

More than 67,000 visit county over Fourth of July holiday

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs area welcomed more than 67,000 visitors over the Fourth of July holiday period. According to a report provided by Tourism Director Jennifer Green, 67,200 visitors visited the area between Wednesday, July 2, and Sunday, July 6. In 2024, Green reported the area saw 63,300 people visiting Archuleta

County between July 3 and July 7 — also a Wednesday through Sunday. Green notes in an email to the SUN the July 2-6 period this year was down 2.2 percent over the same dates last year, but, in looking at July 2-4, the 2025 figures are 0.1 percent higher than the same period in 2024. Last year, Green noted that the area saw 68,600 visitors over the Fourth of July holiday in 2021. The average stay in the market

■ See Visit A8

Fire danger continues, national forest fire restrictions expanded

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Country has continued to experience warm, dry weather over the last week, with multiple fires caused by lightning being combated by fire management officials and smoke from regional fires continuing to move into the area. The conditions led to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announcing on Monday, July 14, that fire restrictions on the San Juan National Forest would be expanded the following day. On Wednesday, the USFS listed

the fire danger for the upper elevations of the San Juan National Forest at high, and at very high for the lower elevations.

Little Devil Fire

One of the lightning-caused fires tended to by fire officials from multiple area organizations this week was the Little Devil Fire, which was located in the area to the north of the Devil Creek State Wildlife Area and of the Ute Campground along U.S. 160. The USFS responded to the fire, which began Monday, July 14, with air and ground resources and reported

■ See Fire A8

Town to seek grant funding for new Skyrocket Park and trailhead

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On July 15, the Pagosa Springs Town Council granted approval for staff in the Parks and Recreation Department to go after a new grant opportunity to develop a park on its recently purchased property near Tractor Supply. The partnership grant is through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and CO Youth Corps Association (CYCA) and, if awarded, would fund the labor for developing the new park and connecting it with the existing park at Reservoir Hill, as well for fire mitigation. Town staff wants to name the new public space Skyrocket Park, named after an existing trail on Reservoir Hill, to which the new park would connect, and after the Pagosa sky-rocket plant, an herbaceous plant species in the phlox family found only around Pagosa Springs. The grant funds would employ youth and young adults through a CYCA partnership to improve access to Reservoir Hill by developing the adjacent town-owned property on the northeast side, currently known as the Goodman property. The CYCA labor crew would also conduct fire mitigation in the area. An agenda document on the matter states, "The project includes building a new access point that connects to the existing trail system, along with creating picnic areas, landscaping, fencing, parking, and the kiosk signage." It adds, "A minimum of two weeks of CYCA crews would be requested and would cover the labor needed to build these improvements." Recreation Supervisor Amanda Gadomski explained that the grant funding would pay for the labor costs

■ See Park A10



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Waterline work on the north side of 2nd Street progresses as part of the U.S. 160 reconstruction project. Utility work is continuing throughout the project. In addition, crews are set to work Sunday in preparation for the delivery of the road base material on Monday, July 21.



SUN photo/Robert Penton

Tuesday's sunset takes on an extra layer of orange thanks to smoky skies. Smoke from a number of regional fires has moved into the air periodically recently, affecting air quality.

Tourism board discusses market trends, advertising efforts with new lodgers' association

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 2, during which the board heard updates from Blue Room Research on market trends, its paid Meta advertising consultant and from members of a newly formed lodgers' association.

Lodgers' association

During the public comment section of the meeting, Kelly Spence spoke, explaining she is part of the newly formed Pagosa Lodgers Association (PLA), and the purpose of the group is to "advocate ... for the effective use of lodgers' tax to fund visitor marketing and advertising outside of Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs."


Spence added that the PLA would "just like to kind of have like a little say in what's going on with the tax dollars that are being taken from the lodgers' taxes," noting the association's goal is to directly support the mission of the tourism board, which is "to raise awareness of Pagosa Springs as a vacation destination and improve

visitors experiences." Spence also explained the PLA is advocating for "strategic, data-informed advertising," and promoting initiatives that will attract visitors year-round to help strengthen the tourism industry "and generate shared prosperity for the residents of Pagosa Springs." "We'd like to have more of a voice of what's being done with our tax dollars," she added, noting that the PLA's goals "are pretty much as everybody else's," with putting more heads in beds and providing better experiences for visitors. Spence noted that the PLA currently has 13 members, and tourism board chair Shane Lucero asked if a list of the PLA's members could be provided. "I don't know how we feel about ... We've talked about just having a number provided for you guys," Spence answered, noting the association is made up of representatives of hotels, motels, resorts and other small entities.

Market trends

In December 2024, the Pagosa


■ See Tourism A8



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Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Be prepared

In the last two weeks alone, we, like many others, have seen seemingly countless news reports of devastating flooding, fires, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and more throughout our country and around the world.

There have been reports of deadly flooding across portions of our country, and much of the West is dealing with smoky skies and fires that feel too close to home.

In Ruidoso, N.M., the burn scars from last year's devastating wildfires contributed to flooding that literally carried homes away. In Arizona and Utah, fires have destroyed historic landmarks and homes.

The number of lives lost in Texas and elsewhere to flash floods continues to rise as heroic crews work to find those still listed as missing.

We mourn those lives lost to flooding, many of them children, and watch as officials and others look into what could have been done differently or better with hopes that determining those things will help the next inevitable natural disaster not be as deadly and devastating.

And we, like many others, continue to watch the forecasts and check in with friends and family who live in areas affected by severe weather.

We also continue to remember just how lucky we are, and that we need to be prepared for whatever may come our way.

Pagosa Country is experiencing drought, lackluster monsoonal moisture and a lot of dry lightning.

However, we were lucky to receive late spring moisture that's helped lightning strikes not turn into full-blown fires quickly like elsewhere, and we're thankful for the quick, efficient and smart fire management staff who call this area home and use their talents and knowledge for our benefit.

Earlier this year, when a fire was dangerously close to the power lines that feed Archuleta County, the U.S. Forest Service and its partners combated it swiftly and efficiently, throwing resources at it and avoiding a situation that could have negatively impacted people in so many ways.

In the last couple of weeks, we've kept tabs on area fire personnel as they've

quickly managed to quell a number of fires started by lightning, including the Little Devil Fire earlier this week.

While we know there will be more summers where we cover large-scale fires in our area for months at a time, we much prefer covering smaller fires lasting only a few days where values are protected.

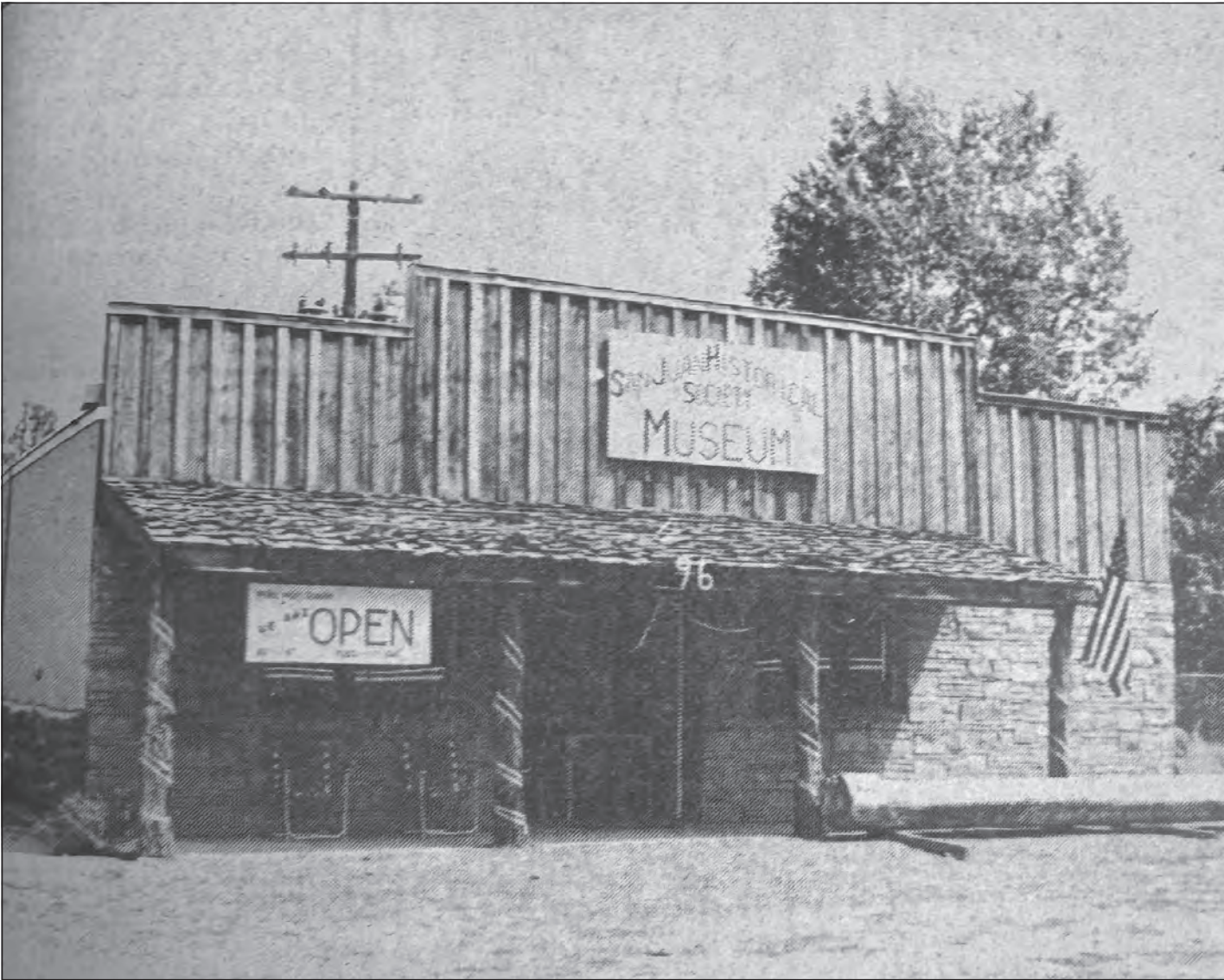
In a time when almost everything feels divided, our area agencies continue to work incredibly well together night and day to have all hands on deck quickly to minimize risk, as well as the fear of living in fire-prone areas. For that, we are very sincerely thankful. If you see one of these folks out and about, we encourage you to express your appreciation for their services.

We need to also thank them by doing our part to prevent fires and to be prepared in the event one pops up close to home.

Numerous resources exist for helping you prepare for emergencies. Let's use them and be prepared. You never know where Mother Nature will strike next.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the July 17, 1980 Pagosa SUN — MUSEUM NOW OPEN — The museum at the east edge of town is now open Tuesday through Sunday, starting at 10 a.m. each day. There are many interesting historical exhibits there, as well as displays of artifacts. The museum is operated by the Upper San Juan Historical Society and anyone is welcome to visit it.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 17, 1925

This section in the past week has been visited by some of the hottest days in its history. And yet the nights are always cool — wonder how our eastern friends stand it?

Starting Wednesday every person purchasing a car must take the bill of sale to the county recorder where, for a fee of \$1, the buyer may obtain a certificate of title. This the owner may keep until the car is sold, when, on the reverse side, the transfer will be filled out according to the blank provided. After getting the certificate, the owner then may get license plates, but no plates will be issued to owners without such a title.

Before selling a car the owner must get such a certificate so the transfer may be duly recorded on it. Persons already owning cars and having licenses, need not apply for a certificate of title until May, 1927, unless they desire to sell their machine in the meantime.

In obtaining a certificate, the applicant must list on it all liens or other encumbrances. A penitentiary sentence may be imposed for violation of this provision.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 14, 1950

The Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday night of this week when routine business matters were transacted and discussions of various town matters were held. The water works came in for a considerable portion of the discussion and it was developed that a lengthening of the present sprinkling hours was in prospect in the near future. When the hours are lengthened an announcement will be made in the SUN. The board also instructed the water commissioner to shut delinquent water users service off and in instances where water is hauled from other residences and the water hauler is in arrears the user furnishing the water will have his service discontinued.

Various projected street improvements were discussed and plans are being made for work to start on some of the streets soon. It was also decided at the meeting to start immediate plans for improvement and modernization of the town park. If the plans are carried out as discussed, the park will be come a most welcome attraction to both homefolk and tourists.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 17, 1975

Residents of the Arboles area spent much time and effort in cooperation with the Parks Division and the Soil Conservation Service in preparing a plan for the development of recreational facilities at the Navajo Park at Arboles.

To date their efforts have been very rewarding in one direction and very disappointing in another. The Soil Conservation Service came up with a well thought out plan and also tentatively agreed to approve the project for RC&D funds. The RC&D initials stand for resource conservation and development.

The State of Colorado came up with nothing, despite the fact that the park is of great benefit to the state, and could be immeasurably more if properly developed. To date Colorado's contribution to the Navajo Park has been little, with the original facilities being built by the United States Bureau of Reclamation and then turned over to Colorado to operate.

Some work has been done by honor camp inmates at Arboles. Park employees have accomplished a great deal with little to do with. The marina facilities are extremely undersized for the demands placed on the park.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 13, 2000

Apprehension is not normally a weather term, but the air in Pagosa Country is heavily laden with apprehension these days.

The questions creating the apprehension are: When will rain fall in quantities sufficient to eliminate drought conditions? Will mandatory water rationing be required before the rain comes? Will the San Juan River through town dry up?

Carrie Campbell, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District general manager, keeps at least one eye focused on the clouds these days. She and her associates will make the decision to implement mandatory water rationing if conditions require such a move.

"Every morning I look at all the clouds and think we're going to get some rain," Campbell said. "So far, it just hasn't happened. We have received a little rain, but we need a substantial amount to avoid rationing. I hope people don't think the scattered showers we've received have been enough to fix the problem. We're still asking people to use water very carefully."



Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture	Type	Depth
7/8	86	46	0.00	NA	NA	NA
7/9	91	48	0.00	NA	NA	NA
7/10	89	53	0.00	NA	NA	NA
7/11	87	46	0.00	NA	NA	NA
7/12	87	47	0.00	NA	NA	NA
7/13	85	46	0.05	NA	NA	NA
7/14	85	48	0.02	NA	NA	NA



Letters

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

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

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

Cultivated-meat research

Dear Editor:

Any of our political leaders who are concerned about climate change, which ought to be all of them, should support increased public funding for cultivated-meat research. For readers who are unaware, the new protein is grown from animal cells, without slaughter. Scientists believe, when the technology is fully developed, cultivated meat will require a fraction of the greenhouse-gas emissions that slaughtered meat does.

Animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change, an inconvenient truth serious environmentalists must reckon with. Cellular agriculture represents a scalable solution to this problem. Ecologically-conscious politicians at the state and federal level should allocate more government money toward cultivated-meat development. Let's establish cellular-agriculture research centers at universities across the country.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Education funds

Dear Editor:

In addition to firing most federal education department staff, the Trump administration on July 1 failed to release over \$6 billion authorized for K-12 programs. Colorado should have received \$71 million. After-school programs (which are especially important for working families) and mental health services are among the affected budget items.

Let's hear from Trump supporters out there what you plan to do to fill the gaps for our kids and working families. Don't blame the State for Trump's (illegal) decision to withhold authorized funds. It's your turn, now, to take responsibility for the decisions Trump and Jeff Hurd have made to take money from public education so that millionaires can keep their tax breaks.

Candace Jones

Hurd and the bill

Dear Editor:

Jeff Hurd has been in Congress for six months, with his primary achievement being his two votes in favor of the Omnibus Reconciliation Bill (OBB). Despite previously opposing the Medicaid cuts and deficit increases it would create, he changed his stance, likely under pressure from his party and the administration. He now supports the bill wholeheartedly and has taken the following positions:

On Medicaid Impacts: Hurd estimated that only 4% of Medicaid recipients in his district would lose coverage, claiming that reductions would "improve the program for others."

Reality Check: 31% of our district relies on Medicaid, and with 150,000 losing coverage statewide, the impact on our district would be much higher than 4%. Nearly 70% of Colorado's rural hospitals are already operating at negative margins and face an additional \$1.6 billion in uncompensated care. The cuts do not improve services; they destabilize our healthcare system.

On Those Losing Coverage: Hurd believes that those losing coverage should be "able-bodied adults who can work and contribute."

Reality Check: This perspective reflects a naive understanding of the job market, which includes part-time employment and constant job changes. The work requirement is

so unpopular that it was postponed until after the mid-term elections to protect congressional re-election campaigns.

On Economic Impact: Hurd disputed CBO estimates that the bill would add \$3 trillion to the debt, suggesting skepticism towards the Congressional Budget Office.

Reality Check: Historically, CBO errors range from 5-10%, on average. For the OBB to be neutral on spending, U.S. GDP would need to grow at an average rate of 3.1% annually for the next decade—a sustained rate we have never come close to achieving. The current CBO growth projection for 2025 is 1.9%, and the U.S. economy shrank by 0.5% in early 2025.

On Energy Benefits: Hurd emphasized increased energy production in Western Colorado as a major benefit of the bill.

Reality Check: The bill replaces subsidies for renewable energy with those for petroleum, essentially transferring investment and jobs from a high growth sector to a low growth sector.

In response to negative feedback from constituents, Hurd stated, "The OBB will unleash American energy dominance, deliver tax cuts for middle-class Americans, and ensure our southern border is safe."

Reality Check: The OBB undermines years of investment in renewable energy for short-term gains in petroleum, with no actual tax cuts for the middle class. The bill merely extends existing tax rules. Additionally, the OBB does not enhance border security. The border patrol will receive a modest increase and build part of a wall. Most of the money goes to ICE, outside of the border area. Instead of funding more effective local and state police agencies, we are choosing to build a militarized federal police force.

Mr. Hurd seems like a nice individual, but respectfully, his actions suggest he is either uninformed, easily manipulated or deceptive. I hope we have a face-to-face town hall one day to ask him ourselves.

Ed Matlack

'Good trouble'

Dear Editor:

Americans across the country are planning protest marches on July 17th and July 19th to honor the late Representative John Lewis, who encouraged people to engage in

"Good Trouble" to redeem the soul of America.

Sixty years ago, young Lewis, along with 3200 others, marched arm-in-arm across a bridge in Selma to protest grinding injustice to black Americans and to stir the conscience of a country.

Today, a corrupt administration believes it can create a new world order by unleashing military groups and by bullying Congress to pass laws that weaken our democratic form of government.

In the spirit of John Lewis, people will march this week to bring attention to today's injustices.

We march for the voiceless people being hunted like animals. Not because they're criminals. Despite the president's self-serving claims, 93% of people taken by ICE have no violent criminal records. They're hunted because autocratic power needs to name an "enemy."

We march to call out the manufactured hype about Medicaid "fraud." 92% of Medicaid recipients have jobs or qualifying exemptions. They're targeted because they lack the power to protect themselves against rapacious greed.

We march for our public lands, the treasure that's been set aside for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. No one has the right to neglect, endanger, or exploit this uniquely American legacy.

We march for the scientists, medical professionals, teachers, librarians, farmers, economists, park rangers, firefighters, reporters, weathermen, ecologists, and entertainers, many of whom are unable to express themselves freely. Many live in fear for their livelihoods because of unchecked, abusive, executive power.

We march for many reasons. But above all, we march to rediscover the America that's good, compassionate, just, brave, and honorable, the America in which we can all take pride.

Sincerely,
Kathy Muth

Pagosa West

Dear Editor:

According to Development Director the proposed Pagosa West development is expected to be resubmitted with revisions and considered at an August Planning Commission meeting.

To date, Pagosa West raises legitimate concerns.

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of July 20-26

Work activity

- The crew will be working on the subgrade on Sunday, July 20, to prepare for the delivery of the road base material on Monday.
- Install and adjust stormwater inlet grates from 1st to 5th streets.
- Installation of light pole bases from 1st to 3rd streets.
- Updates to sewer service lines in the 400 block.
- The 2nd Street and 4th Street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 will remain closed until utility and drainage work is complete.
- Utility work will begin in front of Pagosa Springs Middle School; the plan is to have utility work completed in advance of the first day of school on Sept. 2.
- Excavation is planned for geothermal utilities near Tennyson Sculpture Park and Gardens in mid-August. Pedestrians need to plan for sidewalk detours around the work at this location in the near future.

Overflow parking available

- Overflow parking lots are open at 323 Hot Springs Blvd. and 811 San Juan St. 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

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The Pagosa Springs SUN



Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

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Since the program started, area REALTORS® and Title Companies have donated and contributed over \$275,000.

Business

LPEA secures 10-year deal for local hydropower from Vallecito Dam

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) has signed a new 10-year power purchase agreement with Ptarmigan Resources and Energy Inc. for locally generated hydropower from the Vallecito Dam, reinforcing the co-operative's commitment to clean, reliable and community-focused energy.

Effective April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2036, the agreement will provide approximately 5.8 megawatts of renewable capacity onto LPEA's system — enough to power around 2,500 homes per year. It's the first time LPEA has been able to purchase power directly from Vallecito, thanks to new flexibility under its evolving power supply strategy.

"This is a win for our members and our mission," said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. "For the first time, we're contracting directly with a local hydropower provider right in our backyard."

The hydropower facility at Vallecito Dam, located northeast of Bayfield, has long provided clean energy to

the regional grid. However, LPEA's previous long-term wholesale power contract limited its ability to work with independent producers like Ptarmigan.

"This project is exactly what we envision for the future of energy for our members: affordable, responsibly generated power produced right here in our community," said Nicole Pitcher, LPEA board president. "It's meaningful that the same water sustaining our ranches and farms and bringing joy to recreationists will also be generating clean energy for homes across our service territory."

"Selling power locally is a win-win," said Sam Perry, CEO of HydroWest (contracted by Ptarmigan to oversee plant operations). "With this new partnership, Vallecito can provide consistent, renewable energy and grid stability to LPEA."

This power purchase agreement follows LPEA's launch of a competitive request for proposals earlier this year seeking additional long-term energy resources to serve its load after 2028.



Photo courtesy Bureau of Reclamation

La Plata Electric Association has signed a new 10-year power purchase agreement for locally generated hydropower from the Vallecito Dam located northeast of Bayfield.

May sales tax collections up 3 percent over 2024

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Sales tax collections in Archuleta County have increased every month this year in month-to-month comparisons with 2024.

According to data released from Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on July 8, overall sales tax collections for May 2025 increased 3.07 percent compared to figures from 2024. That equates to \$43,987.42 more received in May 2025 than in May 2024.

