



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 117 — NO. 36, THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

State champion



Photo courtesy Becky Jacobson

Tucker Jacobson, a junior at San Juan Mountain School, competed at the 2025 Colorado State High School Rodeo Finals over the Memorial Day weekend, in Craig, Colo. After scoring a total of 138 points on three horses, Tucker received the State Champion Bareback Riding buckle and trophy saddle. Tucker also placed fourth in the bull riding division and has qualified for the High School Rodeo National Finals in both events. National Finals will be in Rock Springs, Wyo., in July.

High school’s class of 2025 earns more than \$1.5 million in scholarships

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) students, staff, family and friends gathered at Golden Peaks Stadium on Saturday, May 31, to celebrate 71 graduating seniors as part of the 115th annual commencement. The class of 2025 had 11 students earn the distinction of gaining a 4.0 GPA: Rylie Carr, Bethannie Daniels-Wesley, Morgan Galloway, Kylie Ketchum, Abigail Nehring, Olivia Nehring, Alexander Pham, Cameron Reis, Hailey Sams, Ariel Slead and Sophia Sottek.

The class had four students earn the distinction of a 3.9 GPA: Savannah Foster, Tristan Frame, Gemma Slingerland and Honestye Sweet. The four graduates who earned the distinction of a 3.8 GPA are Keira Davis, Bella Gutierrez, Lorelei Vining and Trevor Wirth. Those designated as being in the National Honors Society with a GPA of 3.4 or higher are Logan Beach, Jesse Beck, Elizabeth Currier, Elisabeth Girardin, Naomi Grimes, Charlie Gutierrez, Isabella Hodges, Olivia Hodges, Gavin Houston, James Jolley, Cadence Kerns, Colton Lewis, Brisa Montes, Payton Smith, Charles

Washburn and Seth Zeigler. The following is a list of the scholarships awarded to graduates provided by PSHS Counselor Mark Thompson, totaling more than \$1.5 million. Beach: Build Pagosa Career and Technical Education Scholarship, \$1,000; Ruby M. Sisson Automotive Scholarship, \$2,000. Beck: Daniels Scholars Scholarship Fund, \$80,000; Vic and Ethel Poma Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000. Carr: Trista Naumen Memorial Scholarship by Build Pagosa, \$1,000. Currier: Doane University Women's ■ See Scholarships A5



Photo courtesy Chris Hinger

Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Chris Hinger teaches students at the Valles Caldera on a trip to Bandelier National Monument. Hinger is retiring after 30 years of service to Archuleta School District, including 22 years as principal at the middle school.

‘I love this job’: Chris Hinger retires after decades of service to school district

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

“It was an emotional thing for me,” Pagosa Springs Middle School’s retiring principal, Chris Hinger, said of watching students walk out for summer break for the last time. He added, “I love the students here, and I love the community, so it was sad.” With the end of the 2024-2025 school year, Hinger is closing the book on 30 years of service to Archuleta School District (ASD), including 22 years as principal at the middle school. “People say, ‘congratulations,’ and I always feel like it’s a mixture

of both,” Hinger said, adding, “It’s a congratulations, you worked this long to be able to, you know, get retirement, and that’s a good thing, but ... when you love what you do and you love your community, and you love the kids here and the teachers, it is a loss, as well, so it was kinda sad to watch everybody leave for the last time.” Hinger, who will be moving on to help with the family’s guest ranch more, adding that it’s been a bittersweet departure. “It’s a real bittersweet, let me tell ya,” Hinger said, adding, “I love this job. It’s kinda what defines me now, but it’s time. ... Things are in a good place, and

I’ve always said I wanted to retire when ... things were in a good place, and things are in a really good place for the school, for the teaching staff, all of it.” ASD recently honored Hinger’s career through an ad in The SUN, which highlights Hinger’s impact on the district and school he led. “His unwavering dedication to the education of the whole child has been a hallmark of his leadership,” it states. “Chris has fostered a school culture where academic excellence, personal growth, and community engagement go hand in hand. His commitment to students and staff has created ■ See Hinger A8

Ceremony planned for burial of unclaimed veterans

By Brad Hunt
Archuleta County

At 10 a.m. on June 11, a ceremony will be held at Hilltop Cemetery for two military veterans and county residents who passed away in 2024 and whose remains were unclaimed by family members.

The veterans are Benjamin H. Warner, 73, and Roger Glenn Web, 73. The Town of Pagosa Springs has graciously donated a cemetery plot to be used to inter the cremated remains of the county’s unclaimed residents. The local Vets for Vets organization will be assisting with the ceremony.

Honoring veterans in this way ensures they receive the respect and dignity they deserve, even in passing. The generosity of the town and the dedication of Vets for Vets show how deeply a community can care for those who served. Your attendance is welcome.

Town council makes decision on metro districts

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

Metropolitan districts, known as metro districts, will not be allowed within town boundaries any time soon. The Pagosa Springs Town Council unanimously decided to maintain the status quo, not allowing metro districts, at its June 3 meeting, after hearing a string of public comments imploring the council to deny metro districts

within town limits. After hours of deliberation over several meetings, a work session, a joint work session with the town’s planning commission, as well as detailed presentations from Development Director James Dickhoff and Town Attorney Bob Cole, the council came to its conclusion: Now is not the time to allow metro districts. The council was spurred to make a ■ See Metro A8

PAWSD hears proposal for purchase of Running Iron Ranch

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a May 29 special meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard a proposal to purchase the Running Iron Ranch from Trey Fricke of Zipper Valley Ranch. PAWSD jointly owns the Running Iron Ranch with the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD). PAWSD has previously announced its intention to sell the property, which

is the site for a proposed reservoir, and the two districts are involved in ongoing litigation about whether or not PAWSD has the right to sell the property without the SJWCD’s consent under the three-way agreement between PAWSD, SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) that governs the ownership and management of the property. Under this agreement, PAWSD is tasked with paying back the loans from the CWCB that financed the purchase ■ See PAWSD A6

Index

Opinion	A2
Letters	A3
Obituaries	A5
Emma Lujan	
Barry Don Wheelless	
Services	A5
Juanita (Jeannie) Baldwin	
Education	B2
School district approves first reading of revised policies, one new policy	
Business	B4
Pagosa Rangers wrap up strong season	
Legals	B4
PREVIEW	
Live Performers	2
Crossword	10
Sudoku	12
PREVIEW Calendar	16
Bird of the Week	17
Word Search	18
Classifieds	26
PagosaSUN.com	
ExplorePagosa.com	



Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Everyone has a story

Our community is a rich tapestry, and we're consistently amazed with the caliber of people who choose to call this place home.

The tapestry is woven with all sorts of threads — some small, some shiny, some seemingly invisible, but full of strength.

Some wish to work quietly as a part of the whole, lifting others up so they can shine, while others provide embellishment.

And it takes every single one to be what we are together.

We love hearing and learning about the people drawn to this place, whether they've been here for generations or just found this slice of beauty. Some found fame and fortune, while others suffered and dug deep to come out better on the other side, inspiring others.

We hear stories of love, loss, redemption, heartbreak, people who share their

passions with others and so much more.

It's a constant reminder of something we're firm believers in: Everyone has a story that's worth telling and worth hearing.

If you don't agree, we encourage you to read some of the work of a journalist we look up to who has won award after award (even a Pulitzer) for his feature writing — Tom Hallman Jr. We've had the pleasure of learning from Hallman during several workshops and reading his work for years. He proves that even the most seemingly ordinary person has a compelling story worth telling and continues to inspire us as when we have opportunities to tell the stories of our fellow community members.

On Wednesday, June 11, a number of local veterans and officials will come together to offer respects and farewells to a pair of local veterans whose remains were unclaimed by family members after their deaths.

We're not sure we ever crossed paths with these veterans — Benjamin H. Warner and Roger Glenn Web — at local events, but we're certain they had a lot of stories to share and stories that would be worth telling.

We hope they got the chance to tell them to local students at the eighth-grade veteran breakfast on Veterans Day, to fellow veterans and to family and friends.

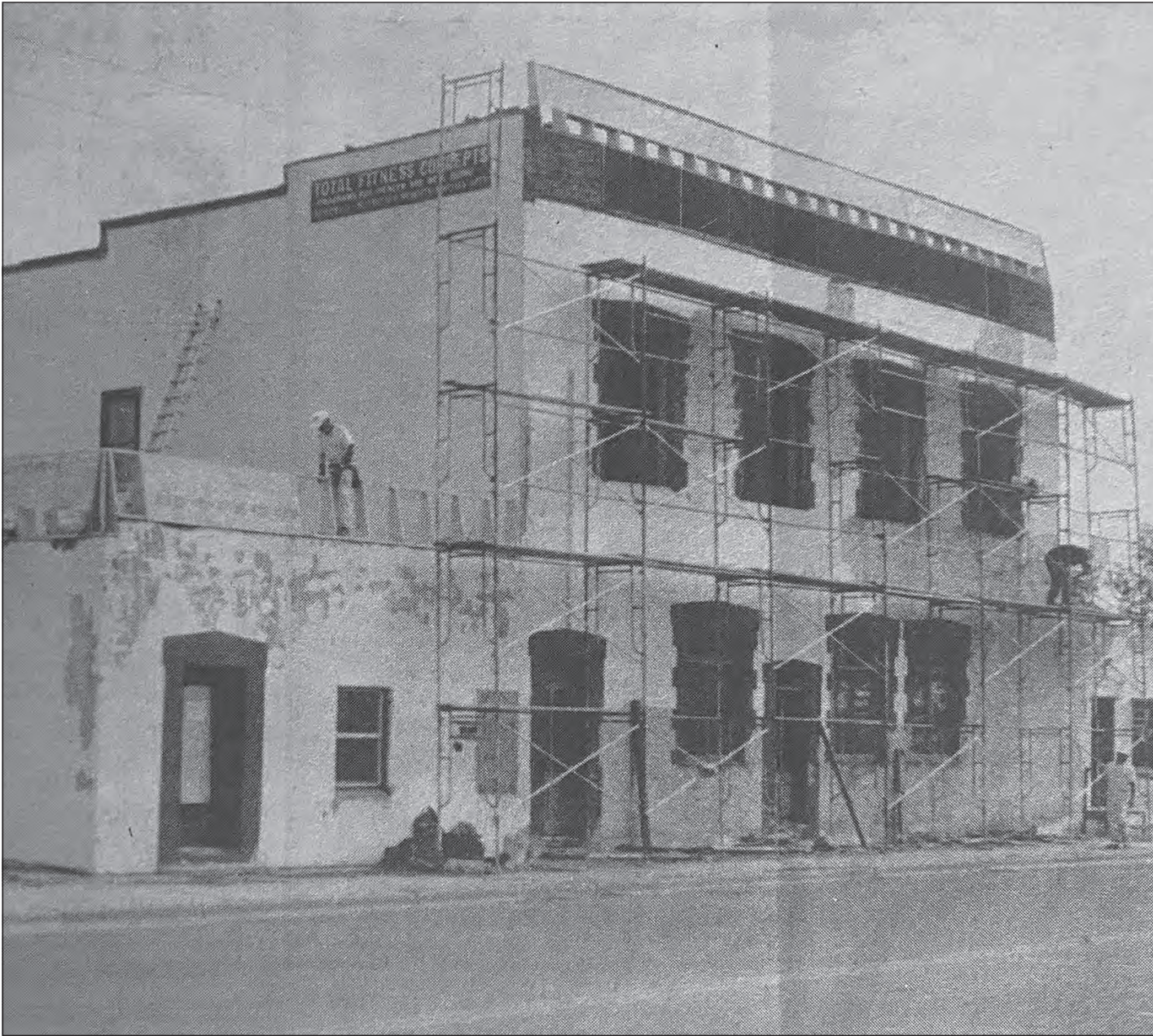
We hope some of their stories will be told on June 11.

We appreciate those in this community who are stepping up to, as Coroner Brad Hunt put it, ensure these veterans "receive the respect and dignity they deserve."

We hope it becomes a sizable service, full of people who show up to pay their respects, whether they knew these gentlemen or not. These men are worth it. Everyone is.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the June 6, 1996, Pagosa SUN — The exterior of the former Los Banos Hotel on Lewis Street is undergoing extensive remodeling. Arched windows, end logs and fresh stucco are being used to give the two-story, adobe-brick building a new appearance.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 5, 1925

Mat Arnold is this week moving his gas tank from in front of the J.M. Laughlin store to its new location in front of the John P. Lynn building on San Juan Street.

Work will soon be in progress by Contractor M. J. Wicklem on the new cement walks for the school grounds. The main walk of eight feet width will start at Pagosa street and extend toward the school building for a distance of 185 feet. It will then diverge into two five-foot walks, quarter-circle in shape, and 65 feet long, which in turn will extend to each front entrance of the building. In addition, cement walks will be built from Lewis street to the rear entrance ramps, each being about four feet in width and 25 feet in length.

R.T. Williams on Sunday moved to the former Walt Himes ranch on West fork, now owned by Whitney Newton, where he and his family will reside this season. In conjunction with Mr. Newton, he will experiment in the raising of head lettuce at the altitude intending to plant about 10 acres of the Mountain Iceberg variety.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 2, 1950

Work on the new rodeo grounds is progressing nicely and the grounds are rapidly taking shape for this year's big Red Ryder Round-Up July 3 and 4. A large crowd of volunteer workers put in two good days of labor last Saturday and Sunday and a big change in the appearance of the grounds is evident.

The volunteer workers, composed of rural residents and towns people have nearly all of the post holes drilled and the arena is all fenced. The roping chutes have been completed and work on other pens and chutes as well as the bleachers is underway. The county loaned their compressor and jack hammer for the two days for use in drilling the post holes in the shale. Tractors and post hole diggers belonging to different ranchers were used and much progress was made on the fencing.

Several businessmen of the town who were unable to be present either day hired men to work and a large number of ranchers were present. A good start has been made and if volunteers this Sunday show up in sufficient force much of the work can be completed.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 5, 1975

Jack and Benny Johnson last week donated a new ambulance to Archuleta County. The ambulance will be manned by the Mounted Rangers and members of the Emergency Medical Technicians group will ride as attendants where needed. The ambulance is owned by the county. Benny Johnson, in making the presentation said: "We feel that the community has been good to us and we just want to do something to show our appreciation for the privilege of living here and doing business here." The vehicle is a late model Oldsmobile, is fully equipped with lights, siren, cots, emergency equipment, and is specially made for ambulance service.

Archuleta County Judge Bert Hyde levied a \$1250 fine on Mark Obertwortmann, of Lamar, in an elk poaching case Monday of this week. Obertwortmann had plead guilty to charges of illegal killing of two elk.

The record fine came after local Wildlife Conservation officers and the District Attorney's office had spent several weeks investigating the case. Seven other persons involved in the poaching accepted penalty assessments totaling \$1100.00.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 1, 2000

A public hearing will take place in Mineral County at 7 p.m. June 29 to review recommendations of the Mineral County Planning Commission concerning the Village at Wolf Creek, a proposed planned unit development adjacent to the Wolf Creek Ski Area. The hearing will be held in the Mineral County Courthouse, at 1201 North Main Street, in Creede.

The Village at Wolf Creek is an idea that has been around for more than a decade, involving a tract adjacent the southeast boundary of the ski area. The tract included the Alberta Park area. Two fingers of ski area property protrude into the tract. One of those ski area properties is the site of the base of the recently opened Alberta quadra-chair lift.

Acreage for the proposed development, said Mineral County Administrator Les Cahill, was acquired in 1986 by Leavell and McComb — a joint venture involving a number of investors, including Wolf Creek Ski Area owner Kingsbury Pitcher.



Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture Type	Depth
5/27	71	32	0.00	NA	0.0
5/28	74	37	0.00	NA	0.0
5/29	74	38	0.00	NA	0.0
5/30	80	38	0.00	NA	0.0
5/31	80	42	0.00	NA	0.0
6/1	80	41	0.00	NA	0.0
6/2	63	49	T	NA	NA





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.

Metro districts

Dear Editor:

The Town of Pagosa Springs is considering whether to allow Metro Districts within Township borders. The primary purpose of Metro Districts is to provide a financial mechanism to construct public improvements that are otherwise not being provided. As a reminder, Metro Districts are a local government entity with all of the powers granted to other Special Districts like the Fire District or the School District, including the power to levy taxes and issue bonds. They are popular in Colorado as a means for a developer to obtain funding for the construction and operation of infrastructure. Because the developer is the only owner in the beginning, he can form his own Board of Directors and obtain tax-exempt bonds at low interest rates, while obligating future property owners to pay them at much higher rates.

If Metro Districts exist for the purpose of public improvements, what exactly constitutes a public improvement? When a fire or school district puts forth a ballot measure to improve their service, the entire community served by it potentially receives the benefit.

The decision to fund is made through a community-wide ballot initiative. In a Metro District, the supposed public improvement, usually infrastructure in undeveloped land, is not approved by future property owners, but by the District Board who, at the time of its formation, are the only eligible voters. And the public benefit? Is there one? And if so, to whom does the benefit accrue? The answer—primarily the developer. Thus, the law permits a local government entity to enrich developers over the interests of future property owners and the public at large.

The Town of Pagosa wants, and many would argue, needs development, especially that which would make housing more affordable. However, without important limitations on Metro Districts, the cost of housing development will be higher, not lower. The tax advantages can be captured by the developer but not necessarily passed on to future property owners.

With proper restrictions, however, the developer can receive a fair profit and future property owners avoid excessive taxation without representation. Here are some of the restrictions recommended by the Coloradoans for Metro District Reform for the Town to consider:

1. Require verifiable documentation of the cost of infrastructure.
2. Require review and approval of ballot issues and agreements until board of directors is 100% actual residents with no affiliation to the developer.
3. Provide the debt to be limited to one half the verifiable cost of infrastructure. If more is needed, modify service plan and prove with verifiable documentation how the money was spent.
4. Prohibit any mill levy higher than 35 mills total.
5. Provide that the creation of a Metro District be conditioned upon Town approval of its financial management until the Board is 100% actual resident taxpayers.
6. Provide that every potential homebuyer receive full disclosure at the time of first inquiry, at the time an offer is made, and at the closing.

With restrictions like these in place, everyone wins and abuse is thwarted.

Sharon Carter

Bus hours

Dear Editor:

Dear County Commissioners, I am about to start a part time office job downtown. I live uptown. I would prefer to ride the bus each day so my vehicle is not a part of the congestion downtown. I live uptown. Riding the bus is a proven way to lower vehicle congestion on our downtown business sorely needs us to do so. The much-needed highway construction through town will ultimately cause many businesses to close. I will be working 9 to 5. A very common office schedule. Many may start at 8am and also finish at 5pm. Stores may be open until 6pm. The

Letters

current business schedule ends at 5pm. I cannot ride the bus.

The County can take a leadership role by extending the hours to 6 or 7pm. You can easily advertise this increase in service through the newspaper, radio and social media. You can choose to make riding the bus the right and hip thing to do. You can talk about the benefits to the downtown, the air quality and ease of doing so. You could have the drivers had out little stickers that say “I rode the bus” like the “I voted” stickers we get when we vote. You could have monthly drawings and give away some of the great products you have with the county logo on them. Those with the most stickers win or just make it a random drawing. The bus routes are comprehensive. Let’s use them. Please extend the hours.

Thank you,

Beverly Compton

Hydrants

Dear Editor:

The irony of my raising the issue of hydrant testing a few months ago was brought home to me today as the hydrant in front of my home was one of several that needed servicing. The crew is working on it today.

I am especially thankful to our community leaders, the PAWSD Board, and our citizenry for mobilizing to solve this greatly overlooked issue.

The reality is that if we experience a wildfire event that burns several homes, there is likely to be low water pressure in the system due to the melting and steady leaking of the plumbing systems in those homes. But if my neighbor’s propane system burns, it is nice to know that water is available to fight the fire.

Robert Hagberg

Master Plan Advisory Committee

Dear Editor:

I want to publicly thank the members of the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) for their dedicated participation in the Archuleta School District’s Facilities Master Plan process. Their thoughtful engagement and willingness to roll up their sleeves on behalf of the students, staff, and broader Pagosa Springs community have been nothing short of exceptional.

I especially want to recognize Lisa Scott for her tireless efforts in helping guide this work forward with consistency and purpose. Lisa’s leadership was instrumental in keeping us aligned and focused throughout the process.

The MPAC brought together a diverse and committed group of parents, educators, professionals, and community members. Between January and April of 2025, we met four times to review existing data, identify gaps, and seek out the best path forward for addressing our aging facilities. Their task: provide thoughtful, community-rooted recommendations to the Board of Education that reflect both our current realities and our aspirations for the future of

education in Archuleta County.

The outcomes of that work—including recommendations and supporting documentation—can be found on our website at www.mypagosaschools.com. I encourage you to review them and join us in the conversation. Our ability to reflect the needs and the wishes of the community is only made possible with your participation.

As we move ahead, we remain committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and ensuring that every student and staff member has access to the high-quality learning environments they deserve. We are also deeply committed to being responsible stewards of our community’s tax dollars—ensuring that every investment we make reflects both the needs of today and the vision for tomorrow. Thanks to the MPAC and their dedication to our community, I believe we are headed in the right direction.

With gratitude,

Rick Holt
superintendent, Archuleta School District

Metro districts

Dear Editor:

There has been much discussion of late about a proposed Metropolitan (“Metro”) District within Town of Pagosa Springs town limits. I don’t know how a Metro District might work within Town limits, but I have lived for 25 years in a subdivision in unincorporated Archuleta County that has a Metro District, and was the District’s Administrator for several years.

In 2000, Archuleta County determined that it could no longer maintain all the roads within the county, and gave some subdivisions the option of forming a Metro District to maintain roads. Constituents within certain subdivisions were given the choice to vote for or against forming a Metropolitan District. The main advantage to voting in favor was that the Metro District would be able to receive a portion of property tax revenue for that subdivision, for road maintenance.

Metro Districts are Special Districts governed by the State of Colorado. In Archuleta County, roads are still “owned” by the County and Metro Districts are required to maintain them to County standards.

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of June 9-14

Work activity

- Crews will work every Saturday for the foreseeable future.
- Water utility work continues in the 100 to 300 blocks.
- Electrical work continues in the 100 to 300 blocks, mostly conduit for lighting and rapid flashing beacons, as well as a multi-duct for future Colorado Department of Transportation and Town of Pagosa Springs communications.
- Work continues in the 200 to 300 block for storm drain installation
- Wastewater utility work in the 400 block continues. This work will be the town’s project (that is contracted with WW Clyde).
- The 2nd and 4th Street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 will remain closed until utility and drainage work is complete.

Overflow parking available

- The overflow parking lots that the Town of Pagosa Springs has worked on are now open at 323 Hot Springs Boulevard and 811 San Juan Street. Other public parking is available throughout the downtown.

Watch where you walk

Pedestrian crosswalks will be open at 1st, 3rd and 4th streets. Mid-block crossings between 4th Street and 5th Street will be closed, but the crosswalk at 5th Street will remain open.

Mountain Express Transit bus stop information

The River Center stop, #18, has moved to 1st Street and U.S. 160 in front of the museum. Bus stop #19, 2nd Street and U.S. 160, has moved to 2nd Street and Lewis Street.

Safety tips for pedestrians

- Watch where you are going. Do not enter the work zone or climb over work zone safety barriers. Construction work may be fascinating, but always prioritize navigating the work zone as safely as you can.
- Pay attention to posted signs in the project area and follow all workers’ instructions. Cross streets only at open crosswalks or intersections; walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

Local reporting that matters.



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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.



Continued from A3

Metro Districts are a governmental entity, and are required to follow state and local statutes. Each District must elect a Board of Directors to govern the District. Sometimes, constituents are fortunate to elect board members with experience in matters of governance, road engineering, contract negotiation and planning. Sometimes, the District is fortunate in being able to contract qualified road contractors to plow snow in winter and perform proper road maintenance the rest of the year. There is plenty of help available from the State, with regard to running elections and the budgeting process. Finding qualified equipment operators and road graders to get to your subdivision in a timely manner is not always easy.

Sometimes, the people who are elected do not have such experience and, as we see in other forms of government, quickly dismiss competent people around them and confuse governance with autocracy. For the first fourteen years, the subdivision I live in had well-maintained gravel roads and rather boring board meetings. (Snowplowing, gravel and dust abatement contracts are only so exciting.)

