



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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School district prepares for new academic year

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Next week, the bulk of Archuleta School District (ASD) students will head back to their classrooms for the new academic year, which will run until the end of May.

“Every school year brings the opportunity to have a significant positive impact on the lives of all our students,” ASD Superintendent Rick Holt wrote in an email to The SUN.

Holt adds, “We remain focused on providing students the highest quality instruction, expecting all students to meet grade level expectations (and supporting when they are not yet able), and providing a safe learning environment for all students.”

Holt, as well as several of the school leaders, also noted an effort to increase student engagement within the classroom, as well as to combat chronic absenteeism.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Pagosa Springs Elementary School will continue to be led by Principal Kelly Vining and Assistant Principal Nicolle Looper.

“Welcome to a new school year,” Vining wrote in the school’s September newsletter. “I am excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and

■ See School A6



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

The U.S. 160 reconstruction project team works to protect the concrete pour from the rain in front of Pagosa Springs Middle School this week. Crews are working to have the section of roadway in front of the school complete before the start of school. A project team priority is to begin the sidewalk construction in front of the middle school with the return of students.

Charges filed in connection with Oak Fire

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Charges related to the recent Oak Fire were filed against two Archuleta County men on Aug. 27.

The defendants — Ross Edward Heirigs, 60, and Sergio G. Alaniz, 41 — each face three charges of fourth-degree arson.

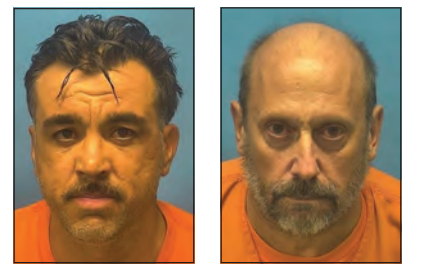
Each charge alleges that the defendant “feloniously, knowingly, or recklessly started or maintained a fire on any property,” and by doing so placed certain named individuals “in danger of serious bodily injury; in violation of section 18-4-105(1)(2), C.R.S.”

Both defendants appears in front of Archuleta County Court Judge Justin P. Fay on Aug. 27.

The court addressed the charges against Alaniz first, with Alaniz appearing in custody and his bond being discussed.

Both suspects appeared in court for the first time on Aug. 18 after their arrests on Aug. 17, with District Court Judge Jeffrey Wilson setting bond for each at \$25,000 cash surety and issuing protection orders for both to not set or maintain outdoor fires.

At the Aug. 27 appearance, Alaniz’s attorney, John Moran, suggested that the area had received enough rain to



Alaniz

Heirigs

lessen the danger of any similar incidents occurring.

He also noted that there were originally 169 counts alleged, which is now down to three counts and suggested a reduction in bond.

He further indicated the risk that existed before doesn’t exist any longer.

In discussing the matter, Fay asked Deputy District Attorney Mac Dudley if Alaniz is alleged to have more culpability, with Dudley suggesting that is true and that Alaniz is alleged to have started, acknowledged the existence of and left the property with the fire going.

Fay also suggested the amount of restitution that could come about could form some motivation to not appear in the future, mentioning 737s flying over the town while fire personnel were battling the fire.

Dudley noted the amount of discov-

■ See Charges A8

Commissioners appoint Mike Torres as interim county manager

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Following an executive session on Tuesday, Aug. 26, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved appointing Public Works Director Mike Torres as the interim county manager effective Wednesday, Aug. 27.

According to Torres’ resume, he has been employed with the county since 2016, serving first as the county’s fleet manager before being promoted to public works director.

Torres is a graduate of Pagosa Springs High School and attended Mesa State College, studying criminal justice, according to his resume.

Earlier on Aug. 26 during a work session, the BoCC briefly discussed the matter of filling the county manager position in the interim and as a permanent position.

Commissioner John Ranson stated that he didn’t understand the reason for looking to bring in an interim county manager potentially for only

a few months.

Ranson explained that he had seen some “really good resumes” for the interim position, but, “to me, it doesn’t really make sense bringing interims in here for a job position unless they are applying for both.”

Ranson suggested that the county could “try and handle it” with its current department managers and the commissioners until a permanent county manager is brought on.

Later in the day at the special meeting, following an executive session and before voting to appoint Torres as interim county manager, Ranson commented, “I was originally against this.”

He explained he was unsure about hiring an interim, noting he did not want to lose any other manager positions within the county.

Ranson went on to express his excitement for Torres being named interim county manager, noting the BoCC will need to support Torres while he is serving in the interim position.

■ See Manager A7



Photo courtesy Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office

Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office and Pagosa Fire Protection District personnel work to take on one of multiple lightning strike starts the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 25.

Town approves taking proposed sales tax increase to voters

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

This November, voters in the Town of Pagosa Springs will decide if they want to raise the sales tax within town limits to fund critical sewer repairs and a wastewater treatment plant.

On Aug. 19, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the second reading of an ordinance calling for the coordinated election and setting the language appearing on the ballot.

An agenda document on the matter states that the finalized ballot language would need to be given to the county clerk by Sept. 4.

The Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSS-GID) currently serves 1,500 households and maintains five pump and lift stations, which move about 325,000 gallons of sewage per day through 17.42 miles of sewer pipes, according to the town’s website.

Wastewater is pumped 7 miles uphill to the Vista wastewater treatment plant, owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation

■ See Tax A14

PAWSD board debates housing surcharge, community role

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed user protests against the district’s affordable housing surcharge at its Aug. 14 meeting.

This discussion came after the board deadlocked on providing capital investment fee waivers for three consecutive affordable housing projects, including projects by Habitat for Humanity, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) and private developer Peter Hurley.

PAWSD board members Bill Hudson and Glenn Walsh voted for granting the waivers to Habitat for Humanity, Alex Boehmer and chairman Gene Tautges voted against, and Bruce Jones abstained, stating that he was unsure of how to vote but would be able to understand the issue and vote on it in September.

Boehmer cited concerns about rising costs for customers and his view that providing waivers does not fall within PAWSD’s mission statement, while Tautges raised concerns about the board already granting large amounts of waivers for previous housing projects and needing to

repay those costs.

PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke was advised to return for a decision at the September meeting.

Both Habitat for Humanity and the PSCDC stated that not receiving waivers would significantly compromise their projects and potentially reduce the amount of affordable housing constructed due to higher costs.

The board also deadlocked on Hurley’s request for waivers, with Walsh and Hudson voting in support, Boehmer and Tautges voting against and Jones abstaining.

Hurley was also advised to return for a decision in September.

The board moved on to discuss and potentially hear protests against the district’s affordable housing surcharge.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis explained that the board received five letters protesting the fees and that she contacted all the writers to inform them about the opportunity to be heard at the meeting.

However, no one was present to speak on the issue and Lewis stated that she only received one response from the writers from someone who indicated they could not attend the meeting.

■ See PAWSD A8

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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

Back to school

Next week, the majority of Archuleta County's students will return to classrooms. It's a time for excitement, fresh starts and hard work.

We wish all of the students, educators, administrators, other school officials and parents/guardians a happy, successful school year full of growth and learning.

We, like every year, look forward to the successes of the students and staff, and to reporting to on a few of the many highlights we know will come.

We'd also like to highlight that our local school district, like many across the nation, is jumping into increasing engagement in the classroom by keeping devices like cell-phones out of the classrooms during school hours. We can't wait to see the positive effects the move is likely to have on students, teachers, relationships between students and learning.

We also wish everyone a safe school year and, as usual, we like to offer a few safety reminders.

Following are safety tips from the American Red Cross that can help our students have a safe year.

If your student is younger or going to school for the first time, teach them:

- Their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911.

- Not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know.

If your child walks to school, teach them to:

- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk (in our case, ensure they know where they can and cannot safely walk with the ongoing construction).
- Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.

If your student takes the bus to school, teach them to:

- Get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. And teach them to only board their bus, never an alternate one.
- Stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.

If your student rides their bike to school, teach them to:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride on the right in the same direction as the traffic is going.

If you drive your child to school, teach

them to:

- Always wear a seat belt. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4 feet, 9 inches), and ride in the back seat until they are at least 13 years old.

If you have a teenager driving to school, make sure they:

- Use seat belts.
- Don't use their cellphone to text or make calls, and avoid eating or drinking while driving.

Drivers should remember to slow down, and remember:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop — slow down and be prepared to stop.
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety. Please see the article in this issue about Colorado's amended stop and passing laws related to buses.

We wish all those in our education community a wonderful, educational, fun and safe school year.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 28, 1925

Thirty-five cans of native and rainbow trout were received here Monday from the Durango hatchery and placed in the East and West forks of the San Juan river, Piedra Blanco and Little Blanco streams.

Owing to the rapid increase of business at the First National bank, Jay Catchpole, who last week returned with his family from California, has been added to the clerical staff. No additional changes are to be made, Cashier E.D. Hollowell stated this morning.

The forest rangers of this section last night received 44,000 native trout fry from the Leadville hatchery, which were placed in the streams of this district.

Miss Hazel Seavy of Pagosa Springs has been employed to teach the Piedra school, and Miss Ilamae Crowley of Chromo the Yellowjacket school, both of which will open on Sept. 8th. M.R. Thomas of Pagosa Springs and Mrs. Ila Ostwald of Bayfield will teach the Drye and Bayles schools respectively.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 25, 1950

The State Highway Department oiling crew arrived in this area last week and since that time has given the highway oiled last year between here and the Pass a seal coat. This week they are engaged in giving the highway through town and Main Street a seal coat and necessary repairs.

The oil mat in town was laid new last fall and left until this year for the seal coating. This will be a much needed improvement and will take a lot of the bumps out of the main drag. It will also make the street easier to maintain during the coming winter months. The work has also materially aided the highway between here and the pass.

The contract for oiling 5.8 miles of state highway 172 west from Arboles to the county line will be called for within 40 days as the state highway engineers are now working on the right of way. This project will cost about \$100,000 with the county, state and federal government each putting up a part of the funds. The highway north from Arboles to Highway 160 is also receiving considerable work as are other roads in the Arboles area.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 28, 1975

Another first for the area, a commercial radio station, KPAG, located at 1400 on the radio dial, went on the air in Pagosa Springs Wednesday of this week. The station is a local station and will concentrate on local news and features.

Work on the parking fill is progressing rapidly. It appears at this time as if the parking area will be surfaced by donations from local merchants, the town, and the county. The rock facing along the San Juan River side is progressing nicely, the mineral water fountain is having a catchment basin constructed, with proper drainage for the overflow.

Teal Campground at Williams Creek Lake will soon become a day use only campground, according to an announcement this week by Piedra District Ranger Ted LaMay. Work is now in progress to fence the campground, improve facilities and to provide overnight camping facilities.