Sales tax collections in January were up 3.96 percent, or \$67,565.22

more than January 2024; February collections were up 11.64 percent, or \$143,191.44 more than February 2024; March collections were up 9.12 percent, or \$129,489.44 more than March 2024; and April collections were up 9.32 percent, or \$117,621.93 more than April 2024.

For the month of May, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,477,890.90 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax revenues, with \$734,724.57 going to the county and \$734,529.39 going to the town.

Categories that were up in comparison to May 2024, according to Eaton's data, include:

- Manufacturing at 22.03 percent, or \$13,205.27.
- Information at 11.53 percent, or \$2,815.71.
- Finance and Insurance at 47.13 percent, or \$729.98.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 10.36 percent, or \$24,438.81.
- Other Services (except Public Administration) at 2.71 percent, or \$762.35.
- Miscellaneous at 6.31 percent, or \$12,712.11.

Eaton's data also identifies categories that were down in comparison to February 2024, which include:

- Construction at 10.99 percent, or \$3,146.58.
- Retail Trade at .27 percent, or \$2,214.88.
- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 4.38 percent, or \$1,049.33.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 28.28 percent, or \$4,266.02.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Chamber announces new event to be held in August

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

There's a gap in the Chamber's event schedule, so we decided to create a new event to highlight some different aspects of Colorado beverages. And, who doesn't like a food competition?

So, master grillers and backyard BBQers, now is your opportunity to shine at the new Grillin' and Distillin' competition on Aug. 23.

Grillin' and Distillin' will offer tasting tickets to the BBQ portion of the event or the distilling portion of the event, or both. Tickets are \$25 for either tasting or, if you would like a combo ticket, those are \$45.

Don't eat meat or drink spirits? No problem. General admission tickets are also available for only \$10, and you are able to enjoy other beverages such as beer and wine and other food vendors, as well as live music and general fun.

The event will be held at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds at the Hughes Pavilion from noon until 5 p.m.

Let's address entering the event as a competitor. If you have participated in BBQ cook-offs before and had your food judged, then you would enter the Master Grillers category. If you are known among family, friends or neighbors as a really great griller, then the Backyard Griller category is for you.

If you would like to review the rules and guidelines for the event, visit the Chamber's website, www.pagosachamber.com. Click on the Grillin' and Distillin' graphic under Community and Chamber News, and the guidelines and applications are there for you.

There will be tasting categories for chicken, ribs, brisket and beans. All four categories are required for the Master Grillers. If you enter the Backyard category, you can enter all or multiple categories.

The gates for the tasting will open at noon. There will be judging every hour for each category. The People's Choice award will be awarded at 5 p.m. All of these requirements are listed in the guidelines.

For attendees, tickets are already on sale at www.pagosachamber.com, also under the Grillin' and Distillin' graphic.

As mentioned above, tickets can be purchased for either spirit or BBQ tasting. A discount is available for a combo tasting ticket. If you want to attend but don't want to partake in either tasting, general admission tickets are available for \$10, which allows you to choose other food options, other beverage options and the live music.

If you purchase a BBQ tasting or distilling tasting ticket, you are able to vote for the People's Choice awards in each tasting, which will be awarded at the end of the day at 5 p.m.

We are very excited that the Colo-

rado Distillers Association is working with us to bring to Pagosa Springs and highlight some of Colorado's best distilled spirits.

Live music performers will be announced soon.

The intent is for the Chamber to grow this event and really make it another signature event for the Chamber. We like to gather around great food, so what better way to engage than a BBQ cook-off?

Questions about the event, whether as a participant or ticketed attendee, can be directed to Angela Maxey, event coordinator, at (970) 264-2360 or events@pagosachamber.com.

Enter now or purchase your tickets and support another creative, fun event hosted by the Chamber.

Thank you for supporting local businesses.

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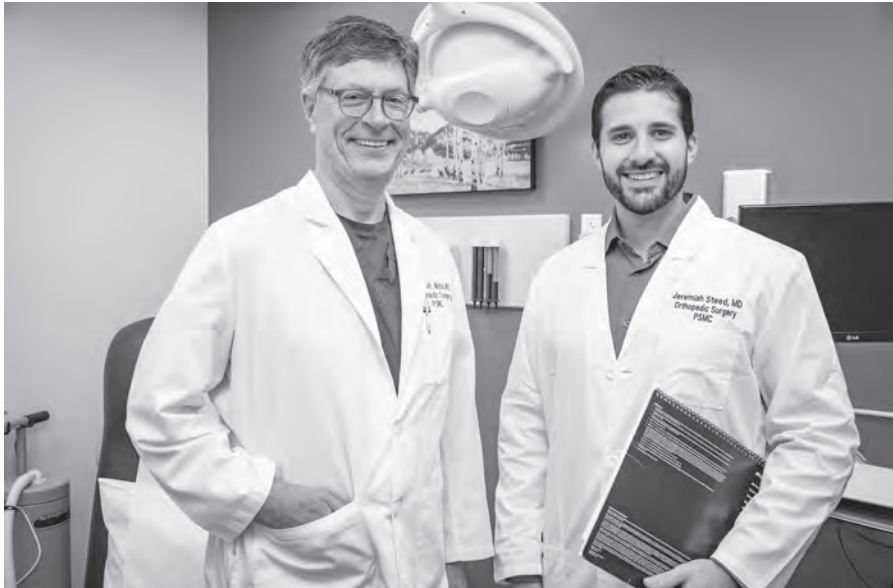
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July's Educational information is What to do immediately after a house fire

Please see our blog for a step-by-step guide.

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Health service district receives clean audit

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

At its June meeting, the board of directors of the Upper San Juan Health Service District, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), voted unanimously to accept the district's 2024 audit.

The district received a clean, unqualified audit opinion, with auditor Kami Matzek explaining that "is the best" opinion, with no adjustments or findings.

During the meeting, PSMC Chief Financial Officer Chelle Keplinger explained to the board that the district's contract with its auditor — Dingus, Zarecor and Associates PLLC — will expire in a year.

Matzek then explained the firm has been working with the district for a few years and the audit went really well, adding they went over the entire audit with the district's finance committee and that she and fellow auditor Jeremy Valdez would present financial indicators to the board during the meeting.

Valdez noted PSMC staff are always great to work with before explaining the financial indicators are a visual representation.

The presentation also included comparative benchmark data for many of the indicators with three other data points: all Colorado hospitals in 2023, critical access hospitals (CAH) in the far west in 2023 and all rural hospitals with less than \$90 million in revenue in 2023.

Matzek noted during the presentation the benchmarks are always at least a year behind and her favorite comparison is the CAH far west.

Valdez began by presenting the district's total margin, which is the change in net position divided by total revenues.

The presentation notes, "This ratio reflects profits from both operations and nonoperations. Higher is better."

Valdez added they like to see between 3 and 6 percent.

PSMC was at 4.3 percent for 2024, compared to 0.8 percent in 2023 and -3.1 percent in 2022, with Valdez noting that Colorado Department of Local Affairs grants were one of the biggest reasons for the increase.

The figure for all Colorado hospitals in 2023 was 2.6 percent, 2.4 percent for CAH far west and 2.2 percent for rural hospitals with less than \$90 million in revenue.

Next was data on PSMC's operating margin, which is its operating income or loss divided by total operating revenues, with the presentation noting higher is better.

PSMC's operating margin in 2024 was -7.4 percent, which compares with -2.1 percent in 2023 and -9.4 percent in 2022. The figure for all Colorado hospitals in 2023 was 1.1 percent, for CAH far west was 1.2 percent and for the rural hospitals was 0.8 percent.

Valdez noted that typically they like to see a facility break even, but noted increases in salaries, benefits and cost of living.

Matzek noted they don't see many actually break even and indicated that's why the district receives tax revenue.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

PSMC had 126 days cash on hand from all sources in 2024, down from 133 in 2023 and even with 2022's 126.

The presentation explains the indicator "measures the number of days of average cash expenses that the District maintains in cash and marketable securities. It is a measure of total liquidity, both short-term and long-term. High values for Days Cash on Hand — All Sources usually imply a greater ability to meet both short-term obligations and long-term capital replacement needs. Higher is better."

The figure for all Colorado hospitals in 2023 was 75, was 117 for CAH far west and 107 for the rural hospital category. Additionally, the presentation notes:

Matzek noted there is a positive feeling about charity care and a negative feeling about bad debt, but that they are the same thing, with one category filling out paperwork and the other not.

tion compares PSMC to all hospitals with fewer than 50 beds (123 days) and all hospitals with less than \$80 million in revenues (93 days).

Valdez then presented information on PSMC's current ratio, which he explained is another measurement of liquidity.

According to the presentation, "The Current Ratio is perhaps the most widely used measure of liquidity. High values can sometimes be misleading if the current assets are not liquid, such as inventory or noncollectible accounts receivable. Higher is better."

PSMC's current ratio for 2024, or its total current assets divided by its current liabilities, was 2.7 in 2024, down from 3.7 in 2023 and 3.5 in 2022. The comparative categories range from 3.0 for all Colorado hospitals to 5.5 for all hospitals with less than \$80 million in revenue. The CAH far west comparison for 2023 was 3.8.

Valdez noted PSMC has pretty good liquidity and a good trend over the last three years.

Board member Wayne Hooper asked what the goal to shoot for in terms of days cash on hand is before the district should shift money.

Matzek noted she tells people after they hit 180 days to look at cash management.

The next indicator presented was equipment additions to depreciation expense, which the presentation notes "is the current year capital acquisitions as a percentage of current year depreciation expense. Values of 100 percent or more are an indicator that capital assets are being updated and replaced."

PSMC's figure for 2024 was 139 percent, compared to 21 percent in 2023, 348 percent in 2022, 55 percent in 2021 and 110 percent in 2020.

In presenting the district's long-term debt to net position, Valdez noted the district has a newer building.

The presentation explains, "Long-term Debt to Net Position is the pro-

portion or long-term debt divided by long-term debt plus net position. Higher values for this ratio imply a greater reliance on debt financing and may imply a reduced ability to carry additional debt. Lower is better."

PSMC's figure for 2024 was 50 percent, down from 53 percent in 2023 and 51 percent in 2022. The 2023 figure for all Colorado hospitals was 23 percent, for CAH far west was 31 percent and for all rural hospitals with less than \$90 million in revenue was 27 percent.

The next indicator presented was days in net patient accounts receivable, with PSMC's figure of 43 days in 2024 comparing to 35 in 2023 and 45 in 2022.

PSMC's figure is below the benchmark figures, which range from 68 to 110 days.

The presentation explains the figure is "the average time that receivables are outstanding, or the average collection period. Higher collection periods lead to greater short-term financing requirements and will often force hospitals to reduce short-term cash or increase short-term debt. Lower is better."

PSMC's gross days in accounts receivable, or the average time receivables are outstanding, for 2024 was 63 days, up from 57 in 2023, 61 in 2024, 60 in 2021 and 48 in 2020.

Matzek noted PSMC's collections are "very healthy."

PSMC's contractual adjustment percentage, or "the percentage of gross patient revenue that is discounted to third-party payors," according to the presentation, was 52 percent in 2024, which compares to 50 percent in 2023, 51 percent in 2022, 49 percent in 2021 and 45 percent in 2020.

The presentation further explains, "Increasing values for this indicator puts tremendous pressure on hospital prices in those limited areas in which fuller recovery of rates is possible."

The presentation then focused on PSMC's bad debt percentage, which Valdez noted saw a slight uptick.

He indicated there was an issue with the collections company and a change at the state which means certain people can't be collected on.

PSMC's bad debt percentage, or percentage of net patient revenue that has been earned but is determined to be uncollectable, was 9.4 percent, up from 8.1 percent in 2023 and 2022. The benchmark comparisons range from 3.6 percent to 6.1 percent.

The presentation then looked at bad debt and charity care, with charity care being revenue that has been earned but not billed or collected as part of a hospital's charity care program.

"This is an indicator of the benefit a hospital provides to in-need members of the community from a service perspective," the presentation states about the charity care percentage.

PSMC's bad debt compared to gross patient revenues was 4.1 percent in 2024, with its charity care being 0.4 percent.

Matzek noted there is a positive feeling about charity care and a negative feeling about bad debt, but that they are the same thing, with one category filling out paperwork and the other not.

Valdez then noted that salaries and benefits are PSMC's biggest expense, showing that PSMC had 223 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) in 2024, compared to 225 in

2023, 215 in 2022, 219 in 2021 and 232 in 2020.

The salaries and benefits per FTE for 2024 was \$117,090. That compares to \$108,328 in 2023, \$107,634 in 2022, \$109,842 in 2021 and \$96,729 in 2020.

The net patient service revenue per FTE in 2024 was \$156,480, with Valdez pointing out PSMC's revenue per FTE is greater than its cost per FTE.

The revenue per FTE in 2023 was \$159,895, in 2022 was \$151,828, in 2021 was \$148,363 and in 2020 was \$127,684.

Following the presentation, board chair Kate Alfred stated she is very proud of the hospital and its clean audit, which she called good news.

She added staff works hard and is good at what they do.

randi@pagosasun.com

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To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>

1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$925,000

MLS # 822945

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

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

65 Caballero Drive
\$695,000

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=q0khZeKE-G0

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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.

X Tall Pines Place
\$255,000

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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Tourism

■ Continued from front

Springs Town Council approved a sole-source contract for the amount of \$35,000 with Blue Room Research for the purpose of conducting market research for the tourism board.

According to agenda documentation, Blue Room provides data analysis of the effectiveness of destinations, evaluating tax revenues, trends and marketing campaigns.

During the July 2 meeting, Blue Room's Steve Halasz presented its most recent report, explaining the document is intended to be a "living, breathing document" and that Blue Room is open to including other information the board may want to see.

Halasz mentioned the only caveat with providing additional data is that it is available and free, noting that Visit Pagosa Springs "doesn't really have any more budget for data."

He also mentioned that they do not have any hotel data, as the hoteliers in the community do not report it.

"If we could get them to do that, that would be fantastic," he added.

Halasz explained that because the

budget is limited, all the data he used is free, noting that other destinations have more resources to purchase things like credit card and hotel data.

He went on to explain that the report was designed to be a "30,000-foot overview" with considerations about the nation's economy as a whole and how that trickles down into the travel industry.

Halasz mentioned that with the volatility of the stock market lately, travelers may be holding off on taking on major purchases "like vacation."

He also explained that, "across the state of Colorado, we're seeing booking windows shrink dramatically."

Halasz noted that AirDNA, which pulls short-term rental (STR) data from Airbnb and VRBO, along with other hotel forecasters, has revised its projections down for the fourth quarter in a row.

He noted that, using this data as a proxy to all travel patterns, "booking windows are dropping."

"Again, unfortunately, we don't have that for Pagosa Springs, so it's impossible to tell if that's actually happening or not, but I would bet

my life it is," Halasz said, noting that is happening in every other client he has in Colorado.

He went on to talk about lodging tax collections, explaining that it is one of the "hardest data sources" available for Visit Pagosa Springs.

"I've already mentioned, we don't have lodging data, which is arguably the best, so we rely on tax collections as the next best thing," he said.

Halasz explained that lodging tax collections in the community have been increasing "since 2015, consistently" with a slight dip in 2022 and 2023, "and then back up in 2024."

He noted that lodging tax collections have a "lag" in reporting, and that it is not necessarily an apples-to-apples comparison, noting that visitors may be staying one month, but the tax collection is not reported until the following month.

"Again, this would be a huge get for the town if we could get the hotels to report lodging data and aggregate so we can look at what's going on on a more granular basis," Halasz said.

He then went on to review sales tax collections, explaining that cer-

tain indicators are more prevalent in tourism, such as dining.

Halasz explained that sales tax collections in the community have increased since 2016 with a "small wrinkle" in 2023, similar to lodging tax collections.

He then explained that Blue Room was able to provide STR data through a complimentary subscription to AirDNA, which indicated that STR occupancy in the greater Pagosa Springs area was down .4 percent in May, and the average daily rate (ADR) was up 7 percent, while revenue per room was up 6 percent.

Total revenue was up 18 percent, Halasz added, noting that shows a "really, really strong lodging performance."

Halasz commented that ADR "has been really far above 2024," and that 2025 has "outperformed almost every single month of the year," as well as revenue per available room "beating out last year's results every single month."

He also mentioned that total revenue collection has been "up every ■ See Tourism A9

Fire

■ Continued from front

that evening that hand line had been completed around the 7.5-acre fire.

The following morning, the agency reported the containment line held overnight, with mop-up operations taking place that day.

"An aggressive aerial response yesterday allowed firefighters on the ground to engage successfully and keep the fire footprint small," the agency wrote in a Tuesday update. "Large Air Tankers dropped two loads of retardant on the quickly expanding fire, and a helicopter inserted firefighters to begin digging hand line."

According to the USFS, resources on the fire include two helicopters, three hand crews, two engines and a Helitack crew.

San Juan National Forest expands fire restrictions

The USFS announced Monday that San Juan National Forest fire management staff were implementing Stage I fire restrictions on all National Forest System lands within the San Juan National Forest, including wilderness, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15.

The San Juan National Forest previously implemented restrictions only at lower elevations.

"Due to the extended drying trend, higher elevations are becoming vulnerable to wildfire and restrictions will now encompass the entire forest," the Monday press release on the restrictions states, adding later, "Southwest Colorado is in extended drought with continued hot, dry weather creating a critical fire environment."

The minimum fine for violating campfire restrictions in Stage I is \$530 in Colorado, it notes.

Stage I fire restrictions on the San Juan National Forest prohibit:

- Igniting, building, maintaining, attending or using a fire (including fires fueled by charcoal or bri-

quettes), except if it is in:

A permanent metal or concrete fire pit or grate that the U.S. Forest Service has installed and maintained at its developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas);

A device solely fueled by liquid or gas that can be turned on and off used in an area barren or cleared of all flammable materials within 3 feet of the device; or

A fully enclosed metal stove with a chimney at least 5 feet in length and a mesh screen spark arrestor with a screen opening of a ¼ inch or less used in an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials within 10 feet of the device.

- Using an explosive.
- Smoking is prohibited, except in an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

• Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame, except if in a cleared area of at least 10 feet in diameter and a chemical pressurized fire extinguisher (with a minimum 8-ounce capacity and rating of Class 2A) is kept with the operator.

Temporary restrictions will remain in place until further notice and may be increased or reduced at any time due to changes in weather and fire danger.

To learn more about fire restrictions, fuels management and other wildfire related issues, visit the USFS's fire information page, www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/fire.

The agency further notes that violations are punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations and/or by imprisonment for not more than six months.

Fire prevention and law enforcement will be patrolling, and anyone

who violates Stage 1 restrictions will be ticketed, it adds.

To report a fire, call 911. For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874 or visit the forest website.

Bureau of Land Management lands managed by the Tres Rios Field office, including lands in Archuleta County, are also under Stage 1 restrictions.

Chance of storms continues

The National Weather Service (NWS) forecast shows continued chances for thunderstorms in the coming days, with the outlook for July 21-25 then showing chances of above-average temperatures and near normal to below normal probability for precipitation.

For today, Thursday, July 17, the NWS predicts showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon, with a high near 83 and areas of smoke in the afternoon. The chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

The NWS forecasts that showers are likely and a thunderstorm is possible before midnight, then a slight chance of showers following that. The low is forecast to be around 48. The chance of precipitation is listed at 70 percent.

Showers and thunderstorms are likely Friday, July 18, mainly after noon, according to the NWS. The forecast calls for partly sunny skies with a high near 83 and a chance of precipitation of 70 percent.

The forecast for Friday night shows a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight with a low around 50.

The forecast for Saturday shows a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after noon, with mostly sunny skies and a high near 82.

The forecast shows a chance of showers and thunderstorms before

midnight Saturday night with partly cloudy skies a low around 48.

The forecast shows a chance of showers and thunderstorms Sunday and Sunday night with a high near 84 and a low around 47.

Drought

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, all of Archuleta County continued to be in drought as of July 8 — the most recent drought map available.

The northwest portion of the county is listed as being in moderate drought, 82.28 percent of the county is listed as being in severe drought and 10.64 percent of the eastern portion of the county continues to be listed as being in extreme drought.

It notes, "The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary."

One year ago, no portion of the county was in drought.

River conditions

The San Juan River in Pagosa Springs was running at 35.3 cubic feet per second (cfs) as of 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The July 16 median streamflow for July 9 is 182 cfs, according to the USGS, with the mean flow for the same date being 286 cfs.

According to 89 years of data, the lowest river flow on July 9 came in 2002, when the river's streamflow was at 13.3 cfs.

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Visit

■ Continued from front

from July 2-6 this year was two days, according to Green.

"There are a few factors that I can see contributing," Green notes concerning this year's visitor numbers, pointing out three possible factors for this year's overall de-

cline:

- Travel trends during economic uncertainty, such as people taking shorter trips and spending less.
- Timeshare checkouts are on Fridays, with the Fourth of July also falling on Friday in 2025.
- The lack of a traditional parade.

Green also notes the Visitor Center also often hears that Colorado has gotten expensive.

The financial impact of the visitors to the area remains to be seen, with both sales tax and lodgers' tax revenues reported in arrears.

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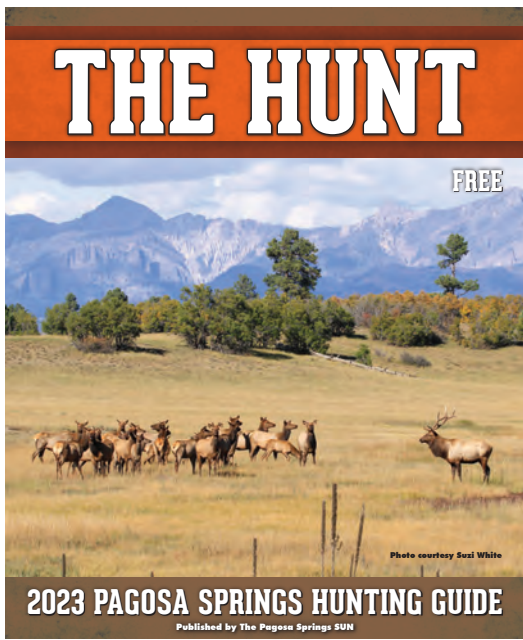
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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Tourism

■ Continued from A8 single month.”

“So, with everything I’m looking at with our hardest data sets, if you will, I’m seeing nothing but good performance out of Visit Pagosa Springs right now,” he said.