For the past ten years, most sections of the main roads in my subdivision have had no gravel added. People who have lived here for five years or less are surprised when they travel to other places and drive on gravel roads, because we no longer have gravel roads in our subdivision. When it rains, we have a slick quagmire that is almost impassable. Residents have to regularly scrape mud off the driveshaft of their sport utility vehicles: one might expect this after off-roading, but it is not usual when you live in a Metro District that has tax revenue and you only drive to the grocery store.

Unfortunately, once the Metro District has been formed, although they have an obligation to maintain roads to county standards, there is really no one to enforce this requirement. I don't know if a Metro District within Town limits would have any better oversight.

Lisa Jensen

Public lands and hunting

Dear Editor: Public lands, and hence hunting, are under threat like never before.[3] From states like Utah (and 14 others) laying claim to Bureau of Land Management lands—which was shot down by the Supreme Court—to Congress attempting to sell public lands using the budget reconciliation process to the Trump administration proposing selling public lands under the guise of promoting homebuilding to rolling back national monument protections.[4]

In a nutshell, hunting access and opportunity are on the chopping block.[5] Public lands provide access and opportunity to 70 million American hunters and anglers. Hunters cite lack of access as the #1 reason they quit hunting. Nothing will limit access and opportunity more than privatization of public lands.[6]

Surveys by the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation have found that over 90% of Colorado hunters use public lands.[7] About 80% of critical habitat for elk and other big game is found on public lands. Approximately 72% of sportsmen and sportswomen in the West rely on public lands for hunting. Any effort to sell off public lands or transfer them to the states is a stake in the heart of hunting.[8]

“As a Marine, I dedicated my career to defending the United States against foreign threats. But it's unsettling to see domestic threats to the same public lands I fought to protect,” Garrett Robinson wrote in the Spring 2025 Backcountry Journal. “It's an affront to everything I believe ... These lands belong to all Americans, held in trust for current and future

generations. Seeing them threatened by short-sighted interests is deeply troubling.”[9]

Hunters are already on the verge of becoming an endangered species, but these proposed actions will essentially guarantee it.[10] Public lands are not a left or right issue, they're an American issue.[11] Join us in the fight to keep public lands in public hands!

[1] David Lien is a former Air Force officer and author of Hunting for Experience II: Tales of Hunting & Habitat Conservation.

[2] David A. Lien. “A Higher Calling.” Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFAM) Newsletter: March 2011, p. 4.

[3] David A. Lien. “Selling Off Public Lands Is Not An Affordable Housing Fix.” Backcountry Hunters & Anglers: 4/8/25.

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David Lien
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Baffled

Dear Editor:

I'm totally baffled. Jeanine Springer assumes that sign wavers are deterring businesses, commerce, shopping. That onus falls on CDOT & this massive road mashup. I've seen several rally people in the stores & restaurants around the area after it's over, so they are doing what they can to support them.

There does certainly need to be better signage for public parking all along 160, but the sidewalks are always respected for pedestrians. I've never seen any impediment, quite the opposite. But perhaps most of all, tourists aren't the most important part of Pagosa Springs. It's the locals, the born here & the moved here. It's the mountains & rivers, music & social scene, the library & hospital & people you see buying groceries. The schools, Head Start, Public Health workers. Veterans & Teachers. Firefighters, Parks & Wildlife staff & old people on Social Security/Medicare. All have lost funding or faced cuts in their budget. So a few residents, taxpayers, & rational thinkers meeting on the side of the road to protest the current administration's callous disregard for the very things that bring tourists here is our Constitutional right to be seen & heard. We must rise up & speak out.

Sydney McDougal

Investing in child care

Dear Editor:

We all agree that childcare for children ages a few weeks to 5 years leads to more parents entering the workforce. More working parents is particularly important for low-income families. But, childcare costs are prohibitive for these families.

In Colorado, Head Start and the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) pay much of the cost for children from low-income families to attend preschool. Together, these programs cost about 105 million dollars a year. About 80% of this funding comes from the federal government. Dividing 105 million by 3 million, the number of tax returns filed in Colorado each year, shows that about \$35 per tax return goes to support preschool for children from low-income families. Is this a good investment of our tax dollars?

Considerable research conducted over the past 60 years has focused on this question. A good analysis of this research is available at: https://heckmanequation.org/. James Heckman is Director of the Center for the Economics of Human Development at the University of Chicago and a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2000.

Prof. Heckman has analyzed results of two studies carried out in North Carolina in the 1970s. Children from low-income families were divided into two groups, those that received quality education and care and those that did not receive this service. Children ages 8 weeks to 5 years participated in the program. Children in both groups were followed through age 35 to determine the benefits of quality education and care.

Although the cost for these programs was considerable, Prof. Heckman's analysis shows that the return on investment was 13% of the program cost per year extending through the life of the child. That is, benefits from reduced crime and K-12 education costs, as well as benefits from increased labor income, higher IQ, better health, and improved social-emotional skills completely offset the cost of the preschool program. The 13% return on investment means that the cost of the program is paid for within six years, and society continues to receive a 13% annual dividend for the rest of the life of the child

The children participating in these programs were from low-income families, just as the children enrolled in Colorado Head Start and CCCAP programs. Given the similarity in these programs, the investment Colorado is making in early childhood education and care programs pays for itself within six years and returns benefits to society for decades thereafter.

Governor Polis recognizes both the benefits of quality early childhood education and care and the fact that it has a great return on investment.

Since 80% of the support for such programs comes from the federal government, cuts in federal funding will rob children of the benefits of preschool and prevent many parents from joining the workforce.

What is the better investment of our tax dollars? Keeping taxes low on families earning more than a million dollars a year or investing in early childhood education and care?

David Smith

Parade flyover

Dear Editor:

To the residences and visitors of Archuleta County.

It is with great sadness that I must report that the San Juan Squadron Pagosa Springs 4th of July Parade flyover will not happen this year.

The problem stems from the upheaval of complete repaving of the normal parade route, Highway 160 through Pagosa Springs. We did have a shortened “parade” last year, for which we opened with 12 aircraft. The flight was a delight, but the parade itself was fraught with problems. As a result of those problems, the Town of Pagosa Springs decided to have a 4th of July Celebration at a park at the Yamaguchi Park, rather than a parade. The event was to be kicked off at 10:00 by our flyover, which, with 16 aircraft committed to fly, would have been the largest aircraft formation ever over Pagosa. Guest pilots were coming from Portland Oregon, Salt Lake City, Grand Junction, Albuquerque, and Bartlesville Oklahoma to celebrate the 4th of July in Pagosa.

Recently, I was advised that the event is to be moved to 3:00 PM. This creates several problems: 1) July is monsoon season in Pagosa, so strong afternoon thunderstorms are likely; 2) If there is no rain, afternoon thermals create sufficient turbulence to make a large formation unsafe and 3) many of the guest pilots planned to head back home in the late morning before it gets rough in the mountains. (Our rule of flying in the mountains is “off by 7:00 AM, on by 11:00 AM to avoid the turbulence.)

I spoke with the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation person responsible for the 4th of July celebration planning, hoping to change his mind, but the decision is final.

With the lack of snow and rain this year, it looks like even the 4th of July fireworks display will be cancelled. If the fireworks DO go off as planned, we hope to have a small ad-hoc formation to precede the fireworks.

It is important to note that all of the Patriots who fly with the San Juan Squadron are volunteers, and are not paid or compensated in any way. They are honored to be able to fly for American Veterans, the Fourth of July, and other community events. Hopefully the Town of Pagosa Springs will reimagine and reinstate the 2026 4th of July Parade which brings many tourists to our wonderful area.

Craig Taylor
Pagosa Springs San Juan Squadron

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Emma Lujan

Beloved mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and godmother Emma Lujan (95 years old) peacefully transitioned to her heavenly home surrounded by family and reunited with her husband of 70 years, Santana Lujan, on May 23, 2025, at 5 p.m.



Emma Margaret (Benina) Velasquez was born on Aug. 6, 1929, in Durango, Colo., to Frank and Gregorita Velasquez, where she spent the first two years of her life.

From age 3 to age 9, Emma lived in Edith, Colo. She is the eldest sibling to Olivia, Sonny and Gilbert. Her father, Frank, was a math teacher and then joined the armed forces. Her then-single mother, Gregorita, and her siblings lived through many hardships while growing up. In spite of these many hardships, their faith and love for each other got them through everything.

At the age of 13, Emma's family moved to Pagosa Springs, and three years later, in 1945, at the age of 16, she met her husband-to-be, Santana Lujan. They enjoyed going to dances and spending time with their friends. They had their first kiss under the "tree" in Edith and fell in love. They were married on Oct. 20, 1946, at St. Edward's Church. Emma and Santana were married 69 years before Santana was called to heaven on June 16, 2016.

Emma and Santana were both deeply rooted in their community and contributed to it in meaningful ways. Emma worked for 27 years at Jackisch Drugstore and another seven years at the San Juan Sawmill. She was also a founding member of the Guadalupanas at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and was honored by the church in August 2024 as a pioneer of the church and for her many years of devoted service.

Emma and Santana helped launch the parish bingo nights, which ran for 25 years. The proceeds from bingo were used to make important repairs to both the parish hall and the church.

She was a devoted Catholic Christian who read her Bible, prayed the rosary daily and faithfully attended Mass every weekend. She was an avid Colorado sports fan who loved watching the Broncos, Rockies and

Nuggets games.

Emma is beloved and deeply cherished by her family. She is survived by her siblings: Olivia (Henry) Trujillo, Sonny Martinez, and Gilbert Velasquez.

She is also survived by her son, Joe Lujan, and daughter-in-law, Dolores Atencio, and her daughters: Gloria Perez (Louie), Darlene Lujan (John), Marcella Sutton (Wynn) and Deanna Rader (Gary).

Emma's legacy lives on through her loving family, including 15 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great-grandchildren, and numerous godchildren.

The family would like to give a special thanks to all of Emma's dedicated caregivers, which included her grandkids (Lynette, Joleen, Joshua, Shanley and Candida), Kris Ambrosich, Cornelia Martinez, the Hospice staff, and many thanks to her frequent visitors, Father Samuel Auta, Eddie Archuleta, Elisha Lucas, Josephine Mack Bozzelle, Carlos and Emily Martinez.

Emma's kindness, generosity, and faith will be missed greatly by all who knew her.

The family would like to invite all who knew this special lady to attend the recitation of the rosary and her funeral to honor her life.

The rosary will be held on Sunday at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church on June 8, 2025, with the viewing from 4 to 5 p.m. and the rosary from 5 to 6 p.m.

The funeral Mass at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church and burial will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025. From 9 to 9:30 a.m. will be the viewing, with the eulogy from 9:30 to 10 a.m. At 10:15 a.m., there will be the Mass service followed by burial at Hilltop Cemetery. At 12:30 p.m., there will be a reception/luncheon at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

Barry Don Wheelless

7/7/43-5/23/25

Barry Don Wheelless passed away peacefully at age 81 on May 23, 2025, at his home in Lakewood, Colo. A lifelong lover of golf, he spent his final moments doing what he loved — practicing his swing in the backyard on a beautiful spring day.

Barry was born on July 7, 1943, to parents Dalioun Barry Wheelless and Kathaleta Hawkins Wheelless in Longview, Texas. The family moved to Amarillo when Barry was a toddler. He completed all his school-

ing in Amarillo and attended Amarillo Community College two years for pre-engineering. He transferred to the University of Texas at Austin and completed his B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1966.



In July 1964, Barry married Treva Jane Wheeler in Amarillo, and Treva worked as he finished his degree in Austin. After graduating from UT, he began his career at Alcoa in Port Lavaca, Texas. Both daughters, Whitney and Julie, were born in Port Lavaca. In 1973, the family moved with Alcoa to Paramaribo, Suriname, in South America and enjoyed a vibrant ex-pat community, mostly attached to Alcoa and the American school there. In 1977, Barry was again transferred with Alcoa to Newburgh, Ind., working at Warrick Operations in the smelting division. The family stayed in Newburgh for the remainder of Barry's career.

He was an active and dedicated father, coaching the girls' soccer teams, leading the charge for the Castle band boosters and engaged in neighborhood projects. He was well known for his lawn care, a teasing sense of humor and diverse music collection. In 1996, Barry earned his M.A. in applied behavior science at the Leadership Institute of Seattle through Bastyr University.

In 2003, Barry and Treva built their dream mountain home in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on three acres. Soon after, in February 2004, Barry retired from a long, impactful career at Alcoa. His last role was manager of like technology, managing the process technology support group for 25 smelters worldwide and leading on technical integrations.

Once he officially retired, he continued consulting in the aluminum industry for a few years. In Pagosa, Barry got involved in the small mountain community volunteering as a tour guide at Chimney Rock National Monument, which was a role he greatly loved — educating many visitors to the area; Barry also served on the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association board and as its president.

Barry supported STEM programs at the high school and was on the board of the Archuleta County Education Center. He served many years as an active member of the Rotary

Club Scholarship, \$3,000; Veterans for Veterans Benny Lohman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

Jolly: Archuleta County Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000; Build Pagosa Career and Technical Education Scholarship, \$1,000; County Sheriff's of Colorado, \$500; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$500; Town of Pagosa Springs Aim Higher Scholarship, \$5,000; Uncle Leroy Lucero Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

Kerns: Colorado General Assembly Grant, \$2,000; CU Boulder Provost/Chancellor Scholarship, \$1,000.

Ketchum: Archuleta County Round Robin Master Showman, \$500; Archuleta County Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000; Chase Register Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$500.

Lewis: Chase Register Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000; Colorado State High School Rodeo Association Scholarship, \$1,500; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$500; Tarleton State University Guaranteed Scholarship Program, \$500; Veterans for Veterans Benny Lohman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

Olivia Nehring: Austin College Art Scholarship, \$16,000; Austin College Grant Award, \$500; Austin College Merit Scholarships, \$132,000; Chama Peak Land Alliance Conservation Scholarship, \$1,000; Curtains Up Pagosa Scholarship, \$1,000; Triumph Financial Scholars Program Scholarship, \$2,500; Veterans for Veterans Benny Lohman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000.

Abigail Nehring: Western Colorado University Athletic Scholarship, \$18,000; Western Colorado University Merit Scholarship, \$18,000.

Jayslynn Perea: Cobell Undergraduate Scholarship, \$20,000; Jicarilla Apache Nation Award.

Pham: Archuleta County Marijuana

Club of Pagosa Springs, serving on the board, and then as president from 2013-2014.

In 2017, Barry and Treva moved to the Denver area to be near family and more accessible health care. No matter where he lived, Barry made close friends, supported his community, and enjoyed family dinners and special events. Earlier in life, he was an avid fly fisherman, wading in those beautiful Colorado streams and tying his own flies with his dad. Barry has visited the Wolf Creek, Colo., area spending summer vacations at Bruce Spruce Ranch since he was a toddler; the family continues that tradition to this day each July. His biggest love later in life was golf, which he studied technique and followed for decades. Over the years, he enjoyed hiking, working out and being outdoors. Barry was a lifelong learner.

Barry is survived by his wife of 61 years, Treva Wheelless. He is also survived by his two daughters, Julie Wheelless, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., and Whitney Wheelless and son-in-law Jim Rowe of Boulder, Colo., and his adventurous and smart four grandsons: Eliot (23), Miles (20), Leo (12) and Oscar (12).

A small, informal gathering will be planned for late July in Pagosa Springs. A celebration of life is planned for Sunday, Aug. 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. at The Vista at Applewood Golf Course in Golden. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs or to your favorite charity working to improve people's lives.

Barry was loved by many and will be deeply missed. His dedication to his family was a constant, always the provider. His grandsons especially loved him greatly.

Services

Juanita (Jeannie) Baldwin

Funeral services for Juanita (Jeannie) Baldwin will be held on Saturday, June 14, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church on Lewis Street. Recitation of the rosary will be held at 9 a.m., ahead of the funeral at 10 a.m. Following the service, a dinner will be held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church on South Pagosa Boulevard.

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Scholarships

■ Continued from front

Basketball Scholarship, \$52,000; Hastings University Women's Basketball Scholarship, \$48,000; Rome City Institute Women's Basketball Scholarship, \$54,800; South Florida Girls Soccer Scholarship, \$62,000; University of Arizona Merit Scholarship, \$98,000; University of Arkansas Merit Scholarship, \$100,000; University of New Mexico Merit Scholarship, \$99,200; University of Utah Merit Scholarship, \$104,000.

Davis: Colorado Mesa University First Generation Scholarship, \$4,000; Colorado Mesa University President's Scholarship, \$20,000; TRIO Scholarship Program, \$4,000.

Frame: Build Pagosa Career and Technical Education Scholarship, \$1,000; San Juan Rangers Scholarship \$500.

Galloway: Adams State University Golf Scholarship, \$8,000; Adams State University Music Scholarship, \$2,000; Adams State University Porter Scholars in Science and Mathematics Scholarship, \$8,000; Adams State University President's Merit Scholarship, \$3,000.

Bella Gutierrez: CU Boulder Buff Grant, \$10,000; CU Boulder Gold Grant, \$9,200; Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society Scholarship, \$1,000; Pagosa Springs Rotary Club Scholarship, \$7,000; Pagosa Springs WHIPS Scholarship, \$1,200; TRIO Scholarship Program, \$4,000.

Charlie Gutierrez: CU Boulder Buff Grant, \$10,000; CU Boulder Gold Grant, \$9,200; Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society Scholarship, \$10,000; TRIO Scholarship Program, \$4,000.

Peyton Jackson: Mullins-Nickerson Post 108 American Legion Scholarship, \$5,000; Andrea McGinn Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000; Build Pagosa Career and Technical Education Scholarship, \$1,000; Pagosa Springs Rotary

Hot mill-in-place work to begin June 16

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

Dustrol will begin the hot mill-in-place process on June 16 and continue through June 27.

Work will take place on the following roads: Vista Boulevard, Lake Forest Boulevard, Meadows Drive, North Pagosa Boulevard, Pinion Causeway, Carlee Place, Mission Drive and Saturn Drive.

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PAWSD

■ **Continued from front**

of the ranch while the SJWCD is responsible for advancing the reservoir project and finding partners to build it.

As discussed at previous PAWSD and SJWCD meetings, Fricke submitted an initial proposal for the purchase to PAWSD in the fall of 2024, and the PAWSD Running Iron Ranch subcommittee — consisting of PAWSD board members Bill Hudson and Glenn Walsh — discussed the proposal with him further after the initial submission.

The SJWCD has expressed consistent opposition to a sale and declined to discuss the proposal with Fricke when it was submitted.

PAWSD sued the SJWCD in an effort to establish that it could sell the ranch without SJWCD's consent in December 2024, with the lawsuit still ongoing.

Fricke opened his presentation on May 29 by explaining that he and his wife own Zipper Valley Ranch and that he lives in Dallas, Texas, but has a desire to retire in Pagosa Springs.

He stated that he is working to save money to move to Pagosa Springs full time, as some of his family already have, and that he was working with a real estate agent who had already helped facilitate his purchases of other properties in the area, to purchase a ranch in Pagosa Springs after selling one in Texas.

He explained that the agent suggested that the Running Iron Ranch might be a suitable property to purchase, especially if he could present solutions that would satisfy the needs of the SJWCD and PAWSD.

He explained that his presentation would cover his perspective on the history of the ranch, outline the proposed transaction, provide background on Zipper Valley Ranch, discuss a proposed management agreement that would allow the construction of a reservoir and highlight the benefits to the districts and the community that would result from the transaction.

Fricke stated that he wants to operate the ranch as a ranch and is not interested in development on the property.

He then outlined the history of the reservoir project, noting that it was initiated on the basis of a report by water engineer Steve Harris and that, over the 18 years of the project, PAWSD has made millions in loan payments to the CWCB while the SJWCD has struggled to advance the project.

He commented that he did not mean his comments about the SJWCD struggling "personally towards San Juan," but that he believes that a volunteer board like the SJWCD without paid staff is likely not the best way to advance such a project.

He added that PAWSD will pay \$2.5 million in loan payments for the property through 2034 and is accruing \$300,000 in deferred interest each year.

He stated that his proposal would save the community at least \$6.7 million in costs.

Fricke commented that the Harris report significantly overestimated the area's population and the water demand for the area.

He explained that he believes the appropriate size for the reservoir is 3,000 acre feet (AF), which is a significant reduction from the 11,000 AF size the SJWCD has considered in the past.

Fricke added that he personally believes that a 1,000 AF reservoir would be sufficient, but that this would be too small for a substantial reservoir project, so he was willing to pursue a larger size.

He commented that, over his 10-year timeline for the project, he believes that the project will need to involve private industry since the reservoir would not pencil out solely based on municipal water demand.

He added that he would be open to developing portions of the ranch if this would help support the completion of the reservoir.

Fricke commented that the project could help with forest fire mitigation, although experts he had spoken to downplayed its value for that purpose; provide an alternate water supply if current municipal water supplies are contaminated by forest fires or other events; and offer a source for future municipal water supply.

He then offered a comparison between the 3,000 and 11,000 AF sizes, highlighting that the smaller reservoir

would stay within the boundaries of the ranch and not require additional property purchases and would have lower risks of flooding Pagosa Springs in the case of dam failure.

He added that he believes that it would be feasible to fund constructing a 3,000 AF reservoir within 10 years, while a larger reservoir might take 20 or 50 years.

Fricke commented that he would like the reservoir to be designed in such a way that firefighting helicopters could use it as a water source.

Under the proposal, Fricke explained that property for the reservoir would be gifted to the district running the project through an easement.

He also noted that this district would have full control over the project and the land for the project would be financed at zero percent interest compared to the current interest costs from the CWCB.

The reservoir project would function through a management agreement between the district overseeing the project and Zipper Valley, and would govern goals for advancing the project as well as granting an easement for the property needed for the reservoir once it is completed.

He noted that the district for the agreement could be PAWSD or the SJWCD, although he was currently focusing on PAWSD since he had conversed with it more.

Fricke stated that he would like to work with PAWSD to negotiate with the CWCB to have it apply a \$1 million grant used to fund the purchase of the ranch and the interest payments made so far on the property back to the project through the management agreement.

He stated that this would amount to \$3.2 million in funding for the project.

The CWCB is not opposed to this concept based on conversations with them, Fricke added.

He also noted that he would pay \$10.4 million for the ranch, which would pay off all PAWSD's loans and interest on the property.

Fricke then explained his terms for purchasing the property, including that he would accept the property as is and that he would pay for repairs to the Park Ditch that runs through the property, repairs to the fences and weed control.

He commented that the property has not been "maintained properly" and that these expenses could be significant.

Fricke stated that he would want to close on the property by July 11, adding that he believes that this timeline is feasible even though he acknowledged that others might be skeptical.

He explained that Zipper Valley Ranch has owned property in the Pagosa Springs area since 2008 and has experience with wetland projects on other sites.

Fricke then outlined the conditions of the management agreement, including that the district would have sole responsibility for designing, funding and building the reservoir and would have to spend at least \$50,000 a year on the project, potentially on hiring a grant writer or manager.

He stated that the district would have to provide a biannual report on progress to Fricke and other stakeholders.

In exchange, Zipper Valley would provide \$10,000 a year to support the project and provide the land (for the reservoir) through an easement, Fricke stated.

He indicated the management agreement would run through 2035.

He commented that his proposal would transfer focus from the current lawsuit to an actionable plan, eliminate the debt on the project, potentially provide \$3.2 million in funding for the project and create a "certain path" forward for the reservoir, which the current litigation does not provide.

He stated that the SJWCD and PAWSD could benefit from the proposal by eliminating debt, avoiding an expensive lawsuit, removing the threat of the land being sold and having a path forward for a reservoir.

Fricke added that the community would also gain a reservoir site and potentially a significant reservoir from the deal.

He then asked the PAWSD board to

consider the benefits of his proposal, instruct the subcommittee to finalize a contract of sale and management agreement with Zipper Valley designating PAWSD as the district overseeing reservoir construction, seek court approval of the contract of sale in June, close on the property early in July, and open discussions with the SJWCD about designating it as the district managing the reservoir.

He commented that these requests were "sharp," but that he might need to refocus on other projects if the purchase does not move forward.

PAWSD chairman Gene Tautges noted that the PAWSD board would make no decisions on the topic at the meeting and that this was the first time several of the PAWSD board members had heard Fricke's proposal.