LaMay said that overnight camping pressure at the Teal Campground has become so heavy that the damage to trees, vegetation, and environment is creating a problem.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of August 24, 2000

Goodman's Department Store celebrates 100 years of doing business on Pagosa Springs' main street tomorrow and Saturday. Store manager Bob Goodman, his dad, Dave, and other members of the Goodman family will be on hand, shaking as many hands as possible.

Goodman's opened for business on the corner of 4th and Pagosa Street in 1900, the year the first Pagosa and Northern locomotive chugged into town.

Stepping off that train were Dave and Fannie Lowenstein and daughter Hortense. The Lowensteins were not newcomers to the San Juans. They lived in Colorado during the entire territorial period, which started in 1861.

The family moved to Pagosa Springs where the Lowensteins opened a "Gents Furnishings" store. The store was a big hit with the Scandinavian workers who kept the booming mills and logging outfits going. Dave found time to exercise a sense of humor which delighted customers and friends. He advertised odorless socks, "the longer you wear them, the stronger they get," and "if it's too big it will shrink, and too little, it will stretch."

LOOKING BACK



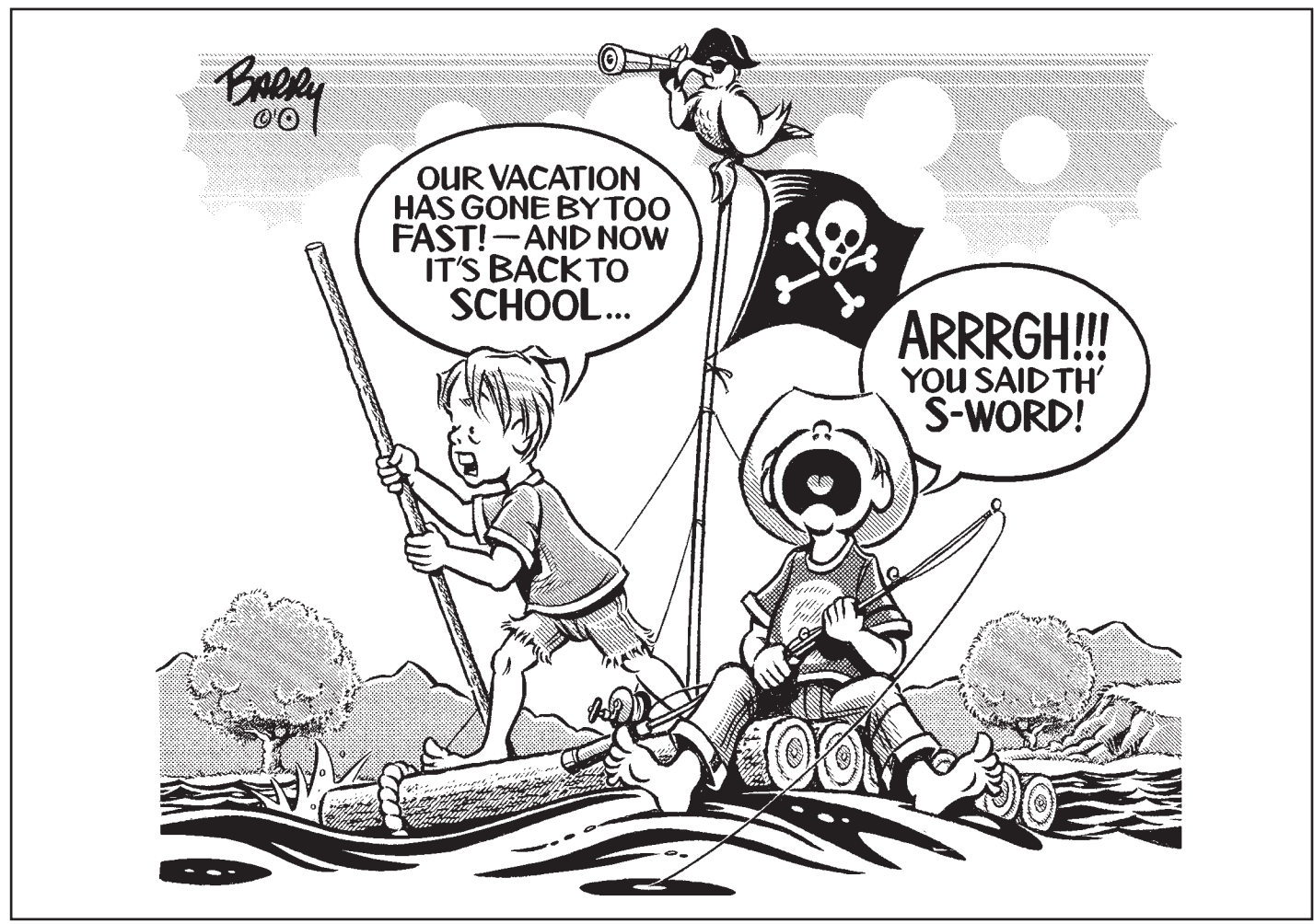
From the Aug. 31, 1978, Pagosa SUN — GOOD CATCH — Fishing is good at Echo Lake and here is proof. Harold Plummer, of Andarko, Okla., caught this nice string of trout, with the largest fish being 17 inches in length.

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture	Type	Depth
8/19	91	50	0.00	NA	NA	NA
8/20	86	56	0.00	NA	NA	NA
8/21	90	52	0.00	NA	NA	NA
8/22	86	52	0.00	NA	NA	NA
8/23	82	51	0.01	NA	NA	NA
8/24	80	50	0.02	NA	NA	NA
8/25	80	46	T	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.

Reaction

Dear Editor:
Every May I leave AZ to get out of the heat, and usually come to CO, the most beautiful of all states. In June, I stopped in Pagosa Springs for a week (I drive a nice Class C motorhome), and I asked the Sheriff where I could park for the night. He told me to go 5 miles up Piedra Rd to the trailhead in the Nat'l Forest. So I did.

The next morning a woman in a car came racing across the dirt parking lot toward me, blaring her horn. The next morning, she came back, and I asked her what the problem was. Then she totally lost her mind and started screaming at me, that I was a "blight on their community", and that I "[expletive] in the woods". And screamed a few more obscenities at me.

I'm hoping that most residents of PS don't feel that way about people on vacation who come to this town.

During the one week that I was there, I spent over \$500 at local businesses. It's really sad that somebody would have such a reaction to an RV. Mine is a 2015 model, and I keep it clean, and I wear nice clothes.

Maybe next year I will go to MT instead,

Sincerely,
Terry Ballard
Hereford, Ariz.

Gas stations

Dear Editor:
Who wants to live across the street from a gas station?

Gas stations are noisy from all the additional traffic that they incur. Gas stations are often on very busy roads, so that they have adequate traffic. Certainly, this is the case with the proposed gas station at the SE corner of South Pagosa Blvd. and US160, which already has excessive traffic and noise. Access to the proposed gas station will be on Pagosa West Blvd, which will run just in front of the proposed apartment complex.

Gas stations are brightly lit to provide adequate security during the long period they are open, often more than 16 hours per day. Speedway on the NE corner of this intersection is open from 5:30 AM to 11:00 PM. Marathon on the NW corner is open 16 hours a day. City Market's gas station is open 24 hours. Certainly, renters in apartments facing the gas station will not be happy with the lighting situation. Can you even rent these apartments across from the gas station?

Gas stations are frequently robbed, and this brings additional crime into the neighborhood. Do you really want your children exposed to this environment? None of the 9 gas stations in Pagosa Springs are near a residential development. There is a reason for this.

No one wants to live across the street from a gas station. The developers need to take the proximity of the gas station to the apartment complex into consideration. Though not optimal, Lots K, P or Q are certainly better choices for residential apartments.
Karl E. Becker

Misinformation

Dear Editor:
Again Mr Meyers is spreading misinformation he hears on the "outrage of the day" right wing media in his letter 2 weeks ago. He stated that 30% of US pension funds are invested in Communist China's companies. A simple google search shows that the total of public retirement funds invested in Chinese companies is between 1 and 6%, with New York State's Common Retirement Fund and CALper (California's), the 2 largest pension funds in the US, at 6% and 1.7% respectively. Bank of America and other firms who underwrote the IPO for the Chinese firm, CATL, did not directly invest in it.

Also Mr Myers stated that this administration is bringing back manufacturing to the US. He neglects the fact that most of the new investments in the US, particularly in the auto and semiconductor industries, are due to the CHIPS and SCIENCE act of 2022, passed during the Biden Administration. That Act provided incentives and funds to bring manufacturing back to the US. Just like Republicans who voted against Biden's Infrastructure spending and then were on site to lay claim on a project, this administration is taking credit for the increase in manufacturing today. The Trump Administration

uses threats of tariffs and bullying to try to force companies to increase manufacturing here. Hardly a business friendly and consistent set of policies. Many of the companies recent pledges are monies that were going to be invested anyway with the help of grants provided by the Chips and Science Act.

Recently it was announced that Trump's government was promised 10% equity in the company, Intel, in order for the company to continue getting the \$11 billion granted to it in the Chips Act. The Administration is now saying Intel won't be the last company they will be taking stakes in. So now the government is actually buying stock in companies or more accurately making companies bribe them to get their grants. This is what the Fascist government of Hitler did and is actually what the Chinese and Russian governments do now. Trump is rejecting our Capitalist economy based on freedom and economics in favor of a Communist style government that interferes in business decisions based on bribes and top down demands. Even the investments from Saudi Arabia and other oil producing countries in the Middle East are nothing but bribes to protect their oil based economies and particularly their totalitarian governments. In fact, Trump just issued an executive order loosening laws that ban bribery of foreign officials. Can you say "quid pro quo".

Don't expect this cabal of lying misfits, alcoholics, grifters and commies to do anything that will help anyone but themselves. The Republican Party, the corrupt Supreme Court and Corporate Media need to be held accountable for letting them get away with it. Look at grocery store prices! Are we great yet?

Dave Butcher
Albuquerque, N.M.

Debt ceiling

Dear Editor:
I found this brief clip among words of wisdom collected over the years and thought it appropriate to share.

"I love it when a complicated situation can be explained easily.

-Democrats don't understand the debt ceiling.

-Republicans don't understand the debt ceiling.

-Liberals don't understand the debt ceiling.

No one in Washington, D.C. seems to understand the debt ceiling so allow me, a plumber's friend, to explain. Let's say you come home one afternoon and find there has been a sewer backup in your neighborhood. Your home has sewage all the way up to the ceiling in every room. What do you think you should do? Raise the ceiling? Or pump out the waste? Your choice is coming in November. Don't miss the opportunity."

This bit of wisdom applies to every level of our government from the town, to the county, on up to the state and beyond. The original author is unknown to me.