Board member Rosanna Dufour asked for a recommendation on what would be the most valuable data the board could get if it had funds to go out and purchase something.

Halasz recommended hotel data, but explained that while it may cost money to get hotel data, hoteliers also have to be willing to provide it.

“That’s the issue,” he said, noting his conversations with Tourism Director Jennifer Green.

He commented that the “lynchpin in a lot of these conversations is it costs money to buy this data, but part two to that is hotels have to participate.”

Halasz explained that he is not in the community, but, based on information relayed to him, “a lot of the hotels in Pagosa aren’t willing to report data and/or pay for it.”

“And I understand why a lot of them probably don’t,” he added, noting he was not suggesting that hoteliers should or should not share their data.

Halasz indicated that the cost of getting that data would be roughly \$20,000 per year, depending on what services the board would want to have included.

Dufour asked again about recommended data, noting the PLA just recently formed.

Halasz then recommended that Visa credit card data “of some sort” would be a “really, really nice add,” noting that it would likely cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually.

Audience member Jesse Hensle then asked if the public could ask questions related to the data being presented by Halasz.

Dufour and Archuleta County Commissioner/tourism board member John Ranson both indicated they wanted to hear Hensle’s questions.

Hensle commented on proxy and free data that Halasz referenced, mentioning he is concerned with occupancy reports, claiming they provide no foresight to make a move fast enough with a marketing campaign.

He also asked what else could be used to address booking windows in a more forward-looking manner.

Halasz commented that things like Google search inquiries could be used, but, “again, without having some sort of anchor as hotel data to show where it shows up, it’s very challenging.”

He added, “We don’t have any other indicators.”

He mentioned that a more granular level of “booking holes” is needed, and that more specifics are needed other than just being “down this month.”

Hensle commented that the “pushback” on that is that if lodgers understand their booking windows, noting that The Springs Resort has a six-week booking window right now, then search trends year over year could help predict occupancy levels.

Hensle commented that, as lodgers, the PLA could provide booking windows and triangulate information without having incur more costs.

Halasz expressed concern with being able to practically run targeted campaigns if the data doesn’t provide a clear hole.

Hensle explained that one issue with pace reports for The Springs Resort is that most of its business also comes through people soaking in the hot springs, outside of its hotel guests.

Halasz commented that he doesn’t see a “feasible way” to aggregate data for that.

Hensle commented that the lodgers as a cohort are able to discuss lagging and leading indicators.

Lucero interjected, commenting that he didn’t want to cut Hensle off, but for the sake of time wanted to move on.

“These are important questions, though,” Hensle replied, noting he had questions related to the report from Blue Room and that other people might want to hear them.

Lucero suggested setting a future time for the PLA to meet with Blue Room.

Hensle requested to ask two more questions, noting that in reading the tourism board’s minutes, “the other purpose when reviewing the minutes of hiring Blue Room was to understand the effectiveness of tourism’s efforts.”

He asked if there were any comparables available, noting the report shows growth, “but I don’t see how we’re growing versus other people in the industry.”

Hensle’s question was met with a comment from a board member noting that the same question had been asked multiple times.

“I’m going back to why we hired this company,” Hensle said.

Halasz explained that if there are other publicly available comparisons from other cities, in theory Blue Room could pull that data.

“We could do that for sales tax and lodging tax collections,” he said, noting, “I don’t think it’d be a very fruitful exercise or good use of time, just because every town is different.”

Hensle claimed that he had read all of the tourism board’s meeting minutes going back to October 2024 and that’s where his questions were coming from.

Ranson then commented he had a question for the lodgers, with Lucero explaining the PLA was a different agenda item and asking if the board had any other questions specifically for Halasz.

“I was unaware we had agenda time,” Hensle commented.

Meta advertising

The board then heard an update from David Fluegge, who was hired to perform paid Meta advertising for Visit Pagosa Springs.

Green explained that the advertising began in April, targeting different audiences for different events.

Fluegge explained that he worked with the Colorado Tourism Office on the “Leave No Trace” campaign, noting the goal is to increase visitors but also to educate travelers to make sure they are responsible when visiting the area.

Fluegge noted that, since April, Visit Pagosa Springs has had an engagement rate above 5 percent on its paid ads, describing that as “phenomenal.”

In response to a question from the board about what can be done to fill in last-minute bookings, Fluegge explained there is no plan because the “holes” are not known yet.

Pagosa Springs Town Council member/tourism board member Gary Williams asked if it “really matters,” commenting that Fluegge can’t change the trend, suggesting the board is “beating the same drum.”

Tourism board member Shane Prince commented that lodgers want to use data from previous years to develop seasonal marketing campaigns, asking if the trend lines provided form that is enough to pivot a marketing campaign.

Fluegge indicated that the more data, “the better,” explaining that the “beauty of social” is being able to sample markets before committing significant funds to a certain campaign.

Tourism board member Sarah Mashue, who sits on the board as the lodging member, explained that, as the PLA collaborates, a six- to eight-week booking window is being seen. “We are experiencing a 25 to 27 percent decline in bookings over of last year,” she said, asking how promotions can be activated to fill a hole “that we currently know is within this six- to eight-week window.”

Green explained that efforts with paid Meta advertising will continue throughout the summer, noting that ads will run through August and winter advertisements will begin to run in late August.

Green also noted that the tourism board has not put any money into paid ads since the COVID-19 pandemic, “so this is a shift for this summer.”

Prince then asked Mashue if she was saying that all properties are down 25 percent, to which she responded, “Like looking forward ... down that much, yes.”

Prince then asked if occupancy is up overall on the year, with Mashue replying, “Collectively, no.”

“I’m not seeing that trend myself,” Prince replied, noting that he agrees there is a shorter booking window, but with sales tax collections, “I’m trying to understand what that data is.”

Ranson commented that the April

sales tax collections sound good, “but all of the increase was in concrete, and two projects.”

Green explained that the report from the state classifies accommodation and food services as a line item in sales tax reports, which includes lodging, “and for April what I saw in the sales tax — that was up 5 percent over last year.”

Green noted that figure does not include the concrete purchases that Ranson referenced.

Lodgers’ association

The meeting then moved onto the agenda item to have a discussion with the PLA, with Ranson commenting that based on what he’s seen and heard, “there’s not the greatest relationship between the lodgers and the tourism up until this point.”

He explained that he was asking if that is the case because “I think these two groups ... may be the most important relationship our community will see, if we can work together.”

Ranson then asked if the PLA had some sort of revenue stream and if that would be helpful to work together and get data.

Lucero commented that the tourism board has offered to pick up that tab “for years.”

Ranson replied that he was asking for “more than that,” which was met with confusion from board members and PLA members.

Mashue then shared a handout with the board that listed reasons as to why members of the PLA do not want to participate in the data reporting.

According to the handout, reasons why lodgers do not want to participate include time and resource constraints, lack of reciprocal value, and reporting complexity and inconsistency.

Hensle commented that the PLA could provide data to Blue Room and have them report back to the tourism board, saving everybody money.

“It’s not about the funding to provide the data,” Hensle said, asking what purpose or benefit it would provide for the lodgers and noting there is “a large contingency that would prefer to not share their data.”

Ranson commented that he understands why lodgers may not want to share their data, and that he is looking for a solution to benefit lodgers and the tourism board.

Dufour commented that with lodgers forming the association it gives “a lot of validity to you having a seat at the table in these discussions,” noting this is a step in the right direction in “repairing this relationship.”

Williams also mentioned that the lodgers becoming an organized association is positive and “good for everybody.”

He also commented that occupancy data seems to be the “dependent variable” in the equation, “and we don’t have that variable,” so substitutes and proxies are used, “which aren’t very good.”

Ranson also expressed support for the PLA, commenting, “I’m very supportive of you all.”

Prince then addressed the comments made about May bookings being down 22 to 25 percent compared to last year, “but the lodging tax report and sales tax shows otherwise,” asking why that is, and if it is because people are booking shorter trips.

Prince also asked if booking figures transfer to overall occupancy rates, with Mashue confirming it does.

“So, how would tax be up if you’re down?” Prince asked.

Mashue explained that lodgers are down in occupancy, but ADRs are up, and that inventory has changed within the community with lodging options.

Hensle referenced inflation and that tax collections “aren’t exactly clear.”

He explained that using tax collections as a success measurement “is a

lagging indicator, and it’s not clear.”

He added that April was up, “but it wasn’t up a lot,” commenting that he was unsure of the “root” of Prince’s question.

Prince explained that he was going back to how tax collections are up but lodgers are down 25 percent, even though there is five years worth of tax data showing increases over time.

“Business is down 25 percent,” Hensle said, with Prince commenting that he was still unsure about what Hensle was saying.

Tourism board member Austin Marchand, who runs a hot air balloon company, commented that he is “up about 20 percent from last year” with his business’ bookings.

Tourism board member Lance Thornton, who is the STR representative on the board, indicated that STRs are up 22 percent over the last year with bookings, and that ADRs and occupancy are going up.

Williams commented that there is a problem going forward with using lodging tax data, given The Springs Resort recently added 78 rooms, claiming that throws off the metric “completely” for the future.

Williams added, “So, we need the occupancy data” or some other proxy.

Prince commented that whatever data lodgers can share would be useful and that by simply saying that they’re down is not enough.

“We’re gonna need a little bit more data if that’s gonna be useful,” Prince said.

Lucero requested that the PLA share “action items” with the board, and that it can’t be reacting so much to “every little trend.”

Prince commented that the tourism board is marketing Pagosa ■ See Tourism A10

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Park

■ **Continued from front** of developing the property, but that the town would be responsible for paying for the materials needed to complete the project.

Gadomski estimated that the materials cost would be around \$100,000 and would include picnic tables; wood chips; pressure-treated lumber; grading base and gravel; bear-proof trash cans; landscaping; and a trailhead kiosk and parking signage.

She estimated that the maintenance of the park would cost the town about \$10,000 annually, and would include portable toilet rental fees, parking lot and road maintenance, trash pickup, and tree irrigation.

She noted that part of the overall goal of the park would be to make that area more accessible, adding that the parking and picnic areas would be accessible per the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“When you go up to that property ... it’s really pretty and you can see all the mountain views, so we’re trying to utilize that landscape and make it accessible to others,” she said.

Project Manager Kyle Rickert added that the initial trailhead and park improvements would be part of the first phase of the improvements, mentioning that staff is proposing

a campground, equipped with RV hookups, for the second phase.

Gadomski clarified that the grant opportunity the town is seeking only applies to phase one improvements — the picnic area, trailhead and parking.

She noted that the grant application is due “in a few weeks” and asked the council for its approval so that staff could move forward with the grant application.

Rickert added that the town would likely not find out if it is awarded the grant until December, and that the park improvements could start in 2026.

“You have to do the project within a year of being awarded the grant,” Rickert said.

When opened up to questions, council member Gary Williams said that this was an “exciting” project, but asked why the plans for the park included a new fence to replace the existing barbed-wire fence.

Williams suggested that since the new park would connect two town-owned parks, there is no need for a fence there, advocating for it just to be left in its natural state.

“I always saw this property as being an expansion of Reservoir Hill ... so do we really need a fence at all? Why don’t we take down the barbed

wire? If we put a fence up, it should be between our property and Tractor Supply,” he added.

Council member Brooks Lindner expressed agreement with Williams about the fence, adding that the plan for the new park is “another example of Parks and Rec killing it.”

“You’re doing a great job ... I love it. I fully support it,” he said.

Mayor Shari Pierce took a more critical stance, suggesting this is exactly what she was worried about when the town purchased the property — that the town would immediately start spending money on improving it when there are other, more important financial obligations.

“I’m very torn by this, because I didn’t want to buy this property just for this reason. We buy it and then all of sudden we have a lot of money we want to put into it when we have other things that need to get done,” Pierce said.

She and council member Mat deGraaf asked if a more scaled down version, perhaps with the fire mitigation and a connector trail only, could be done through the grant.

Gadomski responded that, to be competitive for the grant, “you really need that community access piece.”

She explained, “Currently, we don’t have any services over there.

The parking lot is not a parking lot. It’s just dirt and a mud road, so if you’re looking at that to be a connector trail or an entrance point, you have to have that accessible.”

She noted they could scale down the picnic area.

Lindner said that he wanted to push back on the idea that this “is only costing us as we move forward to put stuff in there ... The value of land and outdoor recreation brings a greater return than what we put into it.”

Pierce stated that she agreed with Lindner’s statement, but that she also knows how much “we are struggling in other departments, so that’s my frustration.”

When a motion was made for the council to approve the application for the GOCO and CYCA grant opportunity, it was passed 5-2, with Pierce and Leonard Martinez opposing.

Later in the meeting, during public comment, resident Bill Hudson argued that this was “the wrong way to spend our money,” adding that he didn’t appreciate the lack of public input and suggesting that the parks are not being as well maintained as they were 10 years ago due to the amount of work required with the parks being created.

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Tourism

■ **Continued from A9**

Springs as a destination and that he feels like it is now “catering just to lodgers.”

Prince commented that there are other businesses besides lodgers and the tourism board’s sole purpose “is to bring visitors to the area as opposed to individual entities.”

He added, “We are not a private advertising board.”

Dufour agreed with Prince’s comments, but suggested there is value in the PLA and its relationship with the tourism board “is very important”

based on funding that the tourism board receives from lodging taxes.

“What we can do as a board to support this relationship and getting information to market the destination as a whole is important, too,” she added.

“As a whole, yes,” Prince replied.

Mashue clarified, “That is the goal,” and that there was never an intention for private marketing.

Ranson encouraged the tourism board to allot a certain amount of time for the PLA to participate in the tourism board’s meetings.

“This industry is so important to our community,” Ranson added.

“They have a seat on the board, John,” Lucero replied, with Ranson stating, “That’s just one.”

Lucero explained that the PLA could have as many members as it wants to show up and give public comment, noting there is no three-minute limit for public comment.

Williams asked Ranson if he was suggesting having more board members added to the tourism board.

“No,” Ranson replied, explaining that his suggestion is to include the

PLA on however many agendas necessary in order to work out these issues.

Mashue suggested that the PLA could give reports to the board.

Williams then commented that he had a “political item” to discuss, explaining that the town and county participate very well in the joint tourism advisory board, noting that it is a citizen advisory board.

“We’re advisors,” he said, explaining that Green works for the town, not the tourism board.

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Colorado State Patrol

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Education



Safe2Tell reports drop as summer begins, surpassing 30,000 milestone

Colorado Attorney General's Office

Safe2Tell surpassed 30,000 reports for the 2024-2025 school year in June, even as monthly submissions dropped with the arrival of summer break.

The program received 842 reports during the month, a 71 percent decrease from May, bringing the total number of reports for the school year to 30,461, according to the monthly report released on July 8 by the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

"Even in the quieter summer months, Safe2Tell remains an essential tool for individuals to report concerns and access help," said Colorado

Attorney General Phil Weiser. "We are committed to ensuring students and community members know this service is always available and that one report can make a life-changing difference."

In June, the most common report themes included mental health concerns (19.5 percent), school safety (15.3 percent), and submissions classified as "Other" (17.6 percent). Reports in the "Other" category primarily involved individuals requesting information about how to use the program or access its services, an expected trend as communities prepare for the next school year.

Other notable report categories included abuse and exploitation (10.7 percent), community safety (10.7 percent), substance use (7.1 percent), bullying (6.8 percent), and violence (2.7 percent).

Just 2.2 percent of all reports submitted this school year were found to be false.

June reports continued to result in meaningful intervention. In one instance, a report raised concerns that a student who had previously self-harmed was again experiencing suicidal ideation. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check, and while the student said the message was a joke, their parents chose to resume therapy. In another case, a student was reportedly harassing a sibling; law enforcement intervened, helping ensure the sibling's safety and connecting the family with mental health services.

"These reports show how Safe2Tell serves as a bridge to support," said Stacey Scardino, director of Safe2Tell. "Whether it's a serious concern or a question about how to get help, we're here for everyone 24/7, even during the summer."

A full breakdown of report categories is available in the Safe2Tell June 2025 Monthly Report at [https://safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/07/June-Report-2025.pdf](https://safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/07/safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/07/June-Report-2025.pdf). Definitions for each category can be found in the Safe2Tell Report Categorization Guide at <https://safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/02/Monthly-Report-Categories-English-2025.pdf>.

June-Report-2025.pdf. Definitions for each category can be found in the Safe2Tell Report Categorization Guide at <https://safe2tell.org/app/uploads/2025/02/Monthly-Report-Categories-English-2025.pdf>.

About Safe2Tell

Safe2Tell is a successful violence intervention and prevention program for students to anonymously report threats to their own and others' safety.

Safe2Tell is not an emergency response unit nor mental health counseling service provider; it is an information pathway for distributing anonymous reports to local law enforcement and school officials required by state law.

How to submit a report

Reports can be made 24/7 by calling (877) 542-7233, visiting Safe2Tell.org, texting S2TCO to 738477 or using the Safe2Tell mobile app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

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Celebrations



Amelia Berndt

The University of Wyoming announced that Amelia Berndt, of Pagosa Springs, is on the 2025 spring semester President's Honor Roll.

The President's Honor Roll consists of regularly enrolled undergraduates who earned a 4.0 ("A") GPA for the semester. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

Maya Nasralla graduated from Seattle Pacific University on June 7. Through her hard work and perseverance, she earned the highest academic distinction of summa cum laude. She graduated with a double major in social justice and culture studies, and sociology; as well as a minor in honors liberal arts. She plans to stay in the Seattle area and return to school to pursue a graduate degree someday.

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Commissioners approve letter of support for broadband funding, camping ordinance and updated evacuation plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved multiple agenda items during its July 1 meeting, including a letter of support for broadband funding, the first reading of an ordinance limiting camping on county property and an Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) emergency evacuation plan.

During a work session held earlier that day, co-broadband services manager Eric Hittle briefed the BoCC on the matter, explaining that the request for the letter was due to something that had been changed with the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

According to the letter that was approved by the BoCC, "Archuleta County has been highly engaged in expanding broadband access to our citizens and businesses for more than six years."

The letter goes on to explain that in partnership with the state of Colorado, the county has invested more than \$5 million to construct a "robust middle-mile fiber-optic network, linking carrier-neutral locations across our major cities and towns."

The letter notes that in a recent turn of events, the NTIA is rolling back and restructuring the BEAD program,

which is "detrimental to Archuleta County and rural Colorado."

Hittle explained during the work session that a letter was originally presented to the Garfield County commissioners, with that being the "framework" used for Archuleta County's letter.

Hittle also mentioned that with the original structure of the BEAD program, "We have provisional approval for pretty much all of Aspen Springs to get fiber to the homes."

He noted the difficulties in getting any permanent infrastructure installed in the area.

Hittle also noted that addresses in San Juan River Village were also provisionally approved to be serviced.

"Both of those are definitely at risk," he said.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that the county has put "a lot of time, effort and taxpayer money towards broadband," noting a large chunk of American Rescue Plan Act funding was designated for broadband projects.

"Maybe more than we should," he said, "but changing the rules of the game mid-stream is incredibly deceptive."

Brown noted he is in support of sending the letter and telling Archuleta County's side of the story and "how detrimental it would be to our community not to move forward."

Hittle noted that by the end of the

BEAD program, potentially more than 3,000 addresses in the county could be serviced with fiber-optic infrastructure.

Camping ordinance

During the same meeting, the BoCC unanimously approved the first reading of Ordinance 25-2025, which limits public camping and prohibits temporary structures on public property within Archuleta County.

The ordinance was presented by Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux, who had previously briefed the board on the matter during a work session held on June 24.

"This is a follow-up to some of the instances we've had recently with the influx of people in town ... and the camping that has been occurring on public property, primarily county property," Le Roux said during the July 1 meeting.

He added "it looks to protect public safety" and noted there are caveats in the ordinance of certain situations in which camping may be permitted.

"There's discretion in this," he said.

According to the ordinance, "the purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to ensure the safe use of public property, to protect those lawfully using public property, preserve public property, promote the safe and lawful use of public property, and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, including the residents

of Archuleta County."

Evacuation plan

The BoCC also unanimously adopted the ACSO's evacuation plan, which was presented by Emergency Management Coordinator Roy Vega.

Vega explained the evacuation plan sits under the emergency operations plan and is now "new and improved."

He explained the evacuation plan covers roles and responsibilities, an overview of evacuation functions, alerting the public and activating an emergency operations center.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked what specific revisions were made, with Vega explaining the plan was updated with current plans "with more ability to get the alerts out."

Le Roux also noted that over the past few years the ACSO has incorporated some form of the evacuation plan and that this "just formalizes it."

Le Roux also noted that the evacuation plan increased the number of emergency sheltering locations.

"I think it's an update to what we were already doing well," Le Roux added.

The entire ACSO evacuation plan is attached in the BoCC's July 1 meeting agenda at <https://www.archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/>.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Town's 'Saving Our Sewers' campaign gives update

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On July 15, Town of Pagosa Springs Manager David Harris gave an update to the Pagosa Springs Town Council about an ongoing campaign, titled "Saving Our Sewers," to educate the public about significant issues of concern regarding the town's wastewater conveyance system.

Since June, the town has hosted a series of listening sessions, not only to educate the public about critical repairs needed to salvage the town's sewer system, but also to hear feedback and ideas on how best to pay for the estimated \$80 million to \$100 million price tag to stabilize the system.

Harris explained that there would not be enough money in the budget to even scratch the surface of the critical repairs needed unless a major change is made.

At the listening sessions, and in a short video ad, the town lists three potential options to pay for the sewer system repairs: increase property taxes in town limits, increase fees on wastewater customers or increase the town-only sales tax by 1 percent.

Harris asked, "How are we gonna raise enough cash on an annual basis in order to hit these targeted numbers of \$80 to \$100 million? ... and we keep coming back to the thought that we should probably consider the sales tax option."

He explained that an ongoing public survey, and from "non-scientific" surveys of public sentiment at the listening sessions, show that the sales tax option is the most popular.

The town-run Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) faces a number of challenges with its current sewer system, which — through a series of lift and pump stations — conveys its wastewater 7 miles uphill to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant, owned and operated by Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

According to the town's website, the challenges include an aging pipe system that averages about 50 years of age, with about a third of the pipe system either failing or in need of immediate repair, and the trouble associated with pumping the sewage 7 miles uphill, with the continued costs of pump failures and maintenance to keep this system running.

The town took out \$4.5 million in revenue bonds to "get started" on

what the town's Public Works staff calls "Category 4 and 5 problems" with the aging pipes, but it's been estimated by the town that completing the pipe repair project would cost about \$15 million.