In response to a question from PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer, Fricke explained that the management agreement would require the managing district to make two partnership or funding requests per year and to raise \$1.5 million every three years for the reservoir.

Tautges commented that he was pleased that Fricke had spoken with the CWCB and done his "homework."

Hudson commented that he was impressed with the potential of the proposal.

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones asked if Fricke's offer is contingent on the reservoir construction proposal.

Fricke stated that the offer is not contingent on the reservoir construction project.

Hudson asked if Fricke's concept that having \$3.2 million in project funding available would make the project more attractive for potential grants was based on discussions with granting foundations or agencies or was his idea.

He stated that it was his idea and that no funders he spoke to explicitly commented on how having the funding available would impact the project.

Walsh commented that he is impressed with Fricke's willingness to remove PAWSD's debt and his "personal passion" for building a reservoir.

He noted that the idea of constructing the reservoir was Fricke's idea and that this was why the PAWSD board recommended that he speak to the SJWCD about his proposal.

Walsh commented that Fricke was treated "dismissively" and "in an embarrassing fashion" by the SJWCD.

He claimed that a member of the SJWCD board who had previously served as board president had referred to Fricke as a "Texas carpetbagger."

Walsh then thanked Fricke for his dedication to the project and his efforts to move the project forward.

He commented that the SJWCD has failed to find any partners for the reservoir projects in the last 13 years and has obtained no grant funding for the project.

"And now this gentleman is walking in, willing to pay more than the market price and give 125 acres ... the prettiest heartland of that ranch, to the community to build a rational reservoir," Walsh said. "If we don't act on this ... what fools are we."

Fricke commented that, although he did not want to become involved in a disagreement, he believes that PAWSD has the right to sell the ranch based on his own and his attorney's reviews of the three-way agreement.

Walsh commented that building an 11,000 AF reservoir would likely cost \$400 million or \$500 million and asked Fricke if he would oppose such a project if state or federal funding for it existed.

Fricke commented that he thought this would be possible and that such a reservoir might be possible, especially

through the use of eminent domain.

Tautges commented that initial sizing of the reservoir was driven by an expectation that the county might have a population of 36,000 people by 2040, which is unlikely to happen within the lifetime of the people attending the meeting.

He added that the cost of a large reservoir would not "pencil out" for the community.

Fricke commented that the reservoir would likely be swampy and would not resemble the beauty of projects like Lake Nighthorse.

Walsh highlighted that PAWSD has also imposed aggressive water conservation measures and expanded Stevens Lake to provide more water storage.

He then asked Fricke if PAWSD could feasibly get a court date to get a sale ratified in the timeline he laid out, noting that his understanding is that getting a court date might take up to a year.

Fricke stated that a "simple summary judgment" could potentially get a quick hearing.

Walsh commented that he feels that, without significant changes in the SJWCD's position and the involvement of the CWCB, it might be "pretty difficult to turn" by July 11.

Fricke commented that he would not want the community to look back on failing to accept his offer and regret not taking it.

He added that he would like to have dialogue with the SJWCD, but that this has not happened yet and that he has had to shape his current approach absent its involvement.

Jones asked Fricke how definite the July closing date is.

Fricke explained that he sold a ranch in Texas and was hoping to avoid paying taxes on the sale by purchasing another property.

The deadline for doing this would be July 11, he stated, and the tax benefits of the purchase were a key reason he is able to offer his current price.

He commented that, after this point, the deal might still be able to go forward, but that his offered price might change.

Alongside the discussion in the meeting, another discussion was occurring in the Zoom text chat for the meeting between Walsh and SJWCD board member Rod Proffitt.

Proffitt opened the discussion by questioning the plans for the ranch and commenting, "Nice speech Glenn," in response to comments by Walsh.

■ See PAWSD A7

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■ **Continued from front**
an environment where everyone is valued, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.”

It later adds, “On behalf of the ASD community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Chris for his years of service, leadership, and passion for education. His impact on generations of students, his colleagues, and our community is immeasurable, and his legacy will continue to shape and inspire our schools for years to come.”

Jumping into education

When asked about what drew him into the field of education, Hinger gestured to a series of items on his office wall about other educators in his family, including his grandfather, great uncle and mother.

“My folks always valued education. They instilled it in me to get a higher education,” he said, adding that his dad running the guest ranch in the summer offered a balance. “I’m very much a people person. I enjoy kids and I knew that ... there was a part of me that felt like education would be a really good fit.”

In college, when he got into his practicums and student teaching, he “really, really liked it,” he said.

He also knew he could work at the guest ranch in the summers to bolster his income.

“And now here I am going out there ... for the season. It’s kind of come full circle, because that’s always been kind of a dream as well,” he said of the guest ranch.

He noted he’s retiring to the ranch, not from teaching.

Hinger began serving as a middle science teacher and coach with the district in 1995.

“I always loved science and math in school, and so I think that’s what drew me into a science background,” he said, adding, “I’ve always been into rivers and streams, and growing up on the West Fork.”

He noted at the time he did his studies, there was a lot of stream restoration work happening, which also attracted him, but that education seemed to be a natural fit for him to make a living.

From teacher to principal

“One of the most memorable moments was teaching eighth-grade science with Dan Janovsky, David Hamilton, Lori Plantiko, Allen Thompson — that crew,” he said. “Those people were just really great educators and they knew how to have fun, ... and the kids knew how to have fun, and so it was just a really fun teaching time for me.”

He added he grew a lot under the principal at the time, Larry Lister, and learned a lot about teaching science and making it applicable to students.

Later, when Lister was getting closer to retirement, Hinger explained, he suggested Hinger should think about getting his master’s in school administration because he thought Hinger would make a good administrator.

“Larry was one of my mentors,” Hinger said, adding Lister was also his principal while he was in school and he learned a lot from him both as a teacher and an administrator.

At that, point, Hinger noted, he’d been teaching for eight or 10 years.

So, he, as well as a couple others from the district — Jason Plantiko and Mark DeVoti — all enrolled in and completed a master’s program.

When Lister stepped down after 23 years as principal, Hinger was chosen for the job, which he began in 2003.

Years later, an economic downturn led to what would ultimately be another of Hinger’s favorite moments — merging the administration of the fifth- and sixth-grade building with the seventh- and eighth-grade building.

“That was a real challenge, but was also this really cool opportunity to create a cohesiveness on this campus and get behind some initiatives that could influence four years of education ... versus two,” he said. “That merger then led to ... some expansion of adventure learning, the alignment of healthy school initiatives, and curricular initiatives lately that really enabled to us ... to really grow kids academically. ... That was kind of a cool opportunity that was handed to us from an economic downturn.”

He added it led to a cohesive middle school that is serving kids and the community well.

And the progress has continued, with the school having the highest growth score in the area on recent testing and positive results on the state’s School Performance Framework.

Hinger noted the school is only as strong as its teachers, and there has been strategy behind growing its teachers, including through using early release time to implement strategies with staff to using high-quality curriculum and having teachers become high-functioning teams that can watch each other both to learn and to offer feedback.

Hinger also highlighted the community that has been created, including with the staff, the students and the community.

“It’s middle school — it’s bumpy,” he said while discussing the work to create a supportive environment for students as they navigate their middle school years, such as counselors and safety-net programs that are offered in conjunction with the county’s Department of Human Services.

Hinger touched upon community partnerships, such as the school’s offering veterans breakfast annually, which he called “powerful,” and the spaces shared with the Town of Pagosa Springs.

He noted the community needs to be supportive of one another to thrive.

“It’s just a cool community,” he said.

Hinger also pointed toward the school’s focus on the whole kid, from being fit through more than typical sports to eating well.

“I’m proud of a lot of things,” Hinger said of his time with the school.

Learning through adventure

Before Hinger took over as principal, students in seventh grade would venture for an overnight trip to either Chaco Culture National Historical Park or Bandelier National Monument.

Hinger would also take students around Archuleta County to learn about the geologic processes that shaped the area during his class, suggesting that process turned kids on to science.

That, he noted, helped him see how powerful it was to get kids outside to learn.

“Chaco and Bandelier were always just such powerful experiences, and so I immediately, when I became principal, started working towards an eighth-grade trip,” Hinger said, noting at the time he was only over the two grades.

Before long, he was able to hire some teachers who had strong experience with outdoor learning and strong skills, allowing the school to add an eighth-grade trip to Moab, which he called a nice step.

Then, when the schools merged, he noted it made sense that adventure learning would be one of the things that defines the school and makes it unique.

Hinger indicated he also drew on his time as a Boy Scout, where he took memorable trips a couple times a year to go do things like backpacking or canoeing.

“I think I took that outdoors experience that I had and said can we expand this in public school,” he said.

It also made sense to make the trips a progression as the kids moved from grade to grade, he suggested.

Fifth-graders now trek to Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, with sixth-graders spending one night at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Turning over the helm

Taking over the helm at the middle

school will be Josh Sanchez, who most recently served the district as the chief operations officer.

Sanchez previously served as a middle school principal in the state of Washington for 11 years, and taught math and spent a year as assistant principal at Pagosa Springs Middle School, as well as serving the district in other roles.

“This’ll be a really good fit,” Hinger said of Sanchez, noting Sanchez was a big part of changes to the middle school’s schedule that have allowed for more academic support and for students to take additional exploratory classes.

Hinger also highlighted that Sanchez, a Pagosa Springs High School graduate, really knows Pagosa Springs and is very well-liked.

In addition to his history in the community and district, and his time as a middle school principal, an announcement by the school district introducing Sanchez as the new principal states, “Members of the hiring committee were especially impressed by his thoughtful insights, collaborative leadership style, and unwavering commitment to student growth and success.”

“For me, it was all about just being an influential leader in our community,” Sanchez said, adding principals can be very influential with students and the community. “And that’s something I’m passionate about ... and have always believed in in my career.”

Sanchez noted he never thought he’d have the opportunity to be the middle school principal in his hometown, or serve in any facet of education in his hometown.

Sanchez suggested he hopes to carry on the work that’s already been done and continue to build partnerships with the community that will serve students.

“Having the opportunity to work with Chris ... I just admire his passion and commitment to students and the community,” Sanchez said, pointing to the thousands of students who passed through the school while Hinger was principal and the impact he had.

He called it an honor and privilege to follow Hinger and Lister.

“That’s amazing, to me, to think about,” he said.

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PAWSD

■ Continued from A6

Later, following Tautges’ comments on the sizing of the reservoir, Proffitt commented that Tautges was “misinformed” and that the statements being made about the cost of a 11,000 AF reservoir were inaccurate, with the SJWCD’s most recent estimate indicating that it would cost \$70 million.

Walsh provided a figure for the cost of Bolt Lake, which he stated is a 1,200 AF reservoir that cost \$75 million to build.

“You’re delusional here my friend,” he stated, adding that a 2024 study by SJWCD consultant Rick Ehat was a “joke” that the district had to have “redone within months.”

Proffitt replied that he was not familiar with Bolt Lake and that Harris provided the estimate for the Running Iron Ranch reservoir cost.

“As long as you continue to lie to the public, I will dispute each and every lie,” Proffitt added.

Walsh suggested that Proffitt familiarize himself with Bolt Lake and not rely on a “Steve Harris napkin guess,” adding that Proffitt has become a “disgrace.”

Proffitt concluded the dispute by replying that Walsh clearly had no valid argument or salient facts, so “you resort to personal slurs and disgusting insults. No wonder you filed suit. It’s just a furtherance of gutter politics.”

In the meeting, Fricke answered questions from the audience, including explaining that the reservoir would not be open for public use and that he would likely not use the reservoir for watering livestock.

He added that he is opposed to public access on the ranch due to the complexities it would introduce and due to the fact that there are a variety of other recreation destinations in the area.

He added that the SJWCD could purchase the ranch with other partners and build a lake if it wanted to have a public park.

Fricke also explained in response to

audience questions that ranches are not profitable and that he would not profit from it.

He commented that the management agreement and the attached easement would hold him accountable to the public.

He added that, in his understanding, there is no gravel left on the property and that he would not restart gravel mining except for the potential purpose of sourcing gravel for roads on the property.

SJWCD board member Charles Riehm noted that the county has experienced 500 percent population growth


over the last 50 years and could experience significant growth in the future, even if it presently seems unlikely.

He added that it is difficult to know what is coming based on past information and that there may be new demands for surface water in the community as groundwater becomes harder to access.

He also noted that PAWSD does not have water rights for significant expansion of its service and that the reservoir might offer a way to access expanded water rights.

Riehm continued his comments by


■ **See PAWSD A8**



Archuleta County Sheriff's Office


MISSING PERSON

John Joseph Fowler



LAST SEEN:
TUESDAY MAY 20TH 2025

HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 150lbs
EYES: BLUE
HAIR: BROWN




Last seen on Tuesday 5/20 at approximately 0830 in the area of Lazy Ct and Crooked Rd heading south / east in the direction of Pitt Ct.


This is a photo of the last sighting of John, wearing a mustard colored, long sleeve shirt and denim jeans. He was barefoot. John may have facial injuries from a fall.

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Photos courtesy Marie Merrill-Exton

Sage Merrill-Exton recently led and completed a mural project at Pagosa Springs Elementary School as part of her Silver Award project.

Girl Scout completes Silver Award project

By Marie Merrill-Exton
Special to The SUN

Sage Merrill-Exton, a sixth-grader at Pagosa Springs Middle School during the 2024-2025 school year, designed and painted a mural at Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES) as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project, as well as a class project focused on her recognition as a leader in and out of the classroom.

The project also provided an opportunity for other students to be part of a collaborative approach to community-based art and develop a sense of ownership in their school.

The mural, which depicts a nature scene, was painted on a

wall inside PSES for elementary students to observe while traveling between classes. Near the bottom of the painting a quote by Juliette Gordon Low is inscribed: "The work of today is the history of tomorrow and we are its makers."

Merrill-Exton began the process by meeting with PSES administrative staff to seek approval for the installation.

Students attending the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) after-school program helped bring this idea to life through brainstorming and participation in the actual painting of the mural.

Rebecca Tenpenny, executive director at PCI, was instrumental in supporting Merrill-Exton through the process.

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Illustration courtesy Pagosa Springs Main Street

Participate in the Cone Zone Challenge for a chance to win a \$100 gift card.

Business Spotlight: Pagosa Springs Main Street Program launches Cone Zone Challenge

By Allison Brown
O'Rourke Media Group

As construction begins in downtown Pagosa Springs, the Pagosa Springs Main Street Program has launched the Cone Zone Challenge to encourage community support for local businesses during the disruption.

"We've made it easy (and fun) to support your favorite downtown shops, restaurants and services while the cones are out," said Main Street Coordinator Kathleen McFadden.

McFadden said the campaign is focused on encouraging foot traffic and supporting downtown resilience throughout the Highway 160 reconstruction project.

There are two ways to participate. Through "Shop, Dine and Win,"

community members can earn entries into a monthly drawing by spending \$100 or more at downtown businesses. Receipts can be submitted via an online form, with each \$100 spent equaling one entry. Three winners are drawn monthly at Cone Zone Update events, each receiving a \$100 gift card to a Cone Zone business.

There's also a commitment portion that offers a flexible alternative for those who want to show support through smaller or no-cost actions. These include leaving positive online reviews, buying gift cards, attending local events or simply spreading the word about Cone Zone businesses. Supporters can also sign a pledge and receive a Cone Zone badge to wear in solidarity.

Coney Z, a bright orange cone

mascot, represents the initiative and will appear in shops, events and on social media to promote downtown engagement.

The Cone Zone Challenge is part of the Pagosa Springs Main Street Program's ongoing mission to support downtown vitality.

Since becoming a Colorado Main Street community in 2023 and earning Main Street America accreditation in 2024, the program has focused on connecting people, preserving heritage and strengthening local businesses.

To learn more or to participate in the Cone Zone Challenge, visit PagosaMainStreet.org.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

Education

School district approves first reading of revised policies, one new policy

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its May 13 regular meeting, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BOE) approved the first reading of multiple policies. Human Resource Director and liaison to the BOE Heather Schultz explained that changes being presented included formatting revisions, recommended changes from the Colorado Association of School Board (CASB) and a new policy also recommended by CASB for adoption. The BOE approved the first reading of the policies with three separate motions: one approving the formatting changes, one approving revisions to existing policies and one approving a newly added policy. “The first is just for formatting,” Schultz said before presenting the policies undergoing formatting changes. Those policies include:

- KDB-R: Public’s right to know/freedom of information regulation.
- KDBA: Parent notification of employee criminal charges.
- KDDA-R: Press releases, conferences and interviews.
- KEC-E: Public concerns/complaints about instructional resources.
- KEF: Public concerns/complaints about teaching methods, activities or presentations.
- KHA/KHB: Public solicitations/advertising in schools.

The formatting changes were unanimously approved by the BOE. Schultz then explained the policies with recommended changes “contain updates made over the years

through CASB’s policy parameter and special policy updates that the district has not implemented.” The meeting’s agenda also states, “The CASB recommended changes to help ensure the District complies with State and Federal laws.” The revisions on existing policies were unanimously approved by the BOE. Those policies include:

- KB: Parent and family engagement.
- KBA: District Title I parent and family engagement.
- KBBA: Custodial and noncustodial parent rights and responsibilities.
- KBBA-R: Custodial and noncustodial parent rights and responsibilities, regulation.
- KCB: Public’s right to know/freedom of information,
- KDDA: Press releases, conferences and interviews.
- KDE: Crisis management.
- KE: Public concerns and complaints.
- KFA: Public conduct on district property.
- KLMA: Relations with military recruiters, postsecondary institutions and prospective employers.

Prior to voting on the matter, BOE president Bob Lynch asked if the board would be approving those revisions “strictly based on CASB’s suggestion,” noting the wording changes would bring the district’s policies up to date. BOE member Amanda Schick also asked if all of the included language in the policy revisions was coming directly from CASB. Schultz indicated that all of the revisions and language included

came directly from CASB. Schick also asked ASD Superintendent Rick Holt if there was anything specific the board should look at, noting the proposed revisions seemed “straight forward,” being about inclusivity. “Nothing stood out as more than just minor revisions,” Holt said, adding, “Nothing stood out that we want to draw the board’s attention to.” The BOE then considered the adoption of a new district policy, KE-R — Public concerns and complaints, regulation — which was approved with Schick abstaining. Schultz noted the new policy is also being recommended for adoption by CASB and is legally required for the district to have. “In accordance with this regulation’s accompanying policy, this regulation contains the procedures to follow when a member of the public files a formal complaint against the district,” the meeting agenda states. Lynch asked if the district did not have this policy before. Holt explained that the district had a circumstance last year in which a family brought a concern to the BOE and that the board followed the state’s procedure. He went on to explain that there is a policy from CASB that does the same thing. “We need something that’s appropriate for families,” he added. BOE member Butch Mackey commented that, according to the proposed policy, it allows a “long time” before a final decision is made. Holt explained that concerns and complaints will follow the “chain of

command,” starting with the person closest to the incident and using all steps to resolve the issue. Schick also commented on the amount of time the policy would allow before a final decision is made on a concern or complaint, noting it could be up to 40 or 50 days. Schick praised Holt’s efforts historically in responding to complaints and concerns, saying, “you have had a really great culture of response,” while also commenting that the timeline included in the policy does seem “incredibly long.” Holt explained that the timeline is meant to be a limit, meaning that is the longest amount of time it could go before a final decision is made. “There are times when things are hectic and busy and overwhelming, so having some cushion in how fast that response is,” Holt said. He explained that with things that are life-threatening or socially or emotionally damaging, “we turn ‘on’ a dime and address it as fast as humanly possible.” Holt also mentioned that the numbers could be adjusted by the board before approving the policy. The meeting’s agenda notes that the policies will return to board in June for a second reading and adoption. The BOE’s next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 10 in the Pagosa Springs Middle School library. The policies and revisions can be viewed in their entirety on the district’s website at <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/asdco/Board.nsf/Public>, under the May 13 meeting agenda. clayton@pagosasun.com

Build Pagosa announces additional scholarships

By Cindy Nobles
Build Pagosa

Build Pagosa, a grassroots non-profit focused on workforce training to meet the needs of our community and beyond, is proud to announce its 2025 Pagosa Springs High scholarship recipients. Sofia Talamante was awarded a \$5,000 Trista Nauman scholarship at Build Pagosa’s annual auction earlier in May. Talamante plans to attend UTI in Sacramento to complete a 72-week program in diesel, auto and electric vehicle mechanics. In addition, a \$1,000 Trista Nauman scholarship was awarded to Rylie Carr, who plans to attend California State at San Marcos to major in business and administration. For the first time, a career and technical education scholarship was established by Build Pagosa this year.

The selection committee determined the following students were all very deserving and, as such, they have been awarded \$1,000 scholarships each. Congratulations to these hard-working students: Peyton Jackson plans to attend San Juan College to become a welder. James Jolley will study at Colorado Mesa University to become a health care provider. Tristan Frame will attend Colorado State University to fulfill his dream with a fire science degree. Finally, Logan Beach plans to attend Wyo-tech trade school in Laramie, Wyo., to complete the diesel and advanced diesel programs. For more information regarding these scholarships or if you would like to contribute to these funds to support local students in the trade skills, please contact Build Pagosa at (970) 398-5815 or director@buildpagosa.org.



Photo courtesy Nancy Ford

WHIPS (Women Helping In Pagosa Springs) recently presented scholarships to Bella Gutierrez and to Ariel Slead. Contributions from the group have allowed WHIPS to help two young ladies yearly to continue their education.

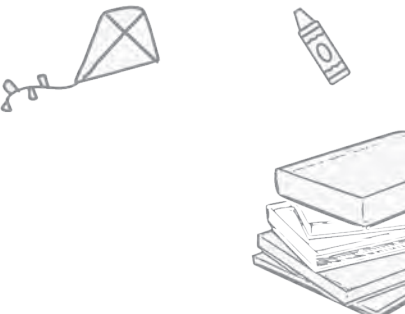
Sienna Rose awarded first place in CCCA Scholarship

By Ashley Springer
Archuleta County

Sienna Rose, a dedicated student with a passion for aviation and public service, has been awarded first place for the Southern Region in the prestigious Colorado County Clerks Association (CCCA) Scholarship. Rose expressed her deep gratitude and excitement upon receiving the award. “I feel extremely humbled and grateful to have received this scholarship because I know that the other applicants also worked hard,” said Rose. “I am really proud to represent Archuleta County and specifically Pagosa Springs. Growing up here has been a blessing.” When asked why she applied for the scholarship, Rose explained, “I applied for the CCCA Scholarship in order to continue in my dreams to pursue aviation. I love that the CCCA is all about supporting people in the field of public service. I was excited to find a local scholarship that matched my values.” Looking ahead, Rose shared her ambitious plans for the next year: “I plan to attend an aviation flight school in South Carolina this fall. There I will continue in my pursuits of aviation completing instrument, commercial, dual engine, CFI and all further training requirements to

become an airline pilot. I hope to fly airlines and later transition into MedEvac, Flight for Life, and medical purposes.” While eager to pursue her aviation dreams, Rose acknowledged what she will miss most about her hometown. “I will most miss seeing the mountains and living so close to the wilderness as well as my family and friends,” she stated.

In five years, Rose envisions herself as a college graduate with a bachelor’s degree in professional flight in aviation. “I will be teaching as a CFI and working towards my hours so I can fly regionally for airlines and eventually moving to major commercial airlines or MedEvac,” she shared, highlighting her dedication to both the aviation field and potential public service through medical transport.