Greg Giehl

One Big Beautiful Bill

Dear Editor:
The One Big Beautiful Bill (H.R. 1), signed into law on July 4, 2025, delivers

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.

meaningful relief for families, workers, and retirees across Colorado. While debate over national politics often dominates the headlines, it's worth looking closely at what this bill actually does.

First, the law makes permanent the 2017 individual tax rate reductions, sparing Colorado households from a steep tax hike that was set to arrive in 2026. It also expands the federal State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000 per household, indexed to inflation. For many Colorado homeowners, that means thousands of dollars in additional deductions at tax time.

For workers, the bill creates new targeted relief. Tipped employees may deduct up to \$25,000 in tip income through 2028, and hourly workers can claim a new deduction on overtime pay, up to \$12,500 for individuals or \$25,000 for couples. These changes put more money back in the pockets of service-sector employees and hard-working families.

Seniors also benefit. The bill provides a new temporary deduction of \$6,000 for individuals and \$12,000 for couples below certain income thresholds, helping many retirees shield Social Security and other income from taxation.

Families will see the Child Tax Credit increased to \$2,200 per child, with future adjustments tied to inflation.

In addition, the bill encourages savings through new "Trump Accounts" for children born between 2025-2028, seeding \$1,000 at birth with the option for families and employers to contribute more.

Taken together, these provisions provide real, measurable benefits for Coloradans at every stage of life.

Sincerely,
Kelly Hegarty
Durango, Colo.

Petition deception?

Dear Editor:
Walking into City Market last Friday, a man asked me to sign a petition to increase penalties for fentanyl distribution. Such a petition has been approved to circulate in Colorado.

I didn't stop to read or sign the petition, but I saw others sign. I wonder if they read it. Why?

When I left the store, a small group had gathered to observe the petition activity. I stopped then to ask about

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Sept. 2-7

Work activity

Concrete paving operations continuing

- 3rd Street to 4th Street/Pagosa Middle School: A project team priority is to begin the sidewalk construction in front of the middle school with school back in session. Sidewalk work will include subgrade and sidewalk base, constructing the forms, and then pouring the sidewalk. Work will also continue to complete any curb and gutter in front of middle school.

- Please utilize crossings at Hot Springs Boulevard and 3rd Street to navigate around the demolition. Use the pedestrian flags provided by the town to cross 3rd Street.

- Some smaller paving operations are anticipated to take place throughout the next few weeks, from 1st to 3rd streets, to tie into portions of the new pour.

- The majority of project paving operations will take place at night, which will reduce impacts to the traveling public. Trucks could start rolling in around 6 p.m. and continue until mid-morning on the following day.

- Curb and gutter and sidewalk paving may occur day or night. Pedestrian detours should be expected.

- The project team will be off the project on Friday, Aug. 29, returning on Tuesday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

Work activity this week

- 1st to 3rd streets: Removing and preparing sidewalk, curb and gutter construction.

- The public information team will work to notify businesses when sidewalk work is scheduled in the front of their respective business. The crew is also planning, to the best of their ability, to pour sidewalk concrete on the days businesses are scheduled to be closed to minimize disruptions.

- 4th and Lewis Street: There will be utility work, grading and road base work in advance of paving operations between 4th Street and Lewis Street through the month of September.

- The 2nd Street and 4th Street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 will remain closed until utility work and paving are complete.

- The Town of Pagosa Springs has several concurrent projects taking place in and near the U.S. 160 work zone. For more information, visit <https://www.pagosapagsprings.co.gov/home-page/page/summer-2025-road-projects>.

- Installation of light pole foundations is complete from 1st to 3rd streets.

- Installation of light pole foundations and electrical work will take place from 3rd to 5th streets.

- Excavation near the Tennyson Sculpture Park and Gardens is planned for geothermal utilities. Pedestrians need to plan for sidewalk detours around the work at this location for the next few months.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

- Saturday work will continue on the project for the foreseeable future.

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.

- Be alert for moving construction vehicles and other unexpected hazards, which often move suddenly and quickly. Stay off your phone when crossing the street or walking near the work zone.

- Look out for traffic before crossing the street make eye contact with drivers so you know they see you.

Safety tips for drivers

- Look out for pedestrians and bicyclists everywhere, at all times, and especially in areas near schools, parks, shopping areas and transit stops.

- Slow down as you approach the work zone. Give workers extra room and be prepared to stop.

- Stop before a crosswalk, not in it.
- Obey all traffic signals. All light signals are operational and must be obeyed.

- Put your cellphone down. Never drive distracted or impaired.

Please be alert when you are traveling through the new traffic configuration or visiting the downtown businesses, as heavy equipment will be frequently moving throughout the project limits.

Traffic impacts

- Motorists could expect up to 15-minute delays at various times through the work zone as equipment may need to be moved.

- There will be two-way traffic flowing in the east-bound lanes of U.S. 160 through the first season of operations.

- A 10-foot width restriction will remain in place 24/7 through Dec. 1.

- During inclement weather, project engineers will assess the roadway and work location to make determinations on work continuing depending on safety concerns for workers and commuters.

- Working hours are Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and subject to change.

Stay informed and connect with the project

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- Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.



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Obituary

Allen R. Flaming

Allen R. Flaming, 76, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away from unknown causes on May 16, 2025. Al was born in Hillsboro, Kan., on Aug. 27, 1948, to Verna and John B. Flaming, of Hillsboro, Kan. Al moved his family from Littleton, Colo., to Pagosa Springs in 1982 to con-



tinue his auto mechanic career at the Pagosa Shell station. He lived in many places, but often said he "felt like his life began when he moved here."

Shortly after moving, Al became involved in muzzleloaders, and he was very active in the annual rendezvous gatherings. He shot muzzleloader, threw tomahawk and enjoyed the mountain man life.

In May 1990, he transferred to Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation (PAWS), where he worked as a fleet mechanic/supervisor until he retired in August 2016, just in time for hunting season.

Al was a quiet, private, hardwork-

ing man and jack-of-all-trades who was most known for his automotive skills. He was always available to change a tire, jump start a car or pull someone out of a ditch.

He was a true outdoorsman with many hobbies, including hunting bear, elk and deer with rifles or his compound bow; horseback riding; photography; handcrafting knife blades and handles; splitting wood; exploring the forest with his dog(s); and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Allen is survived by his two daughters, Cristin (Shon) Flanagan, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., and Candy

Flaming, of Escondido, Calif.; two grandchildren (Seamus and Harper Flanagan); two brothers (Lester Flaming and Marvin Flaming); many nieces and nephews; his loyal pets, Sequoia and Camo, and his hunting family.

Allen was predeceased by his wife, Beverly Flaming; both his parents; his younger brother; and many, many pets.

Al will be deeply missed by his family and friends, but they know he is hunting forever in heaven.

A private service will be held this weekend with his hunting family and a celebration of life next summer when all of his family can be together.

County health board approves budget

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of Public Health (BoH) unanimously approved its budget during a special meeting held on Friday, Aug. 15.

The budget was presented by Public Health Director Ashley Wilson, who explained there were "some relatively significant changes" from the initial budget presentation to the BoH given during the board's regular meeting held on July 17, noting the changes are mainly due to the reformation of the budget for detention center nursing staff.

Wilson noted the budget now shows a total of \$78,770 over, explaining, "that is due to the reformatting of the budget for the detention center nursing staff."

She explained the original budget was based on the nurses not being actual county staff, but instead as temporary employees for the first five months of the year. That change became permanent in May, which included benefits to be given for those nurses, Wilson explained.

"So, that has increased that budget relatively significantly," she added.

Wilson also explained that based on discussions held during the commissioners' work session, the on-call amount being paid for the nurses will now be equal to the on-call amount period for other county employees, which increased the budget about \$7,000 for those services.

Wilson noted the detention center medical deficit is at \$37,327 over what

was budgeted last year, indicating that equates to a 17 percent increase and that a typical maximum increase is 6 percent.

"So, those are just conversations we'll have to have," she said, adding the "basic premise to the board is that we have debt that will have to be covered outside public health funds."

BoH President John Bruss asked where the funds to cover the detention center nursing staff usually sits, either in the public health department budget or in the sheriff's budget, with Wilson explaining that it is in the sheriff's budget.

She noted that when the county created its own public health department, separate from San Juan Basin Public Health, "there were a handful of things, because the moving pieces had to move so quickly, that we did not necessarily account for [on] either side. So we knew that the budget wasn't necessarily going to look the same."

In response to a question from Warren Brown, BoH member and county commissioner, Wilson explained that initial conversations that led to contracting with an agency out of state to provide those services was "less than desired" for the staff at the jail.

She also explained that a large increase was being proposed and indicated the sheriff's office is not willing to pay, noting that increase was around "several thousand dollars a month."

Wilson mentioned that more conversations determined it would be better if "everything stays local."

BoH member Stacey Foss com-

mented that the deficit "looks large," also noting that this will not be a program that is maintained "unless the sheriff's office is able to come in and pay for the service."

Wilson noted the current public health department deficit is \$41,433, explaining the public health department is unable to absorb the deficit from the sheriff's office.

She also clarified that out of the approximate \$78,000 deficit, about half, or roughly \$37,000, is from the sheriff's office and about \$41,000 is from the public health department.

"Most of our deficit is personnel cost," she added.

Wilson provided some other information on potential grants and other forms of funding the public health department may receive from the state or federal government, indicating that if all of those things come in the way they should, "that's \$35,744 towards our overall deficit."

She noted that would bring the public health department deficit down to approximately \$7,000.

"I'm erring on the side of extreme caution to ensure that we are not over-estimating how much money might come in," Wilson said.

She went on to mention, "We do have reserves," explaining that the BoH could choose to allow to cover the deficit with reserve funds up to a certain amount, or look at other options such as changing staffing options, "in order to make up the potential deficit."

Wilson explained that the "hope" is that the public health deficit is only

Letters

Continued from A3

the petition. Turns out the man was collecting signatures on two petitions: one about fentanyl and the other requiring local law enforcement referrals to ICE. Fishy. Someone else who had earlier read the petition found the ICE language instead of the fentanyl petition being used to lure signers.

If someone wants to advocate for local law enforcement resources to be used for ICE work, be honest about it. It is wrong (and maybe illegal) to confuse electors about the content of initiative petitions. But, breaking the rules seems to be the norm for the MAGA right.

The ICE petition circulating in Colorado would amend the state constitution to require local law enforcement to report to ICE people charged with crimes under certain circumstances if law enforcement cannot determine the personal is legally present in the U.S. So, on top of the work our local police and sheriff already have to do, they would be required to spend time figuring out people's immigration status.

Whatever you think about immigration enforcement, this is a huge unfunded mandate. Our County Commissioners regularly rail against unfunded mandates.

Furthermore, ICE doesn't need to suck scarce resources from our local communities. The President and Congressional Republicans tripled its budget this year — as they slashed funding for programs that support working families, farmers, and students.