Additional costs coming include \$2 million for the PSSGID's portion of upgrading the PAWSD-run Vista plant to meet state environmental regulations; \$25 million to repair category 3, 2 and 1 pipes as they continue to age; \$5 million to \$7 million for a new lift station at 1st Street; and an unknown number for a potential new downtown plant, Harris explained.

He added that, currently, fees on PSSGID customers, which stand at \$71.25, "aren't even keeping up with the basic maintenance" of the system.

He said that the current fee rate "is already a lot for most people," and that if the town took the route of raising fees to pay for the system overhaul, these fees would need to "triple."

He noted that, for now, the PSSGID "is tied to the hip" of PAWSD through the current agreement to send PSSGID's wastewater to the Vista plant, adding that even if the town decides to build its own treatment plant, this would be seven to 10 years down the road, meaning the current system needs to be stabilized for the time being no matter what.

The sales tax option was the "most

viable" option to raise the funds, he explained, adding that, according to the public listening sessions and the survey, most people favor this option.

He said that a 1 percent sales tax increase in the town only "would raise \$3.6 million in year one" and that it would be "paid by residents and visitors alike."

He added, "Retail and grocery purchases in the town would become more expensive," but, compared to the property tax and fee increase option, this would be less intrusive.

Once people weighed the options, about 84 percent of people preferred the sales tax option, according to Harris' reading of the survey and listening session sentiment.

A sale tax increase would need to be passed by a majority of the town's voters in an election in order to go into effect.

Mayor Shari Pierce asked Harris what the timeline would be on making a decision about if the town would pursue a sales tax election.

Harris responded that the council would need to make a decision "on how we want to proceed" by August so that the ballot language could be hammered out.

Town Attorney Bob Cole reminded the council that, if it chooses to go forward with an election, public funds could not be spent "to support one side or the other," urging the



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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Folks take advantage of the San Juan River and less-smoky skies Tuesday afternoon. Smoke from regional wildfires continues to move into the area periodically, with many of the fires caused by lightning.

Region 9 outlines enterprise zone changes for 2026, timber biomass report completed

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) heard from Laura Lewis Marchino, the executive director of the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, during its July 9 meeting, with Lewis Marchino informing the board that Archuleta County will be getting an additional census tract in 2026 that will not be in the enterprise zone.

Lewis Marchino explained that Region 9 has recently had 22 enterprise zone inquiries “and we will be doing a redistricting of enterprise zone boundaries starting in January [2026],” noting those inquiries may increase, “because Archuleta [County] is getting an additional census tract that’s not going to be in the enterprise zone.”

According to the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, an enterprise zone is an economically distressed area of the state that is designated by the Economic Development Commission.

According to a report from Region 9, to qualify as an enterprise zone, an area must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- An unemployment rate at least 25 percent above the state average rate for the most recent period of 12 consecutive months.
- A population growth rate less than 25 percent of the state average for the most recent five-year period.
- A per capita income less than 75 percent of the state average.

The report also notes that Senate Bill 24-190 allows an area that is both rural and a Tier One Coal Transition

Community to automatically qualify as an enterprise zone.

According to the report, Archuleta County has five census tracts and 14 bloc groups, of which 10 are eligible for enterprise zone certification.

PSCDC Board President Sherry Waner asked if there was any community input process that went into redrawing the enterprise zone boundaries, or if the state just decided to do so.

“That’s what happens,” Lewis Marchino replied, explaining that enterprise zones are based on census data and that the state redraws the map every 10 years.

She added that criteria for being an enterprise zone is outlined in state statute.

Lewis Marchino explained that Region 9 intends to inform and educate the known businesses that will be impacted by the redrawing and will no longer be in an enterprise zone, noting that “they can grandfather if they have used tax credits before.”

She mentioned that if they have not used tax credits before, “they’re kind of out of luck.”

She added, “All this goes into effect in January.”

Lewis Marchino described being eligible for an enterprise zone certi-

cation as a “mixed blessing,” in that it means the business is in an economically distressed area, but not being certified means losing a tax credit.

Timber biomass report

During the same meeting, Lewis Marchino also explained that Region 9 has completed its timber biomass report.

“We have our timber biomass business development report,” she stated, noting that Archuleta County “advocated very strongly for this.”

Lewis Marchino commented that the report is “very detailed” and talks about potential business areas around the timber industry.

According to the report, “The Southwest Colorado Biofuel Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone, is rated ‘BBB,’ or ‘low-moderate’ risk.”

Liabilities noted in the report include a high risk associated with community opposition to forest restoration and biomass utilization activities, a high reliance on government subsidies, declining sawmill capacity due to reduced fiber availability from the San Juan National Forest, and significant investment risks associated with securing rated quantities from national and state forests.

According to the report, zone as-

sets include existing logging and grinding equipment capacity that is sufficient to supply rated biomass quantities, opportunities to collocate with existing sawmills, limited competition for available sawmill residues and a low cost for regional utilities.

The report can be viewed in its entirety at https://www.region9edd.org/pdfs/swco_wood_biomass.pdf.

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PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS
COUNTY WORKERS' COMPENSATION THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:** The Archuleta County Board of Commissioners by and through its Human Resources Department is accepting proposals for the purchase of a WORKERS' COMPENSATION THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR as specified herein from a source of supply that will provide prompt and efficient service to the County.
- SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:** The proposal must be received before the due date and time as specified in this Solicitation. The Contractor is responsible for addressing the envelope as indicated below. If the submittal arrives late, it may be returned unopened. Address the envelope(s) as follows:
Archuleta County HR
PO Box 1507
Pagosa Springs CO 81147
- TERM OF AGREEMENT:** This is a one-year agreement with the option of four one-year renewals.
- OPTION TO RENEW FOR FOUR (4) SUBSEQUENT YEARS:** The prices or discounts quoted by the Contractor in its Proposal shall prevail for the first one-year term of the Agreement, at which time the County shall have the option to renew the Agreement for four (4) subsequent one-year periods and to negotiate price for each renewal term. Continuation of the Agreement beyond the initial period is a county prerogative and not a right of the Contractor. This prerogative will be exercised only when such continuation is clearly in the best interest of the County and upon budget approval.

4. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

- The successful Contractor will be required to sign an Agreement substantially similar to the Sample Agreement in Appendix A. The County reserves the right to add or delete provisions to the form prior to Agreement execution.
- Issuance of this Solicitation does not commit the County to award any Agreement or to procure or Agreement with any equipment, materials or services.
- If a formal Agreement is required, the Contractor agrees and understands that a Notice of Award does not constitute an Agreement or create a party interest of any nature until an Agreement is signed by the Awardee and the Board of County Commissioners and/or their authorized designee.
- The Contractor is responsible for reviewing the form Agreement and understanding the terms and conditions contained therein, including, but not limited to, insurance requirements, indemnification, equal opportunity, non-appropriation, and termination.
- The Contractor's Response must state its willingness to enter into the form Agreement or Contractor shall identify and include any proposed revisions they have for the form Agreement. Any proposed revisions made by the Contractor after the County Notice of Intent to Award the Solicitation may be grounds for rescinding said Notice. The identification on of willingness to enter into the standard Agreement is for general purposes at all times, but is part of the evaluation process and must be included. There may be negotiations on a project-by-project basis that provide clarification.
- Incorrect Pricing/Invoicing. As part of any award resulting from this process, Contractor(s) will discount all transactions as agreed. In the event the County discovers, through its Agreement monitoring process or formal audit process, that material or services were priced/invoiced incorrectly, Contractor(s) agree to promptly refund all overpayments and to pay all reasonable audit expenses incurred as a result of the non-compliance.
- The County may, during the term of the Agreement and any extensions/renewals, request additional work at other locations throughout the County by the successful Contractor.
- METHOD OF AWARD** - It is the intent of the County to award an Agreement to the Contractor who provides the best pricing for Archuleta County.
- The Price MUST be submitted in a separate sealed envelope.
- Evaluation criteria, other than costs, are evaluated first. After rating the written Responses, costs are then considered against trade-offs such as satisfaction of requirements in the Solicitation, qualifications, risk and incentives, and financial condition of the Contractor.
- The County reserves the right to conduct negotiations with Contractors and to accept revisions of Responses. During this negotiation period, the County will not disclose any information derived from Responses submitted, or from discussions with other Contractors. Once an award is made, the Solicitation file and the Responses contained therein are in the public record.
- Questions which arise during the Response preparation period regarding issues around this Solicitation, purchasing and/or award should be directed, via email, to Mitzi Bowman, Human Resources Director, mbowman@archuletacounty.gov. The Contractor submitting the question(s) shall be responsible for ensuring question(s) is/are received by the County.

- COOPERATIVE PURCHASING:** Archuleta County encourages cooperative purchasing in an effort to assist other agencies to reduce their cost of bidding and to make better use of taxpayer dollars through volume purchasing. Contractor(s) may, at their discretion, agree to extend the prices and/or terms of the resulting award to other state or local government agencies, school districts, or political subdivisions in the event they would have a need for the same product/service. Usage by any entity shall not have a negative impact on Archuleta County in the current terms of any future terms.
- The Contractor(s) must deal directly with any governmental agency concerning the placement of purchase orders/agreements, freight/delivery charges, Contractual disputes, invoices, and payments. Archuleta County shall not be liable for any costs or damages incurred by any other entity.
- Budget will not be disclosed.
- By submitting this proposal, the Contractor warrants and certifies that they are eligible to submit a proposal because their company and/or subcontractor(s) is/are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in a transaction by any Federal, State or local department or agency.

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Published June 26, July 3, 10 and 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (267610)

**ARCHULETA COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**
RFP Issue Date: June 19, 2025
RFP Title: Third Party Administrator for County Employees Insurance Benefits
RFP Questions Due: 7/18/2025
Proposal Due Date: 8/1/2025
For additional information, please contact:
Mitzi Bowman, Human Resources Director
Email: mbowman@archuletacounty.gov

I. PURPOSE / BACKGROUND
Archuleta County is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced Third Party Administrators (TPAs) to provide administrative services for the County's fully insured employee benefit plans. These include medical, dental, vision, prescription drug, COBRA, FSA/HRA/ HSA, and related benefit administration. The selected TPA must have a strong history of compliance, customer service, employee support, and innovative solutions for cost control and plan management.

II. TERM OF AGREEMENT

The County intends to award a one-year contract with the option to renew annually for up to four (4) additional one-year terms based on performance and budget approval.

III. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The successful TPA will be required to enter into a contract substantially similar to the County's standard form. Vendors must indicate acceptance of the terms or submit proposed changes. Any discrepancies post-award will result in disqualification.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

The selected TPA shall provide a comprehensive range of administrative services, including but not limited to:

- Claims coordination with insurance carriers
- Stop-loss claims support
- Customer service with dedicated account representatives

- Secure online portal for employees and HR
- Enrollment and eligibility administration
- COBRA, FSA, HRA, and HSA administration
- Compliance assistance (HIPAA, ACA, etc.)
- Monthly and annual reporting with data analysis
- Open enrollment support
- Plan design consultation and cost containment strategies
- Wellness program integration or coordination
- Transparent fee structure with itemized pricing

To be considered, proposals must include:

- Proposal Narrative
- W-9 Form
- Pricing (in a separately sealed envelope)
- Contractor's Certification of Compliance (signed)
- Contractor's Statement (signed)
- References for four (4) similar clients
- Vendor Information Form

Failure to respond in the required format may deem your submittal non-responsive.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: ONE (1) hardcopy proposal marked ORIGINAL, ONE (1) electronic original version (USB with a single PDF formatted proposal document) and four (4) PAPER COPIES of the proposal submittal. The Proposal must be received at the time and place specified on the first page of this Solicitation. Submittals should be prepared simply and economically providing a straightforward, concise description of the contractor's ability to perform the requirements of this Solicitation. Failure to submit the required number of copies may deem the Contractor non-responsive. The electronic copy shall be an EXACT reproduction of the original documents provided. All sections shall be combined into a single PDF electronic document.

PRICING MUST BE SUBMITTED IN A SEPARATE SEALED ENVELOPE. THERE MUST NOT BE ANY PRICING INFORMATION WITHIN THE HARD COPY PROPOSALS

- Provide Proposal submittal without reference to Archuleta County logo.
- Proposal shall be in an organized and easy-to-find format.
- Profile of the firm (if applicable) - State whether your firm is local, national, or

international.

Also include the following:

- The Firm's key contact name, phone number and email address for this project. (Your Firm's "Project Manager").
- The size of the firm and the size of the local office.
- Number and nature of the professional staff to be assigned to the project on a full-time basis.
- Number and nature of staff to be assigned to this project on a part-time basis.
- Identify the supervisory and management staff who will be assigned to the engagement. Provide resumes for each person that will be assigned to this engagement.
- Provide any substantiated complaints against the firm in the last three (3) years and any outstanding litigation.

IV. BACKGROUND:
Archuleta County is seeking a Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator (TPA) for its Workers' Compensation Fund and is looking for comprehensive services to manage and administer these claims.

The County is particularly interested in a Third-Party Administrator who can offer creative, innovative approaches, with a proven track record, that allows the County to contain or reduce costs. Provide annual data for the calculation of the County's experience modification factor.

V. SCOPE OF WORK

- Review and process all workers' compensation claims.
- Create files and conduct the necessary investigations in consultation with the County.
- Establish and maintain reserves on the basis of most probable final cost.
- Obtain medical reports and pay medical bills as required by statute. Monitor treatment for appropriateness.
- Admit or deny claims, with prior approval from the County, in accordance with statutory guidelines based on investigation and analyses of medical information.
- Pay disability benefits on admitted cases in a timely manner. Obtain medical verification on continuing disability beyond payment.
- Outline claim strategy regarding defense and further claim handling in accordance with settlement authorization by the County.
- Refer claims to authorized counsel when necessary.
- Assist the County with defense of litigated cases when requested.
- Investigate and refer files for subrogation, where appropriate.
- Refer cases to vocational/rehabilitation in accordance with State requirements.
- Appropriately document all files.
- Provide full transparency of all written correspondence to medical care providers, claimants, attorneys, rehabilitation counselors, investigators, State agencies and the County as their interests may require.
- Attend hearings, pre-hearings and settlement conferences as needed.
- Reports to excess insurer per policy requirements.
- Provide monthly cumulative check register, giving a summary of all claims, including indemnity and other payments for that month.
- When requested, quarterly vendor reports.
- Provide 1099's to vendors.
- Provide annual data for the calculation of the County's experience modification factor.
- Analysis of claims data.
- Monthly performance/experience reporting to include trend analysis.

- Reports for annual self-insurance permit renewal and loss runs for IBNR.
- Provide annual benchmarking report.
- Provide quarterly staffing on all open claims.
- Provide consultation on best practices including return to work program.
- Assist with development of long-range goals, objectives and strategies including recommending innovative ideas and new products, proven programs and services to ensure a cost-effective workers' compensation program.
- Provide telephone consultation as needed.
- Provide RMS that allows for direct/online claim entry and County access to view claim information.
- Provide a comprehensive range of services, including fee scheduling, pharmacy management, specialist network, diagnostic referrals, DME, investigations, set asides and bill payment.

- Provide full transparency of all fees with specific details for services provided including:
 - o Monthly/ Annual Fees
 - o Per Claim Fees
 - o Special Project Fees
 - o File Conversion Fee, if any
 - o All other fees
- Specifically itemize fees in your proposal and then provide a summary.

VII. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Expertise and experience of the representative(s) that will be assigned to our account.
- Understanding of the services requested and outlined in the STATEMENT OF WORK.
- Innovative or creative solutions offered in proposal
- Location and availability of the personnel assigned to the County's account
- Administration Fees for services provided

A second phase may be incorporated in the procurement process, in which the Evaluation Committee will invite a limited number of vendors who received the highest scores during phase one to provide an oral Presentation. If the Committee incorporates this second phase, the numbers of vendors who are invited to provide oral presentations will be determined by the Committee after the written Proposals have been scored. The evaluative score from the oral presentation will be used to determine the successful supplier.

**END OF STATEMENT OF WORK
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Published June 26, July 3, 10 and 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (267610)

and digital format as specified. Pricing must be in a separate sealed envelope. Any questions must be submitted in writing to Mitzi Bowman by the specified deadline. Published June 26, July 3, 10 and 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (267609)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-003

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On April 17, 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): Justin Schroeder
Original Beneficiary(ies): L&CO, LLC, a New Mexico Limited Liability Company
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt: L&CO, LLC, a New Mexico Limited Liability Company
Date of Deed of Trust: September 22, 2017
County of Recording: Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust: September 29, 2017
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.): 21706008
Original Principal Amount: \$11,500.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$4,209.95

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: 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.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
LOT 645 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 6, according to the plat thereof filed for record August 3, 1971 as Reception No. 74689, Archuleta County, State of Colorado

Purported common address: 326 Justin's Road, 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, 08/14/2025, 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 6/19/2025
Last Publication 7/17/2025
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: 04/17/2025
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: Danita S. Alderton, #37275
Altmann, Keilbach, Lytle, Parlapiano & Ware, P.C. 503 N. Main Street, Suite 125, P.O. Box 333, Pueblo, CO 81003 (719) 545-7325
Attorney Fee # 326 Justins Rd
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 June 19, 26, July 3, 10 and 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (264828)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-004

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On May 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): Donald L. Clark and Mary E. Clark
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: December 09, 2009
County of Recording: Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: December 14, 2009
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.): 20909887
Original Principal Amount: \$85,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$37,953.61
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 8X, a consolidation of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 5, PIEDRA PARK SUBDIVISION No. 4, pursuant to a Resolution Approving the Consolidation of Certain Lots in Archuleta County, Colorado recorded March 8, 2000 as Reception No. 20002233.
Purported common address: 254 Deer Park, Arboles, CO 81121.
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, 09/04/2025, 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 7/10/2025
Last Publication 8/7/2025
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: 05/05/2025

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: Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, P.C. 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8865 (405) 283-4277
Attorney Fee # CLARK
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 July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (264945)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-005

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:
On May 8, 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): Brian Colby Wardens
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: August 07, 2017
County of Recording: Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust: August 08, 2017
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.): 21704686
Original Principal Amount: \$100,000.00
Outstanding Principal Balance: \$89,071.57

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 8 IN CANDELARIA SECOND SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD MAY 6, 1969 AS RECEPTION NO. 72118.
TODAY WITH ANY AND ALL WELLS, WELLS

RIGHTS, PUMPS, MOTORS AND WELL EQUIPMENT. ANY AND ALL WELL AND WATER RIGHTS AND DITCH AND DITCH RIGHTS.

Purported common address: 116 Marcial Place, Arboles, CO 81121.
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, 09/04/2025, 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 7/10/2025
Last Publication 8/7/2025
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: 05/08/2025

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 Denning #36736
Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, P.C. 100 North Broadway, Suite 2900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8865 (405) 283-4277
Attorney Fee # WARDEN

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 July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (264852)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradajudicial.gov).
TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7

Pursuant to C.R.S. §37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of June 2025, for Archuleta County.

2025CW3019 Archuleta County, Prior Cases No. 2008CW85, 2016CW3058, Division: COURTROOM: DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION NO. 7, COLORADO, Court Address: 1060 East Second Avenue, Durango, CO 81301, Telephone No.: (970) 247-2304. CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FOR WATER RIGHTS SW/1/4, Section 13, T35N, R2W, NMPM, being 1331 in the San Juan River and its tributaries, IN ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO. APPLICATION FOR A FINDING OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. Co-Applicants, EPR SPRINGS, LLC, and OLYMPUS SL1, LLC, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby submit this APPLICATION FOR A FINDING OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. 1. Names and Addresses of Co-Applicants: EPR Springs, LLC ("EPR"), c/o EPR Properties, LLC, 909 Walnut Street, Suite 270, Durango, CO 81301, Telephone No.: (970) 403-1770, Email: amy@waterandlaw.com; Praymond@bh-lawyers.com Colorado Water & Land Law, LLC, Amy N. Huff (#34897), 679 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 11B, Durango, Colorado 81301, Telephone: (970) 403-1770, Email: amy@waterandlaw.com. The water rights at issue are part of the supply for The Springs Resort ("Resort"). Olympus is the operator and tenant of the Resort. EPR is the owner of the Resort and the sole owner of the water rights at issue. 2. Name of Structure: PSRC #4 (Well PS-5). 3. Prior Decree: 3.1. Original Decree: Case No. 1991CW61, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on May 10, 1996, ("the 91CW61 Decree"), 3.2. Subsequent Decree: Case No. 2000CW53, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on March 15, 2002, Case No. 2008CW02, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on February 17, 2011; Case No. 17CW3007, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on June 25, 2019. 4. Legal Descriptions of Point of Diversion: Outflow of Well PS-5, located on the north back of the San Juan River in the NW ¼ SE ¼ SW ¼ Section 13, T35N, R2W, NMPM, being 1263 feet from the South Section line and 180 feet from the West Section line, as described in the 91CW61 Decree including: irrigation, heating of existing and future buildings, structures, and driveways, recreational uses such as hot tubs, pools, miniature golf, fish and stock ponds, green houses, and use in existing structures and structures to be constructed in the future at the Springs Resort. 9. Outline of what has been done toward completion of the water right described herein: Co-Applicants have spent approximately \$1,000,000 on expansion efforts for the Springs Resort, 9.3. Approximately \$1,000,000 of such expenditures were directly related to the water supply system for The Springs Resort, 9.4. The Springs Resort is diligently working toward the envisioned build-out of the property and the subject water rights will be used to help supply the property at build-out, 9.5. Co-Applicants regularly monitor the filings of other water users in the San Juan River Basin to ensure their water rights will not be adversely affected and have incurred legal and engineering costs in connection with numerous matters to protect their water rights, 9.6. Co-Applicants continue to rely upon the subject water rights and fully intend to develop and utilize the subject water right for the full decreed amounts and have no intention to abandon it. 10. Names and Addresses of Affected Landowners: The Town of Pagosa Springs owns the real property where the point of diversion is located. Co-Applicant EPR owns The Springs Resort property where the water at issue is or will be but to beneficial use. The Address for the Town is: 551 Hot Springs Blvd. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. WHEREFORE, Co-Applicants respectfully request that this Court enter a decree finding they have exercised reasonable diligence in the development of the PSRC #4 water right, and continuing said water right in effect, as a conditional water right, for an additional six (6) years, and to grant any other relief the Court deems just and proper. (5 pages)

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of August 2025, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by the CRCP (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk on the Judicial web site at: www.coloradajudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer

Published: before July 31, 2025
Published July 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (268859)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON JULY 24, 2025

PROJECT SANCTUARY is renewing their WILDERNESS LODGING ESTABLISHMENT BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel in the SW1/4NE1/4 of SEC 13, T2N 34N, R12W, at 1099 Blue Creek Rd, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLNG21-153). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on July 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published July 3 and July 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (268049)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Leonard Otis Rice, Deceased
Case Number 25PRS
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before Nov. 18, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.