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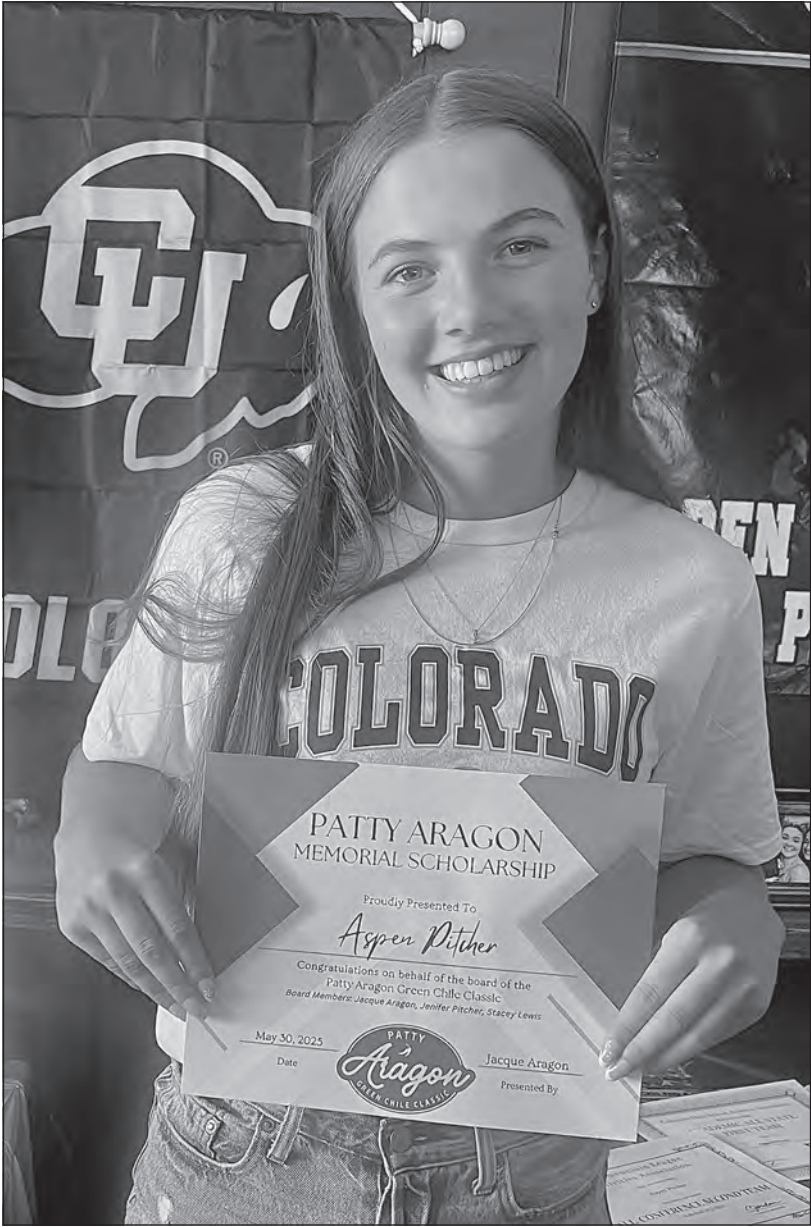
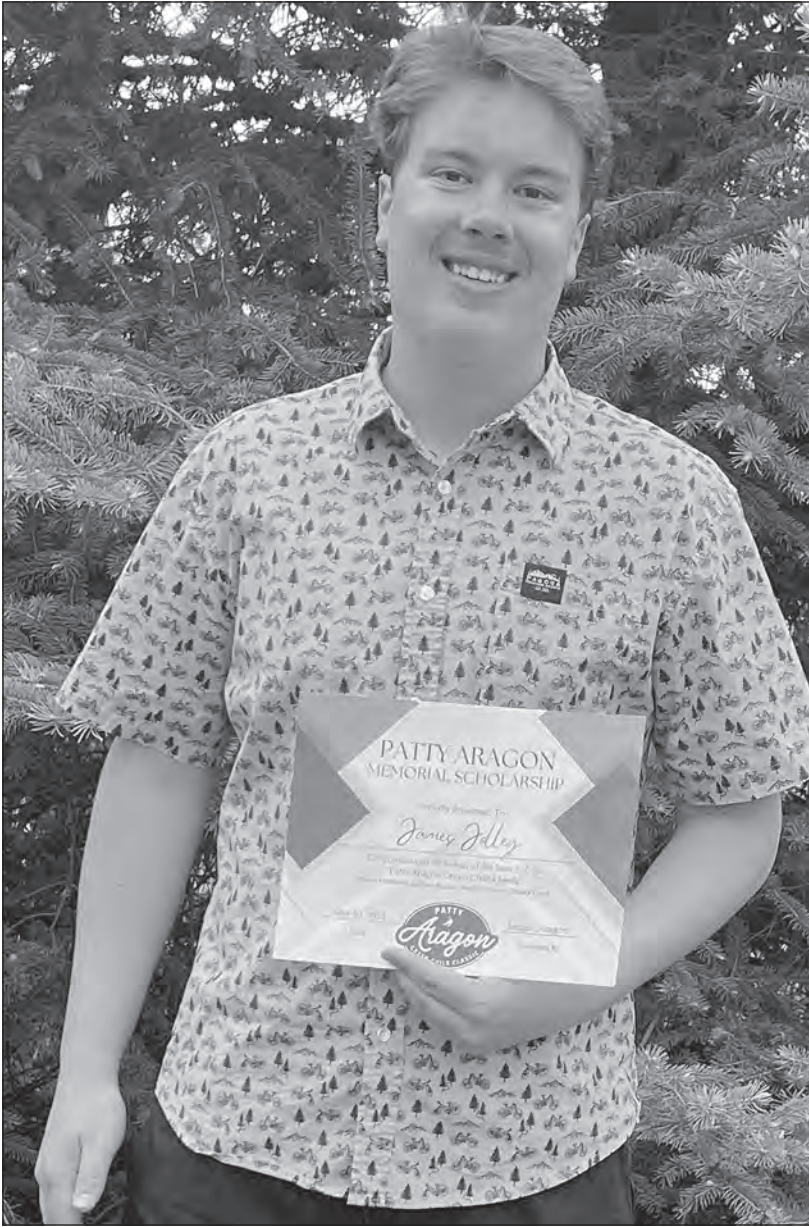
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Photos courtesy Jacque Aragon

Two graduating seniors recently received Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic Memorial scholarships this year: James Jolley and Aspen Pitcher. Both have been involved in volunteering and participating in the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic from a young age. Jolly, who was serving green chile at age 4 and is Aragon's grandson whom she never had the pleasure of meeting, will pursue his education at Colorado Mesa University. Pitcher will continue her education at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association announces fifth annual youth workshops

By Ana Murray

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is excited to announce its upcoming summer Youth Workshops, now in its fifth year.

The workshops, scheduled for June 10 and 24, and July 8 and 22, offer elementary-aged children the chance to explore the rich history and natural beauty of this iconic landmark.

Led by mostly retired school teachers, the Youth Workshops are designed to provide children with a unique, hands-on experience at the monument while fostering their creativity and appreciation for nature.

"We're thrilled to be celebrating the fifth year of our Youth Workshops," said Denise Fisk, CRIA volunteer. "The program continues to grow and provides an amazing opportunity for children to connect with nature,

history and the arts. We're proud to offer a hands-on educational experience that's led by such passionate and knowledgeable volunteers."

This year's workshops will feature a variety of engaging activities, such as rock wrapping, feather art, print-making, weaving in the round, creating a clay ocarina and learning how to make a nature journal.

The day kicks off with a "hike with a theme," allowing participants to learn about the natural and cultural significance of Chimney Rock while exploring its breathtaking landscapes. After lunch, children will immerse themselves in activities that tie into the theme of the day, ensuring both fun and education go hand in hand.

Parents have shared how much their children have enjoyed these workshops over the years.

One parent commented, "This was the fourth year my daughter has attended and she is still just as excited

as the first."

Another said, "My son looks forward to these fun learning workshops. I also enjoy a few minutes for myself. Thank you for all the knowledge, and I hope my son can be a part of this experience next year."

"She is always excited about the activities. The facilitators are warm and welcoming. The education provided has been great fuel for her mind and follows her interests," said one parent about their child's experience.

Another shared, "I love that this incorporates the outdoors, history, and geology. The volunteers are wonderful, and I am glad our son could be involved. Good value also."

The workshops are open to elementary-aged children, and parent volunteers are always welcome to join in the fun and learning.

CRIA encourages parents to register early. Call (970) 731-7133 or go to chimneyrockco.org for more

information and to secure a spot for your child. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity for your child to experience Chimney Rock National Monument in a way that's both fun and educational.

CRIA and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument.

CRIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer association and receives no funding from the U.S. government.

RECREATION NEWS

Registration open for youth soccer, basketball and fitness for fall, winter

By Amanda Gadomski

Town of Pagosa Springs

Calling all young athletes: Our youth sports programs for the second half of the year are now open for registration, and we've got some awesome ways to stay active, build skills and have a blast with friends.

Youth soccer: Pee Wee 3- to 4-year-olds, 5- to 6-year-olds, 7-8 coed, 9-12 girls and 9-12 boys — lace up those cleats and get ready to score. Our soccer league focuses on teamwork, fundamentals and fun.

Youth basketball: 7- to 9-year-olds, 10-12 girls and 10-12 boys — whether your kid's just learning to dribble or already sinking 3-pointers, our basketball program is a slam dunk.

Youth fitness: 7- to 12-year-olds and parents — build strength, speed and confidence with our family fitness program designed to support all-around athletic development.

New this year, we will have one jersey for all sports.

We're launching a brand-new jersey program to make life easier for families and more fun for kids. For

just \$20, you can purchase a high-quality jersey that can be used across all youth sports programs — no need to buy a new one for each season. Register for any sport and click "Yes" at checkout, and pick a size for a new jersey.

Register online at the Town of Pagosa Springs Park and Recreation website or call (970) 264-4151, ext. 524.

Capacity is limited in some leagues, so register early to ensure your child gets in on the fun, fitness and teamwork this season.

Archuleta County Democratic Club to meet June 16

By Lynn Frederick

Archuleta County Democratic Club

Bob Lynch, president of the Archuleta County school board, and Rick Holt, superintendent of schools, will speak to the Archuleta Democratic Club on Monday, June 16, at 11:30 a.m. at Coyote Moon restaurant.

The school district will be asking voters to decide on improvements

to the local school buildings. Lynch and Holt will present the alternatives to the club so that citizens can make an informed decision when asked for feedback and when it is time to vote on funding. Whether or not we have children in local schools, this is an issue we all need to take an interest in.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month, with a

speaker presenting at noon. The club gives local Democrats the opportunity to meet with other Democrats and to hear speakers from the community, to meet candidates for local and national offices, and to hear about topics of timely interest.

All are welcome to attend. Please plan to come early to order lunch. For more information, you may email lynnfredrick1@gmail.com.

County announces website migration

By Ashley Springer

Archuleta County

Archuleta County is in the process of migrating its official website — archuletacounty.org — to a new, in-house infrastructure with the URL archuletacounty.gov.

This significant transition is part of an ongoing effort to enhance the county's communications and goals toward digital accessibility per HB21-1110 (Colorado Laws For Persons With Disabilities).

June will be dedicated to addressing and resolving issues which may arise with the new website. The

county's Information Technology Department is working to ensure a smooth transition and adjust the website's functionality.

During the transition, information found on the .org website may differ from the .gov website; however,

corrections will be made prior to full launch on July 1.

Archuleta County appreciates the public's understanding and patience as this critical migration is completed. The objective is to provide a seamless and fully functional website for all users.

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Business

Summer has started, and so have the events

By Mary Jo Coulehan

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Graduation is barely over, and the community is in full swing with summer activities.

There will be the usual gearing up of live theater, including the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts and its great lineup of shows all throughout the summer, and the summer production of “Matilda” from Curtains Up Pagosa.

The 19th Hole Concert series returns for its June run on June 5, providing live music at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club every Thursday evening. Not only do you get to hear great live music, you will benefit four nonprofit agencies in Pagosa Springs.

The Town of Pagosa Springs is also bringing back its monthly ComFest live music concerts in Yamaguchi Park. These concerts are free and are held the third Friday of the month

from June to September.

At this time, we’re just going to highlight some of the June special events.

Of course, the Chamber wants to mention our annual car show, which will take place on June 13 and 14. The location will be new this year and will be at Yamaguchi Park. We are excited about the event being located at one of our great community parks. The cars will be parked along 5th Street and there will be plenty of parking at the high school. More about the event will be in next week’s SUN.

Also on June 14 will be the Spanish Fiesta celebration in the Town Park athletic field from noon to 9 p.m. Enjoy the richness of culture through food, music and activities.

However, jumping back to the beginning of June, we have Festival of the Arts at the Tennyson Sculpture Park and Gardens June 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet the fantastic artists and see their work, enjoy deli-

cious food and listen to live music.

Life at Chimney Rock festivities will be June 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission to the archaeological site is also included in this weekend’s celebration.

For family-friendly fun, Bingo is held the second and fourth Sundays of the month at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. The doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m.

The Pagosa Farmer’s Market returns on Saturdays, but in a new location this year. It will be located at the St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. It will start up June 14 and continue until October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Many of our local restaurants and bars are hosting live music all throughout the week every week. Enjoy dinner or a cocktail and relax to great local, regional and visiting musicians. There is lots of music happening here in Pagosa these days.

Lastly, the downtown merchants will be adding a Wednesday Wine Walk to the summer festivities on the fourth Wednesday of the month from June to September. For the first time ever, shoppers will be able to shop and sip down the 400 block of main street.

Tickets for the wine walk are only \$10. You can stop at various locations and get your beverage and then visit more than 20 stores. Now more than ever, our downtown merchants need your support. Gather the girlfriends, book club, visiting family or friends and head out to explore downtown. There are new retail stores and galleries. Proceeds from the event will go to the downtown business grant assistance fund.

This article could go on for another page listing all the great events and activities that are starting up for the summer. Gone are the days of nothing to do. Here are the days of trying to fit everything into your schedule.

Region 9 launches two free grant training resources

By Laura Lewis Marchino

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado has launched two grant training resources designed to strengthen the ability of local governments, nonprofits and community organizations to secure funding for high-impact projects.

The first training, “Funding Your Vision: A Grant Writing Guide for Change-Makers,” is a comprehensive, go-at-your-own-pace course that walks users through the full grant

process. From identifying the right funding opportunities and building fundable projects to writing effective proposals and submitting complete applications, this guide offers clear, practical tools for every step. Each module includes real-world examples, worksheets and checklists to help users prepare strong, competitive applications.

The second, “Numbers into Narrative: Where Data Meets Storytelling,” is a shorter, focused training that explores one of the most important elements of a successful application, connecting data with human-centered storytelling. Designed to help

users show measurable need while making their projects relatable, this companion training is ideal for those looking to make their proposals more persuasive and impactful.

“We know that rural communities often do more with less, and these trainings were built to support that kind of resilience and creativity,” said Tiffany Brodersen, community grant writer at Region 9. “We wanted to create resources that are flexible, easy to use and directly applicable to the kinds of funding opportunities our communities are pursuing. Whether you’re new to grant writing or looking to sharpen your approach,

these tools are meant to meet you where you are.”

Both trainings are available now, free of charge, and can be accessed through the Region 9 website at www.region9edd.org/grant-writing.

About Region 9

Region 9 works to promote and support economic development efforts throughout Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties. Region 9 provides planning support, technical assistance and strategic tools that help build stronger, more resilient communities across the region.

County seeking members for new Board of Review and Appeals

By Ashley Springer

Archuleta County

At a regular meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in February, Archuleta County officially established a new Board of Review and Appeals (BoRA) through the adoption of Resolution 2025-19.

This board will provide Archuleta County citizens with an administrative appeal process regarding decisions made by Building Safety Department staff.

The county is actively seeking qualified volunteers from the community to serve as members of this new board.

The establishment of the BoRA is permitted by Colorado Revised Statute 30-28-206, which grants the BoCC the authority to create such a board to address special exceptions to building codes, approve alternative construction methods and materials, decide on appeals of the building official’s decisions, and recommend

changes to adopted building codes.

Additionally, sections R112 and 113 of the adopted building codes require the jurisdiction to establish a board of appeals for hearing and deciding appeals related to the application and interpretation of various codes.

The BoRA will have several key responsibilities, including:

- Hearing and deciding appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the building official concerning the application and interpretation of the adopted and amended building codes.
- Granting special exceptions or modifications to the codes in appropriate cases, provided they do not compromise health, life, fire safety or structural requirements.
- Reviewing and formulating suggested amendments to the adopted and amended codes for the consideration of the BoCC.

The BoRA will consist of five members. The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors

may appoint one full voting member.

The county is specifically seeking four volunteer members to be appointed by the BoCC.

These individuals must have experience in construction, structural or civil engineering, or building design.

The terms for these appointees will be staggered, with term expirations each year. Once established, members of BoRA will elect officers, draft bylaws and operating rules, which will then be submitted to the BoCC for ratification.

Tony Medved, the chief building official, will serve as an ex-officio,

non-voting member.

“Leveraging community members with commercial and residential construction knowledge and experience will result in the most appropriate regulations for our community,” stated Archuleta County Development Director Pam Flowers.

The county encourages qualified and interested citizens to apply to be part of this vital new board.

Individuals interested in volunteering for the BoRA are encouraged to contact Medved at tmедved@archuletacounty.gov or by calling (970) 264-8384.

CDOT to hold telephone town hall on statewide transportation plan on June 5

Colorado Department of Transportation

The Colorado Department of Transportation will be hosting telephone town halls across the state.

Interested citizens may call in to their specific regions associated with transportation districts of the members of the Colorado Transportation Commission appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Colorado Senate.

The telephone town halls will allow Coloradans to join by telephone

or online to share their input. All telephone town halls will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.

The June 5 telephone town hall will include Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Miguel and San Juan counties.

To participate in the town hall in your area, please sign up at www.codot.gov/programs/your-transportationpriorities/participate.

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Public Notices



COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-002

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On March 5, 2025, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s): Diana Ramsey
Original Beneficiary(ies): Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: Rio Grande Savings and Loan Association
Date of Deed of Trust: July 31, 2006
County of Recording: Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: July 31, 2006
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.): 20607279
Original Principal Amount: \$34,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$10,980.02
Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
LOT 47, PAGOSA VISTA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED SEPTEMBER13, 1971, AS RECEPTION NO. 74884 IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO.
MORTGAGORS CONSENT AND AGREE THAT THE MOBILE HOME DESCRIBED AS A1981 TIT 14 X 60 VIN #221065587 IS, OR SHALL BE AFFIXED FORTHWITH TO THE REAL ESTATE ABOVE DESCRIBED, AND THAT THE SAID MOBILE HOME SHALL BECOME AND DOES HEREBY BECOME AN IMPROVEMENT UPON AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE REAL ESTATE AND SHALL NOT BE SEVERED FROM SAID REAL ESTATE WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE RIO GRANDE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION FIRST HAD AND OBTAINED, OR UNTIL THE NOTE AND ALL INDEBTEDNESS DESCRIBED HEREIN IS PAID AND THIS DEED OF TRUST RELEASED. THE SAID ASSOCIATION RESERVES AND IS GRANTED THE RIGHT, IN EVENT OF FORECLOSURE OF THIS DEED OF TRUST, TO SEVER SAID PROPERTY FROM THE REALTY, AND DISPOSE OF EACH, EITHER JOINTLY OR SEPARATELY, AS THE ASSOCIATION DEEMS NECESSARY TO PROTECT ITS INTEREST.

Purported common address: 299 Canyon Cir, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.
NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 07/03/2025, at the Archuleta County Treasurer’s Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)’ heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys’ fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication 5/8/2025
Last Publication 6/5/2025
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 03/05/2025
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Shay L. Danner #36736
Hall Estill Attorneys At Law 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8865 (405) 283-4277
Attorney File # Diana Ramsey
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
Published May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (263333)

DISTRICT COURT
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Hazard Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: 970-264-8160
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Daniel L Fiedler #47916
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-507-8528

Case Number 2025CV030026
Plaintiff: TRACI SAMMETH
v.
Defendants: The Testate and Intestate Successors of HAROLD HOPPE, deceased, and All Persons Claiming by, through or under such Decedent, and All Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest In The Subject Matter Of This Action.
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF: TRACI SAMMETH
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint to Quiet Title Pursuant to Rule 105 filed with the Archuleta County District Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an Answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the last day of publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
If you fail to file your Answer or other response to the Complaint in writing with 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be entered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado more particular described as follows:
THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (SE1/4SE1/4SE1/4NE1/4) OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST, N.M.P.M., ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO.
Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of May, 2025.
/s/ Daniel L. Fiedler
Daniel L. Fiedler
First publication: June 5, 2025
Last publication: July 3, 2025
Published June 5, 12, 19, 26 and July 3, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (265870)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON JULY 1, 2025
Craig Risk has applied for RIO BLANCO SUBDIVISION A AMENDMENT 2025-01 FINAL PLAT REVIEW, consolidating Lots 15,16,19,10, and 21X, Vacating a portion of Wilsahre Court ROW, and a Minor Lot Line Adjustment, Creating Lot 15XZ and Lot 21XZ in Sec: 28 Twn: 34 Rng: 1W, at 92 Wilsahre Court, Pagosa

Springs, CO (PLN-25-049). The property is zoned RESIDENTIAL (R). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to PLANNING@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published June 5 and 19, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (266106)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON JULY 1, 2025

Lucia Gonzales has applied for GONZALES MINOR SUBDIVISION AMENDMENT 2025-01 FINAL PLAT REVIEW, creating Lot 1-B in Sec: 15 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W, at 335 Rob Snow Road, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN-25-047). The property is zoned RESIDENTIAL (R). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to PLANNING@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published June 5 and 19, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (266104)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON JULY 1, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 30-28-116 that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider revising the County Land Use Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department 970-264-1390 and on the County Website. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner’s Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing.
Published June 5 and 19, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (266109)

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County denies setback variance, counter to staff recommendation

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board County Commissioners (BoCC), acting as the Board of Adjustments (BOA), voted unanimously to deny a general variance request that would have allowed a front and side setback encroachment of a proposed detached garage of 15 feet.

The request was made by Valarie Groves, whose property is approximately one acre and located in the Rio Blanco Valley subdivision, according to the meeting's agenda.

Planning Manager Owen O'Dell presented the matter, explaining the request was brought to the BOA after the adjacent neighbor denied consent with the setback encroachment in the administrative variance process.

O'Dell also explained the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LUR) provide variances from the "strict application" of the regulations.

Documents attached to the meeting's agenda prepared by O'Dell go on to state that the BOA may grant a variance if "the strict application of the Regulations would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties, or exceptional and undue hardship."

It adds that variances are "essentially, a grant of authority for a property owner to use a property in a manner that deviates" from the LUR.

O'Dell went on to explain that the Groves property is zoned as Agricultural Estates (AE), which has a standard front and side setback of 25 feet. With the variance request being for 15 feet, that would leave 10 feet between the proposed detached garage structure and the property line.

O'Dell explains in his report that the BOA may grant a variance if all the standards found in LUR Section 2.4.3.2(1) are met, which includes five standards. Those standards include things such as peculiar or exceptional practical difficulties, the circumstances creating the hardship being no fault of the appellant, property with exceptional topography, that it does not diminish the value or enjoyment of adjacent properties, and will not be directly contrary to the intent and purpose of the LUR or community plan.

O'Dell's report indicates that county staff believes each standard was met in order to grant a variance and includes a recommended motion of approval for the variance.

In reference to the first standard that the strict application of the LUR will cause exceptional practical difficulties, O'Dell explains in his report that staff "recommends the BOA consider the mismatch between the platted subdivision parcel sizes of Rio Blanco Valley subdivision and the expectations of the Agricultural Estate (AE) zoning district as an 'exceptional practical difficulty.'"

The report also explains that the subdivision was originally platted in 1967 with parcels ranging from one to three acres in size, though the parcels were designated as AE in 2006 when the county first adopted property zoning, with that zoning district hav-

ing a lot size of five to 35 acres.

The report goes on to explain of the 25-foot setback for AE-zoned properties, "When, as in this case, that setback is applied to a parcel much smaller than the intended minimum size of five to thirty-five (5-35) acres, the result is to significantly and unnecessarily reduce the usable area of the parcel. Specifically in this case, the twenty-five-foot setback consumes approximately forty-one (41%) percent of the parcel."

In regard to the standard of the property having exceptional topography, O'Dell's report explains, "This property does possess exceptional topography due to the FEMA Floodplain boundary."

The report goes on to explain that the appellant is attempting to build outside of the floodplain for more "security for their structure."

Commissioner Warren Brown was the first to ask questions about the variance request, asking O'Dell if he, or others, have considered the question of if the project could be done without granting the variance request.

Brown asked if the variance is "critical and necessary" to the development "or if it just makes it easier," asking for clarification on if the project can be done without the variance.