More ominously, how many people will be caught up wrongly in this ICE dragnet when local law enforcement cannot confirm citizenship in the 72 hours allowed?

A year ago, Congress had the country moving toward bipartisan immigration reform. We could have had rational policy changes to curtail illegal immigration and provide a path to citizenship for the many immigrants who contribute to our economy and our communities. Instead, we have insane spending on violent and inhumane tactics that feed the bloodlust of people filled with resentment and hate. Your federal tax dollars at work.

Candace Jones

Disheartening statistics

Dear Editor:

This is information about Colorado that was written in the April 27, 2025 edition of The Gazette. It was Titled "Colorado Report Card".

Economy: Long ranked among the top five states for economic performance, Colorado dropped to the bottom ten by 2024.

Income: Personal income growth fell from third in the country to 39th between 2018 and 2024, despite some of the world's highest minimum wage mandates.

Housing: Colorado ranks among the five least affordable states for housing.

Regulation: The state ranks as the sixth most regulated state in the United States

Inflation: Colorado experienced some of the highest inflation rates in the country by 2025, outpacing the national average with consumer prices 15.4% higher today than in 2021.

Energy: Beginning with Senate bill 181 (2019) Colorado has obstructed energy production at the expense of the state's economy and jobs. In all, multiple new regulations since 2018 have Colorado producing less oil and gas in 2025 than in 2019.

Unemployment: Colorado has the second highest unemployment rate in March 2025 - 4.8% compared with 2017 when Colorado tied for the second lowest unemployment rate at 2.7%.

Job growth: Colorado is ranked 43rd among the states for job growth.

Crime: Colorado's average monthly crime rate exceeded 475 per 100,000 residents in 2023, compared to a nationwide average of 374.4 per 100,000 persons.

These statistics are quite disheartening. When reading this information it appears that we started going downhill around 2017. So what happened that has led to these dismal results. It appears that our government has let us down. So what can we do about it. GET INVOLVED. Get out and vote for the representatives and senators that will help pass legislation to remedy this report card.

Darra Marionneaux

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Business

Grillin' and Distillin' set to return in 2026, ColorFest planned for Sept. 19-21

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Chamber of Commerce wants to say a big "thank you" to those who made time to join us at our inaugural Grillin' and Distillin' event this past Saturday at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds.

It was sunny, it was cloudy, it rained and we all had a great time.

Because of all the helpful feedback, and everyone's great response to the event I can say we will go for Grillin' and Distillin' 2026. Obviously, dates and information will be announced later, but please remember this event for next year.

Believe it or not, we have three weekends until our next event, which is our 39th annual ColorFest.

The weekend will kick off Sept. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. with our Passport to Pagosa. This is a 21+ event that will feature a tasting of food from our local restaurants, caterers and food trucks, as well as a tasting of

wines from around the world. We will award prizes for People's Choice, Best Decorated booth and, of course, the Golden Whisk Award. With your Passport to Pagosa tickets you will have seating, wine and food tickets, as well as a special VIP gift. Maxwell Miller will be performing, so this is a must-attend event.

On Sept. 20, we will have our Bands and Brews Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Here you will be able to taste a sample of local brewers from Colorado and New Mexico, to vote on the People's Choice award, and the brewers will be competing for Brewers Choice award. There will be great music for this event, and we will announce those names in the next week or so.

There will be general admission tickets for those 15 years and up, and 14 years old and under will be free. All ages are welcome to attend this event.

As a reminder, you must be 21+ to purchase a beer tasting ticket. For our animal lovers, dogs will be allowed to the Sept. 20 event on leash only.

Also Sept. 20, starting around 7 or 7:30 p.m., we will have a balloon glow.

Both the Passport to Pagosa and the Bands and Brews Festival will be at Yamaguchi Park. Be sure to not miss out.

As always, we will have a mass balloon ascension both Sept. 20 and Sept. 21, at around 8 a.m. both mornings. On Sept. 20, the balloons will lift off from downtown Pagosa Springs and on Sept. 21 the balloons will lift off from uptown Pagosa Springs. Both mass balloon ascensions are free to the public.

There will be other fun events that weekend, as well. On Sept. 20, A Safe Place in Pagosa will be having its annual ColorRun, and there will be Breakfast with Balloons on Sept. 20 at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site at Centennial Park.

Information for all these events is available at pagosachamber.com/colorfest-hot-air-balloon-rally.html.

Tickets for Passport to Pagosa, and the Bands and Brews Festival are available now at pagosachamber.com/colorfest-hot-air-balloon-rally.html.

[com/colorfest-hot-air-balloon-rally.html](http://pagosachamber.com/colorfest-hot-air-balloon-rally.html).

See you soon.

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Tourism board approves funding for pedicab service, other requests

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

At an Aug. 6 meeting held by the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board, the board approved multiple funding requests, which included a transportation funding request for a pedicab service to operate in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Other items approved included funding for a visitor sentiment survey and monies to be used for a marketing matching grant from the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO).

Jennifer Green, executive director of Visit Pagosa, first briefed the board on the transportation funding request coming from Pagosa Zip Trips, represented by Jason Cox.

Green explained that the U.S. 160 construction project is the impetus for the pedicab service, though it could help improve transportation going forward after the project is finished.

"I think it'll eventually become a business," she said, explaining the plan is for the Pagosa Zip Trips to provide a free pedicab service for the first year "to get people around downtown."

She described the service as a "last-mile solution" to help move people around downtown.

"We know that transportation is a challenge with or without construction," Green added.

She explained the funding request amount is for \$10,707, noting that as an "extremely specific" request, and that the funds will not be covering capital expenses, but only for the service to be free in 2025.

According to Green, the tourism board had \$64,800 in the 2025 budget for "construction transportation" at the time of the request.

Green's agenda report states, "While there was no specific plan for the funds, the idea was to have funds available as needs were identified once construction began."

Cox explained that he would be ordering the pedicab vehicle later that week, noting the vehicle will be able to haul four to six people at a time.

He noted he anticipated having the vehicle by mid- to late September and plans to run the service throughout the fall season "to test the market."

He also noted that the service would be offered for special events downtown, and explained that the vehicle could also be used to provide leisure rides for seniors.

Green also indicated that the Mountain Express Transit service intends to connect the pedicab to its transit to have a more robust transportation app available for the community.

Cox explained that he is not sure what the best way to run the service is yet, whether that be running fixed routes with designated pickup and drop-off locations, or having it run on a dispatch-style system and cater toward special events.

He also indicated that there would be "limited" year-round capacity and that the focus would be providing the

service in the summer.

He mentioned that future plans for an uptown service are a possibility as well.

"This is gonna be a great community fit, and we want to just get it started," Cox said.

He explained that a "fully certified" pedicab vehicle can cost up to \$15,000.

"These are hefty vehicles," he said, explaining it has an electric assist motor, brakes and shocks.

Board member Shane Lucero

According to Green's report, "For every \$1 the organization allocates to the program, the Colorado Tourism Office will provide \$2 in matching funds. The Colorado Tourism Office will award grants up to \$49,000."

commented that he likes the idea, but was unsure about providing taxpayer money to help a business.

Cox explained that the pedicab service will likely not produce any profits for a while.

"We want to help the community," he said.

Cox acknowledged that the construction project is the impetus for the idea, "but this is a longer-sided vision," adding that he wants to be able to provide low-cost or free rides.

According to Green's report, the funds will be used to cover operating expenses such as drivers' salaries.

The board then voted unanimously to approve the funding request.

Visitor sentiment survey

Green then presented the request to pursue a visitor sentiment survey, explaining the last sentiment survey performed was in 2018.

She explained the survey will help identify through existing visitors what they liked and didn't like about their visit.

She also explained that the survey will reach out to people who chose a different destination and ask why they did not choose to visit Pagosa Springs.

Green explained the price for the survey to be performed by Mission 2 Market is \$9,750, noting there are still funds available from the personnel budget left from unfilled positions this year.

Green indicated the information from the survey could help guide the board's 2026 priorities.

She explained the survey will be conducted largely through email and offer some sort of cash incentive for respondents to win.

Green mentioned these surveys could be performed on an annual or seasonal basis to better help un-

derstand the value of things like the construction project.

She noted this is an "opportunity to learn from the visitors."

The board then unanimously approved the request.

2026 CTO marketing matching grant

The CTO offers an annual marketing grant program, Green stated, explaining that in the past Pagosa Springs has partnered with Durango and Cortez for the grant.

Green explained that Pagosa Springs opted to partner with Alamosa this year as the state "heavily" favors partnerships with its grant program.

She noted the past two years have focused on international travel and that this year will focus more on attracting domestic visitors.

She explained the "caveat" with the grant is that if an entity is awarded three years in a row, then it would not be eligible for receiving a grant the following year, essentially having to sit out a year.

She noted that a "loophole" with this is potentially by partnering with other entities, rotating which entity would be the fiscal agent for the grant.

Green indicated the grant provides an additional \$50,000 of marketing through the state if awarded.

According to Green's report, "For every \$1 the organization allocates to the program, the Colorado Tourism Office will provide \$2 in matching funds. The Colorado Tourism Office will award grants up to \$49,000."

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Colorado State Patrol reminds of amended passing and stopping rules around school buses

Colorado State Patrol

Colorado students are starting to head back to the classroom.

With classes in session, school buses will be sharing the roadway with motorists.

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) wants to ensure that drivers are aware of the passing and stopping rules surrounding school buses, including the new passing rule enacted on May 24 (SB 25-1230).

New this year, drivers who are approaching a school bus from an oncoming lane will be required to stop unless there is a physical barrier separating the opposing directions of traffic. Painted lines or a painted median will no longer be sufficient; there needs to be a median (raised

or depressed) or a physical barrier separating the lanes.

Each year, near misses and crashes involving school buses occur. One of the most common risks associated with school bus transportation is when drivers illegally pass a stopped school bus displaying flashing red lights. This places children at risk while crossing the street, boarding or disembarking.

"Knowing when you are required to stop needs to become second nature," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the CSP. "School buses create temporary traffic control zones; they are mobile safety zones for the bus and the vulnerable population they transport."

According to CSP citation numbers, troopers issued 15 citations for

failing to stop for a stopped school bus displaying flashing red lights in calendar year 2024. So far in 2025 (January through May), troopers have issued nine citations.

In addition, over the last five years (2021-2025), there have been five crashes involving school buses that resulted from drivers failing to stop for a stopped school bus displaying flashing red lights. Four of the five crashes resulted in property damage only, and the fifth was an injury crash.

When drivers should stop for a stopped school bus

Drivers must stop at least 20 feet before reaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing, whether it is on your side of the road,

the opposite side of the road or at an intersection.

You are not required to stop if the school bus with its red lights flashing is on a roadway opposite you that is separated by a raised or depressed median or other physical barrier.

You must remain stopped until the flashing red lights are no longer operating.

