community Choir has been operating for more than 20 years, and the group's Christmas concerts are beloved by the Community and are a landmark of Pagosa Springs Christmas festivities.

This year's concerts will be held on Dec. 13 and 14 at 7 p.m., and on Dec. 15 at 4 p.m.

If you enjoy singing, please join us. It is helpful, but not necessary, to read music to participate in the choir. Our music director, Dan Burch, is a wonderful vocal coach and we provide learning tracks which you can use to practice at home. Venita Burch, our accomplished accompanist, also assists in learning parts and

we have plenty of rehearsals to help us prepare.

Rehearsals are fun and challenging leading up to our series of three concerts, which are very rewarding to present to the community.

Registration for this year's season will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

There is a registration fee of \$20 which is utilized for the purchase of new music and operating expenses of the choir. There is some additional expense for wardrobe requirements for our concerts and you have the option to purchase or rent our concert attire. Financial assistance is available for wardrobe if needed. Lastly, students can participate free of charge. Registration and wardrobe fees can be paid with cash or check during registration.

Our theme for the 2024 season is "Joy to the World," and Dan Burch has chosen some wonderful music for us to sing.

Look forward to singing Christmas favorites such as "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "Joy to

the World" along with some lesser-known and new pieces such as "His Light in Us." Please come and lift your hearts with song to celebrate the Christmas season.

We will look forward to welcoming you at registration on Tuesday, Sept. 10, starting at 6 p.m. in the band room of Pagosa Springs High School. Rehearsal will begin at 7 p.m. sharp.

Photography

■ continued from previous page

The contest is open to Photography Club members. New members may join at the time they enter the contest.

For more details, and links to the contest guidelines and an entry form, see our website at <http://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/2024/08/29/7th-annual-digital-photography-contest/>.

Virtual Shutter Therapy challenge for September

Each month, the Photography Club sponsors a Virtual Shutter Therapy challenge on Facebook. These challenges are open to all photographers.

For September, the theme is night sky photography.

Explore the beauty of night photography by capturing the interplay of light and shadow. Experiment with long exposures to reveal light

trails, starry skies or illuminated landscapes. Focus on contrasts and unique perspectives, showcasing the mysterious ambiance and vibrant colors that emerge after dark. Let the night guide your creativity.

Until Oct. 6, share up to three photos by commenting on the post about this topic on the Photography Club Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub>.

About the club

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club welcomes everyone who enjoys making and viewing great photography. The club sponsors educational programs, image sharing and discussion, and outings to help our members improve their photography.

For more information about the club, and to download a membership application, visit our website at <https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/>.

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Photo courtesy Jacque Aragon

The 18th annual Mountain Chile Cha Cha promises a day filled with excitement and entertainment at Town Park on Sept. 28, including the 16th annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic, live music and more.

16th Annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic set for Sept. 28

By Jacque Aragon
Mountain Chile Cha Cha

Don't miss out on the 16th annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic.

Secure your spot now to compete for cash prizes and trophies.

This cook-off is open to chefs of all backgrounds, providing a platform to showcase your culinary skills and vie for top honors. With limited space available, early registration is your best chance to participate.

For those with a competitive spirit, this is your chance to shine. Home cooks can enter for \$15, while commercial entrants pay \$35. Winners in the meat, vegetarian and people's choice and restaurant categories will each walk away with \$200, a first-place trophy and bragging rights.

The stage is set, and the prizes are waiting. Are you ready to compete?

The 18th annual Mountain Chile Cha Cha promises a day filled with excitement and entertainment at

Town Park on Sept. 28.

We are implementing a \$10 entry fee to enter the event. Children aged 12 and under are free. This small fee is worth it for an enhanced event experience featuring two of our favorite bands.

Get ready to be amazed by the lively Latin rhythms of the award-winning band Sangre Joven from New Mexico as they set the stage on fire. And that's not all — prepare yourself for an electrifying performance by Str8 Shot that will have you moving and shaking.

At the 18th annual Mountain Chile Cha Cha, there's something for everyone. Enjoy tasting green chile, a Mexican beer garden, a margarita contest and tasting, green chile roasted on-site, an all-day kids' corner and various delicious food vendors. Rain or shine, this event promises a day of fun and excitement. Don't miss out.

Register for the race and the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic by visiting ilovegreenchile.com today.

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Photo courtesy Joanne Irons

Members from the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs invite you to join them for the ninth annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance from 7 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 12 at the Archuleta County Extension building.

Rotary's Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance set for Oct. 12

By Donna Mosher
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

It's a barn dance: The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs will host the ninth annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance on Oct. 12 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Archuleta County Extension building.

The Jackson Mountain Ramblers will play toe-tappin', boot-scootin' dance music — irresistible for two-stepping, line dancing, honey-hug-

ging waltzes and your favorite swing moves.

The evening is full of activities, including a cash saloon with local brews and a full bar, a contest for sexiest cowboy and cowgirl, and wagon rides. Local retailers and restaurants have donated items that will be available in a silent auction.

This year, a special online auction offers incredible experiential items like a Sleep 'n' Soak, an Ultimate Top

Gun Flight Experience, Sporting Clay lessons, a Sip the Magic of Tuscany package, and more. Visit <https://app.galabid.com/pagosabarndance/> items to browse and bid on these exclusive online offerings.

The Rotary Club invests profits from the barn dance throughout the community. It awards scholarships to local students, gives dictionaries to our third-graders, sends our **See Dance on next page**

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Eighth annual Community Fall Picnic and Raffle set for Sept. 22

By Roxanne Schick
Pagosa Catholic Community

The eighth Annual Community Fall Picnic and Raffle will be held on Sept. 22 at the Pagosa Catholic Community Pavilion from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is a free event and everyone in the community is welcome. There will be free BBQ lunch provided by the Knights of Columbus Council #7560 at the Pagosa Catholic Community Pavilion, 353 South Pagosa Blvd. There will also be games for the kids and snow cones.

Taking the stage at 11 a.m. will be the Retrocats Band, who will provide part of the entertainment during the event. The Retrocats have performed at numerous local events and have a large fan following. As the name implies, they cut their musical teeth during the '60s and '70s, and happily serve up a mix of classic rock, blues and country for your dancing and listening pleasure.

And, for a surprise number, Jocelyn Martinez, choir

and theatric director of Bloomfield High School in New Mexico, will be singing at our event.

One cannot talk about the festival without mentioning the popular brown bag raffle, which includes donations from many local businesses. Tickets will be available that day for \$1 each. With the brown bag raffle, you must be present to win. Winning tickets will be pulled starting at 2 p.m.

Rounding out the festivities is a separate all-cash raffle. The grand Prize is \$1,500, followed by \$750 for second prize, \$450 for third prize, \$200 for fourth prize and \$100 for the fifth prize.

Tickets are \$10 each and winners do not need to be present to win.

Tickets for this raffle may be purchased in advance at Pope John Paul II Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. from 9 a.m. to noon (Monday through Friday), or at the Chamber of Commerce and at the event.

Winning cash raffle tickets will be pulled at 3 p.m.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service at 11 a.m. on Sept. 8 with Scott Maki, sound healer, musician and artist will be "Tibetan Bowl Sound Healing for the Body and Soul."

A love donation will be accepted.

Upcoming events

Sept. 7-8: Scott Maki artist, musician outdoor sound bowl healing concert at Xanadu. Tickets are on sale now for \$25. Contact (970) 510-0309.

Sept. 13-14: Blessing of the Animals with Julie Loar, Grandmother Fire Eagle and Shayla White Eagle. Tickets are on sale now for \$10. Contact (970) 510-0309.