"I think it's certainly possible," O'Dell said, explaining that he tells people they can build in "any area of the county, whether that's in the floodplain or along extreme slopes."

O'Dell acknowledged that "obviously that's gonna add more cost and difficulty to the development," also noting that the owner moving the building outside the floodplain is a "reasonable request" for the variance.

In response to a question from Commissioner John Ranson, O'Dell explained the floodplain study was last done in 2009 and, according to the county's regulations, "we have to abide by what the flood study is currently accepted by the Board of County Commissioners."

He indicated that a new floodplain study is currently being done on the lower Blanco River.

"So, I imagine these boundaries may fluctuate a little bit," he added.

Ranson also inquired as to when the property was last purchased, which O'Dell indicated was 2023, by the Groves family.

"And were they aware of the setbacks at that time?" Ranson asked.

"I imagine they were, yes," O'Dell replied.

Planning Director Pamela Flowers added, "They were also aware that they could apply for a variance for such."

Commissioner Veronica Medina then opened the matter for public comment in, with a total of five comments made, all opposing the variance request.

One commenter who stated they live "directly across the river" from the Groves' property expressed their opposition for the variance, saying, "I'm very uncomfortable with the proposed variance."

He explained that since the river restoration project was completed and the river "was narrowed," he has watched the river channel move

and has lost a "substantial amount of land, as has this property with the proposed variance," noting this is "one of several reasons" the county has a 25-foot setback requirement for buildings.

He also expressed concerns with the survey map representing the property to be inaccurate, noting the river surrounds the property on two sides or more, explaining that every year natural erosion occurs, "cutting into this property."

He added that "a 15-foot setback will eventually be in the river."

He also mentioned that the community plan discourages lots less than five acres and claimed that the developer of the property in question is planning to build and operate a short-term rental (STR).

"It's not a residence, but rather a commercial project," he added.

The commenter went on to state that the history and community plan of the Lower Blanco is why houses are currently "well separated," going on to claim that "everyone in the Lower Blanco right now is watching the results of this decision, and there's nothing particularly special about the property," claiming that if the variance is given, a chain reaction might occur.

The next commenter explained she is the owner of the lot "right next door" to the Groves' property and opposed the variance request, explaining that it would diminish her property's value.

She explained that she has an organic farm with a greenhouse grow dome, and that a garage built in the proposed location would affect her ability to grow food.

"So, it's very much affecting me to have that garage there," she said, explaining that she hopes the plans could be changed to build the garage elsewhere.

She also explained that in 2009, FEMA changed the floodplain and the previous owner of the property went to the BOA for a variance at that time, which was denied.

"The current applicant knows about all of this," she added. "They knew when they bought it that there was a problem with this property."

Ranson then asked the current appellant if they were aware of the 2009 decision.

The Groves indicated they were not aware of the decision and the previous owner had plans to build on the property, but chose not to do so because "his wife wasn't interested."

Another commenter explained that he is an experienced home builder and that his family has owned lots in the area since the 1960s.

He expressed concerns with getting a septic system permitted on the property.

Interim county attorney Lance Ingalls interjected, reminding the BOA of what its task is in determining if the variance should be approved.

"I thought I should take a minute to make sure the commissioners fully understand the task in front of you, and I base this on a question I was asked before this meeting started," he said.

Ingalls explained that the task "is not at all to determine if you like this

application, or you don't like the application, but, rather you apply the application to approval criteria and determine if those criteria have been met."

He explained the approval criteria was presented by staff "and that is your road map for evaluating this application," explaining that if the commissioners find all of those approval criteria are met, "whether or not you like, you have duty to make those findings and approve the application. On other hand, if you find that one or more of the approval criteria are not met, you have the duty to deny this application."

Ingalls encouraged the commissioners to include the approval criteria in their conversation.

He then explained that one of the commissioners asked prior to the meeting if they could ask the question of when the applicant purchased the property, stating "it could be relevant" to one of the approval criteria, potentially more.

"But just please focus on your criteria, because that is what you have adopted and that is what controls this application," Ingalls said, also suggesting the public tailor its comments to the approval criteria, noting that is what the board is bound by. "That is where your responsibility lies and if you consider those then the result will be defensible no matter which way you go."

Public comment resumed with another man opposing the variance request, raising more concerns about getting a proper septic system installed on the property.

The last public comment heard on the matter was from another individual with property in the area who stated, "I am totally opposed to the granting of this variance," explaining that it seems to be an encroachment on nearby properties.

Medina then opened the floor for the applicants to make a statement.

Mark Groves, one of the applicants, explained that they have a permit for a septic system to be installed, noting they have not decided if the building would be a long-term or mid-term rental.

"We do not have another short-term rental," he said, noting they have "pulled" that request, adding that

■ See Variance B7

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PSMC is proud to announce that Sierra Sosa, occupational therapist, is joining the PSMC Wellness Team and is now accepting appointments.





SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Graduation 2025

The class of 2025 is celebrated at a pair of graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 31. The Pagosa Springs High School commencement was held at Golden Peaks Stadium, while San Juan Mountain School honored its graduates in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.



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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney
The Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors, playground committee members, staff, parents and students gather on Thursday, May 29, for a groundbreaking ceremony of the school’s new playground project, expected to be completed in August. The playground will be open to the public outside of school hours, connecting to a nearby trail uptown.

Commissioners discuss fair, supporting Arboles

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, May 27, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) held a regular work session in Arboles at the TARA Community Center.

All but one item on the work session agenda was specifically tailored to the Arboles community.

Topics the BoCC discussed included the Arboles ranch brands, a Fourth of July parade and community support from the county.

“This meeting is going to be about Arboles business,” Commissioner Veronica Medina said, explaining the BoCC strives to hold at least one meeting a year in Arboles.

Fair Coordinator Tonya Steadmon explained the fair board is doing a “mail out” for ranch brands in the county to be part of the Archuleta County Fair book and on the fair’s website, as well as for a permanent display.

Steadmon encouraged anyone who is interested in having their ranch brand included in the county fair to contact the fair board.

She also mentioned the county fair board currently has eight open positions.

“We desperately are still needing volunteers,” Steadmon said, explaining volunteers are needed to help put on the event, scheduled for July 31 through Aug. 3

“We want all of our communities to be a part of it,” she added.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked what kind of time commit-

ment is needed to join the fair board, with Steadmon explaining the board meets once a month, except for July, when it meets weekly.

She noted that some meetings can be attended online.

“We’re pretty flexible on that; we just need help.”

She also noted that fair board members are asked to be at the county fair “as much as possible.”

Supporting Arboles

“It’s always good to come down here,” Brown said, explaining that he and other commissioners have spoken before about the importance of Arboles to Archuleta County.

“Arboles is an important place in our county,” he added, going on to mention, “Historically, I think Arboles has gotten the last of everything, if they get anything.”

Brown also noted that over the past four to six years there has been a “pretty concerted effort” from the county to increase support in Arboles, specifically noting funding increases to the TARA Community Center.

“I know we’ve increased some of our funding,” Brown said, adding, “Money’s not always the answer, but it certainly doesn’t hurt.”

Brown explained that he wanted to hear from community members about what else the county can do to support the Arboles community.

One comment from a member of the public expressed that Eagle Nest could be graded, and that a neighborhood watch program or having more law enforcement presence could be

helpful.

Brown then moved on to the topic of Arboles’ Fourth of July parade, asking the public what the county could help with.

“I always love the Fourth of July parade here,” Brown said, mentioning there is always “such great community participation.”

Brown noted that the Pagosa Springs’ Fourth of July parade will not be happening this year and that the Arboles parade may get more attendees than usual.

“You may get a lot more attendees than you would historically get here,” he said.

“Or want,” Medina interjected.

Brown explained that he wanted to see what members of the Arboles community might need help with in regard to the parade.

“I think that it would certainly be nice to see what needs and requests might come towards us,” he added.

Road and Bridge Manager Eric McRae also provided a brief update on work that has been done in Arboles, noting that “mag chloride is done for the season.”

He explained that this is the second year the Road and Bridge Department has started in Arboles with its magnesium chloride application on roads and that the county will likely continue to do that in future years as he’s been pleased with the overall results.

“The roads are in great condition,” McRae said in reference to arterial roads in Arboles.

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Variance

■ Continued from B5

some of the pieces of information shared are not “fully accurate.”

He explained they are looking to develop their property and, “we’re not looking to do anything that would in any way detriment anyone.”

Brown asked the applicants if the request is because they would not be able to continue with their proposed plans “on the lot as it is right now, or ... does this make it easier?”

“This gets us out of the floodplain,” Valarie Groves said, explaining that by moving the garage to the proposed area, the house would be pulled out of the floodplain, keeping building costs down while making it easier to get insurance.

Brown restated that the “intent” of his question was if this request is a convenience or a necessity.

“That’s the point that I’m trying to get answered, just to be very clear and upfront with you,” Brown said.

Mark Groves explained that, “technically, yes” they could build without the variance being granted, with higher costs and more risks associated.

Ranson explained that he was part of the BoCC that made a decision on the property in 2009, asking Ingalls if that is potentially a conflict of interest.

“That’s not a conflict of interest ... as that term is defined in law,” Ingalls said, explaining that a conflict of interest refers to having a personal financial stake in the matter.

He went on to explain that there is no conflict of interest if a commissioner has heard the matter in a similar situation in the past, so long as they can make a decision based on what was provided during the current hearing.

“If your past decision has resulted in your predetermination and you are unable to change your mind, despite the facts that are submitted today,

then you might have an issue, but it’s not a conflict of interest,” he said, explaining that would be a different due process issue.

Ingalls added that there is “no legal impediment” for Ranson to be part of the decision if he can make a decision based on the record of the May 20 meeting.

“Obviously I didn’t predetermine,” Ranson said, explaining he did not realize he had been involved in a decision on this property until it was stated during the May 20 meeting.

Medina then opened the floor for a motion, in which Brown referenced the Colorado Revised Statute 30-28-118, noting that based on his interpretation, every one of the approval criteria were met except for one.

Brown then noted that O’Dell and the applicants stated the project can be done without the approval of the variance, and moved not to approve the variance request.

Before seconding the motion, Ranson stated, “I do think I can make a fair decision based on one of these criteria,” noting he believes this could diminish the value of nearby properties.

He added, “I think that it sets a precedent that would not be a good precedent for the neighborhood.”

Medina commented, “While I agree with the commissioners’ statements, from what I’m hearing from the county attorney, it sounds like all the conditions have been met and our job is to base our decision on the conditions.”

Medina reiterated that she agrees with her fellow commissioners, “but just from what the attorney said, it sounds like we’ve met all the conditions and that should be approved as such.”

Ingalls explained that he is not telling the commissioners if the ap-

proval criteria are met or not, but that if the commissioners find that all the criteria have been met, then the board has the burden to approve the application.

Brown explained that his interpretations of the criteria are based on “what I believe or whether I like or don’t like or anything extenuating,” commenting that he appreciates O’Dell’s view on the matter, “but it seems to me that this particular requirement ... what I heard in testimony was that this was as much a matter of convenience and cost with trying to avoid some risk, not necessarily exceptional and undue hardship.”

Brown noted that is where he is “questioning” if all of the criteria have been met.

Flowers provided a comment that the “staff’s feelings on this matter” is that the definition of exceptional “simply means unusual.”

She mentioned that this property, compared to all other properties that have been brought forward to the BOA for a variance, “has more intrusion by floodplaining than any that I have brought forward.”

Flowers added, “We do believe that this mismatch between the size of the setback is fairly important and is exceptional for all the properties that are in this zoning district, ... so that is why we’ve determined that it is exceptional for them.”

Brown’s motion to deny the variance request was then unanimously approved.

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Life at Chimney Rock Festival

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8 • Chimney Rock National Monument



Photo courtesy Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

June 5, 2025

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association offers invite to annual Life at Chimney Rock Festival

By Ana Murray
Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is excited to announce its annual Life at Chimney Rock Festival, a two-day event celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Ancient Pueblos.

The festival will take place on Saturday, June 7, and Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Chimney Rock National Monument.

Once again, thanks to a special announcement from the U.S. Forest Service, the festival will be fee-free, allowing visitors to experience this vibrant event without an entrance fee.

The Life at Chimney Rock Festival offers a unique opportunity for families and history enthusiasts to explore the fascinating skills and traditions of the ancients.

Attendees will enjoy interactive demonstrations led by CRIA volunteers, featuring hands-on activities such as pounding yucca, making coil pottery, creating rock art, weaving, corn grinding and learning how to throw a spear

using an atlatl. In addition, guests will have the chance to learn about astronomy, flint knapping and dendrochronology, and sample traditional foods like Anasazi beans. A highlight of the festival will be the opportunity to observe a peregrine falcon up close.

The cultural celebration continues with Native American dance performances. This year, the festival will feature two dance groups: the Fragua Family from Jemez Pueblo and the Roach Family Dancers from Gallup, N.M.

The Fragua Family will perform at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in the amphitheater. The Roach Family Dancers will perform at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday in the Visitor Plaza. For this location, visitors may provide their own camp chairs for seating.

Thanks to the Forest Service's generous waiver of the daily activity fee on June 7 and 8, visitors will have free access to the festival as well as all of the regular amenities at Chimney Rock National Monument, including self-guided tours

■ See Festival on next page

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open Mic with Eric Wade, 7 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 6 p.m.
Meltdown on Main: The Retro Cats, 5 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Taryn Jones, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Out on Work Release, 7 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Matthew McDaniel, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: The Status Crowes, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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Teeing up for the 10th Anniversary

19th Hole Concerts

at Pagosa Springs Golf Club

Thursdays in June • 5:30-7:30pm
\$10 ticket supports local nonprofits

June 5	Bob Hemenger Archuleta Seniors
June 12	Jackson Mountain Ramblers Project Sanctuary
June 19	Bo DePena Build Pagosa
June 26	Max Miller San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

Square Top Bar-B-Q & drinks for purchase
No outside food/drinks or pets allowed
Scan QR code for details and weather updates

19th Hole Concerts to begin Thursday

By Rose D. Chavez
Archuleta Seniors Inc.

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is sponsoring the first of four 19th Hole Concerts starting this Thursday, June 5.

The featured artist this week is Bob Hemenger, and the featured non-profit is Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI).

ASI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering an age-friendly and inclusive community while advancing community resilience.

It supports a range of programs and services that promote healthy, independent living for older adults. From serving hot meals at the Pagosa Senior Center and delivering meals to homes, to offering enrichment classes, social engagement opportunities, caregiving support and free medical monitoring systems, ASI empowers residents to thrive as they age.

Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase. No outside food, drink or pets will be allowed. Concertgoers should bring a camping chair or blanket — or both — to take full advantage of a summer evening in the Rocky Mountains.

The 19th Hole Concerts are held every Thursday in June from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

The cover charge is a \$10 donation that supports the four nonprofits selected through the month of June. Corporate sponsors cover event expenses, allowing all proceeds at the

end of the series to be pooled and distributed equally to the featured organizations. The collaborative approach to the concerts is vital to their success.

Schedule

June 5: ASI, Hemenger — Dixieland, jazz, blues, soul and pop.

June 12: Project Sanctuary, Jackson Mountain Ramblers — country, folk and pop.

June 19: Build Pagosa, Bo DePeña

— Americana and country.

June 26: San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, Max Miller — jazz.

The policy is to cancel in the event of lightning. If you want to check the status of a concert, check www.swcommunityfoundation.org for the most up-to-date information.

For more information about the 19th Hole concert series, contact the Community Foundation at (970) 375-5807, ext. 3.

ART CLASSES!

Would you like to teach a class?

The Pagosa Springs Art Council (PSAC) has a space for you. We are renting to those interested in teaching classes this summer.

For more information, call Vickie at TWO OLD CROWS GALLERY 970-264-0800



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Festival

■ continued from previous page

of the cultural sites, the nature trail and the Visitor Plaza. The monument will be open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. for those wishing to explore the site.

CRIA invites everyone to join us in celebrating the living history of the Ancestral Puebloans at this year's Life at Chimney Rock Festival. We hope to see you there for a fun and educational weekend for all ages.

For more information about the event, visit www.ChimneyRockCo.org or contact CRIA at (970) 731-7133.

About CRIA

CRIA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, interpreting and educating the public about the cultural and natural heritage of Chimney Rock National Monument.

Through events like the Life at Chimney Rock Festival, CRIA fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region's rich history.

CRIA and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument.

CRIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer association and receives no funding from the U.S. government.



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Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society slated to meet June 7

By Carolyn Paschal
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its next monthly meeting on Saturday, June 7, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. We will begin with a short business meeting where you can learn about the upcoming activities of our society and the topic of future programs. Follow-

ing the business meeting, we will hear a presentation by Anne Marie Kemp entitled "His Name Was John."

This presentation covers 54 years of genealogical research both in England and in the United States. Beginning in 1970, multiple trips to Somerset, England, included visiting relatives, gathering family information and exploring sites along the way. It was a joyous "labor of love." Far more than a travelogue, included here are research dilemmas, some solutions, and a few important

definitions and lessons learned. It covers five generations of Kemp's maternal grandfather's families.

Kemp was born in California and raised "around the world." She and her husband, Rex, finally made their way to Pagosa Springs in 2015. They are the parents of three children and grandparents of 10 — all of whom keep them busy with more travels.

Kemp has been the director of the Pagosa Springs Family Search Center for several years.

Visitors are encouraged to attend our meetings, so please join us this Saturday to learn more about this fascinating topic.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Paschal, carolyn-paschal@gmail.com, or visit our website, pagosapeakgs.org

Allison Community Church to hold dinner fundraiser

By Norma Conley
Allison Community Church

Please join us for an old-fashioned fried chicken dinner with real mashed potatoes and gravy.

Sides include green beans, salad and dinner rolls, topped off with cobbler and ice cream. Drinks will include iced tea, lemonade and coffee.

It will be a night to remember on

Saturday, June 7, at the Allison Community Church from 5 to 7 p.m.

In case you are new to our area, the address is 2724 County Road 329 in Allison, Colo.

This is our summer fundraiser, charging \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 6-12, and those under 6 are admitted free.

Bring your friends and neighbors for a great meal and evening to visit old and new friends.

Festival of the Arts set for June 7 and 8

Pagosa Springs Art Council

This weekend, June 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the annual Festival of the Arts will be held at the Tennyson Sculpture Garden (475 Lewis St).

The festival is sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Art Council (PSAC), a 501(c) organization whose mission is to promote the arts in Pagosa Springs.

"We're so excited about the entries for this year's event. We have some returning and many new exhibitors attending this weekend. They are all incredibly talented artists working in a wide array of mediums. Along with the live bands and the film festival ..., this will truly be a weekend celebrating art in Pagosa. Add in the food and

beverage stations, and we are looking at a fun event for the whole family to attend. There's plenty of parking at the Bell Tower lot, Two Old Crows Gallery lot and along Lewis Street Lewis, so please come down to support PSAC and support art in Pagosa," said Vickie Thompson, PSAC board member.

With thirty-five artist vendors presenting and demonstrating, this is a unique opportunity to meet the artists and learn more about their process.

There will also be food and beverages, and live music both days, and the PSAC will sponsor a free art film festival on June 8.

For more information, visit art-pagosa.com.

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Photos courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Samantha Luck stars as Queenie, a glamorous but emotionally volatile vaudeville performer, and Ellie O'Hara as Kate, her seductive and cunning party rival, in Thingamajig Theatre Company's upcoming production of Andrew Lipka's "The Wild Party," opening June 13 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Thingamajig Theatre Company's 'Something Rotten!' opens, 'The Wild Party' up next

Thingamajig Theatre Company

The 2025 Summer Season at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts kicked off in spectacular fashion last weekend with the opening of "Something Rotten!," a laugh-out-loud musical comedy that had audiences

roaring with delight.

The show continues for a second weekend of performances on Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7, at 7 p.m., and tickets are selling quickly.

Directed by Dennis Elkins, "Something Rotten!" is an outrageous mash-up of Broadway and

Shakespeare, following the desperate efforts of brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom to write the world's first musical — in the shadow of Renaissance superstar William Shakespeare.

With show-stopping numbers, irreverent humor, and jaw-dropping

■ See Theatre on next page

Attention Mutton Busters!!

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If you are interested in participating in the Red Ryder Roundup Mutton Busting event, please register by Wednesday, June 25. Applicants must be 6 years old or younger and a parent must attend the rodeo with you. There will be 10 riders per day on July 3, 4 and 5. Helmets, vests and ropes will be provided at no charge. There is no charge for this event and all participants will be drawn out of a box the weekend of June 28. If you are selected, you will be notified of the day you will ride by telephone or email.

www.pagosarodeo.com



Email application info to:
pennie.declark@bankofcolorado.com

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Child's age

Parent's name

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Gardening opportunities available this summer

Healthy Archuleta

Last week signified the end of the Seed to Supper Gardening Education classes, sponsored by Healthy

Archuleta.

This concludes the third year this program has been offered to help community members grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables.



Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

The third year of the Seed to Supper Garden Education Classes, sponsored by Healthy Archuleta, recently concluded, but the organization will continue to hold Gardening Conversations sessions throughout the summer.

Theatre

■ continued from previous page choreography, this Tony-nominated hit delivers nonstop entertainment and sets a high bar for the rest of the season.

Meanwhile, rehearsals are in full swing for the next production in the repertory lineup: Andrew Lipa’s “The Wild Party,” opening June 13 at 7 p.m.

Directed and choreographed by longtime Pagosa favorite Pia Wyatt, “The Wild Party” is a darkly dazzling musical set in the roaring 1920s. It follows vaudeville performers Queenie and Burrs as they throw a decadent, drug- and jealousy-fueled soirée that spirals out of control.

With a sultry jazz-infused score and a cast of morally ambiguous characters, “The Wild Party” explores the dangerous thrill of desire, fame and emotional recklessness all under one roof in one unforgettable night.

Rounding out the mainstage season is the delightful and wickedly funny “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder,” opening June 27 at 7 p.m.

This Tony-winning musical comedy follows the charming and ambitious Monty Navarro as he discovers he’s ninth in line to inherit a family

fortune and decides to eliminate the eight heirs ahead of him.

Also joining the lineup is “James and the Giant Peach Jr.,” a vibrant youth production performed by local Pagosa Springs students and directed by members of the professional acting company.

Based on the classic Roald Dahl story, this musical adventure follows young James as he journeys across the ocean in a giant peach alongside a band of friendly insect companions.

Performances will be held July 12 and 13 only, making this a limited-engagement treat for the whole family.

All productions are part of Thingamajig Theatre Company’s acclaimed summer repertory season, with performances running in rotating repertory through Aug. 30. The season features professional actors, directors, and designers from across the country, creating world-class theater right here in the mountains of Pagosa Springs.

Performances take place at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, located at 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and information, visit www.pagosacenter.org or call the box office at (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

The Seed to Supper garden education program, developed by Oregon State University and adapted to our region, in partnership with Healthy Archuleta, is dedicated to teaching about growing fresh food.

Healthy Archuleta supports local food production by holding yearly gardening classes, sponsoring and supporting local community gardens, and engaging our youth in the future of local food production.

This year’s program had about 20 participants.

One participant said, “It was amazing. They give you an entire manual that has so much information, and the best part is we get an expert grower who answers our questions and is totally versed in Pagosa and the local growing climate.”

Another participant gave praise to the same binder each participant receives when they sign up for the course, stating, “I’ve thoroughly read the binder because it’s very well laid out and there are many charts that are all related to our growing zone.”

The first three of five consecutive classes took place at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association’s (PLPOA’s) community garden beds.

■ See Gardening on next page

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Pagosa Pride celebration planned for June 21

By **Pauline Benetti**
Pagosa Pride

On June 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Town Park will be full of people of all ages having fun — some in costume, listening to music, playing games, eating, involved in art projects, having their photos taken, their faces painted, etc. — very actively celebrating Pride Day.