Use caution after the school bus begins to move, as there will be children crossing or near the roadway. Wait and watch before proceeding.

"Those flashing lights and stop signs aren't just for show. They are there to keep kids safe," explained Packard. "It's also a life lesson for these students. Demonstrate patience and respect for others; these kids are watching and learning from you."

School

Continued from front

memorable experiences with you and your children. At our school, we are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment where every student feels valued, supported, and challenged to reach their fullest potential.

"Our dedicated staff has been preparing engaging lessons, building inviting classrooms, and planning opportunities that nurture both academic and social-emotional growth. We know that children thrive when schools and families work together, and we look forward to partnering with you throughout the year.

"Thank you for entrusting us with your children. Together, we will make this school year one of success, discovery, and lasting connections."

Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School will be under the helm of a new principal, Josh Sanchez, this year, following the retirement of Chris Hinger after 22 years.

He will be work alongside returning Assistant Principal Janae Ash.

"We're so excited to start the school year," Sanchez wrote in a statement to The SUN. "Building strong relationships, supporting every student's growth, and creating a positive school environment where everyone feels included and valued continues to be the middle school focus. We believe that when schools and families work together, amazing things can happen. We'll be keeping the lines of communication open and encouraging your involvement throughout the year. Your partnership matters.

"Here's to a great year ahead full of learning and shared success!"

Sanchez also notes he's "truly excited" about the fresh opportunities the new school year brings "to connect, grow, and lead our school community forward."

He adds, "The start of a new school year is exciting times with students and staff refreshed and with so much optimism. This helps create a shared commitment among staff and families to make this year meaningful and successful."

He adds he's "especially looking forward to seeing and supporting the great work of our incredible educators. Having the opportunity to work with many of them a few years ago, I know their commitment and dedication in supporting student success. We want to continue to build a school culture that makes students feel safe, challenged, and inspired to be their best."

Sanchez also suggests that the new school year is a great time for families to establish school routines for their students, noting that "having such routines can greatly set up students for success at school."

He continues, "I highly encourage families to monitor students' progress weekly, ask their students regularly open-ended questions about how school is going for them, and encourage their students to get involved with the school. We will have many opportunities throughout the year for students to get involved with a club, athletics, and after school activities. Research shows the more students are involved with their school, the more successful students show to be in and out of the classroom."

Pagosa Springs High School

Pagosa Springs High School will continue to be led by Principal Sean O'Donnell and Assistant Principal Chantelle Jordan.

"Pagosa Springs High School is excited to welcome our students back for the 2025-2026 year," Principal Sean O'Donnell wrote in an email to The SUN.

O'Donnell notes the high school is "committed this year to re-engaging

our students."

He adds, "We still remain firmly committed to helping every student explore their passions and prepare for their unique path after graduation, whether that leads to college, career training, or entering the workforce. We can't wait to see what our students will accomplish this year."

The school also recently announced that there will be no entry fees for athletics effective immediately.

The new policy applies to all regular season games and matches across all sports, with the only exception being playoff games, where entry fees will still be collected as required by the Colorado High School Activities Association.

San Juan Mountain School

San Juan Mountain School (SJMS), the district's alternative high school, will again be led by Principal Stewart Bellina.

"Our staff is back, and we are getting ready for another great year with our students at San Juan Mountain School," she wrote in an email to The SUN. "One of our biggest initiatives this year is to increase student engagement in classes and in interactions with peers throughout the day. By working hard to develop engaging lessons for students and putting some new restrictions in place for the typical distractions, we believe we can improve the interactions between students and teachers and among students. Research shows that students who have positive social interactions (in-person) each day are more resilient and less anxious."

Bellina explains that, as is usual for the school, SJMS will begin its school year with two weeks dedicated to developing the culture of the school with the help of the student body.

"We are excited to use this time to develop goals for the year, plan and execute our fall overnight trip to Carlsbad Caverns, and discuss and practice the classroom procedures we will use throughout the year," Bellina wrote. "By dedicating two weeks to these important tasks, our students begin the academic period feeling as though they are part of a strong community of support and have a clear understanding and some investment in our goals for the year."

Cellphone/device change

In a move to increase engagement in the classroom and school, ASD is implementing a new policy this school year regarding cellphones and other devices.

"The change in policy comes from the desire to increase student engagement," Holt explains. "The reality is that the research on the harm that can be caused through exposing young minds to social media is substantial. Experts in the field are recommending a significant decrease if not the elimination of use. Schools can play a significant role in creating an environment where we prioritize engaging in human to human contact. Our teachers' work had to create and deliver engaging and meaningful learning. We have decided to significantly alter the environment that teachers and students interact by expecting that phones no longer are part of the equation."

According to the policy, which was approved by the district's Board of Education on June 10, personal portable technological devices — including cellphones, smart watches, tablets, laptops, cameras, headphones/earbuds, audio and/or video recorders and players, and all other handheld cellular communication devices — cannot be used or on a student's person at school during the instructional school day.

The policy dictates that it is the student's responsibility to ensure devices are off and placed in their backpack or similar bag while on campus during school hours.

"The Board of Education believes personal technology devices (PTDs) are unnecessary distractions for students in the educational environment," the policy states. "The use of and access to personal technology devices in school situations must be regulated to ensure that the use of such devices does not disrupt or interfere with the educational process or school operations. Therefore, students may only use PTDs on district property, on a district vehicle, or at a district or school-sponsored activity or event in accordance with this policy."

It later notes use of devices in school vehicles and during off-campus extracurricular activities will be at the discretion of the activity sponsor, and notes the policy may be modified on an individual basis to meet required accommodations in Individual Education and 504 plans.

To view the policy, visit <http://bit.ly/4fWyxeh>.

Combating absenteeism

"As part of our efforts to increase student engagement in learning we are focused on ensuring all students regularly attend school," Holt wrote. "Obviously school attendance is critical for student success. Learning takes place when you are interacting with challenging materials, interacting with peers and adults in constructive settings, and managing your way through social relationships. We need students to be here with us for those experiences."

Holt explains that, for the 2023-2024 school year, the district's chronic absenteeism rate was 39.9 percent, compared to the state rate of about 27.7 percent.

Holt notes a student absent 10 percent or more of the days enrolled during the school year is chronically absent. All absences are included — unexcused and excused.

"While our overall attendance rate was just above 90%, regular attendance remains a concern," he wrote. "Schools will be focused on working closely with students and parents to address attendance concerns. Since we have a 167 day school calendar students who miss 17 days (more than 3 weeks of school) are considered chronically absent. 3 weeks is a significant amount of learning time regardless if those days are excused or unexcused."

School and road construction

The U.S. 160 reconstruction project remains underway in downtown Pagosa Springs, leading to the district to continue to suggest that students ride district buses to help lessen congestion in the area and improve safety.

The Colorado Department of Transportation, through Meredith Greene, a spokesperson for the reconstruction project, also offered safety tips.

"As the new school year begins, students, parents, and drivers in Pagosa Springs are reminded to stay extra cautious when traveling downtown near the US 160 reconstruction project. With school traffic returning and construction activity ongoing, safety is a shared responsibility," she wrote in an email to The SUN.

The following information was provided by Greene and CDOT.

For students

Students walking to and from school should always use the open crosswalks at 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th streets. Mid-block crossings between 4th and 5th Streets are closed for safety.

Barriers are in place to keep everyone out of the construction zone; please don't climb over or walk through them.

Look up from your phone, make eye contact with drivers before crossing, and always stay alert for construction vehicles and traffic.

For parents and driving students

The school district is strongly encouraging students to ride the bus whenever possible — even on the first day of school. Fewer vehicles in the school zone will reduce congestion and improve safety for students walking, biking or being dropped off.

Drivers should also expect heavier congestion during drop-off and pick-up times, along with potential 15-minute delays through the work zone.

The road is reduced to one lane in each direction, and large equipment is frequently moving in the corridor.

Please plan ahead by leaving a few minutes earlier, obey all traffic signals and avoid distractions while driving.

Stopping in crosswalks makes it unsafe for pedestrians — always stop before the line.

For the whole community

"The construction project is improving roadways and replacing utilities, but it means changes in our normal travel routines," Greene wrote. "Let's make this back-to-school season safe for everyone by being patient, alert, and respectful of one another on the road."

Stay informed by visiting the project website at codot.gov/projects/us-160pagosasprings or subscribing to project updates at subscription.codot.org.

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Manager

Continued from front

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that pay had yet to be discussed, referring to Human Resources Director Mitzi Bowman, who explained that, according to county policy, if someone is moved up to an interim position their salary would increase 7.5 percent or “no less than the bottom of the range” posted for that position.

According to Bowman, the salary range for the interim county manager position was listed at \$117,060.74 to \$163,872.18.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that Torres brings valuable knowledge and experience with the relationships he has developed with county staff, also expressing that it will be a collaborative effort with Torres serving in the interim position.

“I think that this will be a collective effort,” he said, explaining, “This will buy us time to truly evaluate and vet the applicants we have for the full-time county manager position.”

Medina indicated during the work session that the county has now received six applications for the permanent county manager position.

Special meeting

The decision to appoint Torres as interim county manager comes after a special BoCC meeting that was held on Thursday, Aug. 21, in which the BoCC discussed the process in which it would follow for hiring a county manager, along with designating which county departments the commissioners would oversee until someone was hired.

During that meeting, Medina commented on the process for how the county should handle applications for the county manager and interim county manager positions, suggesting each commissioner be forwarded applications and schedule a phone call with applicants quickly as part of the vetting process.

Medina expressed concerns about waiting for a certain number of applicants before beginning to review them, noting that a quality candidate could potentially pursue a different option while waiting to hear back from the county.

Brown commented that as a process, the county owes it to applicants to get back to them within a day or two.

Brown also asked if the county is advertising for the positions locally, regionally or nationally, indicating he wants to “make sure we are getting the invitation out.”

Brown commented that the BoCC could consider any internal options, as well.

Bowman explained that the interim county manager position was posted on the county’s website and Indeed, as well as in The SUN. The permanent county manager position was posted on the same platforms, and also on Gov Jobs.

Medina asked her fellow commissioners for input on the preferred process for reviewing candidates, noting that if they are all together it would need to be posted as a public meeting.

Medina then moved on to discussing designating departments each commissioner would oversee until an interim or permanent county manager was hired.

Medina explained that she had met with department heads and, “really I talked to them about this because I wanted to give them a heads up.”

She also explained the BoCC had previously done this, though an interim county manager was brought in before any department supervision was needed.

“It’s more for the department heads to have somebody they know they can ask a question to,” she added.

Medina explained that some department heads were confused about who to direct questions to following the former county manager’s resignation, and that by each commissioner taking on the supervision of different departments, they would be acting as a point of contact.

“It’s not meant for us to micro-manage anybody,” she added, noting the county has “amazing” department managers who work well together.