Jon T. Rice
1156 E. Peacock St.
Meridian, ID 83842
Published July 17, 24 and 31, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (268856)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON JULY 24, 2025

JAMES STRICKLER has requested an APPEAL HEARING regarding a VACATION RENTAL PERMIT DENIAL, on Unit #201, Building One, The Links Condominiums, at 109 Ace Ct, Unit 201, Pagosa Springs, CO. The property is zoned PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to PFlowers@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on July 24,

2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting in person or via Zoom.

Published July 3 and July 17, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (268052)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradajudicial.gov).
TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7

Pursuant to C.R.S. §37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of June 2025, for Archuleta County.

2025CW3020 Archuleta County, Prior Cases No. 1991CW61, 2000CW53, 2008CW02, 2017CW3007, Division: COURTROOM: DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION NO. 7, COLORADO, Court Address: 1060 East Second Avenue, Durango, CO 81301, Telephone No.: (970) 247-2304. CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FOR WATER RIGHTS OF EPR SPRINGS, LLC, AND OLYMPUS SL1, LLC, in the San Juan River and its tributaries, IN ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO. APPLICATION FOR A FINDING OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. Co-Applicants, EPR SPRINGS, LLC, and OLYMPUS SL1, LLC, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby submit this APPLICATION FOR A FINDING OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. 1. Names and Addresses of Co-Applicants: EPR Springs, LLC ("EPR"), c/o EPR Properties, LLC, 909 Walnut Street, Suite 270, Durango, CO 81301, Telephone No.: (970) 403-1770, Email: amy@waterandlaw.com; Praymond@bh-lawyers.com Colorado Water & Land Law, LLC, Amy N. Huff (#34897), 679 E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 11B, Durango, Colorado 81301, Telephone: (970) 403-1770, Email: amy@waterandlaw.com. The water rights at issue are part of the supply for The Springs Resort ("Resort"). Olympus is the operator and tenant of the Resort. EPR is the owner of the Resort and the sole owner of the water rights at issue. 2. Name of Structure: PSRC #4 (Well PS-5). 3. Prior Decree: 3.1. Original Decree: Case No. 1991CW61, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on May 10, 1996, ("the 91CW61 Decree"), 3.2. Subsequent Decree: Case No. 2000CW53, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on March 15, 2002, Case No. 2008CW02, District Court, Water Division No. 7, entered on February 17, 201



The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office
June 30 — Animal cruelty-aggravated, Fritz and Mabel’s Place/West U.S. 160.
June 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, West View.
July 1 — Trespass warning, Echo Lane.
July 1 — Failure to appear, Harman Park Drive.
July 2 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, Aspen Village Drive.
July 2 — Agency assist, South Pagosa Boulevard.
July 2 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, Bonanza Avenue.
July 2 — Registration-fictitious place, enticement of a child-human trafficking, information only, Eagles Loft Circle.
July 3 — Warrant arrest, Talisman Drive.
July 3 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, West Golf Place.
July 3 — Agency assist, information only, County Road 917.
July 3 — Information only, Haystack Circle.
July 4 — Careless driving, no location listed.
July 4 — Warrant arrest, Corral Court.
July 4 — Warrant arrest, Corral Court.
July 4 — Vicious dog with injury to person, Pinon Causeway.
July 4 — Dog at large, Lassen Drive.
July 5 — Death investigation, Royal Elk Place.
July 5 — Trespass warning, Eagles Loft Circle.
July 7 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.
July 8 — Warrant arrest, Masters Circle.
July 8 — Information only, U.S. 84.
July 8 — Information only, Laurel Drive.
July 8 — Information only, Wandering Hills.
July 8 — Agency assist, Country Center Drive.
July 8 — Agency assist, North Pagosa Boulevard/South Pagosa Boulevard.
July 9 — Vicious dog with injury to person, Flintlock Place.
July 9 — Theft-\$20,000 to \$100,000, U.S. 160.
July 9 — Information only, Colo. 151.

July 9 — Violation of protection order-criminal, disorderly conduct-petty offense, U.S. 160.
July 11 — Information only, Frontier Avenue.
July 12 — Trespass warning, Spring Court.
Pagosa Springs Police Department
June 30 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.
July 2 — Failed to display valid registration, lane usage violation, driving under the influence of drugs (marijuana), marijuana-use, consume or possess in vehicle, failure to display proof of insurance, South Pagosa Boulevard.
July 3 — Criminal mischief \$300 to \$1,000 private, violation of protection order-criminal, South Pagosa Boulevard/Navajo Trail Drive.
July 4 — Possession/consumption open container of alcohol in public, Pagosa Street.
July 4 — First-degree criminal trespass felony, Hermosa Street.
July 5 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, North 8th Street.
July 5 — Driving under restraint, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-owner, sidewalk driving on, East Pagosa Street/Pagosa Street.
July 6 — Death investigation, Little Pine Lane.
July 7 — Information only, Bienvenido Circle.
July 7 —Theft-\$50 to \$300 from mail, Country Center Drive.
July 8 — Camping prohibited in parks/rec facilities, Hermosa Street.
July 8 — Disorderly conduct-petty offense, Country Center Drive.
July 8 — Agency assist, North Pagosa Boulevard.
July 9 — Lost/found property, South 5th Street.
July 9 — Lost/found property, South 8th Street.
July 9 — Cruelty to animals-neglect/mistreatment, Aspen Village Drive.
July 10 — Trespass warning, West U.S. 160.
July 10 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.
July 11 — Assault, Pagosa Street.
July 11 — Parked within 5 feet of a public or private driveway, South 6th Street.
July 11 — Vehicular eluding, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, 15th Street.
July 11 — No insurance-driver, expired registration, Paul Hood Place.
July 11 — Trespass warning, Eagle Drive.

July 12 — Domestic violence, information only, South 8th Street.
July 12 — Criminal mischief, South 9th Street.
July 13 — Information only, Hot Springs Boulevard.
Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
July 14 — Cindi Granquist, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.
July 14 — Irving Pina, failed to yield to oncoming traffic when making a left turn, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.
July 14 — Ronald Schaffer, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
July 14 — Sarah Leiby, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
July 14 — Dana Musser, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
July 2 — Jesse Manuel Vigil, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
July 2 — Denise A. Woody, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.
July 2 — Nathaniel Widger, speeding too fast for conditions, fines and costs — \$169.50.
July 2 — Hunter A. Swinehart, headlamps-failure to display, fines and costs — \$85.
July 2 — Dylan R. Whitlow, tail lamps/reflectors, fines and costs — \$100.
July 2 — Isaac I. Harrison, speeding 20-24 over limit, driving under FRA suspension, fines and costs — \$430.50.
July 2 — Matthew K. Alfred, tail lamps/reflectors, fines and costs — \$100.
July 2 — Deanna Nichols Reneau, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 96 hours community service, 120 days electronic surveillance, 11 days jail, fines and costs — \$2,693.50.
July 3 — Leslie Wustrack, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$137.50.
July 10 — Nicholas P. Pollock, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.
July 10 — Scott T. Wilson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.
July 10 — Gerard Henken, driving while ability impaired, 10 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$576.50.
July 10 — Mark Coughlin, theft-less than \$300, fines and costs — \$285.57.

July 11 — William David Wood, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
July 11 — Jesse Cameron Miller, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$83.
July 11 — Filip Ahgelov, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
July 11 — Alexis Marie Ayala, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$105.50.
July 11 — Cody S. Caler, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.
July 11 — Charlene R. Carrillo, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
July 11 — Victor H. Delgado Leyva, seat belt not used, driver’s license-driving without, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$273.50.
July 11 — Victor Hugo Delgado-Leyva, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
July 11 — Oscar Galiano, driver’s license-driving without, fines and costs — \$107.50.
July 11 — June Marquez, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
July 11 — Michael Christopher McCrann, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.
July 11 — Jose Ricardo Ochoa, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.
July 11 — Deni Partner, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.
July 11 — Michael T. Nelson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.
6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
July 10 — Mark Richard Coughlin, trespass 1-dwelling, violation p/o-criminal, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$981.50.
July 10 — Justin Apodaca, theft-\$1,000 to \$2,000, 180 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.
6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
June 30 — Amber Dawn Hurt, felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, 12 months Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.
June 30 — Cody Ross Cannon, vehicular eluding, one year Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.

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Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, July 17

Archuleta County Board of Health meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <https://archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/>.

Pagosa Springs Main Street Heritage and Culture Committee work session. 3 p.m., Town Hall, first floor conference room. See town website for more information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council work session. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for more information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Friday, July 18

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership meeting. 9 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View on Zoom using meeting ID 836 9543 6522 and passcode 146408.

Monday, July 21

San Juan Water Conservancy District special meeting. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive Suite 5. Visit www.sjwcd.org for more information.

Tuesday, July 22

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <https://archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/>.

Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs Medical Center board room, 95 S. Pagosa

Bldv. View the meeting on Microsoft Teams using MEETING ID 248 378 716 11, passcode g2ZTGa.

Wednesday, July 23

Community listening meeting for Archuleta County’s proposed lodgers’ tax increase. 6-7:30 p.m., The Springs Resort Ponderosa Room, 323 Hot Springs Blvd.

Archuleta County Fair Board Meeting (volunteer dinner). 6 p.m., CSU Extension office, 344 U.S. 84. For more information, visit <https://archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/>.

Thursday, July 24

Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting. 6p.m. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <https://archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/>.

Monday, July 28

Archuleta County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee meeting. 2 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <https://archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners joint work session. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes/> or <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosasun.com with “Public Meeting” in the subject line. The deadline is noon Monday each week prior to publication for that week’s issue.



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Outdoors



Chimney Rock Interpretive Association’s final youth workshop of season set for July 22

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is excited to announce the final youth workshop for the season, scheduled for July 22, will 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 have featured a variety of engaging activities, such as rock wrapping, feather art, printmaking, weaving in the round, creating a clay ocarina and learning

August plant walks with Lake McCullough announced

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

Aug. 2 will be the final outing this summer to learn about our high-elevation native plants with certified herbalist Lake McCullough.

Join us for a fun and educational ramble through the forest as we discover edible and medicinal native plants.

The walks are free of charge, and advance registration is required.

In August we will look for late summer botanical bounty at high elevation. Meet at Forest Service Road 725 (Wolf Creek Road), on Wolf Creek Pass. From Pagosa Springs, take U.S. 160 east approximately 22 miles. The right-hand turn is marked with a small brown Forest Service sign reading “Junction Rd. 725.” The road slopes sharply down to the right after the turnoff.

We will meet at the pull-out at the base of the road and walk from there. The walk is about 2 miles roundtrip. Please be prepared for rocky trails and unpredictable weather, and leave dogs at home.

In order to handle increased popularity and demand for information about our local ecosystems, we will be conducting two back-to-back plant walks at this location.

The first tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. and run until 11:30 a.m. The second tour will begin at 11:45 a.m. and go until 1:45 p.m. There is a 15-person maximum on each walk.

Please call McCullough ahead to reserve a space at (970) 398-0923 and indicate which time slot you prefer.

McCullough’s knowledge and fun sense of humor have made these walks very popular and spaces fill quickly. Give her a call to add your name to the list.

The Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies are proud to sponsor these walks and grateful that McCullough takes time from her busy schedule to share her expertise with us.

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.

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.

Photo courtesy Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association is offering its final youth workshop for the 2025 season at Chimney Rock National Monument. The workshop is set for July 22.

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POSITION OVERVIEW

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- Prepare and deliver sales presentations.
- Engage in networking activities.
- Meet and exceed sales targets.

Strategy Development:

- Collaborate with internal teams to develop effective advertising campaigns.
- Present campaign proposals to clients and negotiate terms.
- Monitor campaign performance and adjust strategies as needed.

Reporting and Analysis:

- Provide regular reports on campaign progress and results.
- Analyze data to identify trends and insights.
- Present findings to clients and internal teams.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Advertising, Business Administration, or a related field.
- Proven experience in sales or account management, preferably in the advertising industry.
- Strong communication, negotiation, and presentation skills.
- Ability to build and maintain client relationships.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving abilities.

SKILLS

- Client Relationship Management
- Sales and Business Development
- Strategic Planning
- Communication and Presentation
- Data Analysis

Interested candidates should apply directly with an email message and resume to Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com. Feel free to provide Linked In credentials as well.

preview

ARTS & LIFE

Friends of the Library Book Sale

July 17-19 • Community United Methodist Church • 434 Lewis St.



Photo courtesy Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

Friends of the Library summer book sale set for July 17-19

By Katie Dobbins

Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library
Foundation and Friends

Today is the day. Bring your friends and reading buddies to our Friends of the Library summer book sale at our convenient downtown location, the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St.

The book sale kicks off today, Thursday, July 17, with early shopping and an ice cream social for members of the Friends of the Library from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Members will enjoy members-only early shopping and receive a buy one, get one special.

Public hours are Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Arrive early to grab the top picks and snag the best deals. Whatever your interests — history, philosophy, humor, mystery or the perfect book

for your child — the Friends of the Library summer book sale has just what you need.

Not yet a Friend of the Library? The Friends membership includes benefits such as early access to book sales, a monthly book give away, fundraisers to support the Library Foundation and Friends building campaign, a community of like-minded readers and more.

All proceeds support the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library. Annual membership is \$15 for individuals or \$25 per family; a lifetime individual membership is \$150. You can pay at the library or at the book sale, with cash or credit cards accepted.

To learn more or become a Friend, email foundation@pagosalibrary.org, visit www.pagosalibrary.org or stop by your Ruby Sisson Library (open Monday through Saturday).

Volunteers needed for Archuleta County Fair

By Tabitha Hart

Archuleta County Fair

The Archuleta County Fair Board warmly invites you to become a volunteer for our upcoming county fair, happening from July 31 through Aug. 3.

This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to our community and make lasting memories.

We have a variety of roles avail-

able, including managing the welcome table, supervising the kids' area, selling and collecting tickets at the rodeo, or simply being present to assist wherever needed.

Each volunteer is asked to commit to a four-hour shift and, as a token of our appreciation, you will receive a complimentary entry ticket to either a rodeo or dance.

Your involvement is essential to

the success of the fair, and we truly cannot create this amazing experience without the support of dedicated volunteers like you. Join us in fostering a spirit of fun and camaraderie within our community. Together, we can make the 2025 Archuleta County Fair an event to remember.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to give back and have fun at this year's county fair.

Live Performers

Thursday
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Meltdown on Main: Retro Cats, 5 p.m.
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Taryn Jones, 5 p.m.

Saturday
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

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

The PREVIEW is a publication of

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Pagosa Community Initiative announces new board leadership, board members

Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) is pleased to announce a new chapter of leadership and growth within its organization.

Carrie Blue-White has been appointed as the new chair of the PCI Board of Directors, bringing a wealth of dedication and enthusiasm to the role. Blue-White has been a valued board member since October 2023 and has played a pivotal role in the organization's success, notably serving as the pioneer behind the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, the Second Chance Prom. Her advocacy and commitment have been instrumental in advancing PCI's mission to foster a more supported and engaged community.

"We are incredibly excited to welcome Carrie as our new chair," said Rebecca Tenpenny, PCI's executive director. "Her passion for our mission and her leadership qualities will undoubtedly propel PCI forward as we continue to serve Archuleta County."

In addition to the leadership announcement, PCI is proud to welcome new members to its executive team. Loren Talley has accepted the role of treasurer, and Jackie Perales has been voted in as a member. Both are esteemed local business owners and passionate community advocates. Julie Ogier has also been serving as a committed board member since the spring of 2024.

Their dedication to giving back aligns perfectly with PCI's mission to create interactive opportunities that honor culture and diversity, ultimately enhancing wellness and engagement for all residents.

PCI's mission is to build a place of belonging for everyone in our community. The organization provides a wide range of services, including out-of-school-time programming for K-12 students, family resources, emergency funds, therapy, resource management and adult education.

As the county's Family Resource Center, PCI is committed to improving the quality of life for all of Archuleta county.

As PCI continues to grow, the organization also wishes to sincerely thank its founding board members—Kris Salisbury, Kelly Lewis, Morganne Foster, Kate Crabbe and Boyd Neagle, who have all come to the end of their terms.

Their groundbreaking efforts and profoundly life-changing contributions laid the foundation for PCI in 2022. Their dedication and invaluable impact on the organization, as well as on the lives of youth and families across Archuleta County, cannot be measured.

We are deeply grateful for their work, leadership and continued

support in building a stronger, more connected community.

Looking ahead, PCI currently has open positions on its board and is actively seeking passionate individuals eager to make a meaningful impact. The organization values skilled collaborators who want to contribute to a vital, community-driven organization still in its early

years of growth.

Interested individuals or those seeking more information are encouraged to contact Blue-White at chair@pagosacommunityinitiative.org or Tenpenny at director@pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

PCI remains dedicated to fostering a vibrant, inclusive community where everyone can thrive.

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Dan Morrison as a doomed member of the D’Ysquith family shares a frosty moment with Catie Leonard before meeting an icy end (quite literally) in “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder” at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Summer on stage: Thingamajig Theatre Company continuing ‘amazing’ season

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

We’re officially at the midpoint of our summer season, and we’ve got one word to describe it: amazing. Since opening night on May 30, we’ve welcomed enthusiastic audiences into the theater each week — some seeing their favorite show for the second or third time, others bringing family and friends in from out of town.

The response has been strong, the performances electric and the energy in the building undeniable. What a fabulous start.

Last weekend, our What-chamawhozits kids theater camp delivered a major highlight: sold out performances of “James and the Giant Peach JR.”

These young local performers — mentored and coached by our professional summer cast — brought their A-game to the stage, filling the theatre with laughter, color and joy.

To everyone who came out to support them: thank you. These were more than just great performances. They were a reminder of what happens when a community shows up for its kids, and what it means to invest in the next generation of artists.

Meanwhile, the professional season continues with three main stage shows in rotation through Aug. 30:

• “Something Rotten!” is a riotous musical comedy packed with word-play, tap dancing and Shakespearean chaos as two playwright brothers try to outdo the Bard by creating the world’s first musical.

• “The Wild Party” takes us into the underbelly of the roaring twenties — a jazz-fueled, emotionally charged journey through self-indulgence and broken dreams.

• “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder” delivers razor-sharp humor and fast-paced theatricality as one ambitious Englishman schemes his way through the aristocracy (and a few unfortunate heirs) to claim a title.

Each show brings something different to the table: comedy, depth, spectacle, and our talented cast of 37 actors, musicians and designers from across the country are giving it everything they’ve got.

Whether it’s your first visit this season or your third, this is a good moment to plan your next night out. Tickets are moving quickly, especially as we head toward August and the final weeks of the season.

We also had an unforgettable moment off-stage recently: a special filmed message from Andrew Lippa, the acclaimed composer and creator of “The Wild Party.” He sent his personal well-wishes to the cast, crew, and company — a meaningful gesture that lifted everyone’s spirits and added a little Broadway magic to our small-town stage.

And while the shows are the heartbeat of the theater, the Broadway Gala on Tuesday, July 29, at 5 p.m. is its lifeblood.

The gala is our most important night of the year: a celebration of live theater and a critical fundraiser that helps sustain Thingamajig through the fall and winter. While ticket sales

keep the lights on in the summer, they only cover about half of what it takes to run a professional theater company year-round. The gala helps close that gap.

This year’s event promises a night to remember:

- A catered meal served by the
- See Theatre on next page

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

André Spathelf-Sanders (groom) and Cassandra Brooks (Sibella) share the altar in “A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder,” while wedding attendant Catie Leonard looks on. For tickets and show information on the three shows in rotation at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Theatre

■ continued from previous page actors.

- A cabaret-style performance from the summer cast.
- A live auction packed with one-of-a-kind experiences, including a progressive dinner across Pagosa Springs with serenading actors as your chauffeurs; a private campfire sing-along with the cast; and a behind-the-scenes trip to New York City with Thingamajig founders Tim and Laura Moore to sit in on Broadway auditions and enjoy dinners and shows in the Big Apple. (Airfare not included.)

New this year: with your gala ticket purchase, you’ll have the chance to request your favorite Broadway song and, with a donation, have it performed live at the event.

And even if you can’t attend in person, you can still participate in the fun. Starting July 15, online advance bidding opens for all live auction items. To get on the list for reminders and bidding links, email thingamajigbox@gmail.com.

Tickets for the gala are \$150 and available now at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW.

It’s a dressy evening, but, most importantly, it’s a meaningful one. Your presence supports everything we do the rest of the year.

Finally, we’d be remiss not to thank everyone who’s gone out of their way to support the theater this summer, especially with construction happening all around town. We know it’s been harder to get here, harder to park and sometimes harder to make it a night out. But, you’ve kept coming. You’ve brought your families. You’ve filled the seats. And you’ve reminded us why this work matters.

There’s still plenty of summer left and plenty of incredible performances ahead. But, don’t wait until the last few weeks. Seats are filling fast, and we want to make sure you’re in them.

We’ll see you at the theater.

For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Creation Care Pagosa to meet July 24

Creation Care Pagosa

Creation Care Pagosa will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Please enter through the side door next to the parking lot.

This interfaith group of citizens interested in learning and taking action on environment stewardship meets monthly to hear from a variety of speakers on environmental issues.

The group is open to anyone in the community interested in these topics.

988 Lifeline

Whether you’re facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our counselors are here for you.

You are not alone. 988 for help.



NEW LISTING



This is an awesome 3bedroom, 3.5 bathroom, 3.68 acres tucked into the woods in a gated community. All three bedrooms are en suite and the living area on the second floor is to die for. The whole family can fit into the gourmet kitchen and the decks are all covered, with a hot tub. There is a wood burning fireplace in the great room and one on the covered deck off the dining. The views from inside and outside are incredible and the privacy is worth noting. The garage is large; there is a barn which can be used to store toys or horses. MLS# 826465 \$1,375,000.00

Discover your mountain retreat in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath log cabin, in Aspen Springs 1 on well-maintained Deer Trail, just a half-mile from Hwy 160. This 1,205 sq. ft. cabin features a living room, dining area, modern kitchen, and a full bath on the main level, with two bedrooms upstairs. The kitchen boasts new cabinets, countertops, and flooring. A wood stove enhances the cabin's ambiance. The property is equipped with a state-of-the-art water filtration system, including reverse osmosis, water softener, and on-demand hot water, professionally installed. MLS #826138 \$356,000



**33 Fawn Court
\$1,000,000**

MLS # 824532

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, up-town 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://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>



**109 Carol's Curves
\$310,000**

MLS # 824583

The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dog's and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.