Celebration is very important; at the same time, let us not overlook the more serious side of this event. On June 3, the Pagosa Springs Town Council had on its agenda a serious document: proclaiming the month of

June as Pride Month. “Serious” because that proclamation speaks in terms of the “pursuit of equal rights” and “social justice,” of the town’s efforts to build “an inclusive, safe and affirming community,” of the “fundamental right” to self-expression “at school, in their families, in public or in their workplace.” This is the bedrock upon which this land of immigrants was established and continues to thrive. In fact, the Pagosa Pride mission statement underscores that serious intent: “to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, to advocate for equity and social justice, and to provide

space for people of all colors, gender identities and sexual orientations to feel safe, welcome & loved.” The event’s sponsors and information tables is indicative of the community support for that mission. The planning team extends an invitation to the community at large. Join the celebrants in Town Park. Enjoy the community and the fun. For more information, see the Pagosa Pride Facebook page or email pagosapride@gmail.com.

Gardening

■ continued from previous page

The Vista Lake Community Garden beds were established in 2022 with the help and sponsorship of Healthy Archuleta. The participants worked directly on the beds, learning about soil health, structure and amending the beds with composted materials provided by the PLPOA.

These vegetable beds, which are maintained and managed by the Vista Lake Community Garden Committee, a subcommittee of the PLPOA Board of Directors, will begin growing fresh produce over the next several months and then donate the harvested vegetables to local food pantries by way of Healthy Archuleta’s Food Distribution Center.

The remaining two weeks of the Seed to Supper classes were held downtown at the Pagosa Springs Community Garden and focused on transplanting, direct sowing, garden maintenance, pests, weeds, fertilizing, etc., and, finally, end-of-season harvesting, how to cook what has been grown, preserving the harvest and putting beds away for winter.

These classes have become an important part of Healthy Archuleta’s involvement with the Pagosa Springs community. Over the last few years, local expert gardeners and farmers

have offered their time and expertise as class instructors to help educate about growing in Archuleta County. Additionally, these classes have also been offered in English and Spanish to support our community in their gardening efforts.

Where to grow fresh foods this summer

If you’re looking to get gardening this summer, the Pagosa Springs Community Garden has beds available for you to grow your own fresh foods.

If you don’t know what you’re doing, that’s OK. Healthy Archuleta offers support with our bimonthly Gardening Conversations at Pagosa Springs Community Garden from 9 to 10 a.m. all summer: June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, and Sept. 13 and 27. We hope to see you there.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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2025 Artist Receptions



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— Schedule of Events —

JUN 7-8	10 am-5 pm Festival of Arts <i>Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Art Council</i>
JUN 12	Dennis Champlin <i>Acrylics, Mixed Media</i>
JUN 19	Dave LaMure Jr. <i>Sculpture, Bronze</i>
JUN 26	Wayne Justus <i>Oils</i>
JUL 3	Musetta Wollenweber <i>Fiber Art</i>
JUL 10	Tricia Bass <i>Oils & Michelene Berkey</i> <i>Jewelry</i>
JUL 17	Paint Off <i>(with gallery artists George Bodde, Kathleen Steventon & Michael Vittitow)</i>
JUL 24	Closed for Liberty Theatre Comedy Event William Lee Martin
JUL 31	Lise Neer <i>Pastels</i>
AUG 7	Cathy Ledeker <i>Fused Glass, Watercolors</i>
AUG 14	Buster Griggs <i>Oils</i>
AUG 21	Debra Ferrari <i>Acrylics, Mixed Media</i>
AUG 28	Kathleen Steventon <i>Oils, Palette Knife</i>



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Pagosa Springs Photography Club to learn about ‘The Decisive Moment’

By Andy Butler
Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The June meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will be held on Wednesday, June 11, at 6 p.m. We will meet at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. While the program will start at 6:30 p.m., feel free to arrive anytime after 6 p.m. to socialize. Photography club meetings are open to the public. Please use the side door near the parking lot to enter.

Our topic this month is “The Decisive Moment” in photography. We will discuss the meaning of this concept and how to capture it.

Photographers have the ability to record a fleeting moment in time. With the right light, good composition, an interesting subject and perfect timing, a photograph can be filled with unique emotion. The French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson is credited with originating the phrase “the decisive moment” to describe the process of photographing these situations.

For our June program, we will watch and discuss a video by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore offering ideas for practicing and achieving “decisive moment” photographs.

Done well, this includes understanding your subject so that you can pre-visualize not only the timing, but also the composition, needed to achieve your desired image.

Following the program, photography club members may show and discuss up to five images with the group in our monthly image share session.



Photo courtesy Andy Butler

A European roller makes a decisive leap into flight in Tanzania. At its June 11 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Photograp

Virtual Shutter Therapy

For June, the club’s Virtual Shutter Therapy topic will be “Spring Flowers.”

Our Pagosa Springs flowers are on display to attract pollinators and photographers. Vibrant colors and a variety of sizes from tiny to bold grace our hillsides.

Please take part by sharing up to three photos on the topic as comments to the post about this topic on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub>.

This topic is open for entries until July 6, and is open to all photographers. Like and comment on the works of others.

Club membership

If you are looking for ways to improve your photography, consider

joining the Pagosa Springs Photography Club.

The club welcomes anyone who enjoys capturing and appreciating great photographs. Our club meetings and outings provide valuable insights into composition, light and technique from experienced photographers. Regardless of the type of camera you use, we can help you take better photos.

Membership benefits include educational programs, image sharing and discussion, photo outings, and contests to foster improvement in photography.

The annual membership fee is just \$25. You can apply for membership on our website at <https://pagosaspingsphotoclub.org/about/> or at one of our meetings.

PCI’s Second Chance Prom Raises Over \$33,000 Thanks to Incredible Community Support!

Pagosa Community Initiative is thrilled to share that this year’s Second Chance Prom, held on **May 17th**, was a fantastic success!

With the help of our generous community, we raised over **\$33,000** to support PCI’s youth programs and family outreach services.

This amazing achievement was only possible because of you—our sponsors, local businesses, volunteers, and guests—who made the night one to remember!

Platinum Sponsors: A heartfelt thank you to **Sherpa Realty** and **Mike & Jennifer Candelaria** for your leading support.

Gold Sponsors: Much appreciation to **Iron Creek Contracting** and **Kip’s Grill** for your vital contribution to this year’s event.

Special Thanks To: Alley House,

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ful Stone Artworks, Subway, Temp-ist Jade, The Forge Martial Arts, The Springs Resort and Spa, Thingamajig, Trusted Rate, Inc., Two Chicks and a Hippie, Uncle’s Bar and Social Club, Vanilla Pine Cake Design, Wednesday Bouquet, Wolf Creek Ski Resort, and Wyndham Resorts.

To our volunteers—your time and effort made everything run smoothly.

To our guests—your excitement and spirit brought the night to life and created memories we’ll treasure.

We can’t wait to keep building momentum with your continued support.

Visit www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org to learn more or to make a donation.

Thank you, Pagosa!”

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Taryn Jones

Saturday, June 7th
Maxwell Miller

Tuesday, June 10th
Dustin Burley

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(50% off select wines)

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Nicole Pitcher



Callie Skinner



Cindi Galabota

Introducing the lady stars of Dancing with the Pagosa Stars

By Cory Henderson
Seeds of Learning

This year's six stars are preparing for the eighth and final dance competition to support Seeds of Learning.

These stars have been matched with a dance coach who will lead them through the process in their effort to win the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy.

Let's get to know these ladies who will be competing for your votes this year.

Nicole Pitcher

"I'm deeply passionate about nurturing curiosity and supporting the teachers who help children discover their interests. Planting that is one of the most valuable gifts we can offer the next generation. As a proud parent of a little 'Ladybug,' I see every day how the team at Seeds opens doors for our daughter — doors to learning, wonder and growth.

"My own seeds have been sown far and wide. I've worked in snow business and show business, and dabbled as a real estate hustler, energy enthusiast, and urban farmer. And that's just since I've been in Pagosa. Each path has taught me something different, but none more than motherhood.

"There's a special kind of comfort that comes from knowing your child is with people who treasure and inspire them. It eases the heart. That's why I agreed to take part in Dancing with the Stars — as a way to give back to the incredible teachers and staff who go above and beyond every day to make our daughter's experience so exceptional."

Callie Skinner

Born and raised in Arizona, I grew up enjoying all the outdoors could offer, spending most of my time on my father's ranch. I spent my time riding horses, camping, fishing and being very active in after school sports and activities. I met my husband, Luke, in junior high and shortly after high school we got married and had two beautiful children, Tripp and Daphnie.

"Since the day we moved to Pagosa Springs in 2022, I immediately dove into becoming a part of the community and opened my salon. Utilizing my education in cosmetology and experience as a ... makeup artist, I fully enjoy making everyone I encounter feel their very best inside and out. The

community here in Pagosa Springs is so special and vibrant, and I want to be a part of the continuing effort to enrich its spirit. The youth in our community are so exceptional, and I want to help in any way I can to provide every opportunity so they can embrace life and reach their fullest potential.

"I'm so excited and grateful for the opportunity to be able to aid Seeds of Learning in their effort to support the youth of this amazing place we all call home."

Cindi Galabota

"I am absolutely thrilled to be dancing in this year's Dancing with the Pagosa Stars to raise money for Seeds of Learning. My husband, Scott, and I have lived in Pagosa Springs for the past 20 years. Scott is a teacher at the Pagosa Springs Elementary School, and we feel very fortunate to be raising our two children here. Both of our children attended Seeds of Learning and were lucky enough to have Miss Ruby as their teacher. Our oldest graduated from Pagosa Springs High School in 2024 and is attending CSU in Fort Collins.

"Though many people do not know this about me, I was a competitive gymnast for 10 years. I am excited to combine my love for dance and gymnastics with my commitment to our community. I have spent the past 20 years bringing critical resources, services and programs to the people who make the fabric of our community so special. I have built homes with Habitat for Humanity, supported our businesses through the Pagosa Chamber of Commerce and raised funds for our small but incredible Ruby Sisson Library. I now get to continue to support the people of Archuleta County through Colorado State University Extension.

"Seeds of Learning is a cause close to my heart, as it provides es-

sential early childhood education to children in Pagosa Springs. They understand the importance of building a positive and strong foundation that will likely shape a child's entire life. They certainly helped shape my children.

"A vote for Cindi Galabota is a vote for the youngest members of our community. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our children and ensure a brighter future for Pagosa Springs."

Tickets and voting information

Want to see the stars perform in person on Aug. 16? Purchase a ticket online at www.dwtps.org starting June 16 at 9 a.m.

All tickets include votes for your favorite star, a buffet dinner served by our fine-dining restaurant, a sensational show which is sure to entertain and open dancing during voting.

But why wait until the event to vote when you can do it today? Visit vote.dwtps.org to vote for your favorite stars.

Each \$1 vote moves a star closer to winning the fabulous trophy and helping our Pagosa Springs children in the process. You can vote for as many stars as you would like and as many times as you want.

But, more importantly, all the proceeds go to sustaining Seeds of Learning's mission to provide high-quality and affordable early childhood education in Pagosa Springs.

Seeds of Learning is a nonprofit, standalone preschool serving approximately 58 preschoolers year-round, ages 2.5 to 5 years old. The critical proceeds from this event help offset the actual cost for providing quality early learning, making it possible for many of the children at Seeds to attend.

S.O.S. SAVING OUR SEWERS

The PSSGID (Town sewer) is facing a critical funding shortage.

Join members of Town Council and staff at upcoming public meetings to:

- Learn how our sewer system works and where it is troubled
- Understand who's responsible (PSSGID + PAWSD)
- Discover why we're falling short on funding
- Explore options to fix it:
 - 1% sales tax increase
 - Property tax increase
 - Monthly fee increase
- Ask questions. Share your thoughts.

Attend an upcoming meeting and be part of the solution!

Monday, June 16*
6-8 p.m.
Community Center
Dining Room
Appetizers provided

Tuesday, June 17
12-2 p.m.
Town Hall Council Chambers
Light lunch provided

Wednesday, June 18*
6-8 p.m.
Community Center
Dining Room
Appetizers provided

*Childcare (ages 5-12) available if requested by Friday, June 13 at noon. Call 970-264-4151 x0.



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Why some relationships face more risk than others

By Phoebe Schroeder
Rise Above Violence

When we talk about domestic violence, we often picture one story: a man hurting a woman. But abuse doesn't always look like that. And when we limit our definition, we leave too many survivors out of the conversation.

This month, we want to look beyond the familiar narrative and zoom out to the patterns and risk factors that make anyone more vulnerable to abuse in an intimate relationship.

For starters, we know that domestic violence thrives in silence — but why?

Because when people feel isolated, ashamed or unsupported, their risk of being controlled, manipulated or harmed in a relationship — or staying trapped in that harm — grows. We shouldn't be surprised to see the same patterns emerge wherever these conditions are present, no matter someone's race, gender or age.

This Pride Month, we're lifting up one part of the story that's often overlooked: how familiar risk factors in domestic violence — like isolation, shame and lack of support — can show up more often in LGBTQ+ relationships, why that happens and what we can do about it.

People in LGBTQ+ relationships face disproportionately higher rates of domestic violence and sexual assault compared to those in straight relationships. That might surprise some folks. But it's not about the people; it's about the pressure they're under. The more someone is cut off from support or made to feel unsafe being themselves, the more these risk patterns show up.

Take isolation, for example. We know survivors are more vulnerable when they're cut off from friends, family or church. That's true across the board, but many LGBTQ+ folks lose those very connections when they come out or, worse, are "outed" without their consent. Without those supports, it becomes much harder to leave a harmful relationship or even

recognize it as abuse in the first place.

Shame plays a role, too. Victims who are afraid to tell anyone what's happening often carry the burden alone. And, without support, many feel helpless or, worse, don't even realize that what they're experiencing is abuse. When something can't be talked about, it's harder to see clearly, and even harder to escape. For LGBTQ+ people, there's often added fear.

That fear can be turned against them, used as leverage to keep them quiet — and keep them trapped. And when that fear is layered on top of the fear and shame that so often come with abuse, it becomes its own unique risk factor, one that makes it even harder to ask for help or even imagine that help is meant for you.

And when we don't see LGBTQ+ relationships represented in conversations about abuse, it's easy to miss the signs. We know abuse doesn't always look the way we expect. But when people don't feel safe to be seen, they're less likely to speak up or seek help, and others are less likely to ask the right questions.

What we want to draw attention to is this: Domestic violence and sexual assault are always unique, deeply personal situations. But some conditions act as risk enhancers. The same patterns we already understand — disconnection, silence, fear — can happen to anyone. But the more of these factors you're up against, the higher your risk. That's part of why these statistics are elevated in LGBTQ+ relationships.

During Pride Month, there's often a focus on celebration. That matters. But, for many, Pride is also about survival. It's about being able to tell the truth about your life — and knowing someone will believe you.

At Rise Above Violence, we serve everyone.

No matter your gender, orientation or identity, if you need someone to talk to, we are here.

Love shouldn't hurt, no matter who you love.

Together we rise. Our 24/7 Confidential Crisis Line is (970) 264-9075.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 It may be slipped
- 5 Island greeting
- 10 Everett or Lowe
- 14 Hang ____ (keep)
- 15 Constrain
- 16 Latvia's capital
- 17 "It's ____ real!"
- 18 Like some milk
- 20 Fellow churchgoers
- 22 Aristocratic bunch
- 23 "Baby Blue" singer George
- 24 Out-of-date
- 25 Loads, as software
- 28 Reuben's bread
- 31 Mere
- 34 Annulment of slavery
- 36 Away from the wind
- 37 Like Liberace
- 38 No walk in the park
- 39 Written account
- 41 Beds on base
- 42 Angsty music genre
- 43 Skilled boater
- 45 Puppeteer Lewis
- 47 Does an IRS job
- 51 Tariff target
- 53 CDC worry
- 55 Like some garden paths
- 57 Word after "cut" or "second"
- 58 Walk the floor
- 59 Verso's opposite
- 60 Alaska's first governor
- 61 Downhill racer
- 62 Web destinations
- 63 Bodywork target

DOWN

- 1 Former newsman Lou

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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51	52						53	54						
55						56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

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- 2 Type of gas
- 3 Animal in a roundup
- 4 Tupperware product
- 5 Gives a heads-up
- 6 As it happens
- 7 Middle Eastern gulf
- 8 Cheer starter
- 9 Without much harmony
- 10 Shore dinner entree
- 11 Nazi-like
- 12 "The Morning Watch" writer James
- 13 A&W competitor
- 19 Mantegna's "Criminal Minds" role
- 21 Touch
- 24 One who works on snow days
- 26 South Pacific island
- 27 Overhead

- 29 Famed WWI sergeant
- 30 Concludes
- 31 All there
- 32 Happy as a ____
- 33 Lockheed Martin field
- 35 Roared deeply
- 37 First-string players
- 40 Oscar or Tony
- 41 Modern measure

- 44 Tropical fruits
- 46 Sharpened
- 48 Mirror ____
- 49 Nashville NFLer
- 50 Candle feature
- 51 Little devils
- 52 Dinner, eg.
- 53 Ancient Celt
- 54 Feed the kitty
- 56 Outdoor gear brand

Answers to Previous Crossword:

O	T	I	S		E	Z	R	A		P	A	I	N	E	
P	A	R	E		C	O	A	L		L	U	N	A	R	
T	R	A	N	S	C	E	N	D		A	S	T	I	R	
S	A	N	D	A	L				E	D	I	T	O	R	S
					T	E	K	T	R	O	N	I	X		
C	A	R	L	I	S	L	E		S	E	N	I	L	E	
O	D	E	O	N		A	R	M	E	R		C	U	T	
S	I	P	S		J	U	R	A	S		H	A	S	H	
T	O	O		P	U	S	A	N		S	E	T	T	O	
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H	A	N	G	S		Y	I	P	S		S	I	M	S	

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Summer Reading special Friday programs to start tomorrow

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Every Friday through Aug. 1 we will host special free all-ages events from 1 to 2:30 p.m. with experts leading sessions on different arts and crafts skills.

Tomorrow, June 6, is drawing and painting, when we will paint air dry clay and draw with brush markers. June 13 is fiber arts and wearables, when we'll create a quilt square or potholder. June 20 will showcase photographer Mark Langford helping us explore life through a lens. June 27 will feature Jesse Krebs, survivalist and "Alone" star, teaching us to make a survival bracelet. All materials will be provided.

Reading rewards

Pick up your free Summer Reading Program bingo sheets every week at the library through Aug. 1. Then complete activities to earn rewards throughout the summer and a chance to win a grand prize. There will be awards for different age groups: infants and preschool, youth aged 5-11, tweens and teens, and adults.

Watch for details with dates and times of Summer Reading events and activities in future "Library News" columns throughout the summer. And, pick up the Summer Reading Program flyer at the library so you don't miss any of the free programs, events and activities available to you and your family.

Save the date for archaeology event

Next Thursday, June 12, is a special all-ages archaeology and fossils event from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. You'll be able to hold and examine both real and replica artifacts as well as



tools used in the field as you learn from archaeologist Paul Landrum, an expert on this fascinating field of science.

Coming to us from Durango, he is president of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society and will bring items to touch and look at. As well, we have two kits with replica fossil artifacts and tools from the Colorado State Library to display.

Virtual reality Holocaust films

Tomorrow, Friday, June 6, is your last chance to see a first-in-the world virtual reality exhibition with five unique films featuring Holocaust survivors walking us through their memories and concentration camp experiences as they share their stories of survival.


"The Journey Back" applies cutting-edge technology to engage visitors with the survivors' incredibly important stories via virtual reality headsets.

We are privileged to share it with you free of charge, thanks to a generous loan from the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

The films average 17 minutes in length, and you can watch one movie or up to all five for a total of 83.5 minutes. Each showing is limited to 10 people because that's how many headsets we have.


"We will have staff and volunteers to help you set up the headsets," said Judy Brennan, adult services librar-

ian. "As well, we encourage you to be prepared for an emotional response to these films and make self-care a priority before and after viewing."
■ See Library on next page



Every
Thursday
8 p.m.- 12 a.m.

PAGOSA BAR
460 Pagosa Street



Live Your Colorado Dream!



33 Fawn Court
\$1,000,000

MLS # 822945

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin in uptown near Lake Forest spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Relax on the covered deck or backyard patio while taking in stunning mountain views. Inside, the open floor plan connects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appliances, and an island for extra prep space. The primary bedroom and bathroom are conveniently located on the main floor. A 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms and a full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space for entertainment or an office, plus a fourth bedroom set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$925,000

MLS # 821243

3 separate lots 4.5 Acres total with no HOA or Covenants. This 2-bedroom 1 bath home is purged and is in very good shape. This is a very solid home with a well-constructed snow shed over the top. There is a 2-vehicle carport and a workshop behind the carport. There is a road behind the house going up the hill to get to a couple of nice building sites. The views are amazing up there. This is an awesome property and if needed the two vacant lots could be sold separately.



65 Caballero Drive
\$725,000

MLS # 823461

This home is perfectly located on approximately an acre of land in the Pagosa Lakes area. Open the back door and a 700 sq ft deck will provide additional space for a BBQ grill, plenty of outdoor seating, and a new hot tub for your relaxation and enjoyment. 4 beds/2.5 baths with 2,350 sq. ft.

To tour this home go to:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOkhZeKE-G0

Own Your Own Piece of Colorado Land!

30 High Drive — MLS # 794628 — \$55,900
38 Heron Court — MLS # 821320 — \$45,000
814 Ginger Circle — MLS # 817526 — \$179,000



1223 Trails Boulevard
\$647,800

MLS # 824043

Discover this stunning, near new 1,640 sq. ft. ranch-style, built in 2022, perfect for your next home. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features a 2-car garage and an open floor plan with 9-foot and vaulted ceilings. The spacious 223 sq. ft. primary bedroom includes a walk-in closet with custom shelving and a luxurious bath with a glass-enclosed tiled shower and double vanity. The large kitchen offers a 5'x10' pantry, Samsung appliances, an induction range, under-cabinet lighting, and granite countertops.



324/356/294 Sparrow Circle
\$330,000

MLS # 821243



X Tall Pines Place
\$265,000

MLS # 821844

35+ acres in Alpine Lakes Ranch with amazing views of Navajo Peak and the San Juan Mountain range. This property has a number of nice building sites with year-round road maintenance, central water and underground utilities at the road. The subdivision borders thousands of acres of National Forest and hunting is allowed. This is a wonderful property for your horses and it is only 18 miles from town.





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East Side Market

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 9:00 - 3:00
Locally Made Handcrafted Products
Pottery and Jewelry - Metal Art
Gems/Minerals - Woodworks - Tie Dye clothing
Fresh Seasonings - Baked Goods
Blown Glass Art - Guatemalan Imports

*Visit our Food Court
and dine in our shady picnic area!*
Lonchera Don Jose - Authentic Mexican Cuisine
Webbs Hot Dogs - Premium Dogs and Gyros
Robert's BBQ - Texas BBQ with the fixins
El Cumbias - snow cones, drinks, snacks

Downtown
225 E. Pagosa St.
HWY 160



225 E. Pagosa Street
www.esmpagosa.com

Library

■ continued from previous page

“You also will want to consider what age is appropriate for children to attend.”

Please pick up a handout with all the times at your library, or find them on our website.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in June with two more talks for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording later. For details and to register go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

On Tuesday, June 10, at noon we’ll interact with Lisa Jewell on “Exploring Unexpected Twists and Turns.”

June 24 at 2 p.m. will feature Katherine Applegate on “Living the Otter Life,” a children’s book in verse for those in the third through sixth grades.

Changes for conversational Spanish

The conversational Spanish group will now gather on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 4 to 5 p.m. starting next Monday, June 9.

This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

LEGO play Saturday

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

Brain fitness program Monday

In a community partnership program, Judy is leading a free Ageless Grace exercise program at the Pagosa Senior Center Mondays from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

It is a brain fitness program consisting of 21 simple exercises designed for all ages and abilities, performed while sitting in a chair. The Senior Center location was chosen so participants have more privacy as they exercise.

Ruby’s Book Club

Ruby’s Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10, to discuss “Go As a River” by Shelly Reed. Copies are available at your library.

This free book club for adults is held the second Tuesday of each

month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

Legal clinic

This month’s free legal clinic is by appointment on Wednesday, June 11, from 2 to 3:40 p.m. Come to the library to meet privately via Zoom with our volunteer civil attorney.

To schedule an appointment, phone (970) 264-2209. When you call, let us know if you need a translator. Registration opens the first of the month and is required as space is limited.

Family storytime

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Writers Guild

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

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays.

Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smart-phones 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.

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.

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. No appointment is necessary.