She reiterated that the purpose is not for the commissioners to micro-manage any department, “because they definitely know how to do their job, probably more so than we might.”

Brown indicated that he’d prefer to supervise the Development Services, Information Technology (IT) and Public Health departments.

“Unless anyone has a particular and strong desire to have those,” he added, noting that he also believes it’s important for all three commissioners to be available if anyone wants to, for any reason, reach out to another commissioner. “I think that’s certainly appropriate.”

Medina mentioned she informed the department managers this was going to be a discussion, adding, “We’re all here to support them.”

Ranson commented that he initially had Development Services on his list of departments to supervise. Medina indicated that she had the airport, HR, human services and Colorado State University (CSU) Extension on her list.

Brown offered to “trade” the IT Department for the Public Works Department with Ranson, to which Ranson replied, “I’d rather have the development services,” noting he’d been involved with the department over the past six weeks.

Brown then offered to step down from development services.

Medina then commented, “So, again you know this is ... one of the staff members said that when ... we the commissioners are up here talking and one commissioner says one thing and if the other commissioners don’t necessarily agree, that if we don’t say something then, we agree. It’s silent approval.”

“So, I’m gonna say it with the utmost respect, and I mean no disrespect by this, but I will tell you ... yesterday I had a few employees from development services ask if we do this, that it be Commissioner Brown.

“Because, frankly, they feel like that might be a better fit, without saying much more.”

Medina indicated that she would leave it for Brown and Ranson to decide, mentioning, “It’s not about us making decisions for them; it’s more about us assisting them.”

Medina went on to explain that there are “other things” that Ranson has alluded to on multiple occasions, stating, “There’s some common sense things that need to happen when it comes to the planning and code enforcement.”

She encouraged the commissioners to be proactive in starting that change.

“We need to be the leaders in that,” she said, explaining the commissioners need to go through the planning and development codes and make those changes so staff knows what it is and the expectations are, “cause right now, to a degree, they’re enforcing what’s been put before them.”

Brown commented that he’d be “more than happy” to take on the supervision of the Development Services Department.

“I’m OK with that,” Ranson commented.

He also addressed the “concerns” expressed by Medina.

“I couldn’t be happier with where we are right now,” Ranson stated, explaining that there are people “trying to interfere with development services” from outside the county’s organization. “I hope that’s cleared up.”

Ranson also commented on the builders’ and developers’ meeting the BoCC hosted on Aug. 20, stating that it was an encouraging meeting to him.

For more information on that meeting, see related article.

Ranson mentioned that the county can talk about affordable housing “all we want,” but “if we don’t talk about economic development and how we can create jobs, that’s backwards.”

“So I’m thrilled with where we are right now,” he said.

It was ultimately decided that Ranson would supervise the IT and Finance departments; Brown would supervise CSU Extension and the Development Services and Public Health departments; and Medina would supervise the Public Works, Veterans Services, Human Services, HR and Airport departments.

Brown also commented on the builders’ and developers’ meeting, explaining that he is looking at the situation in the county’s Development Services Department as an opportunity.

“I prefer to look at it as an opportunity,” he said, explaining the county has a chance to move forward positively “and create an environment for our employees that is workable, that is supportive and that will help provide a higher level of service to the community.”

Ranson commented that he agrees with Brown’s statements, also stating, “There’s been bad stuff going on at the county.”

He indicated that some of it has

been cleared up, noting this week has been a “very positive step” for the community.

Ranson expressed his excitement for finding a new county manager “and someone who believes in teamwork.”

Medina also addressed the builders’ and developers’ meeting, praising Ranson’s work for organizing the meeting.

She indicated that something that came out of that meeting was that the county has key positions it needs to hire.

During the builders’ and developers’ meeting, Interim Development Director and Planning Manager Owen O’Dell indicated he is leaving his position with the county effective Aug. 29.

During the Aug. 21 meeting, Medina explained that since O’Dell is leaving, it would make more sense for the commissioners to be involved in the hiring process for those vacant development services positions.

“Because, in the end, it’s gonna be us that are interacting with this person,” she said.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini explained that the commissioners “would have the ability to hire directly” if the county manager position is vacant.

Brown commented that he’d like to have a building inspector hired within a day or two, given the department’s current backlog.

Medina asked Ranson if he had any input, to which he responded, “Nope.”

Medina then asked how Ranson would like to handle the applicants for the vacant positions and the process in which the commissioners should go about hiring employees.

“No, I think you seem to be in control of this; do what you need to do,” Ranson said.

Medina responded stating that she is not in control of the situation, adding, “I’m asking for all of us to review the applicants and give your input to HR.”

Ranson commented on the builders’ and developers’ meeting again, saying, “I think we heard [on Aug. 20] very clearly what the direction we need to go.”

Medina mentioned there is still a process the county has to go through for hiring employees.

“I’m gonna listen to the people,” Ranson said.

Medina commented that it’s fine to listen to the people and that each commissioner can do that, “but we still have a process and we still have to all ... participate in it, unless otherwise you don’t want to participate in it and then the decision doesn’t go the way you want it to go, then there’s no one to blame but yourself for not participating.”

More comments were exchanged between Ranson and Medina, with Ranson stating that Medina is in control of the situation and Medina stating she’s not in control and is asking for Ranson’s participation.

“I just thought we work together as a team, but apparently that’s not what you want,” Medina said. clayton@pagosasun.com

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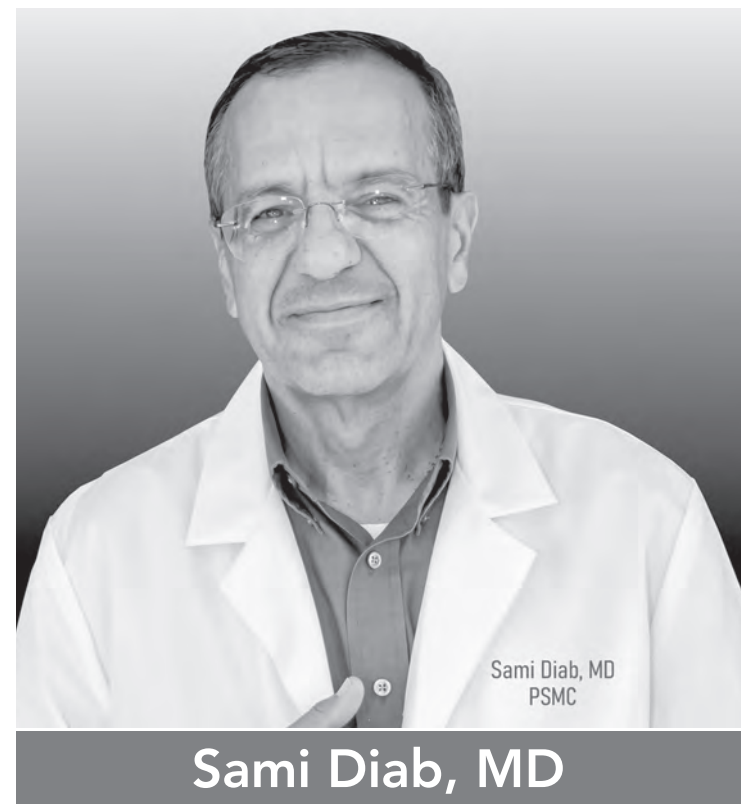
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Charges

Continued from front

Tautges asked if the board members had the opportunity to read the protest emails.

Walsh stated that he had, adding that one was “really quite balanced” and presented “legitimate” concerns about customers paying affordable housing surcharges when they are not benefiting from affordable housing and may be in difficult housing circumstances.

“I think many of the others, quite frankly, were mean-spirited, they were insulting and they were completely lacking in any kind of factual basis,” Walsh said.

He continued that comments that the affordable housing surcharge is a violation of transparency or corruption are illegitimate and that PAWSO is highly transparent by putting the fees on its bills, which many water districts do not do.

Walsh pointed out that no one had come to the meeting to protest the surcharge.

The board then discussed the history of the surcharges before Jones suggested that there is a lack of clarity about the fees among PAWSO customers and that there is “a push for above-and-beyond transparency” about the waivers and how much they cost the district.

Jones commented that, while many of the comments submitted to the board were “poor” and that he stopped reading them at a certain point, they reflect the desire for greater transparency.

He added that the board needs to determine how to more clearly present the surcharges and how the waivers are used.

Walsh noted that the district refusing to grant waivers to affordable housing projects will likely push them to relocate within the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID), where PAWSO will still have to treat the waste generated but will receive a fraction of the revenue and no wastewater capital investment fees since these will be paid to the PSSGID.

After Walsh noted that there are differences between the amount of fees theoretically waived and the amount in reality since many projects will not be built without waivers and thus would not generate fees, Jones noted that this is difficult for many customers to understand and that community members focus on the PAWSO board granting large amounts of waivers and their rates going up.

Community member Carl Young spoke about his concerns about how he, as an uptown resident, is subsidizing projects that only assist downtown residents, like the expansion of the Snowball wastewater treatment plant.

Hudson explained that affordable housing and child care facilities are the only type of projects which the state allows local governments to waive fees for.

He noted that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County both waive fees for affordable housing and child care projects and “subscribe to that idea that we need child care and we need housing in this community to be a functional community.”

“I’m hearing, from this board, hesitation to have a functional community. I’m hearing from this board... ‘We have money, but maybe we’re worried about

the future,’ or, ‘No, I’m politically opposed to supporting a functional community,’ because they have a different idea from what the state of Colorado has about housing and about child care.”

Hudson stated that PAWSO “has been in the leadership of supplying a functional community for years now. It seems like maybe we don’t want a functional community, maybe we just want people to leave and not work here and not be able to find to houses and not be able to find child care because something, because of some kind of political belief about something. And I have political beliefs, I have a political belief that I want to live in a functional community. I want to live in a place where this town functions, where people can find housing, where people can find child care, where people can find jobs, where people can find churches to go to, where this community functions. And we’re asking our customers to support this idea and we’ve gotten five people who’ve complained of 5,000 customers.”

Hudson commented that he was “really disappointed” that PAWSO had to send potential waiver recipients away despite the board having a housing waiver policy and funding available.

He added that he hoped the board would return to the issue in September and “embrace” supporting a functional community.

“If we don’t support it, if the town doesn’t support it, if the county doesn’t support it, we’re going to have a dysfunctional community,” Hudson said.

Boehmer replied that, although there are political differences on the board and different ideas about how to get there, everyone on the board wants a functional community.

Hudson challenged Boehmer about how he wants to create a functional community.

Boehmer declined to state his ideas, commenting that he did not want to get into an argument and he would be willing to talk to Hudson later.

“Don’t think for one second that I volunteer my time, a guy that works 40 hours a week and has two kids, to come in here and try to destroy our community. That’s not the purpose,” Boehmer said. “We’re all on the same team here; we just have a different idea.”