About us

SpiritFire Inspirational Living

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

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

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052,

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

Dance

■ continued from previous page youth leaders to leadership camps, awards mini-grants for teachers and so much more.

Rotary invites you to support these community projects and have a fun-filled evening with friends and neighbors at the barn dance.

Tickets are \$30 per person in advance and \$35 at the door. A chuckwagon dinner is available for those who have purchased a food ticket for \$15. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce and from Exit Realty Home and Ranch, or from members of the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs.

The barn dance always sells out, so buy yours soon.

With more than 24,000 clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide,

Rotary International is a service organization that brings together dedicated individuals to exchange ideas, build relationships, take action, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Exemplifying the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," local Rotary clubs provide support for local and international projects that improve the lives of others.

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Monday 11-1, Wednesday 4-6, Thursday 11-1, Friday 10-12

Bestselling author Anne Hillerman here for four special events next weekend

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We are proud to host New York Times bestselling author Anne Hillerman next weekend for four special events, one free and three set up as fundraisers by the library foundation for our campaign to renovate and expand your library.

Library News

Hillerman is the author of multiple bestselling mysteries that continue the hugely popular Navajo detective series originated by her father, Tony Hillerman.

- Friday, Sept. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. is a movie event at the library exclusively for Friends of the Library. Tickets are \$30.

- Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. is a writer's workshop at the library. The cost is \$25.

- Also Saturday, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., is a free meet and greet with the author at the library.

- Also Saturday, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., is a fireside chat with the author at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$50.

Anne Hillerman lives in New Mexico. She has continued her father's series of Joe Leaphorn-Jim Chee novels following his death, adding officer Bernadette Manuelito as a full partner in solving the crimes. All nine of her books are available at your library for your reading pleasure.

Tickets for the three fundraising events can be purchased at the library or online at pagosalibrary.org.

Library closure

Your library will close early on Monday, Sept. 9, for a staff meeting at 5 p.m. This is our regular staff meeting schedule — on the second Monday of the month.

Hiking safety today

Come hear guidelines and helpful tips for hiking safety in our wilderness environs from members of our local San Juan Outdoor Club and the Upper San Juan Search and Rescue organization next Thursday, Sept. 5, from 6 to 7:15 p.m.

The Archuleta County Sheriff Office's emergency management team may also be present to answer your questions about its role in assisting persons lost in our mountains.

Herbal remedies next Wednesday

Learn the identification, harvesting and traditional therapeutic uses of 10



Photo courtesy Roberto Rosales

Author Anne Hillerman, who will appear in Pagosa Springs Sept. 13 and 14, continues her father's mystery series set in Navajo Nation and makes it her own.

common native plants next Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. from Lake McCullough, certified herbalist. Explore how to infuse the herbs with syrups, tinctures and balms.

You will leave with recipes to make at home and a small sample of an herbal healing salve.

Dungeons and Dragons today

Today, Thursday, Sept. 5, and next Tuesday, Sept. 10, 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.

All-ages gaming tomorrow

Join us Friday, Sept. 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for a free all-ages gaming session playing Xbox.

Teen/tween takeover tomorrow

We are setting aside the large meeting room and some of the computers for tweens and teens to use and spend time with friends Friday, Sept. 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks continue with three opportunities in September for you to interact with New York Times bestselling authors and ask questions in April.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 10, at noon we'll interact with Pulitzer Prize finalist Garrett Graff, who will be talking about "Capturing the Human Drama Through Oral Histories."

On Sept. 18 at noon, Kate Klemp, Ph.D., co-author of "Start Here: Master the Lifelong Skill of Wellbeing," will discuss "An Expansive Mind in a

Distracted World."

On Sept. 21 at 5 p.m., we'll experience "A Deep Dive in Character Development" with novelist Liane Moriarty, author of "Big Little Lies," "The Husband's Secret" and "Apples Never Fall."

LEGO Club Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO Club on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Ruby's Book Club next Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, to discuss "Running with Sherman: The Donkey with the Heart of a Hero" by Christopher McDougall.

Copies are available at your library.

This book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is welcome to attend. Snacks will be provided.

Legal clinics to resume Wednesdays

Your library is one of six in our state chosen by the Colorado Access to Justice Commission to restart the free legal clinics.

They will happen from 2 to 3:40 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month starting Sept. 11. We will start with five patrons each month, 20 minutes per patron.

We will use a Zoom platform that can translate from English to the patron's primary language. To reduce our no-show rate, we will start with just one waitlisted patron per month.

Come to the library to meet privately via Zoom with our volunteer attorney.

To schedule an appointment, at the beginning of the month, send an email titled "Sign-up for Free Legal Clinic" with your first name and

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ **continued from previous page**
 phone number to ruby@pagosalibrary.org, phone (970) 264-2209 or stop by the library.

Teen/tween activity

Join us in the teen area every Wednesday after school from 4 to 4:30 p.m. this month for a fun craft or challenge. Activities will range from taste tests to art challenges to minute-to-win-it-style games.

Writers Guild

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

The guild has 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, with net proceeds going to the library's building campaign.

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.

Novels

"El Barrio de la Juventud"/"La Raza's Golden Era" by local author Santos Luis O'Canas traces the lives of the Mexican-American families of El Campo, Texas, beginning with the last half of the 20th century to the mid-1960s. It is an adult nonfiction collective biography written in English with some Spanish included.

"Sofia" by local author Lynn Moffett features a young widow whose carefully ordered life is turned upside down when she comes face to face with six misled youths who stage a home inva-

sion that violates her personal sanctuary. Her family and friends advise no sympathy for the boys, but a calling on her heart from God says otherwise. The author is a member of the Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network.

DVDs

"Blue Lights" is a BBC film featuring rookie police officers on duty in Northern Ireland. "No Hard Feelings" features Jennifer Lawrence in a summer romance that blossoms after she is hired to date an introverted 19-year-old. "Ruby's Choice" focuses on a family dealing with a grandmother with Alzheimer's. "Titanic the Musical" tells stories in music of the passengers aboard this tragic ship. "Io Capitano" about young teenage boys who leave Senegal for the promise of Europe was nominated for best international feature in the 2024 Academy Awards.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"The Lost Coast" by Jonathan and Jesse Kellerman begins when a young man hires a PI to examine some minor financial discrepancies in his grandmother's estate. "The Eyes Are The Best Part" by Monika Kim is a feminist psychological horror story about the making of a serial killer told from a Korean American perspective. "Sisters of the Lost Nation" by Nick Medina is about women mysteriously disappearing from a tribal reservation. "Fatal First Edition" by Jenn McLinlay is the newest Library Lover's mystery. "The Night Hawks" by Elly Griffiths is a Ruth Galloway mystery.

Other novels

"Maria" by Michelle Moran is a novel about Maria Von Trapp, whose life was made famous in "The Sound of Music." "Perris, California" by Rachel Stark features an unhappy mother of three reunited with her teen lover.

Donation guidelines

We are very grateful to Medora Bass for her materials donations.

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

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set I go into the other room and read a book." — Groucho Marx (1890-1977), American comedian, actor, writer and singer who performed in films and vaudeville acts on TV, radio and the stage. He was a master

of quick wit and is considered one of America's greatest comedians.

Website

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Healthy aging and yoga therapy classes held at Senior Center

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist



The Healthy Aging Yoga Series continues to be offered in person at the Pagosa Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

It is 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 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 request that individuals new to the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with our new instructor, Kimberly Anderson, directly by email at zinkgraf@gmail.com.