Downloadable books

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

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

Books on CD

“A Mind of Her Own” by Danielle Steel features a teen adjusting to her life during World War II. “Speak to Me of Home” by Jeanine Cummins follows three generations of women

■ See Library on next page

HUD
Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

ANSWER:

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Flagstone | Pavers | Patios & Walkways
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505-709-8579 (don't worry, we're local!)

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clarkscustomlandscape@gmail.com

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Library

■ continued from previous page in a Puerto Rican-Irish family. “My Friends” by Fredrik Backman tells of an investigation into three tiny figures in a painting. “South of Nowhere” by Jeffery Deaver is a Colter Shaw adventure. “25 Alive” by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro is a Sgt. Lindsay Boxer murder mystery.

“Change the Recipe” by Jose Andres is a collection of life lessons from the renowned chef, TV host and humanitarian. “Burn Book” by Kara Swisher is an expose of the tech industry and its founders. “Outlander” by Diana Gabaldon is the first book in the Outlander fantasy series. “The Girls of Good Fortune” by Kristina McMorris tells of young women kidnapped for forced labor in Oregon in the 1880s. “Thunder Game” by Christine Feehan is a GhostWalker urban fantasy.

Mysteries and thrillers

“The Night Agent” by Matthew Quirk features a low-level FBI agent in charge of monitoring an emergency phone line. “Wild Dark Shore” by Charlotte McConachy begins when a woman’s body washes up on a tiny island near Antarctica.

Nonfiction

“On Tyranny” by Timothy Snyder looks at 20 lessons from the 20th century we can learn from. “Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque” is a Top 10 Eyewitness Travel guide. “Money Management Essentials for Dummies” by Eric Tyson offers a roadmap to navigating financial challenges. “Everything is Tuberculosis” by John Green reveals the history and persistence of our country’s deadliest infection. “Teaching Climate Change” by Mark Windschitl describes an approach to climate change education. “A Guide Book of United States Coins 2026” is the 79th edition of the official Red Book. “Remember Us” by Robert M. Edsel with Bret Witter features 12 characters over 1940-1946 dealing with the horrors of war and power of gratitude.

DVDs

“Better Man” is a biographical musical drama about British pop star Robbie Williams. “Bonhoeffer” is the biography of a German anti-Nazi pastor. “I’m Still Here” won an Acad-

emy Award for the best international feature. “Anora” is an anti-Cinderella story of a Brooklyn erotic dancer. “An American Tail” is the four-movie complete collection. “Keeping Faith” is season three of this Welsh thriller.

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Thanks to all our generous visitors who fill our conscience jar with a smile. Whether you’re dropping your copy change into the pot or tossing a couple of dollars in as a thank you for great service, those small donations add up to a significant boost to our ability to provide new books and fun programs.

Donations guidelines

The Friends of the Library have new guidelines for donations to the library.

Books on time-sensitive topics that can quickly become out of date are wanted only if they have been published within the last five years. These subjects include politics/current events, health and medicine, sports/exercise, business, technology, science, education, and travel guides. Not accepted are reference materials, textbooks and nonprint material like CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes because they do not sell at Friends of the Library sales.

When the library is open, high-quality used book donations are gratefully accepted at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints and all books should be in excellent condition, please.

Quotable quote

“Develop a toolkit of self-care. ... Learn techniques to sooth your anxiety, to calm yourself, to stay resilient in the face of hardships. ... Don’t let anxiety or depression or hopelessness cause you to isolate. On the contrary, grow yourself a deep, solid community of people who share your values, have each other’s backs and check up on each other regularly. And be intentional about this.” — Jane Fonda, Academy Award-winning actor, producer, author and activist in her May 21 commence-

ment address at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Website

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

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WANT TO LOWER YOUR STRESS?

Selfishness and isolation contribute to and exacerbate stress. It may seem counterintuitive, but helping others is a great de-stressor. If you need helping figuring out where to begin, today’s excerpt will help.

Creating a balanced lifestyle that includes service to others can help you feel less stress as well, as you feel more connected to your spirit, more grateful for what you have, and less invested in the ‘rat race’ that causes stress for so many of us.



Focusing on the positive in life, and creating more positive things in the world, can help you to maintain greater feelings of happiness and fulfillment as well.

The following articles can give you ideas and resources for how to create a life that includes more helping others.

Finding Meaning Through Helping Others: Do you have a nagging feeling that something’s missing? Many people find volunteering time, money or castoffs as a way to give life meaning. Learn more about how getting involved in a cause you believe in can help reduce stress, increase happiness, and bring more meaning to your life. These tips make it easy for people of various lifestyles.

Network For Good: This site can help you keep track of your charitable donations for tax purposes. Better still, it can help you find volunteer opportunities in your area that fit your criteria, whether you’re looking to help a lonely senior, play with a homeless puppy, or get involved with a different cause.

Source: “How Helping Others Can Reduce Stress and Increase Happiness.” By Elizabeth Scott. <http://stress.about.com/>

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

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;” Philippians 4:6

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

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature’s Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Unitarian Universalists will hold Going Deeper Sharing Circle Sunday

By De Anna Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

“In piecing together our theological heritage as Unitarian Universalists, we draw from many sources. There are text-based sources passed down through the years – the written works of sermons, essays, and books. For some, it is easy to get pulled into an exclusive relationship with the written word and forget the myriad other sources for theological reflection ... We can also draw from the lived experiences of Unitarian Universalists, the architecture of our churches, the music and hymns we invoke in worship, the patterns and habits of our lives, our organizations, and our histories.”

This reflection is offered by the

Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud’homme and is taken from UUA.org, the website for the Unitarian Universalist Association. As we come together in community around our shared values centered in love, we bring our lived experience to grow and learn with and from one another.

This Sunday, June 8, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will gather at 10:30 a.m. for our Going Deeper Sharing Circle, which is often called small group ministry. We set aside time to practice deep listening and sharing with one another.

Utilizing a variety of resources such as poems, readings, music and reflection, we move toward a mindful practice of deepening our relationship with ourselves and others. In the Going Deeper Circle we explore

themes of recent offerings and leave space for reflection and for whatever else is on our hearts.

We invite those looking for community, in what feels like a polarized landscape, to bring your open mind and loving heart to join this circle of sharing.

The fellowship meets at Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. You can learn more at the website PagosaUU.org, where you will find our current newsletter with information on all our programs.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is a welcoming congregation; we believe that all of who you are is sacred, and all of who you are is welcome. Find out more at <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq>.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

- June 6, 7 p.m.: Illuminations with Maggie Red Eagle and Shayla White Eagle on sacred water medicine. A love donation of \$25 will be accepted.
- June 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Sacred Water Medicine Wheel Blessing Ceremony with Red Eagle and White Eagle at Xanadu.
- July 11, 7 p.m.: Illuminations on “The Benefits and Uses of Lavender” with Susanne Bryant.

About us

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

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their “best self.” Our mission is to create a world that works for

everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator’s divinity.

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 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.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

Plant profile: cattails

By Ethan Proud and Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnists

Cattail species are both native and introduced to North America and may behave aggressively, which warrants control.

Dense growth of cattails is usually caused by changes in hydrology or sedimentation in slow-moving bodies of water, shallow ponds and wetlands. Solid stands of cattails can limit biodiversity, reduce recreation opportunities and impede water movement.

These plants are perennials that are easily recognizable. They grow near or in water with broad leaf blades and reach heights between 4 and 10 feet tall. They produce a flowering stalk with male flowers located above a cylinder of brown female flowers, which resembles a hot dog on a stick. When mature, these cylinders break open and release downy tufts attached to seeds.

Cattails are an important wetland species providing habitat for many marsh birds and mammals like muskrats. In the spring, the shrill cries of yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds can be heard from the reeds as the males attempt to attract mates.

Cattails also have numerous beneficial uses for humans. Native Americans used cattail seed fluff for lining and insulation, poultices from the roots for minor skin ailments, and the leaves were woven to make seats, baskets and the like. All parts of the plant can be eaten, but cattails can accumulate toxins from the environment, so they should not be collected from polluted areas. If you have cattails growing in your sewer lagoon, I do not recommend trying a dish from plants harvested there.

Extension Viewpoints

Despite their many uses, sometimes cattails need to be managed, such as if they are impeding the flow of water, forming a monoculture or decreasing recreational access.

Cattails can be manually removed by hand pulling after flowering or cutting multiple times prior to flowering below the water level. Removing sediment can also discourage cattail growth. Several herbicide options are also available and it is important to select herbicides with an aquatic label and follow all directions to avoid off target damage or other unintended consequences.

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

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by Colorado State University (CSU) Extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

Vermiculture workshop

Join Archuleta County CSU Extension Director Cindi Galabota for a fun, hands-on and engaging Vermiculture Workshop. Learn all about the vital role worms play in healthy soils and build your own worm com-

posting bin.

It is set for 10 a.m. on June 28 at the CSU Extension Building at 344 U.S. 84. There is a \$20 materials fee. RSVP at (970) 264-5931 or <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, June 5

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.

Labyrinth Guided Walk. 10 a.m., St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join a docent for a guided tour of the Chartres-design labyrinth. 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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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.

T’ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 55 and better.

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.

19th Hole Concerts. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Golf Club. Live music by Bob Hemenger. The cover charge is a \$10 donation that supports the season’s four nonprofits.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation at 7 p.m. on findings of the James Webb telescope and a celebration of the 55th anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 6

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Summer Reading Crafts. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Drawing and painting for all ages. No registration is required.

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural village and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for ages 5-12. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Something Rotten!’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, June 7

Life at Chimney Rock Festival. Chimney Rock National Monument. A free, family-oriented event with interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan people.

Introduction to Landscaping in Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Native Plant Garden, Centennial Park. Join CSU Extension, the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, and Archuleta County Weed and Pest

to learn about gardening with native plants and more.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. There will be a short business meeting where you can learn about upcoming activities, then Anne Marie Kemp will present “His Name Was John” about 54 years of genealogical research in England and the United States.

Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tennyson Sculpture Garden, 475 Lewis St. Fine art and sculpture by more than 35 local and regional artists, live music, and more. Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Arts Council.

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

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Something Rotten!’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, June 8

Life at Chimney Rock Festival. Chimney Rock National Monument. A free, family-oriented event with interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan people.

Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tennyson Sculpture Garden, 475 Lewis St. Fine art and sculpture by more than 35 local and regional artists, live music, and more. Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Arts Council.

Bingo. 5:45 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. The doors will open at 5 p.m., with early-bird games starting at 5:45 p.m. and regular bingo games beginning at 6 p.m. No alcohol or

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
outside and food and beverage are allowed. For more information, contact Mary Jo Coulehan at (970) 903-7815.

Monday, June 9

Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and

tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.
Plant Walk. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Turkey Springs area. Join certified herbalist Lake McCullough to explore early summer herbs, wildflowers and medicinal plants. Call ahead to (970) 398-0923 to reserve a spot. There is a 15-person maximum.
Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.
Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets

are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.
Plant Walk. 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Turkey Springs area. Join certified herbalist Lake McCullough to explore early summer herbs, wildflowers and medicinal plants. Call ahead to (970) 398-0923 to reserve a spot. There is a 15-person maximum.
Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural village and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for ages 5-12. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.
Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

Tuesday, June 10
Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

■ See Calendar on page 19

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Jeffrey Reichel

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the western tanager.
This neotropical migrant provides a welcome splash of color and song to western summer forests. With his orange-red head, brilliant yellow body and black back, wings, and tail, the unmistakable male western tanager is described as looking like a flame. Greenish-yellow females are colored to disappear in the foliage.
Arriving from winter homes in Mexico and Central America in May, western tanagers often show up in our yards and parks before heading to open forests up to 10,000 feet in elevation to mate and raise their young. They are not typically seed eaters, but will eat dried and fresh fruits and berries, and visit flowers for nectar. Suet feeders provide a treat.
Especially in summer, a variety of insects, including bees and wasps, provide food for these birds. Western tanagers forage high in the canopy, making them difficult to spot despite their bright colors. They move deliberately, plucking insects from twigs, branches and foliage. They are not able to make the rare red pigment that colors their plumage and instead obtain it second hand by eating insects that feed on conifers.
Males sing a short song similar to that of a robin. Their distinctive "pit-r-ick" call often is a clue to their location in a tree. They are most common in forests of Douglas fir, ponderosa and lodgepole pines, but are found in other open forest types as well. Western tanagers breed further north than any other tanager species in their mostly tropical family.
The world's thirst for coffee has cleared much of the prime winter habitat of western and scarlet tanagers for coffee plantations. Traditional methods of growing coffee bushes under a tall canopy of trees preserves habitat for these and many other of our summer birds. Sourcing your coffee from shade-grown plantations is something you can do to contribute to the success of these birds.
For information on events, visit www.weminuchaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/.



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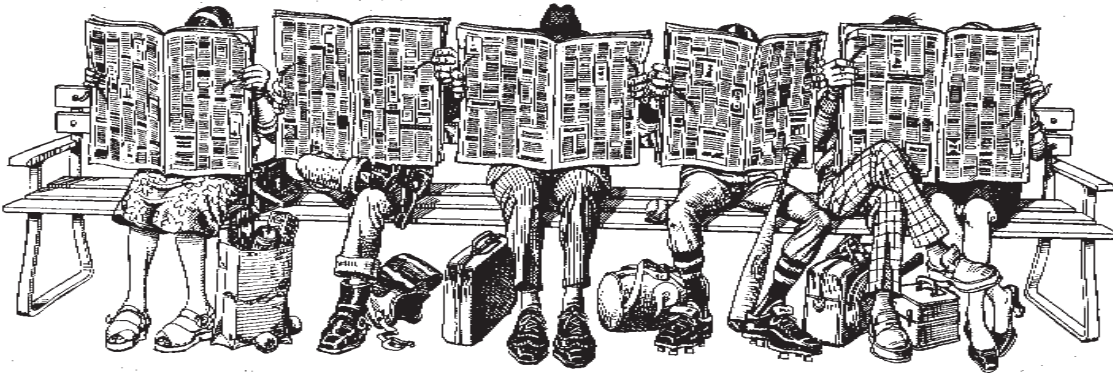
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 17

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.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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 "Go as a River" by Shelly Reed.

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.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Full Moon Program and Early Tour. 7:30 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Combine the Full Moon Program with an early, guided tour of the Mesa Village Trail to create a four-hour event. The cost is \$25. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Full Moon Hike. 9:15-10:45 p.m., Coyote Hill. Amateur astronomer and Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers founder Dena Laterza will guide

hikers into the moonlit landscape of the Coyote Hill trail system. See the Ponderosa pines of the San Juan National Forest in a new light under the glow of a full moon. Celebrate the nocturnal wildlife. Laterza will discuss the night sky, with emphasis on the moon and its powerful effects on our natural world. This is a moderately difficult "out and back" hike, approximately 2 miles in length on a well-worn forest trail, with some moderate elevation gain/loss. You are encouraged to bring a haiku or short poem to read along the hike. A telescope will be set up in the parking lot for participants to view the moon after the hike. Due to the inherent difficulty of hiking at night, children under 10 not permitted. Hiking boots or hiking shoes in good condition are required. White light flashlights/headlamps not permitted during the hike. You may use red light flashlights/headlamps. Dress warmly for seasonal nighttime temperatures. Trekking poles are helpful hiking after sunset. Hosted by the San Juan Mountains Association.

Wednesday, June 11

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This

tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 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.

Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Arrive anytime after 6 p.m. for socializing; the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will be on "The Decisive Moment."

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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, June 12

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.

Labyrinth Guided Walk. 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Join a docent for a guided tour of the Chartres-design labyrinth. 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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Outreach Camp: Archaeology and Fossils. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Hear from an expert on this fascinating field of science. You'll be able to hold and examine real and replica artifacts, and tools used in the field.

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.

T'ai Chi Chih. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 55 and better.

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.

19th Hole Concerts. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Golf Club. Live

music by the Jackson Mountain Ramblers. The cover charge is a \$10 donation that supports the season's four nonprofits.

Seminar: Abundant Health with Chuck and Sarah Riehm. 6-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Chuck and Sarah Riehm will speak on "Blue Zones: Nine Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who Have Lived the Longest."

Friday, June 13

Mysteries Tour of Chimney Rock. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Hora de Cuentos (Bilingual Storytime). 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. An educational hour of reading and singing in Spanish, as well as free play and building early literacy skills.

Summer Reading Crafts. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Fiber arts for all ages. No registration is required.

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural village and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for ages 5-12. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free. Those under 18 must have an adult chaperone. For more information, contact (970) 264-2167.

Pagosa Springs Car Show. 3-8 p.m., Yamaguchi Park.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Wild Party.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, June 14

Conversations in the Garden. 9-10

a.m., Pagosa Springs Community Garden.

Pagosa Springs Car Show. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Yamaguchi Park.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Wild Party.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, June 15

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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United Way of Southwest Colorado to become Team Up

By Lynn Urban
United Way/Team Up

After decades of community collaboration and regional impact, United Way of Southwest Colorado is proud to announce a new chapter.

Effective July 1, the organization will officially become Team Up, marking its departure from the United Way Worldwide (UWW) network and ushering in a new era of local independence and impact.

“We’ve always been grounded in local partnerships and responsive to community-identified needs,” said Lynn Urban, current president and CEO of United Way of Southwest Colorado and future president and CEO of Team Up. “This change reflects who we already are and gives us more flexibility to direct every dollar raised to solving problems right here in Southwest Colorado.”

In the past year alone, Team Up granted \$919,000 directly to local nonprofits and helped channel an additional \$368,000 through partnerships with La Plata County and San Juan BOCES. These investments reflect Team Up’s ongoing commitment to strengthening local services and supporting grassroots solutions to regional challenges.

Team Up will continue serving Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties, with offices in Durango and Cortez. All current programs, including AmeriCorps, grantmaking and resource coordination, will continue under the new name.

The organization remains in a

strong financial position and recently received a clean audit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

What’s staying the same

- There will be no changes to services or mission: Programs like AmeriCorps, 211 and nonprofit grants will continue.

- Team Up will continue hosting popular community events, like the Archuleta Golf Tournament on Aug. 9.

For a full list of events, visit teamupsw.org.

What’s changing

- There will be a new name, logo and website launching July 1 at teamupsw.org.

- There will be stronger local investment: All donations now stay entirely in the five-county region.

- A total of \$25,000 will be saved annually: Ending dues to UWW means more resources for local initiatives.

- This is a local decision, long in the making: This transition has been considered for over three years.

“From 2013 to 2025, our annual dues to UWW rose from \$7,602 to \$25,000 — a 229 percent increase,” noted Amie Bryant, board president of United Way of Southwest Colorado. “Meanwhile, our income rose 59 percent, entirely from sources unrelated to fundraising efforts provided by the United Way network. We realized we could do even more for our communities by investing 100 percent of those dollars here.”

The organization is committed

to transparency, collaboration, and responsiveness to local needs.

What’s behind the name

The new name reflects the organization’s long-standing commitment to teamwork and collaboration.

“We’ve often referred to our work as a ‘team-up’ of local partners, and now that spirit is front and center,” said Urban.

FAQs

- Is this related to national issues? No. The decision has been locally driven and in discussion for over three years.

- Are programs changing? No. All services, staff and operations remain the same.

- Will donations stay local? Yes. One hundred percent of contributions now remain in our region.

For a full list of frequently asked questions, visit teamupsw.org/rebrand.

About Team Up

Team Up unites and supports local organizations and individuals across Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties to address community-identified needs and help people thrive in Southwest Colorado.

Through competitive grants, cross-sector partnerships, and AmeriCorps service placements, Team Up strengthens essential services in early childhood development, youth mental health, food security and more — all with a 100 percent local focus. Learn more at teamupsw.org.

Community United Methodist Church to host Worship in the Park June 8

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) invites the public to a joyful Worship in the Park on Sunday, June 8, at 10:30 a.m. at Town Park.

This outdoor service will feature music, message and community connection, with a potluck lunch to

follow.

Guests are encouraged to bring a dish to share, along with their own plate, utensils and a lawn chair.

This year’s message, titled “Spirit of Adoption,” will explore how the Spirit of God meets us where we are — often in the beauty and wildness of the world around us.

“In moments of stillness, by rivers that churn with purpose, the Spirit whispers: Did you see it?” said the Rev. Ken Daniell, pastor of CUMC. “Worship in the Park is our chance to look again — to see God moving in the heart of creation and community.”

All are welcome. For more information, visit www.cumcps.org.



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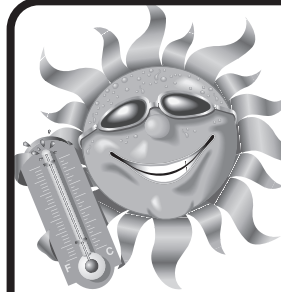
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19th Hole Concert Series to begin Thursday

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is sponsoring the first of four 19th Hole Concerts starting this Thursday, June 5.

The featured artist this week is Bob Hemenger, and the featured non-profit is Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI).

Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase. No outside food, drink or pets will be allowed. Concertgoers should bring a camping chair or blanket — or both — to take full advantage of a summer evening in the Rocky Mountains.

The 19th Hole Concerts are held every Thursday in June from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

The cover charge is a \$10 donation that supports the four nonprofits selected through the month of June. Corporate sponsors cover event expenses, allowing all proceeds at the end of the series to be pooled and distributed equally to the featured organizations. The collaborative approach to the concerts is vital to their success.

Schedule

June 5: ASI, Hemenger — Dixie-land, jazz, blues, soul and pop.

June 12: Project Sanctuary, Jackson Mountain Ramblers — country, folk and pop.

June 19: Build Pagosa, Bo DePeña — Americana and country.

June 26: San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, Max Miller — jazz.

The policy is to cancel in the event of lightning. If you want to check the status of a concert, check www.swcommunityfoundation.org for the most up-to-date information.

Open house postponed

ASI is postponing an open house that was scheduled for June 11. Please check this column and the ASI Facebook page for future updates on this rescheduled event.

Caregiver support group postponed

ASI is postponing the caregiver support group until further notice. Please check this column and the ASI Facebook page for future updates on this community resource.

T'ai chi chih

The Senior Center is offering t'ai chi chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Senior Center dining hall located in the back of the Community Center.

The class is intended to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life.

Tai chi 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 are free for older adults (age 55 and better) and class will last

Senior News

approximately 1 hour. No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call (970) 264-2167.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Stretching and mobility class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior 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.

Bingo

The Senior Center hosts free community bingo games twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming bingo dates include June 13 and June 27.

Bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses

for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required. Help us create an intergenerational community.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

For more information, contact us at (970) 264-2167.

Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn.

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

■ See Senior on next page



Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

MISSING PERSON

John Joseph Fowler



LAST SEEN:
TUESDAY MAY 20TH 2025

HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 150 lbs
EYES: BLUE
HAIR: BROWN



Last seen on Tuesday 5/20 at approximately 0830 in the area of Lazy Ct and Crooked Rd heading south / east in the direction of Pitt Ct.

This is a photo of the last sighting of John, wearing a mustard colored, long sleeve shirt and denim jeans. He was barefoot. John may have facial injuries from a fall.

If you have any further information, please call
Archuleta County Combined Dispatch on:
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Senior

■ continued from previous page

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others living within the Archuleta community for friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, is a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Open to all. 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.

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.

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, June 5 — French beef dip sandwich on hoagie roll with au-jus, cheesy cauliflower, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, June 6 — Pork kielbasa, sweet and sour cabbage, roasted potatoes, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, June 9 — Southern cod over rice with tomato gravy, broccoli, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, June 10 — Green chili and chorizo quiche, black beans, southern biscuit, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday, June 11 — Teriyaki chicken with pineapple rice pilaf, cauliflower, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, June 12 — Beef Frito pie chili with sour cream and cheese, wilted spinach and onions, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Friday, June 13 - Split peas and ham soup, focaccia bread, 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 pickup 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 para-transit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-n-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

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.

■ See Senior on next page

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How to keep indoor air clean during allergy season

Special to The PREVIEW

Seasonal allergies can turn a warm and welcoming spring or summer day into something else entirely. Congestion, runny nose, sneezing and itchy eyes are just some of the unpleasant symptoms of seasonal allergies, which are most often triggered by high pollen counts during spring and summer.

The Mayo Clinic advises seasonal allergy sufferers to stay indoors when pollen counts are high. But what about indoor air quality?