Tautges commented that he likes to know what the consequences of his actions are and that he does support affordable housing work in the community.

He commented that, out of the “dozens” of PAWSO customers he spoke to, the balance of people supporting keeping or eliminating the affordable housing surcharge was fairly even.

Tautges added that providing more waivers would likely lead to increasing other fees to cover costs.

He added that he agrees with Boehmer and was in support of a functional community.

“I think we’re all on the same page,” Tautges said.

“I think we’re on very different pages, but hopefully in a very civil and mutually respectful way,” Walsh said.

He added that, if the board eliminates the affordable housing surcharge, it will not be collecting any revenues to pay for the waivers already granted.

Jones commented that the board is on “two different pages,” but that they all want a functional community.

He stated that his company volunteered work to both the Habitat for Humanity and PSCDC projects and that this is a way he gives back to the community.

Jones commented that the main issue is not whether people want the surcharge or not, but is the desire for transparency.

“I think it implores us to come up with systems that help us make these decisions,” Jones said, adding that such a system would guide decisions on granting fees.

He commented that he does not want to take the fee away.

“I think what we do with the fee and how transparent we are about what we’re doing with the fee is equally as important as having the fee,” Jones said.

He added that the protests against the fee are a sign of a “bigger problem brewing.”

“What we all have to understand is a small majority talks, we make a small response that honors what they’re saying, it puts us in a better position,” Jones said.

He closed by stating that he wants to vote on the issue next month and had an open mind about how to approach the waivers, but that he wanted to understand the issue better because “the numbers that are being discussed are bogging.”

Affordable housing work session

At an Aug. 25 work session, the PAWSO board discussed the details of affordable housing waivers and its future direction further.

The board discussed the financial impacts of granting waivers, the role of the district in promoting affordable housing and what types of housing should be the focus of affordable housing efforts.

It also discussed a variety of potential changes to the affordable housing waiver policy and the district’s approach to affordable housing, including introducing tiered capital investment fees based on the size of housing being constructed, which would potentially reduce costs for smaller, affordable housing projects, and improving coordination between local government entities to help plan for affordable housing projects more efficiently.

The board also discussed the need to do a new rate study to potentially modify various aspects of the district’s fees in accordance with the proposals discussed.

During the discussion, Hudson and Walsh continued to express general support for the district’s support of affordable housing while Boehmer commented that the current policy is not acceptable to him and should be changed and Tautges raised concerns about the cost of granting waivers for the district and about if PAWSO has borne inordinate costs compared to the support offered by other government entities.

Boehmer and Tautges also expressed support for affordable housing projects and a desire to see them succeed, even though they noted they have concerns about PAWSO’s involvement in granting waivers for them.

Jones expressed a desire to ensure that affordable housing continues to be built in the community while also not incurring excessive costs on PAWSO.

During the discussion, the board

also heard comments from Lashbrooke and Habit for Humanity of Archuleta County Executive Director Leah Ballard that commended the district’s previous support of affordable housing through waivers and noted the impact that the housing they construct has had on the community by enabling families to live and work crucial jobs in Archuleta County.

Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown also spoke, pointing out the importance of the waivers and highlighting the county’s contributions in terms of fee waivers and land donations to supporting the PSCDC’s and Habitat for Humanity’s affordable housing projects.

Near the end of the work session, Tautges summarized the discussion.

“We all agree on several things,” he said. “There is a housing crisis in this community. Whether it’s worse or not as bad as other communities, I don’t know, but we all agree that we should be doing something. Who ‘we’ is, we might have slightly different opinions on and how much each we should be doing. ... That’s why I called this meeting, I did not want to go into [the September PAWSO meeting on Sept. 11] not having this conversation. I think we owed it to all of you to have this conversation. Again, no decisions are going to be made, but, boy, have we brought up some good ideas, some things that maybe need a little more research, maybe get some more numbers so in September when we walk in the room we’re just a little bit smarter than we were last month.”

Jones commented that all the members of the board want to make decisions to support a “better tomorrow.”

He added that questions about if PAWSO has contributed more to affordable housing in the past compared to other governments are “not what it’s about” and that the board should support the decisions it previously made, even if board members do not agree with them.

“It’s not about who does more or less, it’s about how do we move forward from the point we’re at,” Jones said. “I just want to make that very clear. This isn’t a comparison, it’s not ... anybody did more than the other. It’s where we’re at right now and how do we need to move forward to, first and foremost, as Alex has pointed out ... honor what we need to do to make sure that we’re providing for the clients that we have, but also, secondly, and again somebody could argue even equally importantly, it’s how do we support our community?”

Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina, who also attended the work session, summarized it at the Aug. 26 Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session, commenting that the PAWSO board is facing a “big decision.”

“So, I hope that the PAWSO board can really think about this and just know that it is really important to our community for them to continue to participate the way they have because — and I don’t want to say that if they don’t do it everything will fail — because some way, somehow, some things may be accomplished, but it will just be a lot more difficult,” Medina said.

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Charges

Continued from front

ery in the case and that he anticipates the restitution will be substantial.

Moran countered by indicating Heirigs would be more culpable as the owner of the property and the one who was there when the fire got out of control.

He further indicated his client really regrets his behavior.

Fay noted the seriousness of the allegations and the potential for restitution to be “astronomical” before setting Alaniz’s bond at \$20,000 cash surety.

Alaniz is scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing demand at 10 a.m. on Sept. 25.

Heirigs appeared out of custody, with it discussed that Heirigs is in the

process of applying for a public defender and attorney Christian Hatfield appearing with him.

Heirigs is next set to appear for appearance of counsel and disposition at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

More about the Oak Fire

The Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) announced via press release that on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 5:46 p.m., deputies arrested two male suspects in connection with the Oak Fire started by an illegal burn at 152 Oak Drive in Aspen Springs.

The fire began at approximately 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10.

“The burn was in violation of the Second Amended and Restated Ordinance no. 18-2017 for the regulation of

open burning in the unincorporated areas of Archuleta County,” an ACSO press release states.

The press release notes both suspects were arrested on multiple accounts of fourth-degree arson.

The press release notes the fire originated from a burn barrel and “quickly spread through the subdivision, spotting approximately a half a mile into a neighboring subdivision.”

It adds that firefighting aerial resources and first responders managed to contain the fire at 75 acres the evening of Aug. 10.

The fire left some evacuated for about 70 hours, with others put under pre-evacuation notice for a portion of the incident.

randi@pagosahun.com

Budget

Continued from A4

deficit.

Brown noted that some of the services the public health department provides are not required by the state, suggesting those are the areas he would look to reduce spending first.

Brown also expressed that he doesn’t want to send the message of the initial solution to be layoffs.

“I don’t feel that we are at that point,” he said, noting he wants to be “cognizant” of the reserves.

“Layoffs are not an option, in my mind,” said Veronica Medina, BoH member and county commissioner,

suggesting that reserves could be used to cover the deficit.

BoH member Jessica Cox also expressed support for using reserve funds, stating, “I feel like this is what our reserves are for,” and that currently looking at altering staff is “not my first choice, either.”

Bruss mentioned that part of the reserve funds currently on hand are due in part to the transition away from San Juan Basin Public Health, noting there were a lot of uncertainties the county went through in creating its own health department.

“We’re getting through that transi-

tion,” Bruss said, expressing that it would be “appropriate” at this point to use reserves to cover the deficit.

Bruss added that he may feel differently about the situation if the county’s public health department were 10 years old at this point.

Wilson indicated that she is “relatively confident we won’t actually have to dip into reserves,” and that the actual deficit will be closer to \$7,000, instead of \$41,000.

Brown motioned to approve balancing the budget by using up to \$45,000 of reserves, which was unanimously approved by the BoH.

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Outdoors



Photos courtesy Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

Mobilization and staging for the Pagosa Gateway River Project will begin Sept. 3, with construction underway by mid-September. Major in-river work is expected to be completed by the end of the year, followed by planting of large container riparian plants in the spring of 2026.

Construction set to begin on Pagosa Gateway River Project

By Danyelle Leentjes
Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) is pleased to announce that mobilization and staging for the Pagosa Gateway River Project will begin Sept. 3, with construction underway by mid-September.

Major in-river work is expected to be completed by the end of the year, followed by planting of large container riparian plants in the spring of 2026.

Spanning approximately 2 miles of the San Juan River, beginning where the Town of Pagosa Springs' future river recreation park will be located at 1040 E. U.S. 160 (at the junction of highways 160 and 84) and extending 2 miles upstream, this project is designed to restore river health, enhance aquatic and riparian habitat, improve recreational safety, and strengthen the river's resilience in the face of drought and low-flow conditions.

This work directly complements the Town of Pagosa Springs' planned river recreation park, which is slated for public river access in spring 2026. The two projects work hand-in-hand. The recreation park will provide enhanced public access and amenities, and the Pagosa Gateway River Project provides a safer and more enjoyable recreation experience while improving the upstream river corridor, ensuring habitat and resiliency enhancements.

The Upper San Juan River is central to our community's way of life. It supports fish and wildlife, provides opportunities for recreation, and fuels our tourism-based economy. In recent years, the river has faced

challenges from reduced summer flows and rising water temperatures, which can stress fish populations and diminish recreational opportunities. This river reach has limited habitat diversity, unstable and eroding banks, debris from past flood events, and impaired riparian areas.

The Pagosa Gateway River Project addresses these challenges by:

- Reestablishing riparian vegetation to provide habitat, as well as shade and cool the river.
- Improving fish habitat and low-water connectivity.
- Stabilizing eroding banks with native plants to reduce sedimentation input.
- Providing safer conditions for recreational users.
- Supporting long-term river health and resilience.

The project is led by WEP in partnership with 18 private landowners and with design-build oversight by FlyWater Inc.

Funding support comes from the **See River A10**

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33 Fawn Court \$949,000

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>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court \$899,000

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=qQkhZeKE-G0



471 Deer Trail \$356,000

MLS # 826138

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.



109 Carol's Curves \$294,000

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.



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.



1119 Hills Circle \$500,000

MLS # 827227

This is a very cute 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car attached garage. Across the street is an access point to enter National Forest. This is a very well-maintained home at a good price. The master bedroom is on opposite sides of the house from the guest bedrooms, and the colors are warm and inviting. This home is close to town and shopping, put it on your list.



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Film screening to focus on watershed restoration

By Monica Nigon
San Juan Water Conservancy District

Join the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) alongside the Chama Peak Land Alliance, Quivira Coalition and the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership on Sept. 9 for a free film screening of the first film of the docuseries "Thinking Like Water."

This five-part series follows "water wizard" Bill Zeedyk, and his collaborators as they transform degraded watersheds into resilient ecosystems by working with nature.