Stretching and mobility class

Community members are invited

to attend new free weekly classes every Tuesday this fall and winter, starting Sept. 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center (located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center).

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

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Farmers market vouchers

Farmers market vouchers for older adults, age 60 and up, are still available.

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

■ See Senior on next page

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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

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Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 |

ANSWER:

Biocontrol species spotlight: leafy spurge flea beetle

By Ethan Proud
PREVIEW Columnist



We are back to another biocontrol agent in our cycle of species spotlight, and it's not hard to guess what this agent feeds on: leafy spurge.

The flea beetles used to control leafy spurge get the "flea" from their name for their impressive leaping ability. As adults, the flea beetles will defoliate the leaves of leafy spurge and kill entire sections of the colony. The female flea beetles will lay their eggs near the root crown of the leafy spurge. Once the larvae hatch, they will feed on the root system before pupating inside the root. In the spring they emerge as adults and the cycle starts over.

Leafy spurge is largely contained to the Pagosa Springs area, with infestation spanning from the Pagosa Lakes area into the Town of Pagosa Springs. There are satellite populations, which are a high priority for early detection and rapid response. In the thickest areas of infestation, the Weed and Pest Department has

released the flea beetles as part of an integrated management plan.

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

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/>.

Seniors

■ continued from previous page

Market any Saturday during the growing season (starting July 6 and running through the end of September) to redeem your vouchers.

The Pagosa Farmers Market is at the Tennyson Sculpture Gardens and Park 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 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 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.

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. to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life. Meet at the gazebo in Yamaguchi Park, 684 S. 5th St.

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.

Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com.

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.

■ See Senior on next page

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Seniors

■ continued from previous page

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, Sept. 5 — New England clam chowder, oyster crackers, glazed carrots, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Sept. 6 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, Sept. 9 — Chicken piccata, broccoli hollandaise, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, vanilla cream puffs and milk.

Tuesday, Sept. 10 — Hawaiian beef with peppers and pineapple, brown rice, zucchini saute, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Sept. 11 — Mediterranean mezze platter, falafel, dolma, tabbouleh, hummus, naan bread, garden salad, baklava and milk.

Thursday, Sept. 12 — Codfish Veracruz, roasted asparagus, garden salad, fruit, blueberry muffin and milk.

Friday, Sept. 13 — Pork posole, cabbage, radishes and onions, lime, tortilla, garden salad, 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.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a con-

venient 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

The Senior Center will no longer be distributing free COVID-19 test kits.

Please stop by the Archuleta County Public Health Department at 502 S. 8th St. These kits are available to anyone in the public that 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.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Supporting ASI

Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

You may mail your donation to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or please visit our website, <http://www.psseniors.org/> (donation button). Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

There is also another way to donate.

Are you 70 and half years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to Archuleta Seniors Inc. and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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Proceeds support the Archuleta County Fund of the Community Foundation which provides annual granting to local organizations.

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For this time, such as it is

By **Betty Slade**
PREVIEW Columnist

This time is like no other. No longer business as usual. As Christians, what is God asking from us?

To trust Him for what He's doing no matter how wild it may seem. Line up with God, not the noise and confusion we hear.

The Lord has acted in the heavens. Time and events have been locked in and the course is set.

Those who have God's ear and listen are privileged to see and will be settled in faith.

Before I experienced my recent car accident, I pondered on these words: "No longer pray or write from where you are, but from the glory of God." How does one do that? Then I heard, "Don't react to things here on the earth, the noise, the tension. Can't trust it. But act in what you know has been done in heaven."

Many of us have felt the darkness that has covered the earth. It has drained us. We've worried for the next generation, worried for our country, and we are somehow asked to be a candle in this perverse world, a world that doesn't make sense and acts without God.

I laid in bed flat on my back for two weeks, thinking of those words, praying from the glory of God. The first four days after the accident I was pulled by two forces, darkness and light. Like a Raggedy Ann doll torn apart, I didn't know what was going on with my mangled body. I had no control.

On Saturday morning, Aug. 10, the morning of surgery to repair my ankle, I woke to a feeling of peace; the light of Jesus embraced me. The light had won. My life was spared.

After three hours in surgery, when I opened my eyes, the nurse said, "Did you have sweet dreams?" I said "No. I saw the heart of Jesus weeping over Israel. He was so sad I wanted to cry."

At that moment, the doctor said, "Her blood pressure has gone off the charts. Keep her here in recovery for 30 minutes more and watch her!"

In the quietness of the room, I studied the clock on the wall. I focused on the black rim, the white face of the clock and the hands. The time seemed to be moving from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., then back to 10 a.m. as I waited to be released. I asked, "What does this mean?" In my heart I heard, "I have reset the clock."

This time, such as it is, looks different than those years when we prayed asking God to do something. He's done it. It's a different way of praying. It's one of faith in what He said He'd do, and He has done it.

How do we enter into God's glory in our calling? The Hebrew word for Glory is kavod, which means honor, respect, reverence, distinction, weight of importance.

Artist's Lane

We've worried for the next generation, worried for our country, and we are somehow asked to be a candle in this perverse world, a world that doesn't make sense and acts without God.

There is no longer fear in me for this time. I trust God and have given him respect and reverence. God has acted and we need to stand in what He has done. Today in God's story, He is asking us to act out of His glory. Enter into what God has done in the heavens right now.

For some of us, "resetting the clock" means reaching out into the unknown and believing we are still on the path of Jesus, but building new trails, speaking from heaven what God is about to do. We are entering into this new season as trail blazers. Trail blazers make new trails. God is asking us to open our hearts to the new wine being poured out. Have faith in Him and what He's doing today.

Final brushstroke: Ministering out of God's glory, praying differently, is a new place in the spiritual realm.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

For us to walk in the light in this new dawn, we must move into this time, such as it is.

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

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

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HOW TO SLEEP BETTER AND WAKE UP REFRESHED

Let's face it, there is very little difference between a sleep deprived adult and a sleep deprived baby: they are both cranky and miserable.

Sleep loss due to poor sleeping habits can be easily eradicated.

Sleep is natural, but some of us may have lost our instinct due to our artificial lifestyles and tendencies to overwork.

Today's research excerpt may help. A 2001 German study found that a medium-firm pillow significantly improved sleep (the firmest was of no advantage). Bottom line: A pillow should support your head, not bury it.

Pillows also frequently contribute to allergies that impair breathing. The source of allergens can be the filling (down allergies are common) or dust mites.

I highly recommend getting a non-allergenic foam pillow and a dust-mite-blocking protector. You should toss your pillow into the dryer every few months to kill dust mites and replace it every couple of years.

If you're in the market for a mattress, Consumer Reports found that people who spent 15 minutes testing a bed in the store—spending at least five minutes on each side, especially in their preferred sleeping position—were as satisfied as those who were allowed to take the beds home for a test sleep.

By exposing sleep-deprived people to specially designed full-spectrum lights (10,000 lux fluorescent bulbs) for 30 minutes in the early morning, scientists have helped them get to sleep earlier and stay asleep longer.

One theory is that regular exposure to such light in the morning triggers a more advantageous nighttime release of melatonin, the hormone that keeps your body clock on a regular schedule, ensuring that you feel sleepy in the evening and stay asleep through the night.

Source: "How to Sleep Better and Have More Energy." By Woodson Merrell.

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

"For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish." Jeremiah 31:25

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Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the black-chinned hummingbird.

This week we take a look at one of the four hummingbird species which have visited our feeders and flowers before they all depart for the winter. Both the black-chinned and broad-tailed hummingbirds spend the summer months and breed in our area. By the time that we see the calliope and rufous, they have already nested farther north and are fueling up during their southward fall migrations.