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) reports that eight out of 10 people are exposed to dust mites and six out of 10 are exposed to cat or dog dander. Dust mites and pet dander can each trigger allergic reactions. Pair those two triggers with higher pollen counts common in spring and summer and it's no wonder that many seasonal allergy sufferers are ambivalent about the warm weather seasons.

Fortunately, steps can be taken to keep indoor air clean during allergy season.

- Close windows and doors. Many people embrace opportunities to open their windows and doors on warm days, but doing so allows outdoor allergens like pollen to get inside. Pollen can attach to furniture and clothing, and that can make time indoors unpleasant for allergy sufferers. Maintain indoor air quality by closing windows and doors on windy days and/or days when pollen counts are high.

- Employ air cleaning devices. The AAFA notes that air cleaners

with Certified Asthma and Allergy Friendly filters can filter nearly 98 percent of allergen particles in the air. The AAFA maintains a list of certified air cleaners at asthmaand-allergyfriendly.com.

- Keep a clean home. The Mayo Clinic notes that, in most homes, items such as bedding, upholstered furniture and carpeting provide an ideal environment for dust mites, which are microscopic bugs that trigger allergic reactions in many people. The AAFA recommends keeping surfaces in a home clean and uncluttered to control dust mites. Washing bedding and uncovered pillows in hot water each week also can help to corral dust mites and improve indoor air quality.

- Vacuum frequently. Frequent vacuuming is another way to improve indoor air quality. The AAFA maintains a list of Certified Asthma and Allergy Friendly vacuums that have been tested and found to prevent allergens from reentering the air.

- Prevent mold and treat areas where infestations have occurred. Mold also contributes to poor indoor air quality. Dehumidifiers can be used to reduce mold and dust mites, making these beneficial additions to allergy sufferers' homes. Minimizing house plants around the house and addressing leaky fixtures immediately are some additional measures to prevent mold infestations.

It may not be enough to simply stay indoors to avoid allergic reactions on spring and summer days. Embracing measures to improve indoor air quality can be vital for allergy sufferers as well.

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

Please stop by our offices at 451

Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

Support the Senior Center

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/>.

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Signs of potential electrical hazards in a home

Special to The PREVIEW

Homeowners know that the work of maintaining a home is never done. Cleaning is a daily task associated with homeownership, and such sessions can reveal more than dust buildup or dirty walls and surfaces.

When cleaning a home, homeowners can pull double duty and look for potentially hazardous situations. For example, vacuuming and dusting sessions can present a great opportunity to spot electrical hazards that might otherwise go unseen.

With that in mind, homeowners can keep an eye out for these four signs of potential electrical hazards when working around the house:

1. Tingling when touching an electrical appliance: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises homeowners to call a qualified electrician immediately if they experience a tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance. The Electrical Safety Office notes experi-

encing a tingle or the feeling of being shocked is not normal. Homeowners who experience such a feeling should avoid the location and warn others in the home to do the same.

2. Wall outlets that look or feel unusual: Wall outlets do not garner much attention, as many are low enough to be out of sight or even behind furniture. So, a cleaning session might be the only time homeowners will notice issues with wall outlets. The NFPA notes discolored outlets or outlets that feel warm to the touch are signs of an electrical problem. Various issues can cause outlets to look or feel unusual. An outlet could be short-circuiting or wires could be damaged, and each issue merits the attention of a qualified electrician.

3. Foul odors: An odor that calls to mind burning rubber is another indicator of an electrical problem. Various electrical experts indicate such odors can be indicative of damaged wiring, an overloaded circuit or loose connections, each of which

poses a significant safety hazard. The NFPA urges homeowners to contact a qualified electrician immediately if they sense a smell of burning rubber in their homes.

4. Flickering lights: Homeowners won't need to wait until cleaning sessions to notice flickering lights. Such flickering is hard to miss regardless of what residents are doing inside a home. Sometimes lights flicker because of a loose bulb, so homeowners who notice flickering should first turn off the light, let the bulb cool down if need be, and then check to make sure it isn't loose. If the bulb isn't loose, then lights could be flickering for a multitude of reasons. A loose connection can cause flickering, as can an overloaded circuit. Homeowners also may not realize that not all bulbs and dimmer switches are designed to work together. For example, modern LED light bulbs often require the installation of specific dimmer switches or the lights won't operate properly. Flickering can result if these products are not compatible. If a home is old, then flickering lights could be due to old wiring that needs to be replaced.

Daily and weekly cleaning sessions can be a good time for homeowners to perform a quick audit of electrical outlets and lights to ensure everything is safe and working properly.

Organize and protect phone photos

Special to The PREVIEW

When Fred R. Barnard coined the phrase, "A picture is worth a thousand words" in an advertising trade journal, he likely never imagined just how pervasive photography would become.

Photos can tell a story, and thanks to digital technology putting cameras in our pockets, there are now more photos being taken than ever before. According to PhotoAiD, a passport photo service, smartphones now capture about 92 percent of all pictures, with the average American taking out a phone to capture an image six times a day. The typical smartphone user stores around 2,795 photos in their camera roll, and many date back several years.

Although phone storage capacity has increased in recent years, leaving so many photos on a phone presents challenges. What do you do if your phone is lost or the data becomes corrupted? What happens when you've finally reached the storage limit? It can be helpful to identify different ways to organize and store images somewhere other than on their phones.

- Consider cloud storage. Cloud storage enables phone users to often automatically have their images copied to a managed cloud server, typically at a cost. This enables the individual to access these images from various devices. Once images are saved to the cloud, they can be deleted from the phone, if desired.

- Utilize another backup storage device. External hard drives are available in various storage capacities

and often are handy for storing data-heavy files like videos. Software can be used to back up images to these devices automatically upon connection, or people can manually move over images as needed.

- Get prints made. Some may be old enough to remember the days when rolls of film were taken to a store to be developed and people waited to see how the photos would turn out. Digital cameras removed the mystery, but still required inserting a memory card into a photo kiosk to have prints made. Many modern phone users just leave images on their phones, and the majority are never seen again. Individuals can narrow down their favorite images and order prints so that they will be more likely to view and enjoy the photos they've taken.

- Make photo books. Various photo printing services offer photo book products. If the idea of having thousands of individual prints seems overwhelming, images can be curated into bound photo albums featuring a few different images on each page depending on the book size and the layout. Photo books also can be given as gifts.

- Create digital albums. People can organize the images on their phones by breaking them down into albums. This will make it easier to recall and find certain images. Albums can be made for specific vacations, people, pets and other events.

Creating a system to organize photos taken on a phone can ensure the most noteworthy moments are not forgotten.

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Go to:
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TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

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The **TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY** category will end with our June 12 edition.

All deadlines for any classified category will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

A new category, MISCELLANEOUS, will be created. The MISCELLANEOUS category will run at the beginning of the classified advertisements. The deadline for this category will be 10 a.m. on Tuesday. *If there is a holiday, the deadline may change. Please look for an ad in the newspaper stating any change.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

JOIN US JUNE 23 -27 at Amazing Grace Community Church vacation bible camp. Kids ages 5- 12 from 8a.m. -5p.m. Monday- Friday. Including adventure club. Lunch provided. Contact us (970)444-2111.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; ID 858 319 763, password 754 234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30- 6:30p.m, Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. Ann: (303)918-8137. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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ARCHULETA SENIORS NOW HIRING a full time Sous Chef. Minimum 2 years cooking, food production experience. Detailed oriented, good communication skills. Hours Monday to Friday 7a.m. -3p.m.. Weekends off and paid holidays. Pick up an application in person at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd, 1-3p.m. weekdays.

ARCHULETA SENIORS NOW HIRING a Kitchen Assistant. Entry level food preparation and packaging. Hours 7a.m. to 3p.m., part-time, no weekends. Potential for advancement. Pick up an application in person at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., 1-3p.m. weekdays.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE about nurturing the next generation? Wings Early Childhood Center is looking for enthusiastic and dedicated Early Childhood Teachers (ages 0-3). College degree and/or experience with kids under 5 is preferred, but we're willing to train candidates who are eager to learn and expand their education. Perks of Joining Our Family: PTO Accrual, 8 Paid Holidays Off; 2 Weeks Paid Time Off Each Year; Career Development; College Tuition Reimbursement; Paid Parental Leave; Discounted Childcare Tuition for Your Kids. We value reliability, patience, a love for the outdoors, and multitasking skills are essential. Your unique contributions can help shape young learners! Start your rewarding journey with us as we ignite a love for learning together! Send resume and references to Sienna Hunter at director@wingsearlychildhood.org or call us at (970) 731-2868.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CDL DRIVER. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring a CDL Driver. This is a full-time position. Duties include deliveries, loading /unloading trucks, and helping customers. Requires the ability to drive a stick shift and have a Class B endorsement. We offer paid time off, medical, dental, vision, prescription, 401(k) and Profit Sharing. Please apply at Ponderosa Lumber 2435 Eagle Dr. (970)731-4111.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is expanding our crew! We are seeking multiple crew assist positions (framing /siding /finish carpentry). Starting rate is \$20+ an hour depending on experience. Paid holidays, accrued PTO and annual bonuses. Please send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com or swing by our office at 2283 Eagle Drive to hand deliver or fill out an application.

Now Hiring.

Archuleta County is hiring for multiple positions.

Benefits package, paid time off, 401K match.

Apply today.

970-264-8379 • archuletacounty.org



ARCHULETA COUNTY COLORADO
EST 1885

Individually strong, collectively mighty.

Join us and become a part of the bigger picture.

Apply Now

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



Full-time and Seasonal

MULTIPLE POSITIONS MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS

Starting at \$17 per hour, dependent on experience.

Weekends and holidays required.

Benefits include discounts, paid time off, profit sharing and more!

Apply in person. Applications available on www.terrysace.com



Terry's ACE
525 Navajo Trail Dr.

DEDICATED CLEANERS Must be detail oriented, trustworthy, reliable and committed. \$20/ hour possibly more for special projects. Text Pagosa Sparkles, (970)946-6446.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for CDL Driver / Equipment Operator. Experience with forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

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

J AND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$15/ hour, part-time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME maintenance help. 20 hours per week. Please email hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

NOW HIRING. Positions available for Service Counter Assistant and part-time Bookkeeper. Computer skills a must. Monday –Thursday 7 to 6. Apply in person at Piedra Automotive, 505 County Road 600, Pagosa Springs.

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.

(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, June 6 and Saturday, June 7

Walk ins welcome from 10am-2pm

Full Time and Part Time positions available
Starting pay \$18-\$25 *position and qualifications dependent

Start the application process at
www.walmart.com/careers

RIFF RAFF
BREWING CO.

WE'RE HIRING

HOSTS | RUNNERS
SERVERS | KITCHEN (BOH)

- COMPETITIVE PAY
- EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS
- AWESOME TEAM & FUN ENVIRONMENT

stop by Riff Raff and ask for an application

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!



Archuleta School District

strives to achieve
"Success for Every Student —
Every Class — Every Day."

Currently accepting applications
for the following full-time position:

Chief Operations Officer

Seeking an experienced, dynamic leader to oversee district operations including maintenance, custodial services, safety, transportation, and facility management. The ideal candidate will bring strong leadership, project management, and technical expertise to ensure the district's physical infrastructure supports optimal educational outcomes. Requirements: Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred); leadership and project management experience. Salary: \$98,110-\$108,031 (based on experience).

Benefits include (but are not limited to) PERA retirement, life Insurance, optional health/dental Insurance and paid discretionary days.

**You belong on the
Archuleta School District Team!**



For more details and to apply for these positions click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site: www.mypagosaschools.com
EOE



ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **Route Truck Helper/Tipper** position open. The starting rate for this position is \$19/hour. Helpers ride on the trucks and empty trash carts and dumpsters. A valid driver's license is a plus, as helpers do a variety of tasks including cart delivery, shop cleaning, light mechanical and washing trucks and carts.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

PART-TIME FRONT DESK Opportunity. Are you friendly, organized, and customer-focused? We are looking to add a reliable and enthusiastic member to our team! 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 Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.



THE ARCHULETA COUNTY FAIR BOARD is looking for **laborers** to help with setup, take down and various other job duties during the fair. We will need someone from July 24th to August 6th. Pay \$20 an hour.

Send resume to
tsteadmon@archuletacounty.org or
call (970)264-8424.



ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **Class B CDL Driver Trash Recycle Route Driver** position open. Pay rate is \$24-\$28/hour dependent on experience and includes a sign-on bonus of \$500 payable after 6 months of accident-free employment.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL, busy equipment rental yard is seeking a reliable, self starting shop/yard person. Must have experience in mechanics, diesels, hydraulics, electrical work, and be knowledgeable of heavy equipment plus small engines. CDL is a plus but not required. Must have own transportation. Full time, Monday -Friday 8-5. Please call (970)731-4410 Or Email ppine000@century-tel.net. 391 Bastille Drive.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full-time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO, additional sick time, and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$16.00- 16.50 DOE. Apply online <https://pagosahumane.org/> or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

THE SPOTTED PUP GROOMING SALON in Pagosa Springs is hiring a full-time experienced groomer. Please call (970)507-0905.

(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

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

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 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

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 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. O’Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites.

Send your email or letter of interest directly to
CEO Jim O’Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa SpringsSUN

an O’Rourke Media Group company

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

FOR SALE

ALUMACRAFT BOAT. 16 foot, trailered with 6HP Mercury outboard motor and trolling motor, \$2,000. (970)731-5303.

BASSMASTER BOAT, trolling motor and battery, \$600. John, (970)946-0293.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? Guarantee yourself dry seasoned wood this winter and get stocked up now! Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine /Fir mix. Contact FIRE&ICE (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

HUSQVARNA SST224 SNOW BLOWER. 10 hours used. Serious inquiries only. \$850. (302)547-1100.

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.

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).

LIVESTOCK

GRASS HAY! \$9 per hefty bale. For 50+ bales, free local Pagosa area delivery. 100+ bales, \$8.50/ bale. (970)264-1365.

LAYING HENS. 2 -4 years old, laying very well. \$10 each. Susan (970)946-7393.

PETS

AKC Lab Puppies FOR SALE



Three chocolate males left.
Ready to go home.
\$1,200 each
Call 970-749-4288

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.

COLORFUL F1B GOLDENDOODLE PUPPIES. Parents and Puppies NAPR registered. Puppies come with shots and vet check. Check out our website: <https://coalsoncorrallic.godaddysites.com/> (575)235-8738.

PETS

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.

AUTOS

1988 FORD F250 XLT Lariat, extended cab. EFI 460. 5 speed manual. 75k miles. \$8000. (970)398-0100.

2004 SUBARU IMPREZA SPORT hatchback. AWD. New struts, head gaskets and radiator. 195k miles. \$4500 firm. (720)352-5215.

2005 SUBARU OUTBACK, 155,000, runs good, new struts. \$4,500.(970)264-5210.

2006 LINCOLN MARK LT 4x4, 4 Door, super cab. Sun roof, Bed cover. 86k miles, \$15,000 OBO. (970)398-0990 or (970)903-2985.

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.

ESTATE SALE. Saturday, June 7, 9a.m.-2p.m. Inside 21 Pike Dr. Furniture, new leather recliners, lamps, home decor, art, kitchen items.

HIS AND HERS SALE. 69 Teakwood Dr. June 6 -7, 8-2. Compressor, chop saw, tools, shop vac, home and kitchen, quilt rack, garden, Christmas, hunting and other clothes, tables and more.

HOUSEHOLD/ MOVING SALE. Saturday, June 7 8a.m. -3p.m. Washer/ dryer, large freezer, large refrigerator, microwave, complete kitchen, tools, cargo trailer, utility trailer, and much more. 91 Blue Jay Drive, Aspen Springs.

MOVING SALE! Everything must go. Bikes, sports and camping gear, kitchen and household items and more. Saturday, June 7, 8a.m. to 4p.m. 152 Vista San Juan.

MULTIPLE FAMILIES DOWNSIZING. Friday and Saturday only, 9a.m.-2p.m. 3 Bent Grass Court off Park and Midiron. Camping, Alps snow shoes, 3 bicycles, 1 new Shimano 7-speed, cat condo, pet carrier, copper pans, storage containers, books, collectibles, miscellaneous household.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 8A.M. TO 2P.M. Multi- family yard sale. 857 N. Pagosa Blvd. Something for everyone.

GARAGE SALE this Saturday 6/7 at 123 N. 15th Street. Tools, decor, golf items, pots, miscellaneous!

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL STORAGE. Approximately 1800 sq ft. 1 full bath, 14ft x 10ft door, 15f ceiling. \$2500 a month. (903)327-3345.

FLEXIBLE COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL SPACE on the western side of Pagosa Springs. two 1,000 sf spaces available. One is double height. Both come with overhead garage doors. Both units come with bathrooms. Will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized with credits for Tenant Improvements. Tenants in compound include building trades, UPS, light manufacturing, and artists. Available July 1st. Rent ranges \$800-\$1,000 depending on the unit. raswheeler@gmail.com.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering “Aspen Plaza ProSuites” These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PRIME OFFICE SPACE available downtown in the Pagosa Hotel. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

STORAGE SPACES AVAILABLE 100, 150 and 200 sq ft. Contact Sunrise Property Management today at (970)731-4344 or sasha@sunrisepropertymgmt.com to check availability.

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 -\$2400 Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOMS. Call (720)869-8877 Hickory Ridge Apartments.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

FOR RENT — 2 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 Bath Duplex. Located on E. Golf with patio and 1 car garage. Washer and dryer included. Pets considered. Long term rental, \$1700/month 303-210-7369.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

ONE BEDROOM with good sized loft. All appliances, wood stove, ETS heating, large deck, fenced yard, private. \$1500/ month (970)731-2010.

RV SINGLE SITE on 5 acres. Paved hilltop location at end of cul de sac. No traffic Mountain views. 1 mile south Ace Hardware City water, septic, 30 A electric. \$800 /month Burt (619)992-9100.

(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"



www.RMREALTYANDRENTALS.COM

Rocky Mountain
REALTY & RENTALS
970.731.5515

Info@rmrealtyandrentals.com

117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado
Property Owners Served
19+ Years. Mortgage &
Real Estate Exp
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

TINY HOUSE WITH RIVER ACCESS. No pets, reference required, \$1,000 /month, \$500 deposit, utilities, Internet included. (970)264-5210.

COMMERCIAL

2.25 ACRES, FENCED, COMMERCIAL. Off Highway 151, \$325,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call, (970)903-2817.

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.

PRIME BUSINESS LOCATION Large building and land. \$1,250,000. Motivated seller. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME MAIN STREET location. Approx. 1300 sq. ft. of multi-use commercial. 452 Pagosa Street. Asking \$595,000. Call Martha (970)903-4050.

UNORTHODOX COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES Learned from Master Investors. Pagosa Springs. Free Report at SouthwestTrust.com then to "Services" tab. F. Scott Tonges. 970-731-4421.

HOMES FOR SALE

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2 carports, 2 sheds. Overlooking Navajo Lake State Park. \$395,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call, (970) 903-2817.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH. Workshop. 20 acres. Great views of the La Plata. Ignacio. \$475,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

64 ACRES, 46 SHARES OF IRRIGATION. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2 garages and shed, 3-3 phase electric outlets. Brand new Generac Generator, Pastures with beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$928,000. AP-10. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

BRAND NEW ROOF with 5 year warranty. Located across the street from National Forest access. 10 minutes from grocery store and other amenities. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage family home. \$550,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. 3 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, Chris Mountain Ranches, gated subdivision, 1-1/2 miles west of City Market. 35 acre lot, 3,600 sq. ft. house under roof, 1,200 sq. ft. workshop. \$1.6 million. John, (970)946-0293.

HOME FOR SALE. 3200 square feet on 3 acres. 181 River Forest Drive. See on Zillow. Agents welcome. \$740K (970)585-9181.

PRICE REDUCED. 3 BED 2 BATH 2 car garage. 3.9 acres. 5 shares of water. Detached 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage apartment. Great views. \$560,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

OPEN HOUSES

OPEN HOUSE 53 EDINBURGH CR. Saturday and Sunday, 11a.m. to 3p.m.

RANCHES

64 ACRES, 46 SHARES OF IRRIGATION. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2 garages and shed, 3-3 phase electric outlets. Brand new Generac Generator, Pastures with beautiful views, too many extras to name them all. \$928,000. AP-10. 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.

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$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.

3.7 ACRES. Great views of Navajo lake. Power near, water available. \$400,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

SAN JUAN RIVER ACCESS

4 acres. Great views.
Electric near. \$175,000.
Very motivated seller.

Give Deb Archuleta
at Archuleta Properties a call
(970)903-2817

5 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN. 3 flat buildable acres. Great mountain views, water cap and driveway in. Power to the property, fully fenced, corners marked. \$300k. 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. \$450K.

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS. .21 acres, buildable lot, tap available, motivated seller. \$40,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

TWO ADJACENT 5 ACRES LOTS. Available Separately. Meadows 4. Details at www.BLANCA257.com. Scott (970)731-4421 or fscott409@outlook.com.

OPEN HOUSE this Saturday, 6/7, 10:00-12:00. 1015 E. Stollsteimer Rd. 2bd/ 1ba/ 600 sq ft. cabin with well. Listed by Sherpa Real Estate. 1015EStollsteimer.com. Refreshments provided!



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Email us at
classads@pagosasun.com
to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

Don't let old age define you

By **Betty Slade**
PREVIEW Columnist

Don't overlook the small wins. They will bring you to the bigger win at the end of your days — staying young and refusing to let old age define you.

There are many kinds of winners. Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders describes his grandmother as a winner: "She won because she was never out of character. I never heard her use profanity. She won because every Sunday and Wednesday she was in Bible study at church. She won because she helped everybody she could. ..."

Winning looks different according to where you are in life. Many of the writers at the Wolf Creek Christian Writers' Network started writing in their 60s and 70s and now they are pushing their 80s and 90s. They are all winners. They show up every Monday morning. They write, learn and hone their craft.

They are challenged by the computer and the latest technology, but they learn enough to make it work for them. They find venues and contests to enter and know the latest rules and guidelines in publishing, and have followed through with published books and magazine articles.

My grandson, Spencer Whiteout, spoke to the group on the process of writing and producing film and how to write scripts for their books. Several are venturing out in a new way of writing for the movies.

My grandson said, "I hope when I'm old I'll be as sharp as you, Grandma. I know that comes from still reading, writing and creating. That keeps you alert."

I can see this happening among our writers. Their minds are still alert, full of ideas, great writing, and they are engaged with life. We have eight writers over 80, all still young in their minds. They are relevant when they write.

But when you walked into our group on Monday mornings, you see a different story. Today, I looked around at my friends and thought, "We are all looking older." A 90-year-old strolled in with her oxygen tank and tubes strapped to her face. Another rolled in, sitting high on a

Artist's Lane

wheel chair.

Three of us limped in with a cane. One of the 90-year-olds started coughing and couldn't stop. One member handed her a cup of water and another one, a tissue. The other 90-year-old with the oxygen tank, sitting close, handed her the oxygen breathing apparatus: "You can borrow my oxygen."

"Heavens." I looked at one of the younger ones in the group and said, "We look like an old folks' home. All we need are a few recliners and electric throws."

No matter how we appear, we are writers winning at life. "Prompt Week" is when we are given one little phrase, or a picture, and the writers are asked to write about it. We pick up our pens and create. I am amazed how fertile the minds are and how they write such elegant words. We have learned how to win in small things.

It doesn't matter that some of us need the handicap ramp to get into the building. We look for a pillow to sit on and find the closest chair to the bathroom. The sound for the microphone is turned up so we can hear.

The world says age is just a number, but numbers don't lie when the aches and pains come, or sitting on the side of the bed, waiting for the impulse to get to one's feet. Ensuring a full night's sleep, several of us have CPAP machine marks on our wrinkled faces. When seven bottles of medicine are lined up on the counter, we understand borrowed time, and the last chapter is getting closer. We are counting on a satisfying ending, staying young and productive, and winning at this life. Yeah, baby.

Final brushstroke: These old book covers show wear and tear, bent corners and faded images, but open them and see the wealth of knowledge and wisdom that runs between the written lines. I know I'm a winner when my 29-year-old grandson says,

"I hope when I'm old I'll be as sharp as you, Grandma. I know that comes from still reading, writing and creating. That keeps you alert."

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