**1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$925,000**

MLS # 822945

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

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



**65 Caballero Drive
\$695,000**

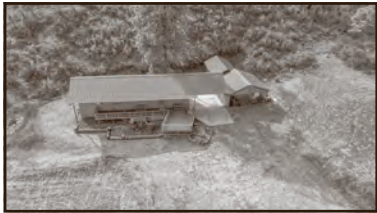
MLS # 823461

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=q0khZeKE-G0

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



**324/356/294 Sparrow Circle
\$325,000**

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.



**X Tall Pines Place
\$255,000**

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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Photo courtesy A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.
Friends and supporters of Aspen House gather on July 1 to celebrate the official pre-groundbreaking event for what will become the first fully supportive home for adults with developmental disabilities in Archuleta County.

Aspen House holds pre-groundbreaking on supportive housing for adults with developmental disabilities

By Pattie Copenhaver
A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.

Under clear summer skies, friends and supporters of Aspen House gathered at 2079 Vista Blvd. on July 1 to celebrate a momentous milestone: the official pre-groundbreaking event for what will become the first fully supportive home for adults with developmental disabilities in Archuleta County.

The morning marked the start of visible progress at the site, with the team from La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) installing the electrical transformer — signaling the beginning of utility infrastructure work.

This crucial step sets the stage for initial construction and the “dry-in” phase of the project. With funding secured for this initial phase, Aspen House believes the visible momentum will inspire additional support from donors who share the vision of a vibrant, inclusive home where adults with developmental disabilities can thrive.

“This is more than just the start of a construction project,” said Pattie Copenhaver, Aspen House executive director. “It’s the beginning of a future where families in our community can rest easier knowing their loved ones have a safe, permanent and supportive place to live.”

Aspen House is a program of A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc., founded in 2014 by Patty Brown and Carolyn Paschal, two local mothers of sons with developmental disabilities. Driven by a lack of local options for long-term supportive housing, they set out to create a solution — not only for their families, but for the entire community.

“And so thankful that this dream is actually becoming a reality. It is really like a dream come true,” said Paschal. “I had so many mixed emotions — happy, of course, elated, actually, amazed at the support of this project, and a little scared. Any great



Photo courtesy A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.
Carolyn Paschal and Patty Brown pose for a photo at the July 1 pre-groundbreaking of Aspen House. The pair founded A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc. in 2014.

endeavor needs continued support, and we have to make sure we keep this moving forward for our adults who need it so much.”

Once complete, Aspen House will offer wraparound services through Aspen Services Residential, which will oversee day-to-day operations.

“I also am very grateful that this much-needed home is finally moving forward. It has been a dream of mine for my son and his buddies for so long. It took a lot of people and much hard work. My appreciation to all is more than words can express. Thank you,” said Brown.

The goal is not only to open the doors of Aspen House, but to build a thriving, inclusive community where individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities can live full, empowered lives — surrounded by compassion, opportunity and the support they need.

Aspen House invites the community to follow along as construction progresses and to join in supporting the vision of a home that will serve generations to come.

For more information and to learn about upcoming opportunities to support Aspen House, please call Copenhaver at (970) 398-1636 or visit www.aspenhousepagosa.org.

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The choice of words matters

By Shanna Robb
Special to The PREVIEW

Whether written or spoken, words determine the trajectory of a message. When they are inadvertently changed or omitted, the intent of a message becomes distorted.

For instance, "I love you" assumes a new meaning when the word "love" is replaced with "prefer." While these two words are synonyms, meaning they have the same or nearly the same meaning, they express significantly different emotions.

Love is love, and the use of the word should not be haphazardly expressed or replaced.

To illustrate the power of love, imagine being on the receiving end of a marriage proposal. Instead of your beloved expressing the almighty, "I love you," they say, "I prefer you." Ouch.

Love is the greatest of all virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13) and is a core principle of the Bible. Depending on the translation, love is mentioned on average more than 600 times.

Perhaps it is no coincidence that Jesus' first miracle was during a wedding in Cana Galilee — a wedding that celebrated the sanctity of marriage and love.

As the bridegroom to His bride, the Church, Jesus wants a relationship based on a covenant of love and commitment. It is an unconditional proposal that offers a shared destiny between God and people of all nations.

It is a proposal that we have the free will to accept or decline, a proposal that remains steadfast, even when we turn away like the prodigal son described in Luke 15:11-32.

As stated in 1 John 4:8, "God is

A Matter of Faith

Love." That is His nature. He is not asking to be "preferred" and has never wavered on His love for us. Gaze upon Jesus Christ hanging on the cross and you will see the ultimate definition of love.

Love is an action and comes with a responsibility. It is rooted in the two greatest commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The choice of words matters. We are to love God with all our being, not just partially. We are to purposefully love others, not simply like or tolerate them.

When Peter faced Jesus after denying Him three times, Jesus did not ask Peter, "Do you like me?" or, "Do you prefer me?" As described in John 21: 15-17, Jesus' words left no room for misinterpretation: "Do you love me?"

Words matter. Love matters. Our response matters.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

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Livestock Auction Information: We welcome old and new supporters of the Livestock Auction to support our 4-H kids and their hard work. To learn more about bidding or being an add-on buyer, call Becky Jacobson or Terry Schaaf at (970) 264-5931 or visit www.archuletacountyfair.com

Go on a ‘Safari for the Savior’ at Church of Christ Vacation Bible School

Pagosa Springs Church of Christ

The jungle is coming to Pagosa Springs in the free Vacation Bible School (VBS) held at the Church of Christ located at 277 Lewis St.

“Safari for the Savior” is the theme of this year’s VBS. It will be held July 21-25 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for children 4 years old through eighth grade.

Daily, the children travel with the apostle Paul as he spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ and a character trait of his life will be emphasized. Bible

stories come alive with acting, puppet shows, games, quizzes, songs and crafts. Each child is actively involved and learns great lessons though the week.

On Wednesday evening, the children put on a program demonstrating what they have learned in VBS. VBS concludes on Friday with a hot dog picnic in the park. Parents, family and friends are invited to those activities, as well as being encouraged to visit the daily classes at any time.

The youth group and adults from Woodward, Okla., will return to

help with the five-day VBS. Working together with the Pagosa Springs church, they put on a quality learning experience and fun VBS for the children. Refreshments are served daily.

Enrollment forms may be found in the paper, you may call the church office to pre-enroll or register the first day of VBS. For more information, please call the church office at (970) 264-2552 and leave a message.

All children are welcome to attend the free VBS. Make plans for your children to attend this exciting time of learning and growing.

Unitarian Universalists to hear message on ‘Turning Inward to Expand our Welcome’

By De Anna Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This Sunday, July 20, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will hear the message of “Turning Inward to Expand our Welcome.”

Our speaker, Anna Royer, formerly of Pagosa Springs, will visit from Durango and speaks not as an expert, but as a fellow spiritual traveler committed to social justice and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

She has lived in southwest Colorado for 20 years, supporting youth as a professional social worker and as a volunteer in school, nonprofit and UU congregational settings. This role includes the recurring privilege of listening to youth share their authentic selves, and she honors them as her primary teachers in learning about diverse gender identities.

Royer holds the question, how do we do the internal work necessary to create welcoming spaces for people who hold transgender, nonbinary and gender expansive identities?

Creating the beloved community is work that is both individual and collective, and both inward and outward facing. Let’s build on the public, celebratory work of Pride Month by turning inward to question our own assumptions, stereotypes and

implicit bias.

As a cisgender woman striving to be an ally, Royer will share personal stories of learning about diverse gender identities, ways we can educate ourselves and hold ourselves accountable to creating welcoming community, and draw connections between this work and the UU values of interdependence, pluralism, justice, transformation, generosity and equity.

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

Our Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. We also offer Zoom services the first and third Sundays of the month. Find our current newsletter at PagosaUU.org for the link to join, and to find our current programs.

Our fellowship community is committed to lifelong learning and growing as we place love at the center of the set of shared values. Come to explore your own spiritual leanings in a community of fellow seekers on this life journey.

The guided meditation group is continuing and at a new time — Sunday evenings beginning at 7 p.m.

These are simple yet profound and beautiful practices based on cultivating the Four Immeasurables (love, compassion, joy and equanimity), and include calm-abiding, tonglen and mantra practices, and followed by a short dharma talk and discussion.

This is a great way to end one week and prepare to begin another.

■ See Unitarian on next page

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Valerie is a seasoned real estate professional with over 10 years of residential and commercial experience across Arizona and Michigan, now building a dynamic presence in Colorado. Her diverse background has equipped her with deep industry knowledge and a keen understanding of varied markets and client needs.

Valerie’s approach centers on authentic connection, trust, and transparency—values she believes are essential to guiding clients confidently through big decisions. Whether working with home buyers or sellers, seasoned investors, or commercial clients, she combines her expertise with genuine care to make every experience smooth, informed, and rewarding.

Fully embracing the Colorado mountain lifestyle, Valerie brings commitment to personalized service to help clients find not just a property, but an opportunity for their legacy to take root and grow.

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Spiritual Experiences Group to hear about ‘Finding Your Life’s Purpose’ on July 20

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

Drop in; we’d love to meet you. Have you ever wondered, “Why am I here?” Finding purpose in our life can be very beneficial, especially when dealing with the ups and downs of everyday physical reality. Initially, we might feel our purpose is to try to lead a good, ethical life; develop the skills needed to successfully make our way in the world; faithfully serve our family and friends; and be helpful to those in our community. These are all good, but are preliminary steps that lead us to a higher purpose that goes beyond the outer things of this world. We can explore the spiritual skills and talents that lie within to navigate life with greater ease, and we can discover them through personal experience. We can find inner peace and love amid the apparent chaos of life. Did you know that we are creating our

reality every moment? Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs’ discussion: “Finding Your Life’s Purpose – Gain Spiritual Insights that Improve the Quality of Your Life.” Share your stories, questions, and learn new techniques to help define your life’s purpose. The discussion includes a complimentary spiritual journal and book. We will meet Sunday, July 20, at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave., at 1 p.m. Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds, sponsors this free event. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine. To join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs, visit <https://www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/>. To learn more about Eckankar visit <https://www.eckankar.org> or <https://eckankar-colorado.org/>.

Unitarian

■ **continued from previous page**
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option, and we encourage you to email the Pagosa UU Fellowship at info@pagosauu.org to get on the list for the link to join. Instructor Dan Dempster is a certified meditation instructor and authorized dharma teacher, for over 18 years a student of Khenpo Migmar Tseten, Buddhist chaplain at Harvard University.

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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

• July 25, 6 p.m.: Illuminations on “The Power of the Medicine Wheel-Circles of Energy created with Stone and Earth” with Shayla Azriel. A love donation will be collected. For more information, contact (970) 510-0309.

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

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Tableland
5 Water pipe
9 Orange soda brand
14 "... now _____ the future"
15 Suffix with refer
16 Phone greeting
17 Dryer detritus
18 "Cinderella" meanie
20 Pass on, formally
22 Clad
23 Much-desired
25 Boarding place
26 Shouldered
28 Taipei is its capital
30 Poisonous flowering plant
32 Give, as duties
36 Friendly greetings
37 Wedding bands?
39 Name for an unknown
40 Way past ripe
42 Consumers
44 Proof of age, perhaps
46 Lions' locks
47 Ollie's sidekick
50 Rude plus
52 Page borders
54 Protective packing
57 Remorseful
59 Superfruit berry
60 Like a fully cooked soufflé
61 Something to click
62 Scottish miss
63 Long lock
64 Fancy wheels
65 Window blinds piece

DOWN

1 Jell-O shaper

2 Lake near Buffalo
3 Most deeply felt
4 Pre-cable need
5 Soccer great Lionel
6 Termite targeter
7 NHL surface
8 Kathmandu native
9 ____-chat
10 Calls it quits
11 Prefix for violet
12 Frozen rain
13 Large group
19 Union official
21 Retaliated for
24 Makes a swap
26 Physicist Niels
27 Mishmash
29 Type of name
31 Ballroom activity
33 Like some twins
34 Former V.P.
35 Bitter end?
38 Funding, as a scholarship

41 Prickling sensations
43 Toga go-withs
45 Founder of Scholasticism
47 Eligible for Mensa
48 Snouted critter
49 Cropped up
51 Doesn't have
53 Charged particles
55 "Apollo 13" org.
56 Essence
58 Spanish aunt

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

PagosaSUN.com

Learning it's OK to say no

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

The word "no" can be a big word. It can squash other people's fun. But, it can be a very necessary word and be freeing. When we received a cute little invitation in the mail for our great-grandson's third birthday, I sent an R.S.V.P. that no, we wouldn't attend. "Your granddad and I will see the whole family in two weeks, and we'll enjoy everyone then."

In my mind, "no" was a satisfactory answer. Needless to say, the trip for a 3-year-old's birthday party became a family affair.

My Sweet Al and I are at a place in life where a quick six-hour trip each way is hard on us, and we now prepare ahead for handicap-accessible accommodations and road stops.

I remember the days when we moved in and out of each other's lives and our guests did the same. We had an open-door policy for everyone. If someone showed up late at night, hungry and tired, we fed them and made room for them. Many times we moved our children out of their beds to accommodate another family — changed sheets and always made room at the inn. We were taught this was the Christian way.

Everyone, even their dogs, were invited to come and enjoy these wonderful mountains and our home. We shared what we had. We set the stage for whoever or however they showed up. We were prepared for them. We had food in the freezer and pantry, and we made a quick meal for them.

My son said to me years ago, "You never taught us to say no."

I told him, "I didn't know I could turn anyone away. If we had it to give, then we needed to share."

Today, I'm very selective with yes and no.

Things have changed. No longer do we freely throw open the door. We have enforced boundaries. Hopefully, we have become wiser and learned it's OK to say no. We also learned, if we can't afford a hotel room, then we don't go.

Five days before the party, our daughter said, "I'm going, with or without the family."

Al said, "If she's going, I'm going." My son said, "If Daddy goes, then you have to go to ensure his safety. I'll call and make reservations for you."

Plans changed and my "no" didn't hold. The original rate for the hotel near their house tripled for the night. I said, "I'm not going to pay \$450 for one night. We can go another weekend when there isn't some special event in town."

Our daughter said she was going. She would crash on the couch or sleep in her car. Nothing was going to stop her.

My Sweet Al said he had to go to keep her safe. He could sleep on the floor or in the car, too.

Artist's Lane

My son said to me years ago, "You never taught us to say no."

No. No. No, absolutely not. There is no way Al was going to sleep in the car. If I had to go for Al's sake, pay the price, I would. It's not about the money, but the principle. It was all about saying no.

It took three days to convince my Sweet Al there would be a better weekend. After all, they had invited 40 guests and all the neighborhood kids. Finally, Al said, after a lot of convincing, "OK."

My son became involved. When

he heard that his sister was considering sleeping in the car or crashing on the couch uninvited, he said, "Mother, it's a nasty world out there. My sister can't sleep in her car. It's not safe. You can't let her do that. She can't show up unexpected and invite herself to sleep on their couch. Their condo is very small."

She says she's going to wing it. I can't stop her. All I know is it took three days to convince her dad to stay home. This weekend isn't that important. There are other weekends.

I was dealing with multiple headstrong personalities. Al thinks he can help our daughter in case she has car trouble and he will keep her safe. He doesn't know his limitations and how we are trying to keep him safe. My daughter thinks it's fine to go unprepared and crash on a sofa. My son can't believe I'd let them do what they want to do.

Sometimes we need to say yes and understand the significance of our presence and how valuable we are to our family.

Final brushstroke: Looking back to how it used to be, this world has changed. We have also changed. It's OK to say "No." When Al and I go with the family, their roles change. They are on alert, and they move at a slower pace. A handicap-accessible room is necessary. Anything out of the regular daily routine can bring confusion to Al. We all need to know our limitations, and it's OK to say no.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Fresh produce is quickly making its way into the area, and we couldn't be more excited.

When? The time is right now and available throughout the summer, even into early fall.

What? All types of fresh vegetables and yummy fruits are now coming into our local markets, hopefully locally grown or at least Colorado grown. However, the more locally grown produce that we can get our hands and stomachs on, the better for us. If you are shopping at the local grocery stores, look for the Colorado Proud label to choose fresh produce grown in Colorado.

One of the multiple places you can find local foods this summer is the Pagosa Farmers Market, currently located at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until mid-September.

Don't forget about our local food pantries as another source of fresh food. Right now, generous folks with home gardens are donating portions of their crops to our local charitable food system.

If you are in need and the high cost of food is preventing you from enjoying the benefits of fresh, locally grown produce, please do not hesitate to visit one of the six local food pantries. They have healthy, nourishing vegetables as they become available from some of our local growers, such as the Vista Lake Community Garden.

So far this season, the Vista Lake Community Garden has grown and donated fresh lettuce and beets, with beans, tomatoes, peppers, squash, potatoes, onions, peas and herbs on the way.

Speaking of community gardens,

there are two currently growing fresh produce in Pagosa Springs.

The Vista Lake Community Gardens, as mentioned above, located on Port Avenue in the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA)/Vista community, have two gardens operated by the Vista Lake Community Garden Committee, a subcommittee of the PLPOA. They maintain a number of beds dedicated to growing food for the community food pantries, but they also have a number of individual beds available to anyone in the PLPOA community to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Pagosa Springs Community Garden is another location with beds available to Pagosa Springs residents to grow their own food. Located downtown along the Riverwalk, just west of the grow domes, this outdoor garden is not only a great space for learning to grow fresh produce, but is a peaceful sanctuary right next to the river to enjoy the sounds of nature. The garden manager is present frequently and is ready to offer a tour of the gardens and invite everyone to partake in the experience of growing food and experiencing the natural surroundings.

If you're seriously interested in growing some of your own fresh food for yourself or your family, but don't have the space to do so, consider obtaining a bed (or two) in one of these community gardens.

Both locations usually have an expert or two who visit the gardens and are more than willing to offer plenty of advice, sharing their knowledge and experience.

It is also refreshing to know that these spaces are not only for growing food, but also for growing relationships with other gardeners.

Both gardens hold several free

community events in summer, open to the public, and most times include special activities for children and adults alike.

To learn more about our community gardens, where to get local fresh foods and the other efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit www-foodcoalition4archuleta.org or email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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SUDOKU

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

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

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Three-day Friends summer book sale opens today

By Carole Howard

PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

The hugely popular three-day Friends of the Library book sale happens this weekend at the Community United Methodist Church located downtown at 434 Lewis St.

You can take advantage of great bargains on books of all genres for all ages while helping the Friends raise money for your library's programs and operations.

Thursday, July 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. is the members-only early shopping opportunity — and if you are not a member, you're welcome to join at the door. Annual memberships are \$15 per person or \$25 per family. Lifetime memberships are \$150 per person.

Friday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to noon the book sale is open to the public.

Library closure

We will close Aug. 4-9 to keep you safe as construction begins on our expansion project.

At that time, we will be constructing a new entrance and walkway from the new parking lot to the west and also building a temporary wall to separate our inside service area from construction activity.

We will welcome you back to our temporarily much reduced library space on Aug. 11.

No more book donations, please

Library News

Regretfully, Director Barb Brattin has made the decision to cease accepting book donations for a year beginning immediately.

The reality of operating in a much smaller space while construction happens on the first phase of your library's long-awaited expansion has made the action a necessity.

Library staff are deep into planning to minimize disruption to programs and patrons during construction. Digging up the current parking lot will be the first step, signaling the start of the project on Aug. 4, which is expected to continue through June 2026.

Initial construction involves creating a new entrance to the library on the west side of the building where you'll enter through the community garden.

The new addition will feature a large program room that can accommodate 100 people or be divided in two for smaller groups, as well as a children's room and an adjacent children's garden.

Eagerly awaited improvements like these will happen only with some temporary dislocation to library operations as construction proceeds, according to Brattin.

"But, the good news is that we are staying in the building during construction," she said.

■ See Library on next page

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*FSWB Board Member Bryan Dear has generously donated \$5,000 to kick off this campaign. First Southwest Bank is proud to match his donation with an additional \$5,000, bringing our initial commitment to \$10,000 for these worthy causes.

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Library

■ continued from previous page

The circulation desk will remain in place with your dedicated, knowledgeable staff there to help you, but you'll enter the building by a different route. Parking will move to a new lot west of the library, which you'll enter off U.S. 160.

You'll have the same copy, fax and print services available, but fewer computers and no meeting rooms during construction.

Children's programs will move temporarily to the Turner Reading Room, and the Hershey and Chimney Rock Collections will go into storage to make this happen. Inside bathrooms cannot be accessed, so porta-potties will have to do.

Brattin said that she and her team are looking for space elsewhere in the community to temporarily house programs like after-school tutoring, adult crafts and book clubs.

"We're determined to keep disruptions to a minimum as construction proceeds over the next two years," Brattin said. "We're excited because we know the end result will make the temporary interruptions more than worthwhile as the new building will provide so many of the facilities our patrons have requested for a very long time."

Brattin pointed out that the expansion is totally paid for by private donations and grants — not taxpayer money — that has raised \$4.2 million.

As an example, she cited a \$840,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Fund-raising continues for upgrades to the existing building.

"All of us on staff are already dreaming of the new and improved programs and services we'll be able to offer when the construction is complete," she said.

Special birds event for kids

Today, Thursday, July 17, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., Keith Bruno from the Audubon Society's Community Naturalist Program will share lots of fun facts about local birds, including their camouflage coloring, at a free event for children.

Fun paper arts event tomorrow

Tomorrow, Friday, July 18, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., our Summer Reading Program presents Paper Arts and Printables, free crafts fun for all ages when we'll enjoy coloring, calligraphy and paper mache.

Paws to Read tomorrow

Friday, July 18, from 2 to 3 p.m., youngsters are invited to share their favorite books with Maple, a therapy dog who loves stories, at a free Paws to Read session.

LEGO play Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO build on Saturday, July 19, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own

LEGOs or use ours.