Within their western range, adaptable black-chinneds live in a variety of habitats, including riparian canyons, dry desert washes and high-elevation forests. They are important avian pollinators of more than 90 different plant species. While hovering, they dart long tongues in and out of flowers at the rate of 13-17 licks per second.

Nectar moves through two long grooves in the tongue and is squeezed into the mouth when the tongue is retracted.

In addition to flower nectar and feeder sugar water, these birds consume small insects and spiders. After feeding, one often returns to a favorite perch at the top of a bare branch in a bush to survey and defend its territory. Special shoulder anatomy allows hummingbirds to rotate their wings in a figure-eight pattern, providing both up and down lift for hovering. It also allows them to fly backward — a feat no other bird can do.

The slender black-chinned hummingbird is metallic green above and grayish-white below with a wash of green on the flanks. The patch of velvety black color on the throat of the male gives this bird its name. In the right light, an iridescent purple strip is visible bordering the black. Females have light-colored throats with lines of greenish dots.

At one time we were advised to take our hummingbird feeders down after Labor Day in the belief that hummingbirds would stay too late if these food sources were still provided. Now, Audubon advises leaving feeders filled with fresh nectar as long as hummers are still around. Changes in day length and angle of the sun, and not food availability, will be their cues that it's time to move on.

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



Blood drive to be held Sept. 10

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The SUN

Every day, people around the country receive blood transfusions to treat chronic disorders, traumatic injuries, cancer and other conditions.

Will you please join your friends and neighbors in donating hope for healing, recovery, and survival?

That hope is in the form of your donated blood being processed, tested, type-matched and made available to a patient depending on a transfusion.

On Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will host Vitalant personnel at Centerpoint Church for a community blood drive.

Please contact local volunteer Sharee Grazda by call or text at (970) 946-2760 for questions or to make an appointment.

You may also go directly to Vitalant.org or call (877) 25-VITAL.

Thank you for doing your part to support patients in need.

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Archuleta Democrats Annual Chili Supper



Fri Sept 13 5:30-8:30pm
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Register at the door or on-line:
Suggested donation: \$15
Beer & Wine: \$5



- Speakers:**
- ★ Vivian Smotherman, Senate District 6
 - ★ Katie Stewart, House District 59

Archuleta Democrats proudly represent the majority of voters in the United States and Colorado. In the not-so-distant past, Americans spoke with a common voice against violence, prejudice, exploitation, and injustice. We invite all to join us as we advocate for freedom: human rights, cooperation, tolerance, diplomacy, equality, and peace.

All donations benefit the local party. If you want to donate food, volunteer, or have questions, contact **Sue Yalom 970-731-1091**

Paid for by the Archuleta County Democratic Party, David Butcher, Registered Agent, archuletacountydems.org. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Sept. 5

Art at the Pinnacles. 8 a.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.chimney-rockco.org.

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

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, Yamaguchi Park. 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.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Alamosa.

San Juan Outdoor Club and Upper San Juan Search and Rescue Presentation. 6-7:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Hear guidelines and helpful hints for hiking safely in our wilderness environs. The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office's emergency management team may be

present to answer questions about its role in assisting persons lost in our mountains.

Friday, Sept. 6

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.

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

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.

Community Coffee. 1-3 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com.

All-Ages Gaming. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Play on the library's Xbox.

Tween/Teen Takeover. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. The large meeting room and some of the computers will be set aside for tweens/teens to use and spend time with friends.

Our Solar System Program. 6:30 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program is offered during the best viewing of the moon's surface using a telescope. A video presentation will be followed by a presentation explaining the significance of the night sky to the Ancestral Puebloans. Telescopes will be used to observe several different sky objects. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 5-12, and under 5 are free. Registration is required 12 hours in advance via rec.gov. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Saturday, Sept. 7

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.

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.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. ■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Colorful parrot
- 6 Disaster relief org.
- 10 Many moons
- 14 Square things
- 15 News piece
- 16 Karate level
- 17 George Orwell, e.g.
- 19 Sandwich shop
- 20 Corrin or Stone
- 21 Oktoberfest duds
- 23 Take out a policy
- 25 Sidewalk stuff
- 26 More obese
- 28 "Now __ talking!"
- 29 Start of a list of examples
- 32 Cartoon art
- 36 1972 Eastwood flick, "___ Kidd"
- 37 Extremely cold
- 39 Do a yard chore
- 40 Like some films
- 42 What some SF taxis do
- 44 Tiny amount
- 46 Revolting sort?
- 47 Determined
- 50 Safari tree
- 52 Period of delay
- 54 Kind of cell
- 57 Military no-show
- 58 Corresponding
- 60 Fishy organ
- 61 Landlocked African land
- 62 Lucky number?
- 63 Nothing but
- 64 Husky's tow
- 65 Pollster's find

DOWN

- 1 Lion's locks
- 2 Small amount
- 3 All in, say
- 4 Musical tempo
- 5 Lilliputian
- 6 Taxpayer, e.g.
- 7 Musical work
- 8 Many a Facebook repost
- 9 Punish with a fine
- 10 Navel base?
- 11 Gaggle members
- 12 Barkin or Burstyn
- 13 Period of work
- 18 Like pins and needles
- 22 Relating to coats of arms
- 24 Barracks boss
- 26 South Pacific getaway
- 27 Later
- 28 Crib cry
- 30 Mascara site
- 31 Rocks at the bar
- 33 Unoriginal
- 34 "Get going!"
- 35 Pitcher in a still life
- 38 Many a chalet

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| 52 | | | | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | | 55 | 56 |
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| 60 | | | | | | 61 | | | | | 62 | | | |
| 63 | | | | | | 64 | | | | | 65 | | | |

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- 41 In a perfect world...
- 43 Party hearty
- 45 Weather headliners
- 47 Adult insect
- 48 Bad kind of situation
- 49 Facebook menace
- 50 Seating request
- 51 Boy with a bow
- 53 Bona fide
- 55 Neck and neck
- 56 Patch up
- 59 Winter hrs. in Chicago

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

10 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Eilene Lyon will speak on bounty land records. For more information or a Zoom link, contact carolynpaschal@gmail.com or pagosapeakgs.org.

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.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Telluride.

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.

Sunday, Sept. 8

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

Operation Christmas Child Kickoff Rally. 2 p.m., Grace in Pagosa, 1044 Park Ave. Hear from a shoe box recipient, meet gold medal winners from Team Pagosa, see a fashion show from Dress A Girl, have a chance to win prizes, and pick up shoe boxes to take and fill.

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.

Monday, Sept. 9

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.

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.

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.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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.chim-

■ **See Calendar on page 21**



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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACHES
- ACTION
- AGING
- BODY
- BONE
- CARDIOVASCULAR
- COGNITIVE
- DOCTOR
- EXAMINATION
- EYESIGHT
- FLEXIBILITY
- HEALTH
- LONGEVITY
- MEMORY
- MIND
- MOBILITY
- PAINS
- PHYSICAL
- PREVENTION
- PROACTIVE
- REFERRAL
- STAMINA
- VACCINE
- WELLNESS

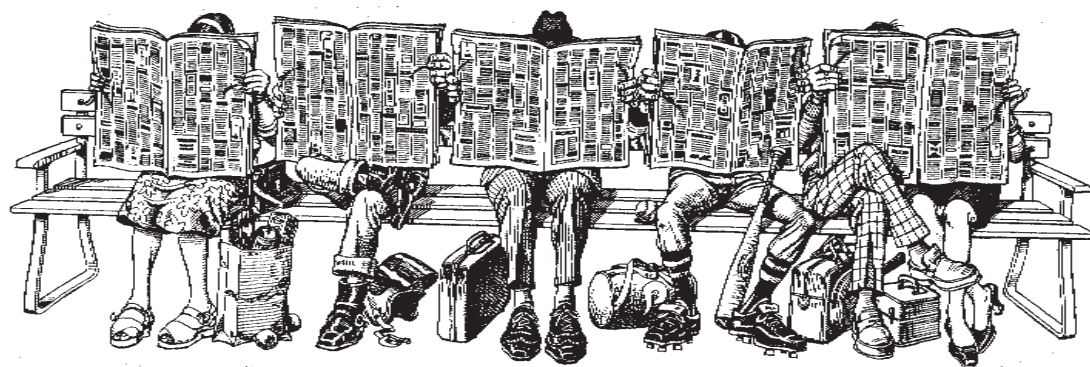
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Preview Calendar

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neyrockco.org.

Virtual Author Talk: Garrett Graff.

Noon, virtual. Listen live or recorded. "Capturing the Human Drama Through History" with Garrett Graff, New York Times bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize finalist. For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to discuss "Running with Sherman: The Donkey with the Heart of a Hero" by Christopher McDougall. Pick up a copy at the library.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Wednesday, Sept. 11

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

Pickleball Beginner Lessons. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/>

pagosa-springs-co/catalog.

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.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Emotional Freedom Technique Session. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Legal Clinic. 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via Zoom at the library. Registration is required and opens on the first of each month. Call the library at (970) 264-2209 to register. Space is limited.

Teen/Tween Activity. 4-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Head to the teen area every Wednesday after school for a fun craft or challenge. Activities will range from taste tests to art challenges and minute-to-win-it-style games.

Making Herbal Remedies with Native Plants. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Lake McCullough, certified herbalist, will teach the identification, harvesting and traditional therapeutic uses of 10 common native plants. Explore how to infuse the herbs into syrups, tinctures and balms. You will leave with recipes to make at home.

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.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Socializing will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Enter through the side door next to the parking lot. Chris Roebuck will present "From Polar Bears to Penguins."

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

Thursday, Sept. 12

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

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

■ See Calendar on next page

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Members of the Pagosa Catholic Women's Fellowship hold a traditional tea party on Aug. 26 to kick off a new year of discussions. The ladies meet Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, and all women of faith are welcome. For more information, call the parish office at (970) 731-5744.

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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, Yamaguchi Park. 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.

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.

Friday, Sept. 13

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 8-10:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour spot-

lights topics aimed at interpreting the history and significance of Chimney Rock and the Ancestral Pueblos. 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.

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.

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.

Community Coffee. 1-3 p.m., TARA Historical Society Community Center. For more information, email TARACommunityCenter101@gmail.com.

Fairy Tale Theatre. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Read fairy tales and act out your favorite characters.

A Weekend with Anne Hillerman: Friends of the Library Movie Night. 7-9 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the author to watch and discuss the first episode of "Dark Winds," the AMC series based on several Tony Hillerman books.

Anne Hillerman is an executive producer for the show. Tickets are \$30 advance or \$35 at the door and include wine/beer and light snacks. Join the Friends of the Library at Pagosalibrary.org. Tickets can be purchased at the library or pagosalibrary.org.

Saturday, Sept. 14

Geology Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour ex-

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

continued from previous page

plores 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.

Free Community Pancake Breakfast. 8-11 a.m., Stevens Field Airport, 777 Piedra Road. Presented by Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.

A Weekend with Anne Hillerman: Writers' Workshop. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Explore the writing craft with Anne Hillerman and husband Dave Tedlock, who has taught writing at Roger Williams University, Iowa State University, and the Harvard Business School. The workshop is limited to 20 participants. Tickets are \$25; a combo ticket, \$65, includes admission to the Fireside Chat. Tickets can be purchased at the library or pagosalibrary.org.

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.

[chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

A Weekend with Anne Hillerman: Ruby's Meet and Greet with Anne Hillerman. 12:30-1:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet the best-selling mystery author and purchase a signed book. Anne Hillerman's thought-provoking mysteries bring to life the terrain, people and lore of the American Southwest and Four Corners region. This event is free.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 1 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Montezuma-Cortez.

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.

A Weekend with Anne Hillerman: Fireside Chat. 6 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Anne Hillerman will sit down with Rick Holter for a live interview and conversation. Admission includes craft hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Tickets \$50 advance or \$55 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the library or pagosalibrary.org.

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.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Outdoor Pickleball. 8 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park South pickleball courts.



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To tour this home go to:
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Cloman Industrial Park
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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.



Price Reduced

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Photo courtesy jkauffeld

Abandoned Ranch buildings sit above a meadow of Deer Creek south of Anaconda, Mont., in late July.



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Hikers in a wilderness turn into firefighters

By Zeke Lloyd
PREVIEW Columnist

More frequent wildfires in the West can turn hiking through beautiful, high-elevation country into a dangerous game for hikers.

In July, seven friends from Idaho, Colorado, Washington and Montana took off for a week of backpacking in southwestern Montana. Everything went off without a hitch their first night. A rainstorm passed through, but it wasn't a big deal.

But when they woke up, they saw a plume of smoke rising into the sky. Darren Wilson had anticipated something like this, even before their trip began.

"It was in the back of my mind — I hope we don't hike into somewhere and get trapped by a fire," recalled Wilson, a Hamilton, Mont., resident.

They were hiking through the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness and knew it was under strict restrictions: No building campfires, no fire allowed anywhere, no exceptions. The summer had been dry and hot, and wildfires had been erupting throughout Montana.

But as the group continued hiking toward Hidden Lake, they realized the trail of smoke ahead might be the early stage of a wildfire.

The hikers weren't trapped, but 200 yards from Hidden Lake they came upon scorched earth surrounding a tree split down the middle, most likely from a lightning strike. Its bark was blackened and glowing, and beneath the tree the charred ground smoldered. The smoke they'd seen was seeping from beneath hot charcoal and dry wood.

"You could tell the tree torched and burned while it was standing and then cracked and fell on the ground," said Darren's wife, Chelsie, an X-ray technologist with previous experi-

Opinion: Writers on the Range

ence in wildland firefighting.

"I think everyone had different feelings," she said. "Those who had never seen forest fires before were panicking."

The group put Chelsie Wilson in charge, and she laid out a two-step process: Some people would run to Hidden Lake to fill every water bottle and hydration pack. Everyone else would use the water to turn the smoldering dirt into mud.

Chelsie Wilson and Brittney Erickson, one of her fellow hikers, poured water on dirt, using the wet earth to put out the fire bit by bit. Chelsie Wilson kicked a burning stump into the ground. The team smothered it. She instructed and delegated jobs, describing the team as willing, communicative and diligent.

"It was really scary at first," she said, "and then it became fun."

After two hours, she gave her team the all-clear. They had transformed the patch of smoldering char into a wet pile of dirt and debris.

On a hike later the same day, the group climbed West Pintler Peak only to spot another fire, this one on the horizon some 10 miles away. They called in the sighting from a ridge with cell service and heard a plane fly low overhead the next day. Weeks later, they said they think that was the first alert to the Johnson Fire, a 270-acre blaze southwest of West Pintler Peak.

If there was a theme to the hikers' trip it was definitely fire, because

■ See Writers on next page

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Sometimes free is not the best option

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

Sarah decided she wanted chickens. She lived in a small town that allowed them, and many of her neighbors had them, so she started building a chicken coop. It cost her little to build.