Pokemon Club Saturday

If you love Pokemon, this club is for you. Bring your cards to a fun free all-ages event on Saturday, July 19, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. when you can play games with others who feel the same way. No experience is required.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, July 21, for amateur musicians of all abilities to play, sing and jam with other people.

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.

Hiatus for bilingual storytimes

Please note that Hora de Cuentos, the bilingual storytime for children, will take a break in July and return in August.

Writers Guild

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

Tech Time

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

Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed 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.

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.

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.

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.

How-to and self-help

"The Gut-Brain Paradox" by Dr. Steven R. Gundry uses science and recipes to offer tips on how to heal our microbiomes to take back control of our minds. "The Good Death" by hospice nurse Suzanne B. O'Brien provides practical advice and emotional supports for end-of-life planning. "The ABCs of Reloading/10th edition" by Philip P. Massaro is a guide to making your own ammunition. "Practical Shooting Training" by Ben Stoeger and Joel Park offers dry-fire and live fire training drills. "Home

■ See Library on next page

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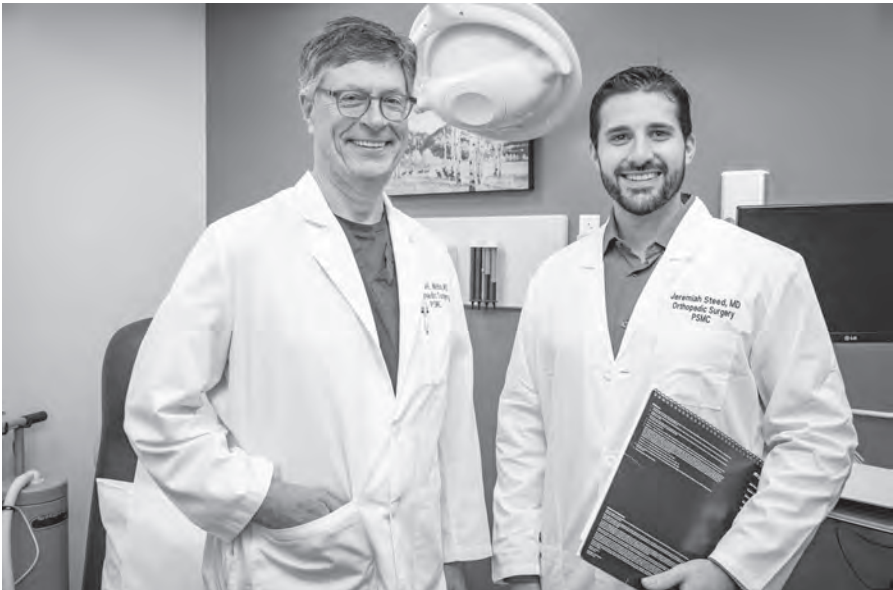
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Library

■ **continued from previous page**
Winemaking” by Jack B. Keller, Jr. provides 65 recipes for grapes, fruits and flowers. “The Disaster Ready Home” by Creek Stewart is a step-by-step emergency preparedness manual for sheltering in place.

“The Book of Home How-to” is the updated third edition of the Black and Decker guide. “ASVAB Premium Prep 2025-2026” is a Kaplan guide with study plans, practice tests, videos and quizzes. “Nature’s Medicine Cabinet” by Meagan Visser offers seasonal remedies and recipes for a year of botanical wellness. “Healing the Heart, Soul and Body” by Stephanie Spence provides spiritual guidance from yoga leaders. “The Modern Forager’s Cookbook” provides more than 75 recipes from the farm, forest, field and stream. “The Pocket Guide to Edible Wild Plants” features tips to forage safely and responsibly from the U.S. Department of the Army.

Other nonfiction

“The World Walk” by Tom Turcich documents seven years, 28,000 miles and six continents of a man’s walk around the world with his dog. “The Book of Stones” by Rob Connoley Robert Simmons and Naisha Ahsian is an expanded guide to crystals, minerals, gemstones and their metaphysical energies. “Hiking Colorado’s Western Slope” is a Falcon Guide featuring 39 of the best trails in the region. “Philosophy of the Future” by Jason Reza Jorjani shares six original concepts at the core of his beliefs.

Novels

“All We Were Promised” by Ashton Lattimore follows three young Black women in pre-Civil War Philadelphia

whose lives cross unexpectedly and dangerously.

Books on CD

“The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau” by Kristin Harmel begins with the findings of a long-lost stolen bracelet. “The Death Mask” by Iris Johansen is an Eve Duncan thriller. “The President’s Shadow” by James Patterson and Richard Dilallo features a crusader with next-generation scientific skills. “Don’t Let Him In” by Lisa Jewell focuses on a man with a dark past. “Knave of Diamonds” by Laurie R. King is a suspense story featuring a woman and her uncle Sherlock Holmes. “Line of Demarcation” by Tom Clancy is a Jack Ryan Jr. adventure. “Don’t Forget Me, Little Bessie” by James Lee Burke features 14-year-old Bessie Holland as the story’s narrator.

DVDs

“Recipes for Love and Murder” is series two. “The President’s Wife,” set in France, stars Catherine Deneuve. “Signora Volpe” is series one. “Totem” is a film about a loving Mexican family celebrating a terminally ill father’s birthday. “The Friend” stars Bill Murray and Naomi Watts. “A Minecraft Movie” is a fantasy inspired by the video game. We have series one and two of “My Life is Murder.”

Quotable quote

“[UCLA basketball coach John Wooden] was determined that we become better men first and better basketball players second. He didn’t focus on winning, but he taught us in such a way that winning was a natural by-product of our striving.” — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who won a

record six NBA Most Valuable Player awards.

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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FRESH AIR MAY HELP PREVENT SICKNESS

Why is it that despite flu vaccines and OTC medicines, most people still become sick during “sick seasons”?

One reason may be as simple as fresh-air deficiency. See the data for yourself.

Common wisdom has it that staying indoors, where it’s warm and toasty, is easier on your immune system than being outside in the cold.

Problem is, being inside puts you in close constant contact with other people -- and their germs. Adding insult to injury, you’re already more vulnerable to illness now:

Winter air is dry, whether you’re indoors or out, so it pulls moisture from cough and sneeze droplets. That makes the drops lighter, so they -- and the cold and flu viruses inside them -- can hang around in the air longer. The arid air also dries out your nasal passages, creating cracks that viruses are all too happy to invade.

Not only does escaping into the fresh air give you a break from all those germs circulating inside, but going for a stroll can actually boost your immunity: A 2010 Appalachian State University study showed that people who walked briskly for 30 to 45 minutes a day five days a week during the winter had fewer illnesses than their sedentary counterparts.

“Exercise leads to an increase in natural killer cells, neutrophils, and monocytes, which ultimately increases immune function,” says Ather Ali, N.D., M.P.H., assistant director of Complementary/Alternative Medicine Research at the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center.

Source: “Secrets of women who don’t get sick.” By Jeannette Moninger.

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

“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” Job 33:4

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, July 17

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 wooden 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.

Tai Chi. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Hosted by the Senior Center. Free for ages 55 and older.

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.

Wilder-noon with the Audubon Society. 2:30-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Keith Bruno from the Audubon Society's Community Naturalist Program will talk about birds, their camouflage coloring and other fun facts.

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.

Friends of the Library Book Sale:

Members-Only Sale. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Members can shop early and receive discounts. Memberships can be purchased at the event.

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.

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).

Friday, July 18

A Mystery 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.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

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: Paper Arts and Printables. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Relaxation crafts: coloring, calligraphy and paper mache.

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.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Read with Maple, the therapy dog who loves stories.

ComFest. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Enjoy live music.

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).

Tour of the Night Sky Program. 8:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour program focuses on the Ancient Puebloans who once lived here and studied the night skies along with interactive talks about the life cycle of a star, categories of galaxies, telescopes and other topics. 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

■ See Calendar on page 18

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In a strategic effort to strengthen local housing initiatives, Habitat Archuleta's Board of Directors has voted to sell the parcel to a local builder, along with professionally designed blueprints valued at \$126,000.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Byron Greco

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the rufous hummingbird.

These feisty hummingbirds who are relentless defenders at flowers and feeders are back in town. Males and females are extremely territorial all year and not afraid to go after even larger hummingbird species. When they are not feeding, they may perch nearby to keep an eye on things. Broadtail and black-chinned hummingbirds, who have been here since spring, now must sneak in for a drink at feeders and flowers.

Adult rufous males are rusty orange colored on the back and tail. In sunlight their throats flash iridescent red. Females and immature males have rusty washes on the flanks and tail, and often an orange spot on the throat. Their backs are greenish.

To fuel their high-energy requirements, rufous hummingbirds must feed almost continuously in short spurts during the day. They feed primarily on nectar produced by tubular flowers, extending a long bill and tongue deep into the center of the flower while hovering over it. They obtain protein and fat from insect prey, which they pick off in the air, glean from leaves and bark or steal from spider webs. A slurry of nectar and insects is fed to young birds in the nest.

Among birds its size in North America, the rufous hummingbird completes one of the longest migrations, breeding further north on the continent than any other hummingbird species. During their annual circuit in the west, they are found in spring traveling north through California and in summer breeding in the Pacific Northwest and from western Canada to southern Alaska. In these cool climates they are important plant pollinators. Their southern migration route takes them through the Rocky Mountains and they spend time here on their return trip to winter range in Mexico.

The 2025 State of the Birds report includes the rufous hummingbird in its list of “Orange Alert Tipping Point Species” due to its loss of more than 50 percent of the population in the last 50 years with accelerated declines in the last 10. This report, prepared by scientists from United States bird conservation groups, warns that despite evidence that conservation can work, we are not doing enough to reverse the trends in the continued decline of America’s bird populations.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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Distribution

7,000 copies of The Hunt will be distributed by the Visitor Center, area businesses, newsstands and in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN.

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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 16
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Saturday, July 19

Riverwalk Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m., Centennial Park. Participants should bring water, hats, sun-screen and bug spray. Meet at the native plants garden next to the geothermal domes. Leave dogs at home. Tours will not occur during inclement weather.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8-10:30 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.

Garden Adventures. 9 a.m., Pagosa Springs Community Garden. Make a plant buddy.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 9 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Cornerstone Church fellowship hall, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. Social time will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. The meeting room is accessed through the back door of the church (park in the back parking lot and enter through the right-hand door). For more information, visit pagosapiecemakers.com.

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.

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.

Pokémon Club. 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon too. No experience is required.

Flute Music at Twilight Program. 6 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program begins with a guided, short walk through a mesa village followed by live Native American flute music accompanied by a deepening night sky to reveal celestial bodies. 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 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosa-center.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, July 20

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosa-center.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, July 21

A Mystery 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.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Vacation Bible School. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. For kids 4 years old through eighth grade. Bible stories will come alive with acting, puppet shows, games, quizzes, songs and crafts. For more information, call (970) 264-2552 and leave a message.

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.

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ArchuletaCounty.org

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others.

Tuesday, July 22

Vacation Bible School. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. For kids 4 years old through eighth grade. Bible stories will come alive with acting, puppet shows, games, quizzes, songs and crafts. For more information, call (970) 264-2552 and leave a message.

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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.

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.

Health Care Public Discussion. 6-8 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The Colorado Healthcare Coalition needs input about rural health care challenges and issues to inform an upcoming study by the Colorado School of Public Health of the feasibility of a Colorado universal health care system as described in recently passed Colorado bill SB25-045. This is a nonpartisan event.

Riverwalk Wetlands Tour. 7 p.m., Centennial Park. Participants should bring water, hats, sunscreen and bug spray. Meet at the native plants garden next to the geothermal domes. Leave dogs at home. Tours will not occur during inclement weather.

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).

Wednesday, July 23

Vacation Bible School. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. For kids 4 years old through eighth grade. Bible stories will come alive with acting, puppet shows, games, quizzes, songs and crafts. For more information, call (970) 264-2552 and leave a message.

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.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

A Mystery 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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Something Rotten!' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Thursday, July 24

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.

Vacation Bible School. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. For kids 4 years old through eighth grade. Bible stories will come alive with acting, puppet shows, games, quizzes, songs and crafts. For more information, call (970) 264-2552 and leave a message.

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 wooden 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.

High Tea. 1:15-2:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Tai Chi. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Hosted by the Senior Center. Free for ages 55 and older.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Creation Care Pagosa. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Enter through the side door next to the parking lot. An interfaith group of citizens interested in learning and taking action on environment stewardship.

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.

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).

Friday, July 25

A Mystery 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.

Vacation Bible School. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. For kids 4 years old through eighth grade. Bible stories will come alive with acting, puppet shows, games, quizzes, songs and crafts. For more information, call (970) 264-2552 and leave a message.

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: Colorful Explosion. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for a craftapalooza.

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.' 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).

Tour of the Night Sky Program. 8:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour program focuses on the Ancient Puebloans who once lived here and studied the night skies along with interactive



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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
talks about the life cycle of a star, categories of galaxies, telescopes and other topics. 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.

Saturday, July 26

Riverwalk Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m., Centennial Park. Participants should bring water, hats, sunscreen and bug spray. Meet at the native plants garden next to the geothermal domes. Leave dogs at home. Tours will not occur during inclement weather.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8-10:30 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.

Conversations in the Garden. 9-10 a.m., Pagosa Springs Community Garden.

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.

Aspire's Barn Bash. 5-9 p.m., Reservoir Hill. The event will feature live music, food and prizes. Tables and event tickets are available at aspirepagosa.org/barnbash.

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, July 27

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.' 3 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).

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 outside and food and beverage are allowed. For more information,

contact Mary Jo Coulehan at (970) 903-7815.

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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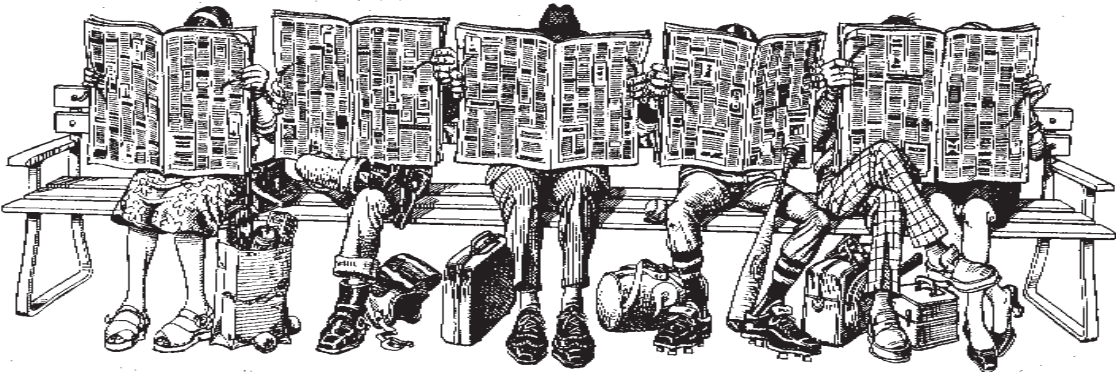
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Archuleta Seniors Inc. features local produce

By Joan Ward
PREVIEW Columnist

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) purchases fresh, local produce, with the partial assistance of a small grant, for eligible participants.

Lettuces, chard, green onions and more are provided every week during the growing season. The details are further down in this article.

Also, did you know ASI has a grow dome? Produce from the dome is used in our seniors' lunches to enhance the nutritional quality of the meals.

When asked what vegetables they like that we grow in the dome, can you guess what the least favorite vegetables were? Kale and Swiss chard did not get many votes.

Kale and Swiss chard, while very nutritious, can be bitter. Adding a little lemon when sauteing them helps, or using them in mixed dishes. Kale chips were well-received.

Massaging the kale before chopping it up for salad also helps soften the texture. Or, try Italian beans and greens soup.

Save the date for high tea

ASI will be hosting high tea from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, in the Senior Center dining room. Come by and try our cucumber sandwiches and scones. All ages are welcome.

Senior Conversations

Join us every Monday 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.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others living within the Archuleta community, fostering friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

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

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

Participants will have the oppor-

Senior News

tunity 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.

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.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place on Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m.

It is also being added on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. starting July 23.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds 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.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom techniques

On the second Wednesday of the month, join the "Tappers," who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Come learn the technique on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday 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.

Mexican Train dominoes

A new group is forming and will meet on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Tai chi

Tai chi classes are held at Yamaguchi Park from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

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 approximately one hour. No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Bingo

The Senior Center usually hosts free community bingo games twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The next date for bingo is July 25. Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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 ASI at (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.

Brain fitness program

The Ageless Grace Brain Fitness Program will not be held during the summer.

Produce Box Program

ASI, in partnership with TerraWalk Farms and Nourish Colorado, is launching its second season of the Produce Box Program for seniors (55+) in Archuleta County.

Through this Community Supported Agriculture initiative, eligible participants will receive weekly boxes of fresh, local, organic produce from June to mid-October.

Eligibility requirements: You must be a current or new ASI client (Meals on Wheels, congregate, pick-up/Grab-N-Go meals) or a resident of low-income senior housing (e.g., Casa De Los Arcos, Rose Mountain Townhomes).

Please note that the “Self-Survival Food Lecture Series” is canceled.

For more information, please call ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Participants pick up their boxes at the Senior Center on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Silver Fox’s Den in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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. Pickup via our convenient portico is also 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.

Community Cafe menu

Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed at short notice.

Thursday, July 17 — Baked cod with white wine tomato basil sauce, asparagus, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, July 18 — Beef Marsala, baked potatoes, peas and pearl onions, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Monday, July 21 — Thai chicken with peanut sauce, rice, snap peas, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, July 22 — Baked salmon with herb cream sauce, broccoli, rice pilaf, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, July 23 — Beef chili with cheese, cornbread, sauteed greens, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, July 24 — Giant stuffed mushroom with vegetables and feta cheese, baked sweet potato, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Friday, July 25 — Beef gyro with pita bread, tzatziki sauce, tabouli salad, spanikopita, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through Mountain Express Transit’s (MET’s) discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch.

To become eligible, there is a form to complete. Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pick up a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen

Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its paratransit service. For more information, call (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.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any

■ See Senior on next page

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100 years ago this month: historical events from July 1925

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of July has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in July 1925:

- The Kuomintang proclaim a new national government for the Republic of China on July 1.

- Nikolai Golitsyn is executed by the Soviet Union on July 2. Golitsyn, the last prime minister of the Russian Empire, was charged with participating in a counterrevolutionary monarchist organization. The Bolsheviks granted Golitsyn an opportunity to leave the Soviet Union, but the 75-year-old aristocrat chose to stay.

- Forty-four people lose their lives when a ceiling collapses inside the Pickwick Club in Boston on July 4. The club was hosting a Fourth of July celebration when a ceiling above roughly 120 people dancing at 3:30 a.m. collapses.

- The treasury of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome is robbed on July 4. Police report between 5 million and 7 million lira worth of valuables, including gold crosses and other religious objects, were stolen during the heist. Numerous arrests are made and stolen items are recovered just two days later.

- The Boeing Airplane Company test flies its first passenger aircraft, the Boeing Model 40, on July 7.

- Ralph Samuelson becomes the first person to perform a ski jump on water while performing at a water carnival on Lake Pepin in Minnesota on July 8. Samuelson eventually earns the nickname "The Father of Waterskiing."

- Ecuadoran president Gonzalo Córdova is arrested and removed from office by the Military League on July 10.

- The Scopes Monkey Trial begins

in Dayton, Tenn., on July 10. Scopes is ultimately found guilty of violating the Butler Act and fined \$100 on July 21.

- English high school student Phyllis Green breaks the world record for the women's high jump on July 11. The 17-year-old Green becomes the first female competitor to jump higher than 5 feet.

- A mob of 200 white residents of the logging town of Toledo, Ore., kidnap 29 residents of Asian descent on July 12. The kidnapped residents are placed on a train bound for Portland. Five mob leaders are ultimately arrested and one of the residents is eventually awarded financial damages for violation of his civil rights.

- Archaeologists in what is now the Czech Republic discover one of the oldest ceramic figurines in the world on July 13. The roughly 4-inch artifact is estimated to be from before 24,000 B.C.

- The Canadian province of Saskatchewan repeals the Prohibition Act of 1916 on July 16.

- A flood wall collapses on July 17 after several days of heavy rains in Hong Kong. Eighty people are killed after a landslide sparks the collapse of the wall.

- The first volume of Adolf Hitler's autobiographical manifesto "Mein Kampf" is published on July 18.

- Britain enacts the first Palestinian Citizenship Order, 1925, on July 24. The act officially defines a Palestinian for the first time and remains in effect until 1948.

- American lawyer, orator and politician William Jennings Bryan, who ran for president three times between 1896 and 1908, dies in his sleep on July 26. Bryan's death comes just five days after he obtained a guilty verdict in the Scopes Trial.

- George Seldes is ordered to leave

Italy on July 27. Seldes was in the country as an American correspondent for the Chicago Tribune and refused to alter the tone of one of his dispatches that was critical of the Fascist government led by Benito Mussolini.



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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**

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Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has 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.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to Archuleta Seniors Inc. and sent to the address above. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

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Weed management: weeds and wildlife

By Mark Giampietro and Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnists

The term “noxious weeds” might conjure images in your head of abandoned fields of spiny thistles along the highway, or the too-often-ignored signage at the boot brush station at your local trailheads, or some far-away problem that has no impact on your daily life.

Does it make you think of wildlife being forced from their natural habitats, possibly starving to death? It should, because that is the grim reality of how invasive plant species are affecting the wildlife that makes our lands so unique. Our landscapes are changing; ecological balances are being disrupted. Land once ripe with plant biodiversity, providing forage for wildlife of all kinds, is being taken over by monocultures of unpalatable, and sometimes poisonous, invasive plants.

The consequence isn’t just a different looking assortment of plants in our meadows, forests, and rangelands; it is a potential food chain collapse.

It is estimated that more than 4,600 acres of federally owned land in the U.S. is being infested by noxious weeds every day. Across the entirety of the U.S. there are 100 million acres infested with noxious weeds, and this is growing by at least 8 percent each year.

This takes away habitat and food from animals at all levels of the food chain at a rate they cannot adapt to. Bison use on land invaded by leafy spurge in Colorado was reduced by 78 percent and deer use was reduced 83 percent. Elk habitat in Montana has been reduced on spotted knapweed-dominated range land by as much as 98 percent, resulting in the loss of up to 220 elk per year. Population declines in several native grassland bird species have been documented in the Great Plains Region at sites with moderate to high densities of leafy spurge.

The good news is that, in many cases, when the infestation was managed and native plant populations rebounded, so did the wildlife.

Land animals aren’t the only ones being displaced.