She worked as a plumber, one of the few women in their company, and there were always plentiful amounts of material thrown away at the construction sites.

At first, she started by stuffing boards into her small van. The mostly complete pieces of plywood were challenging, but she always got them in. Then, as she moved up in her company, she was given a pickup to drive. This made her material collections easier.

The construction of her chicken building took a while, but the day finally came when she had it finished. She stepped back and admired her work. It was a sweet little building with a nice run she had made with wire an old farmer had given her. But one of the things she was proudest of was her frugality. It hadn't cost her a dime for anything other than nails.

Next, she needed to get baby chicks. She mainly wanted hens, but hoped for one rooster. In visiting with an old farmer, he mentioned that she should just get pullets, female chicks, because often there ended up being a rooster among them anyway. That way she would know she primarily had females.

Sarah went to the local farm feed store and picked out a dozen chicks. She took her babies home and put them in a bin inside the house until they were bigger and temperatures warmed up outside. She was amazed at how fast they grew. She thought the bin would do for a few weeks, but in less than a week, she was finding a bigger bin.

Only a few weeks later, she had to get the biggest bin she could find at the store. It wasn't long before she knew the chicks had to go out in the

chicken building. They were getting big, and the smell was impossible to control, even though she cleaned their bin daily.

Fortunately, the weather was warming up, but she still strung a cord to the building and set up a heat lamp. She closed the opening into the run to keep the chicks in the building and released them into their new domain. They ran around, thrilled at their new space.

As the chicks grew into chickens

"The only problem is, you need a rooster," the neighbor said. "I have one I'd be happy to give you."

and got used to their home, Sarah started letting them out into the enclosed yard. They were good at eating bugs and weeds, though she had to protect her garden so they wouldn't eat her vegetables. As the yellow baby feathers gave way to white, it became apparent that all the chickens were hens. Sarah was disappointed that she hadn't gotten a rooster. But one day a neighbor, who also had chickens, stopped by.

"I can hear your chickens in your backyard," he said.

Sarah took him to meet her hens.

The neighbor was impressed with her building and other creations.

"The only problem is, you need a rooster," the neighbor said. "I have one I'd be happy to give you."

Sarah was excited. Not only would she have a rooster, but it would be free. The neighbor left and immediately returned with a beautiful rooster.

"Are you sure you want to give him away for free?" Sarah asked.

"Absolutely," the neighbor replied. It didn't take Sarah long to learn why the neighbor didn't want the rooster.

She had only been at work a few hours the next day when a neighbor two streets over called and said the rooster was in her garden. Sarah had to leave work to get him and lock him up. She tried again on Saturday when she was home, and he again disappeared, but this time, all the hens followed him over the fence. After that, she tried to lock up the rooster and only let the hens out, but he always found a way out and led the hens away.

Eventually, Sarah had to get rid of the rooster. She realized that sometimes free is not the best option.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Writers

■ continued from previous page

while camping near the bank of Oreamnos Lake, they spotted wispy smoke billowing from the opposite shoreline.

"We start yelling across the lake, top of our lungs," Darren Wilson said. "Is there anybody there? Do you have a fire?"

Hearing no response, they initiated a then-familiar course of action. Gathering every container of water they possessed, the group rushed toward the smoke's source.

"Like children of the corn, we come out of the trees," Wilson said, only to find three men huddled around a prohibited campfire. The hikers explained that they'd put out a smoldering wildfire, spotted another and were worried about a third — the

campfire they were now looking at.

"The guys were not very impressed with us, though," Chelsie Wilson said, as the men reluctantly extinguished their fire. "They didn't like our story at all."

Still, they'd agreed to douse the fire and the hikers withdrew, hoping this was the end of fires popping up on their trek.

"It's a real possibility," Darren Wilson said. "You could be caught behind the wrong side of a fire."

Zeke Lloyd is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writersontherange.org, an independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He lives in Helena, Mont., and writes for the Montana Free Press. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS September 13th and 14th, 10 to 3p.m. with Julie Loar, Grandmother Fire Eagle, and Shayla White Eagle. Vendors with pet friendly and sacred items on sale. At The SPIRITFIRE Inspirational Living Center, Pagosa Lodge. Bring pictures of your animal family departed or alive to place on an altar. FREE Lectures on Friday 11a.m. til 3p.m. Text/ call for the agenda of talks to learn more about our animal kingdom. **SATURDAY-** Blessings for the animals and pipe ceremony. Reiki sessions available. Tickets on sale now. \$10. (970) 510-0309. Benefit for Wolfwood Refuge.

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PROFESSIONAL SNOW REMOVAL. - Resi-
dential and Commercial. Fully insured. Shovel
and salt upon request. Call now for quote.
(970)946-4450.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE
checks, providing snow removal, landscaping,
handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is
available for all your electrical services from
remodels to new construction. I have been in
Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too
large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25
cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden
charges. Owner/operator 20 years experi-
ence. Professional, trustworthy and punctual.
100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-
9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee.
Hallways and closets always free.

**ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS,
INSPECTIONS.** 35+ years experience. Call
Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

RRR-RAVEN RANCH RESTORATION.
Fencing; pasture and yards. Pond and
stream restoration. Entry way, gates. Parshall
flumes; diverter boxes, head gates. Water
management; decks, gazebos, and structures.
Pasture management; weed and seed. Tree
felling; arborist services. Firewood. Steel
fabrication; welding. Carpentry; framing and
custom furniture. (970)398-0518.

SENIOR COMPANION/CARE-ASSIST Ser-
vices in Pagosa Springs. Services include a
wide range of tasks. Call for questions and
pricing at (970)325-3585.

SKID STEER EXCAVATOR, DUMP trailer for
hire. Driveways, foundations, gravel, septic
systems, etc. Call Josh Soniat (970)903-5892.

**TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEAT-
ERS.** Largest inventory in the area, including
replacement parts. Same day Installation and
service in most cases. We are the only compa-
ny that extends the parts & labor warranty from
1 year to 5 years. **VAIL HOME SERVICES,**
(760)835-1041.

TIDY TOUCH CLEANING SERVICES LLC.
Where spotless cleaning comes to your door.
(801)201-0496.

Tree & Clear LLC. Yard maintenance, brush
removal, tree service, snow removal, and
firewood sales. Insured and experienced. Give
me a call at (720)666-5761.

SERVICES

TREE REMOVAL. Licensed and insured up
to \$2 million. Free estimates. No obligations.
Call OR text (970)903-8068.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but
your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job
too big or too small. We also move buildings.
We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

**WEBSITE DESIGN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND
DIGITAL AD EXPERT.** Available to help grow
your business. www.mgmpagosa.com Text:
(928)246-1321.

WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL
Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience
REFLECTIONS Window Cleaning. (480)892-
1999 -FREE estimates.

HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at
hot springs! Also, cranial sacral, bodywork,
massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean
and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

HELP WANTED

Terry's Colorado Home Supply and Ace Hardware

Hiring for:

Full time, year around Cashier

Weekend days required.

Starting at \$17/hr.

Must be reliable, motivated and team oriented.

Benefits include discounts, paid time off,

profit sharing and more.

Apply in person.

Applications available at terrysace.com



Terry's ACE
525 Navajo Trail Dr.



• Superintendent
• Project Manager
-Good pay,
excellent
benefits, must
have experience
for manager
roles.

**BWD Construction is
NOW HIRING!**

3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time posi-
tion. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must
have own reliable transportation and valid
driver's license. 40 hours a week available.
\$20 to start. (970)264-5160.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE. Support staff, food
runners, hosts, bussers. Full and part time.
\$15/ Hour plus tips. See Chris Tuesday-
Friday 3p.m.-5p.m or email to contact@
alleyhousegrille.com.

HELP WANTED

WINTER WORK!

Wolf Creek Ski Area is Hiring
Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski School Instructors & Reservationist
- Food & Beverage * Baker * Barista
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Ski & Snowboard Rental
- Snow Removal * Grooming
- Custodial Building Maintenance
- Ski Patrol
- Guest Services/Snow Reporter
- Freelance Photographer

Applications at

WolfCreekSki.com/employment

Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com

P.O. Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES

STARTING WAGE OF \$18/HOUR

Merit increases based on performance & experience.



CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking
a customer service oriented
individual to assist contractors
with purchasing building
materials. Knowledge of
building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber

2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

AUTHENTIC SOLUTIONS is looking for com-
munity oriented individuals wanting to make
a difference in Archuleta County. Looking for
clinicians interested in working with a variety
of ages, treatment modalities, and behavioral
health needs. Willing to provide supervision for
licensure. Also seeking support staff to assist
in administrative tasks, agency billing as well
as supportive services for clients. Interested
applicants contact Stacey at stacey.foss@
authenticconsulting.net.

CAFÉ MANAGER Seeking a dedicated and
experienced restaurant manager for PS
FroYo. Oversee day-to-day operations, hire
and train qualified staff members and maintain
high food standards while supporting adults
with developmental disabilities. We need your
outgoing personality, fresh ideas, and a desire
to grow the business with us. If you're excited
to make a difference and manage a fun and
friendly café, we want to hear from you! FT
position, salary DOE. Submit your resume to:
executivedirector@aspenshousepagosa.org.

EXPERIENCED LINE COOK for City Hall
Cafe and Grill. Apply within. 2151 Eagle Drive.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



Walmart Pagosa Springs Supercenter

In-person hiring event
Friday, Sept. 13 & Saturday, Sept. 14
Walk ins welcome from 10am-2pm

Year around guaranteed FULL TIME hours
 Starting at \$18.00/hour+

Start the application process at
www.walmart.com/careers

WANTED

1 full-time office person and 1 full-time Driver

Paid Vacation
 Simple IRA Match
 PTO and other perks.

Please apply within.

WJP/PRO

3505 W. Hwy. 160
 in the lobby of the Pagosa Lodge



FIRESIDE CABINS are looking for Full-time or Part-time housekeeper. 3-5 days a week. Starting pay \$18 an hour. Great work environment, will train. Days flexible - Hours vary from 9a.m.-3p.m. but are flexible. English is not a requirement. (OFF ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS)

Fireside Cabins está buscando ama de llaves a tiempo completo o parcial necesaria 5 días a la semana. Comenzando a pagar \$18 por hora. Gran ambiente de trabajo, entrenará. No hay lavandería, los horarios varían de 9a.m. - 3p.m., pero son flexibles. El inglés no es un requisito. (FUERA DE TODOS LOS PRINCIPALES VACACIONES)

Fireside Cabins 1600 E Hwy 160 Pagosa Springs. (East side of Pagosa just past Hwy 84 & 160 junction 1 mile from downtown Pagosa area) must be dependable. For more information call (970)264-9204 or email Johnjessharper@gmail.com. Come in to preview our facility.

FT /PT HOST at City Hall Cafe and Grill. Apply within. 2151 Eagle Drive.

FULL AND PART-TIME FRONT DESK OPPORTUNITIES. If you have a friendly, approachable, team-oriented attitude; strong customer service skills; comfort with computers; and a strong work ethic we'd love to talk. Shifts may include a combination of mornings, days, nights, and weekends. Our front desk is open 8a.m. to 10p.m. daily, including holidays. Download application at www.pshotsprings.com or stop by to pick one up. Resumes / applications can be emailed to: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at front desk. Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED F/T or P/T Seasonal. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

GOODMAN'S DEPARTMENT STORE is looking for a sales associate, Saturdays required. Sales associates must be friendly and self-motivated. Ask about our benefits and employee discounts. Come pick up an application at 402 Pagosa Street.

HELP WANTED Experienced server /bartender preferred. City Hall Cafe and Grill. Apply within. 2151 Eagle Drive.

HELP WANTED: PART-TIME ACCOUNTANT Community United Methodist Church seeks a part-time accountant (15 hours/ week). Candidates must have experience in Quickbook software and at least 5 years of experience. Responsibilities include managing financial records, preparing reports, and overseeing budgeting. Strong organizational skills are required. Send your resume to the church at pastor@cumcps.org, or mail it to P.O. Box 300, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or drop it off at the church 434 Lewis St. to apply.

HIGHER GROUNDS COFFEE SHOP is hiring barista and bakers! Apply online at highergroundspagosa.com/careers. Must be able to work weekends.

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.

MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

MASSAGE THERAPIST WANTED. Part-time, evenings, could grow to full-time. Competitive pay. Please apply in person at The Overlook, 432 Pagosa Street. Monday-Friday, 8a.m. to 5p.m.

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for LMTs to join our team! Utilize your healing gifts in our fun, relaxed work environment where you are appreciated! TOP PAY \$50/hour +tips. Email racheldevloo@gmail.com.

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.

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@ourourkemediagroup.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.

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 looking to hire a PE Teacher for our school. Hours are M-Th from 12:30 -3:30 p.m. Please contact Leah Hellerich if you are interested in the position at (816)585-2892.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. Opening a result of an internal promotion! The Pagosa Springs SUN is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile customer service representative. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Hours 8am to 4pm. Job Responsibilities: • Account Management: Support the Advertising Department with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in The SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms. • Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions. • Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office. • Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members. • Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as needed. Requirements: • 3-5 years of experience working in an office. • Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry. • Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines. • Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels. • High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applications. • Compensation Range/ Benefits • \$17-\$20/hour depending on experience level. • Eligible for medical, dental and vision benefits on the 1st of the month after 30 days of employment. • Eligible to enroll in the company's 401 (k) retirement savings on the 1st of the month after 90 days. The company matches 50% of your contribution up to 2.5% of total compensation. • 16 days of PTO plus 4-5 paid holidays. • Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company. **About the Company:** O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. Send along your email or letter of interest directly to CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@ourourkemediagroup.com.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100**Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.****Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.****HELP WANTED**

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](mailto:RMPT117NavajoTrailDr., 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!

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.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SEEKING PART-TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

HELP WANTED

THE PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT is seeking highly motivated candidates for the position of Fire Inspector (\$49,000 - \$53,544 DOQ). This is a full-time position with standard benefits. The ideal candidate will have extensive communication skills, attention to detail, and the ability to maintain a positive working relationship with all members and the public. Full job description can be found on the District website at www.pagosafire.org. To apply, candidates must submit a completed Employment Application. Application packets can be obtained by email at TBliiss@PagosaFire.com, or by calling Tomi Bliss (970)731-4191. Applications received after September 20, 2024, 5:00p.m. (MST) will not be considered.

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.

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.

FOR SALE

BICYCLES 2016 Surly LHT, size medium with extras, \$900. 2019 Salsa Horsethief, size small, carbon. \$2,600. Both excellent condition. (970)264-0373.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? Pine mix available. \$325 a cord or \$600 for a HUGE dump truck load! Contact Dan with 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.

FOREST RIVER 2012 FLAGSTAFF MAC Pop-Up camper. 3 -burner stove, outside gas grill, sleep 4 -6, indoor plumbing/ potty. Deer camp ready. \$6,000. (970)585-9084.

FREE OR BEST OFFER Epson WF-7720 Printer: Prints only black with up to 13" x19", 11" x17" and 8.5" x11" sheets. (970)946-7218.