Soil from the erosion of lands infested with poor soil-stabilizing invasive plants eventually ends up in

Extension Viewpoints

our rivers and lakes, smothering fish eggs and blocking sunlight to critical aquatic plant food sources. The increased turbidity, or murkiness, can create inhospitable conditions for those species who need clear waters to thrive.

Agricultural products (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), can run off into water sources with soil erosion as well, creating hazardous conditions for aquatic life or unintended plant damage downstream.

This is not to mention aquatic invasive species themselves, like Eurasian watermilfoil, or riparian invaders, which reduce biodiversity and food sources along bodies of water, such as purple loosestrife and tamarisk. The latter can suck up to 50,000 gallons of water per plant per year and alter the salt levels of the soil and water table.

Wildfires and noxious weeds also have an increasingly devastating relationship. Invasive grasses like cheat-grass provide rocket fuel to wildfires. While the native plant communities are suppressed from the fire, invasive weeds have the perfect opportunity to take hold. They are often the first, and sometimes only, plants to re-emerge after wildfires, as they have the advantage of having no natural predators or diseases to contend with in the area. They can resprout, flower and set seed before native plant communities start to even show signs of life again. This can create a negative feedback loop of wildfires and infestation, leading to more and more habitat loss for wildlife and destruction of native ecosystems.

It isn’t all doom and gloom, however. There is growing awareness of noxious weeds and their devastating impacts on the environment.

What can the average person do to help? Start with your own backyard. Being stewards of our own land is the most accessible place one can start to make a difference.

Also, look out for opportunities for volunteer weed pulls organized

by public land management entities. Follow basic recreation principles like “Play, Clean, Go” or “Leave No Trace” to help stop the spread. Adopt more sustainable land management practices, try to reduce the amount of land being disturbed and reseed disturbed land with native plant seed if disturbance is unavoidable.

Noxious weeds follow us wherever we go, invading our roadsides, our tilled pastures and our development sites. Without action, it is the ecosystems and wildlife, and then ultimately us, who will pay the price.

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>.

Archuleta County Fair

Celebrate 74 years of “A Timeless Tradition” at the Archuleta County Fair July 31 through Aug. 3.

To learn more about the fair, to enter an item in the Open Class Exhibition and to volunteer, visit www.archuletacountyfair.com.

During the fair, make sure to visit the exhibit hall and Hughes Pavilion to view all the great work and dedication shown by our 4-H youth. The 4-H Chuckwagon Dinner, a fundraiser for the Archuleta County 4-H program, will be Aug. 2 at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are limited; purchase your ticket from a 4-H member or at the fair entrance.

CPR and first aid classes

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

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

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.


PAGOSA AA: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12 noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Women's Friday 12 noon at Yamaguchi Park. Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; Zoom ID 858319763, password 754234. 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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HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Introducing Quantum Reset. Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

HELP WANTED

ALPINE APPLIANCE OPENING SOON. We are looking for delivery drivers, installers, and repair technicians to join our growing team. Email resume to brian.hart@alpineappliancespagosa.com or call (970)731-0857.

ARCHULETA SENIORS NOW HIRING a full-time Sous Chef. Minimum 2 years cooking, food production experience. Detail-oriented, good communication skills. Hours Monday to Friday 7a.m. -3p.m. Weekends off and paid holidays. Health stipend and PTO after 90 days. Pick up an application in person at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd, 1 -3p.m. weekdays.

BANK OF COLORADO is seeking to hire a full-time teller. Performs regular teller duties, answering phones to assist customers with transactions, balances, transfers, and various account needs. Bank of Colorado offers PTO, health, vision, and dental insurance, as well as a 401K plan. Must be willing to work rotating Saturdays and have a flexible schedule to either open or close. To apply visit www.bankofcolorado.com/careers.

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.

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@ourourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

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.

(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



PAGOSA PEAK
FAMILY DENTISTRY

Front Office Star Wanted!

Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry, a fun, community-driven practice, seeks a coachable team member with customer service or administrative experience (no dental experience needed). Job would include smiling and greeting patients, coordinating appointments and insurance as we grow our administrative team.

Enjoy competitive pay, health insurance, retirement benefits, and a tight-knit crew while enhancing community health. Email your resume to hello@pagosapeakfamilydentistry.com! Please include your favorite ice cream flavor!



Terry's ACE
PAGOSA HOME PLACE

NOW HIRING:
BUYER
Full time • M-F • 8-5



COLORADO HOME
SUPPLY

Job duties include:
Purchasing product such as furniture, home décor, gifts, clothing, sporting goods, housewares. Creating seasonal product rotations and displays across departments. Attending trade shows and meeting with vendor representatives. Sales support.
Retail, office or management experience preferred.
Must have: high-level computer proficiency including Excel, excellent communication skills, multitask with ease, exceptional customer service and ability to build professional relationships.

The right candidate is flexible, outgoing, creative, detail oriented, dependable, self-starting, problem solver, budget/deadline minded and a team player.
Valid driver's license and travel required.
Start at \$23/hr. depending on experience
Benefits include health insurance, paid time off, profit share, discounts and more.
Apply in person Monday-Friday
Resume and references required.
In-person hiring only.

525 Navajo Trail Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO • (970) 731-4022



COLORADO HOME
SUPPLY

NOW HIRING:
Furniture Sales
Full time, weekends and holidays required

Product or design experience is a plus; proficient computer skills, exceptional communication, people and customer service skills are a must have.

The right candidate is motivated, dependable, detail oriented, works well in a team, high level of professionalism and thrives in building long term customers through a dynamic service repertoire.

Spend your day creating beautiful spaces and helping customers furnish their home and life with comfortable, quality pieces.
Starts at \$18/hr depending on experience.
Benefits include health insurance, paid time off, profit share, discounts and more.
Apply in person at 525 Navajo Trail Drive.

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.

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR — Busy excavation business looking to hire. CDL a plus, but not required. Pay based on experience — willing to train the right person. If you have a strong work ethic and are ready to get started, call Michael, Next Gen Excavation, at (970)946-7303.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

HILLSIDE INN IS LOOKING FOR part time housekeepers. Housekeeper responsibilities include (but not limited to): performing a variety of cleaning activities (bathrooms, rooms, hallways), make beds, ensure all rooms are cared for and inspected according to standards, etc. Depending on the amount of rooms, shifts are usually from 8a.m.- about 1p.m. or 2p.m. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays. Email Natalie your resume to hillsideinnpagosa@gmail.com or stop by the hotel to pick up an application.

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.



ELITE
RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

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 based 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.

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

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 A CHANGE to get out of the extremely hot weather and work indoors while still being in construction? Mountain Men Disaster Mitigation is hiring! Full time guaranteed 40 hours a week and year round work with competitive wages. We are looking for smart individuals with good critical thinking skills. Call or text Lars at (970)946-0238 or Bruce (970)749-9028. MountainMenDm.com

MAIL CARRIER/USPS: p/t 1-2 days a week. Memory and organization skills a must. Email Michelle: liveforeverinparadiseearth@gmail.com.

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 Springs SUN

an O'Rourke Media Group company



Terry's ACE
PAGOSA HOME PLACE

We are hiring:
Small Engine Service Tech
Full time, weekends and holidays required

We are looking for reliable, organized, motivated, team-oriented applicants that enjoy a fast-paced environment.

Must have experience with outdoor power equipment, problem solving, self-starting and customer service oriented.

Start at \$19-20/hr. depending on experience
Benefits include health insurance, paid time off, profit share, discounts and more.
Apply in person Monday-Friday
Applications on terrysace.com
Join us in serving our Pagosa community!

(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

NO DEGREE REQUIRED. MY WORK MATTERS? Help others? Earn great wages through hard work & showing up on time every day? We can train you to be a dental assistant. No experience needed! We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off. Beautiful facility, modern equipment, 401K, excellent pay, e-mail resume to office@pagosasmiles.com.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

NOW HIRING — Multi-skilled carpenters and laborers for high-end custom builds. Year-round work and top pay for top performers. Call Eric at Porter Mountain Homes: (970)844-0330.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL is hiring an afternoon aid for our Preschool class. Please contact Molly Sprowle at (970)398-0064.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA BAR IS HIRING for a part-time bartender position. Experience preferred. Apply in person at Pagosa Bar, 460 Pagosa Street.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SQUARE TOP BAR-B-QUE is hiring a Prep /Line /Food Runner, 4-5 days a week at \$19-21 per hour and a part time Server /Bartender \$11.79 -\$14 per hour plus tips, DOE. Seeking friendly, honest, reliable applicants. Training available. Apply in person at 1 Pines Club Place.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING skilled and experienced Heavy Equipment Operators to join our team. This is a full-time position that offers competitive pay, health insurance, a 401(k) plan and paid time off (PTO). Please submit resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com.

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.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

2017 KAWASAKI VULCAN S. 650cc, maroon and black color, 21,000 miles, no damage history, original owner, \$4,500. (704)618-9000.

26" ELECTRA TOWNIE 7D step-thru, Shimano RevoShift easy gear changing 7 speed, aluminum frame, beautiful blue with silver fenders front and back, front basket. Excellent condition, well maintained, kept indoors, lightly ridden. Located downtown. \$200. Call/text (970)946-3137.

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.

FIREWOOD DELIVERED, DOUG FIR/PINE MIX. \$250 per cord or \$1400 for 6 cords. Call Kathie (303)358-6218.

FOR SALE: 4 bookcases or shelving units, 2 white, 2 natural wood, \$25 - \$50 each. 1 foyer long table wood and glass, \$25. 2 large cabinets, \$25. Miscellaneous items. 30 Conference chairs, \$10 each or \$250 for all. Rugs. Queen Headboard, \$25. Turquoise iron rod footboard double bed, \$25. (970)510-0309.

FREE RABBITS. (719)849-8873.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

ROOFNEST CONDORXL roof top tent sleeps 4 plus Awning & Vestibule, new \$4000, NOW \$2500, good condition, (505)699-0150, Juli.

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

IRRIGATED PASTURE. 4 miles north of Pagosa, Snowball Road. 20 minute ride to forests and streams. (970)946-6274 or (216)618-3391.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

PETS

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES. Ready Aug 14. Health tested parents, chipped, wormed, shots, lifetime support. \$3,500. (719)640-6404. www.DuneViewFrenchies.com

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2014 KTM 690 ENDURO. 2,934 miles, \$6,500. 1975 Arctic Cat 580 EXT, 429 miles, good condition. \$500. (817)896-3284.

E-BIKE, RADRUNNER2, Almost new, includes cargo bags, bike helmet, Kryptolock, and many more accessories. 750 watt motor. \$1,095.00 cash only, (970)618-7385.

AUTOS

2019 RX350 LEXUS. Gold, loaded, runs great, looks great. \$27,500 OBO. Call Lee Riley (970)946-3856.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES



**Moving?
Downsizing?**

Rehoming belongings of a loved one?

Let us help you with your transition.

**Call Allison
(586)703-7706**

Mountain Cactus Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE — 42 Scratch Court, Pagosa Springs. July 26th and 27th from 8a.m. to 12p.m. Furniture, kitchenware, housewares, small kitchen appliances, books, DVDs, tools, snowblowers, On30 model trains, railroad books and much more.

MULTI -FAMILY YARD SALES.161 Arrowhead Drive and 256 Periwinkle Drive. Friday, July 18 and Saturday, July 19 from 8a.m. -1p.m. Furniture, wall decor, household items, tools, clothes, toys and more.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE: 304 Capitan Circle. Friday, July 18, 7a.m. -2p.m.; Saturday, July 19, 8a.m. -2p.m.

YARD SALE at 84 Goldmine Dr. on Saturday, July 12th and 19th from 9a.m. - 4p.m.

YARD SALE AT ASPIRE— Donation Only! Friday, July 18 · 9a.m.–1p.m. 602 S. 8th Street. Gently used baby clothes, pack 'n plays, bouncers, diapers, maternity wear, and other helpful items. Every donation supports Aspire's programs for local families. Call (970)264-5963 for more info.

YARD SALES

YARD SALE. 616 Clint Circle (in The Reserve, N. Piedra). Gate will be open. SAT-URDAY, JULY 19th ONLY. 8a.m. -3p.m. Tons of all kinds of stuff including some antique dolls, camping equipment, camp chairs, lots of men's and women's clothes and MUCH more! Please park on street.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

1343 SQ. FT. COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE for rent on Eagle Drive. Former medical office. Call or text Justin (701)263-2410.

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 STORAGE. Flex/ Hobby Garage. Two units available. Approximately 1800 sq. ft., 1 full bathroom, 14 ft. x 10 ft. door, 15 ft. ceiling. Radiant floor heat. Finished drywall interior. \$2,500 a month, security deposit required, 218 Hopi Drive, Pagosa Springs. Call or text (903)327-3345.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE Upstairs, \$325/ month including utilities, internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

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.

GREAT COMMERCIAL SPACE ON MAIN. 169 Pagosa St., where VOORMI is located, will be available soon. Call Mark at (505)991-5411 or email marks@nmia.com.

LARGE FORMAT INDOOR STORAGE UNITS — RV /Camper /Toy storage. 16' wide, 14' tall, 50' deep. Single overhead door, annual lease. Insulated space. Contact at (970)903-0520.

NEW LARGE SPACE AVAILABLE located in Cloman Park. Near Airport and is also in an Opportunity Zone. Light Industrial. (720)470-2653.

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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

PROFESSIONAL PRIVATE OFFICE for rent \$565/mo. 13' 4" x 15' 11" Includes water, sewer, heat, Wi-Fi, trash service, common area & snow removal. Contact Angelene at Hometown Insurance with questions or to schedule a showing. Call (970)264-4321 or email angelene@hippsllc.com.

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 -\$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

HOMES FOR RENT

SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOME For Lease off North Pagosa near Village Lake and rec center. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with 2 car garage. \$2550 per month includes H2O/ Sewer/snow removal. Text (512)626-8499.

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.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH MOBILE HOME in the Vista at 800 Prospect Blvd. Vinyl floors, deck and carport. \$1,900 /month. Call /text (970)585-6494, Rusty.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view, furnished. \$1000 rent, \$1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers. No pets. (970)264-6797.

BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN FURNISHED 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage home. Large fenced yard. Convenient to all downtown amenities. 1 dog allowed. Call (970)731-8599 for more info or visit the website: teampagosa.com Available July 23, 2025.

BEAUTIFUL HORSE PROPERTY with a 3 bedroom, 2-3/4 bath, 3 car garage home on 5 acres. Outbuildings include a 2000 sq. ft. pole barn and 1168 sq. ft. shop. Call (970)731-8599 for more info or visit the website: teampagosa.com. Pets with approval. Available August 10, 2025.

BEDROOM WITH PRIVATE BATH. Utilities included, first and last. No smokers, no pets. \$800. (970)903-6094.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL — one bedroom and bath, \$1350. Walking distance shops and restaurants in old downtown. (720)470-2653.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them."

Michael Gamba

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

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

RURAL 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 car garage. Call (970)731-8599 or visit the website: team-pagosa.com. Available NOW!

VERY NICE, NEWLY CONSTRUCTED, spacious one -bedroom downtown apartment. Riverwalk, garage and deck. \$1,600 per month includes utilities. Available July 1. (970)398-9136 or builder7@fastmail.com.

COMMERCIAL

2.25 ACRES, FENCED, COMMERCIAL. Off Highway 151, \$325,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call, (970)903-2817.

PRICE REDUCED. Gas station, convenience store. Comes with nine long-term leases, high producing. \$1,350,000. 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.

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.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOM, new construction, workforce housing homes starting at \$339,000. Down payment assistance and financing available. Call (970)585-4984.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

*Whether
Buying or Selling*



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

3% FINANCING AVAILABLE for qualified buyers on this 2 BR home on 1.9 acres, plus a guest house, mature gardens and greenhouse. Home has power, permitted septic, cistern, and well. All appliances and furnishings included. Call Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker (970)946-0473 for more information. \$319,000. MLS# 824849.

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.

GREAT STARTER HOME. Two bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. Fenced yard. \$320,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOME FOR SALE. 3200 square feet on 3 acres. 181 River Forest Drive. See on Zillow. Agents welcome. \$740K (970)585-9181.

MOTIVATED SELLER, PRICE REDUCED to \$530,000. 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. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

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.

SUMMER SALE! NO HOA: Tiny Home (\$100s): 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath (3-Bath Septic), Electric, Pole Barn, 1.17 Acres. Contractor or Horse Property: (\$400s) 2-3 Bedrooms, 2,072 SF, 2 Baths, 1.14 Acres, 30x60 Steel Building, 20x30 Shed, 24x20 Carport. Cabin: (\$100s) 1 Bedroom, Bath, Solar (Off -Grid). PLPOA: (\$200s) 3 Bedroom, 2 Baths, 1152 SF, Backs Canyon. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

THREE BEDROOM 2 BATH newly built 1454 square foot single level in Pagosa's Chris Mountain Two with central AC, XL attached garage, concrete apron, large redwood sundeck, porcelain tile, great views, and many more upgrades detailed and pictured at 18HomeCt.com.

RANCHES

40 ACRES 38 SHARES Pine River Canal, well, septic, small mobile, Allison, CO area, very private, wild game, workshop, \$485,000. (970)403-9483.

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.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

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.

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.

BACKS TO GREENBELT with mountain views. Motivated seller, .28 acre, all utilities available. \$50,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

BUILD READY BARGAINS! City Water, Sewer, Electric, Recreation Center Available: ¼ -Acre Lots: Lake \$30s, Fireside -40s, Seller Finance: Paradise \$40s. ¼ -Acre Golf Course Lots: Caddy, Greenside-\$50s. Wen Saunders, Land Specialist (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

ESCAPE THE HEAT SALE! NO HOA. Off -Grid Parcels For RVing: Waynes: 2.5+ Acres-\$30s. Rock Point: 1+ Acres -30s. Crooked: Seller Finance, 6+ Acres, 4 Parcels, Build Tiny Homes -\$70s. Electric Available: Hurt: 1 Acre, Storage Tack -Barn -\$60s. Alcazar: 1.43 -Acres, backs ranch, mountain view s-\$50s. HWY. 160: 2 -Acres, 2 lots, backs creek -\$60s. Wen Saunders, Land Specialist (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

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A quest to find pristine, dark skies

By Dena Laterza
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

There are so many stars. If you have ever been to a truly dark place and gazed up into the night sky, you know what I'm referring to. It's magnificent. The Milky Way has structure and far-off galaxies can be seen with the naked eye. Unfortunately, artificial light at night (ALAN) has a negative effect on our ability to see the stars. Most cities and towns produce light pollution due to the dense concentration of outdoor lighting on homes and businesses. Downtown Pagosa Springs and all along the U.S. 160 corridor to uptown is approaching suburban skies on the Bortle Light Pollution Scale. So, I was curious. How far away from town must one travel to find pristine dark skies? We are nestled close to the San Juan National Forest and between the South San Juan Wilderness and the Weminuche Wilderness, so I should be able to find Bortle Class 1 dark skies, right? Would it require hiking into a wilderness area? We didn't know. So, on June 18, we drove 27 miles out to Williams Reservoir at twilight and waited until 10:27 p.m. to start taking sky quality meter measurements.

Measuring along Piedra Road

To measure how dark the sky is at a location, a handheld sky quality meter is aimed at Zenith (straight up). It measures the brightness of the night sky in magnitudes per square arcsecond. On a clear, moonless night, we traveled along Piedra Road and measured sky quality at various waypoints. The method outlined by Dark Sky International is to take four back-to-back readings and use the median value to determine the sky quality. Measurements must be taken on moonless nights with no cloud cover and after astronomical twilight, when the sun is at least 18 degrees below the horizon. We started at the end of the road by the Williams Creek Trailhead and Palisades Horse Campground. As we made our way back into town, we stopped at many spots, taking readings at commonly known places: Teal Boat Ramp, Williams Creek Campground, Bridge Campground, Piedra River Trailhead, McMannis Road, Jack's Pasture Road, Coyote Hill Trailhead and Lake Pagosa on Cloud Cap Avenue. To our delight, we found Class 1 skies. In addition, we could not see any skyglow from the U.S. 160 corridor until we reached the Bridge Campground. How wonderful. Class 1 skies are excellent dark, with Class 2 being typical truly dark and Class 3 being rural.

The Williams Creek Trailhead and Williams Creek Campground were Class 1 skies. Class 2 skies included the Teal Boat Ramp, Bridge Campground, Piedra River Trailhead, McMannis Road and Jack's Pasture Road. The Coyote Hill Trailhead and Lake Pagosa at Cloud Cap Avenue were Class 3 skies. **Why it matters** Eighty percent of Americans live in places where they cannot see the Milky Way. People travel more than 100 miles from cities in search of dark skies. I recently attended the Rocky Mountain Star Stare, an annual star party sponsored by the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society. Attendees traveled two hours from Colorado Springs to a pristine dark sky area near Gardner, Colo., called Starry Meadows. People from Denver also made the three-hour trek to Class 2 skies. Pagosans only have to travel just past Coyote Hill to find wonderful dark skies. We all should not take this for granted, but should be motivated to preserve it. I was absolutely ecstatic to find Bortle Class 1 skies out by Williams Reservoir. It's time to go camping. If you haven't already connected with Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers, join our Facebook group or subscribe to our emails on our website.

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O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Advertising Account Executive is responsible for managing client relationships, developing advertising strategies, and ensuring client satisfaction. This role requires a blend of sales, marketing, and communication skills.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Client Management:

- Act as the primary point of contact for assigned clients.
- Build and maintain strong, long-lasting client relationships.
- Understand clients' business objectives and advertising needs.

Strategy Development:

- Collaborate with internal teams to develop effective advertising campaigns.
- Present campaign proposals to clients and negotiate terms.
- Monitor campaign performance and adjust strategies as needed.

Sales and Business Development:

- Identify and pursue new business opportunities.
- Prepare and deliver sales presentations.
- Engage in networking activities.
- Meet and exceed sales targets.

Reporting and Analysis:

- Provide regular reports on campaign progress and results.
- Analyze data to identify trends and insights.
- Present findings to clients and internal teams.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Advertising, Business Administration, or a related field.
- Proven experience in sales or account management, preferably in the advertising industry.
- Strong communication, negotiation, and presentation skills.
- Ability to build and maintain client relationships.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving abilities.

SKILLS

- Client Relationship Management
- Sales and Business Development
- Strategic Planning
- Communication and Presentation
- Data Analysis

Interested candidates should apply directly with an email message and resume to Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com. Feel free to provide Linked In credentials as well.