HUNTERS New in the box, elk bugle, ladder and tree chair ensemble, \$150. Queen size headboard, good condition, beige suede and purple trim, \$75. (970)510-0309.

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.

PINE ASPEN MIX. Get it while it's hot. (970)903-0731.

PINE WOOD \$130.00 Standard pickup truck load. Oak by order only \$200.00. Pickup truck load. Cut and delivered. Text Gabriel at (970)946-8598.

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).

SOLID WOOD TWIN platform bed with storage, detached shelved headboard, and mattress, \$225; Solid wood night table, \$75; Solid wood bookcase, \$100; Ballet bar, \$15; Tall black bookcase, \$10.00. (970)946-7872.

FOR SALE

TWO 50-GALLON STEEL DRUMS with lids. Used, great condition, \$35 each. Can be seen on Thursday or Friday at Pagosa Springs SUN, 457 Lewis Street.

LIVESTOCK

GRASS HAY, 750 lb., 5' round bales, loaded on site. \$90.00 each, discount for 10 or more. (970)946-4067.

IRRIGATED PASTURE. 4 miles north of Pagosa, Snowball Road. 20 minute ride to forests and streams. (970)946-6274.

NATURAL FIELD HAY FOR SALE \$14/ small bale. Please text/ call (970)903-7499.

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.

AUTOS

1995 DODGE RAM 2500 Cummins 5.9L turbo diesel. 120k miles, FWD, one owner, excellent condition. \$5,000. (970)317-4648.

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.

AUTOS

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

CRAFT SUPPLIES, QUILT STORE FABRIC, VB bags, tools, 2 leather chairs, books and miscellaneous items. Friday, 6th, 4-7p.m., Saturday, 7th, 8a.m. -3p.m., Sunday, 8th, 11a.m. -3p.m. 325 Oakwood Circle.

ESTATE SALE. Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7, 8 a.m. sharp. Houseful of beautiful items. Couches, beds, furniture, kitchen items, decorative items, tools, gardening, tractor and lots more. Highway 84 south about 15 miles, turn right on County Road 359 (Coyote Park), right on Blue Spruce Drive, house number 228. Rain or shine. AEHPOS.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE. 8- 1p.m. Saturday. 512 Lakeside Drive.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE. Friday, 9/6 and Saturday, 9/7 from 8a.m - 1p.m. 161 Arrowhead Drive. Household, outdoor, furniture and miscellaneous.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE. Socorro Apartments, 559 S. 8th Street, Pagosa Springs. September 7, Saturday, 8a.m. -3pm.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, 9/7 and 9/8. 9 -3p.m. Educational, entertainment, and household stuff. Tools. 365 Bonanza, Vista.

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-er@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.

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.

FOR LEASE 5600 sq. ft. shop/ warehouse. Finished interior in Cloman Industrial Park. Eight 14ft overhead doors, spray booth, 3 phase electricity, natural gas heat. \$5,500/ month. "Lease option to buy possible." 2 acres. (970)946-3762 or (970)731-2847.

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.

PagosaSUN.com

Email us at
classads@pagosasun.com
to submit
your classified.

PagosaSUN.com

(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

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them."
 ~ Michael Gamba

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 117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado
 Property Owners Served
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 Real Estate Exp
 FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
 NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
 ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



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

FURNISHED PRIVATE GUEST SUITE available for 3+ month rental only, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, dining, living area, walk out deck, two miles from town and no pets. References/ back ground check required. (970)759-4821.

HOME FOR RENT. \$1,850. Pines Drive. Two bedroom plus office. Available Oct 1st. 9 months lease only. (970)507-0703.

HOUSE FOR RENT in Pagosa Lakes. 1,000 SF, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, garage. No pets, unfurnished. \$1,900/ month +deposit and utilities. Call (970)398-1515.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE! Contact Team Pagosa by calling (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to see listing pictures. TP-26: Unfurnished 3 bed 2 bath 2 car. Wood burning stove. Lake Hatcher area. Pet OK. \$2250/ 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. TP-32: Unfurnished 3 bed 2 bath home on 3.5 acreage. Some remodeling done. Covered carport. No pets. Available around 9/10/24. \$1975/ month. TP-33: Beautiful unfurnished and updated 1 bedroom 1 bath condo. Ground floor entry. Available around 09/20/24. \$1650/ month.

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.

COMMERCIAL

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.

OPEN HOUSES

868 NUTRIA CIRCLE. Sunday, September 8th. 12 -3p.m. Drinks and Snacks. Jenny@pagosavp.com.

HOMES FOR SALE

Planning to buy or sell a property? Call me today!

Christie Calderwood
 970-946-6856
 christie@jimsmithrealty.com

CENTRALLY LOCATED 2 BR TOWNHOME with 2 car garage, mountain views, low monthly dues. \$379,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

IMMACULATE 3/2/2 HOME with beautiful hardwood floors. Steps from National Forest, big mountain views. \$539,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Whether Buying or Selling



Call Marcie Lewis
 (970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

MOTIVATED SELLER. Artesian well, hobby farm. Two bedroom, two bath. 1.7 acres. No HOA. \$595,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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.

PagosaSUN.com



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Photo courtesy Josie Snow
Josie Snow and Scott Galabota form the team **Fem-Man-IsM**, which will include the first male model featured at Runway for Rise. This year's event is set for Oct. 5.

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Tickets selling fast for Runway for Rise

By **Dee McPeek**
 Rise Above Violence

Tickets are selling out fast for the Oct. 5 Runway for Rise.

This “frugal but fabulous” event will benefit Rise Above Violence, and you can purchase your tickets online by going to riseaboveviolence.org.

Josie Snow is a second-year Runway veteran and has teamed with Scott Galabota this year.

They explained, “We all must take action to prevent violence in our communities. By having a male model in the show, we aim to demonstrate that both men and women have important voices in the effort to stand against domestic violence, break the cycle of abuse and promote healthy relationships.”

“Through our participation with Runway for Rise, we hope to help women in our community harness their strength, courage and independence to create better lives for themselves and for future generations.”

The evening will include a live auction of accessories that each team has generously donated. Our auctioneer, Darren Lewis, will provide encouragement and foster compe-

tion for these items. The money raised for each will be applied to team totals to boost their chances of winning the Prada Award.

Last year the bidding was spirited for these imaginative packages. Come prepared to compete with your dollars and take home some baskets of fun.

Teams are very busy asking friends and family to support them with voting dollars between now and Oct. 5.

Go to riseaboveviolence.org to see all the teams participating and vote for your favorites. Each vote is \$1, and team donation totals are a secret until the night of the event, so keep voting often.

Your donations support helplines with advocates who help callers work through troubling times. Rise advocates are trained to listen and understand. This free, confidential hotline/helpline is available 24/7 at (970) 264-9075.

Don't wait to get your ticket for this imaginative evening as seating is limited and we don't want you to miss the fun. Direct any questions to Event Coordinator Annie Gian at annie@riseaboveviolence.org.

The party has definitely started.

ROSIE'S PIZZERIA
END OF SUMMER PARKING LOT PARTY
SEPTEMBER 8TH 12-8 PM

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY

THE ROBIN DAVIS DUO

WONDER BREAD

BBQ PLAYBOYS

ROSIE'S PIZZERIA
 Benefiting Rugby's Rescue House

Rugby's Rescue House

1st SouthWest Bank

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 1st SouthWest Bank - Bad Donkey Bakery - Mountain Meadow Real Estate
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 Pagosa Spring Chamber of Commerce - Lush Beauty Lounge - San Juan Rangers