"Thinking Like Water" chronicles Zeedyk's transformation from retired U.S. Forest Service employee to an ecological restoration legend.

Zeedyk's method repairs damaged watersheds by using natural materials to induce a stream's historical meandering course, which consequently raises the water table and repairs lost habitats. These natural structures are now so well-known and used, especially throughout the southwest, that they have come to be known by their

creator's name: zeedyks.

A panel discussion with local restoration experts will follow the screening, where you can learn more about how to get involved in watershed restoration and enhancement in your own backyard.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and the film will start at 6:15 p.m. Please reserve tickets at pagoasmovies.com beforehand to ensure you get a seat.

At the screening you'll also have an opportunity to get involved in a volunteer event taking place Sept. 13 where you can take what you've learned from the film and apply it in a hands-on capacity.

SJWCD Education and Outreach Intern Monica Nigon will be hosting a wet meadow restoration event using Zeedyk's methods to repair an incised channel on our public lands.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Turkey Springs Trailhead on the Piedra Road entrance.

Email Nigon at mnigon.sjwcd@gmail.com to learn more or sign up to volunteer.



Photo courtesy San Juan Water Conservancy District

The San Juan Water Conservancy District, Chama Peak Land Alliance, Quivira Coalition and the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership will offer a free film screening of the first film of the docuseries "Thinking Like Water" on Sept. 9. The five-part series follows "water wizard," Bill Zeedyk and his collaborators as they transform degraded watersheds into resilient ecosystems by working with nature.

Water conservancy approves letter of support for recreation grant

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Aug. 18 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors approved a letter of support for the Pagosa Area Recreation Council's (PARC's) efforts to obtain a grant to help build capacity and continue

recreation planning in the area.

SJWCD president Candace Jones explained that she drafted a letter of support for PARC's application to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for \$150,000 in funding, including a \$15,000 match by PARC, to continue and build upon recreation planning work the council is undertaking.

Jones stated that the council's previ-

ous planning work has gone far enough to make the council eligible to seek grant funding to hire a coordinator and begin efforts to standardize signage and wayfinding markers in local recreation areas, among other efforts.

Jones noted that PARC has received letters of support from a variety of other local organizations for the grant application.

SJWCD board member Bill Nobles, who is also involved with PARC, commented that the board should move forward with submitting the letter of support Jones drafted and that it "doesn't have to be much."

The board then unanimously voted to approve sending the letter, which Jones stated she would send the next day.

Town announces east gateway river park public comment meeting on Sept. 10

By Kyle Rickert
Town of Pagosa Springs

In May 2025, the Town of Pagosa Springs purchased 1040 E. U.S.160, formerly known as Bob's LP.

This strategic acquisition has provided an opportunity to expand public river access, lengthen our

Riverwalk Trail corridor, provide additional wetland and park space, and establish a unique and defining recreation location for visitors and locals to see and use as they enter town.

The town has awarded the contract for a multiphase conceptual design and phase one build to South-

west River Engineering, a local engineer and contractor that has partnered with the town on many other successful river projects.

One of the first components of this project will be holding a public meeting Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the South Conference Room at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The project details will be reviewed and there will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide input on the design of the project.

Visit mypagosa.org/east-gateway-river-park-public-meeting for more information. Please join us for this informational session.

River

Continued from A9

Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Plan Grant Program, the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grant Program and local partners, including the Town of Pagosa Springs, Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board,

Southwestern Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, San Juan Water Conservancy District, Trout Unlimited and Friends of the Upper San Juan River.

The WEP is a Pagosa Springs-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mis-

sion is to collaborate on and implement projects that benefit watershed function and health, river-related recreation, and irrigated agriculture in the Upper San Juan River Basin. The work we do is vital not only for the river's ecological health, but also for

sustaining the community's economy and quality of life.

For project updates, details, maps and answers to common questions related to the construction, please visit uppersanjuanwep.com and mypagosa.org.

Town council passes pair of ordinances on fire restrictions within town limits

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Aug. 19, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved two ordinances related to fire restrictions within town limits.

The first ordinance the council approved would make the declaration of fire restrictions an administrative task, rather than an action of the town council.

If passed, it would authorize the town manager, currently David Harris, to declare and rescind various levels of fire restrictions within town limits.

An agenda document on the matter states that "this action will be done in consultation with the [Archuleta County] Sheriff's Office, Fire District Chief, and Police Chief."

This change would be consistent with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), which has assigned this authority to the sheriff's office.

"The goal is to send a consistent message from the County and Town when it comes to the various stages of fire restrictions," the document states.

The first reading of the ordinance was approved unanimously by the council.

For the item to take effect, a second reading of the ordinance, which is anticipated for Sept. 2, would need to be approved by the council.

The next fire restriction ordinance approved by the council was to continue an emergency order made by the mayor and town manager on Aug. 11 implementing Stage 1 fire restrictions within town limits.

An agenda document on the matter states, "At present, the Town Charter allows for the Mayor and Manager to issue an emergency order, which must be considered by the Town Council for continuance, modification, or may be rescinded."

At the meeting, Harris said that staff was "recommending a continuance of this order until the mayor and town manager choose to amend or modify the order."

If the council approves the second reading of the ordinance to make fire restrictions an administrative action at the Sept. 2 meeting, then the town manager can take action without having to wait for the council's decision, Harris explained.

In the meantime, continuing or rescinding fire restrictions remains a decision of the council, Harris explained.

The council unanimously voted to continue the Stage 1 fire restrictions within town limits that were originally implemented as an emergency order.

The Aug. 11 emergency order followed "the onset of the Oak Fire in Archuleta County, which has already burned 75 acres and prompted heightened wildfire risk across the region," states the town's website.

"Given the extreme fire danger we are facing, these restrictions are a necessary step to protect lives,

property and our natural resources," said Mayor Shari Pierce. "We urge all residents and visitors to comply fully so that we can minimize further fire threats to our community."

Stage 1 fire restrictions prohibit "open fires and open burning, including campfires," as well as "the sale or use of fireworks for personal use," according to the website.

Permitted activities under Stage 1 restrictions include: commercial and community fireworks displays that are properly permitted, fires contained within liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves, indoor fireplaces or woodstoves, and outdoor charcoal grills, provided they are at private residences and in an area cleared of all flammable materials, including dry vegetation.

"These restrictions are effective immediately and will remain in place until lifted by the Mayor, Town Manager, or Pagosa Springs Town Council. Violations may result in fines or legal action," the emergency order states.

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Sports



CROSS-COUNTRY



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

The Pirate cross-country team traveled to the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve for its 22nd annual sand dunes training camp recently. During the camp, athletes do an 8-mile run to the top of Mosca Pass, climb the main dune while carrying the "burden," and participate in competitions and games on the sand.

Pirate harriers to open season at Durango XC Relay Carnival

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

After a summer of preseason training that focused on activities that equated to 150 miles of running, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country teams are ready to hit the course for Saturday's Durango XC Relay Carnival.

The team is opening the season both with a new coach at the helm, Josh Kurz, and a new kind of meet with the Relay Carnival.

"The Durango meet is different than anything we've done before," Kurz explains in an email to The SUN. "They're calling it a Relay Carnival. We'll form coed relay teams and each relay team alternates running one mile until they've covered 8 miles collectively. So it's basically four, one-mile repeats and you get to rest while your partner is running their mile. The top five coed relay teams for each school will score points for the team."

Kurz indicates the event will be a good fit for the team early in the season.

"It's a great early-season event and fits our philosophy that races are really just the hardest workout of the week," he wrote. "So our main goal is to use our competition to stretch our pain threshold and improve our fitness."

Kurz notes the team's roster features 18 this year — 11 Pirates and seven Lady Pirates.

He adds the Pirates' roster includes four new freshmen, while the Lady Pirates' roster includes one freshman, one new junior and a new senior.

"All of our athletes have a great work ethic and are willing to push through tough workouts," Kurz highlights. "We also have a pack of boys with similar abilities that will push each other to become faster, and that

also gives us some depth in the event of an illness or injury. On the girls' side, we have two seasoned juniors (Kaiya Lyons and Madi Stretton) who both put in a lot of miles this summer. These leaders will show our newer runners what it means to train hard."

Kurz also noted that three athletes ran 150 miles or more over the summer, with a handful of others running 50-100 miles.

"Those kids have a bigger base to build upon and hopefully will be less injury-prone," he wrote. "All of the competitive teams have strong participation in off-season training. This is the first year we've done the 150-mile club, so I'm hoping we'll get more athletes training in the summer next year."

And Kurz indicates the team's goal is for both teams to make the state championship.

"The top 4 teams in each region qualify and our region is the toughest region in the 3A classification," Kurz explains.

The coach also notes what it will take for each team to meet that goal.

"Based on last year, our top 5 boys will need to average around 18:30 and our top 5 girls will need to average under 21:00," he wrote. "I think the boys have the ability to hit that time goal and they have made one of their team goals for the season. I never want to put limits on anyone, but the girls have to make up a bigger gap to close to get to State Championship. Our goal is to be open to the possibility of qualifying and chip away at that gap as much as possible."

He adds, "We can't control our competition, so we're going to focus on maximizing our talent, work ethic, and attitude. Kids can also qualify individually if they place in the top 15 at the regional meet. Last year, the 15th-place girl in our Region (3A Region 2)

ran 20:57 and the 15th-place boy ran 17:33. Our fastest runners will target those times as one of their season goals. The regional course is pretty fast so we won't have a clear picture of our chances until we run the fast Monte Vista course in late October."

Kurz further notes that, beginning this weekend and continuing until regionals, the team will have three hard workouts a week and will treat the week's races as the hardest workout of the week.

"The great thing about races is that there's a fresh group of competition to help our athletes draw out a 100% effort," he wrote.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

After this weekend's Relay Carnival in Durango, the Pirate squads will head to Alamosa for the Joe Vigil Invitational on Sept. 6, where the day's action is set to begin at 8 a.m.

The following weekend, on Sept. 13, the squads will take part in the Bayfield Invitational, which will kick off at 9 a.m.

On Sept. 27, the Pirates will host their sole home meet of the season, the McGinn Memorial XC Country Challenge, where action will begin at 10 a.m.

The team will then head to Alamosa for the Intermountain League meet on Oct. 3, with action scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

On Oct. 11, the team will take part in the Chicken Creek Challenge hosted by Mancos, which will begin at 9 a.m.

On Oct. 17, the Pirate squads will head to Monte Vista for the Eric Wolf Invitational, which is set to kick off at 9 a.m..

Regionals is slated for Oct. 23, with the state meet following on Nov. 1.
randi@pagosasun.com

Elizabeth to take on the Cardinals on at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26.

The Pirates will then return home to host the Salida Spartans at Golden Peaks Stadium on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m., which will also mark the start of the team's league matchups.

On Oct. 10, the Pirates will head to Bayfield to take on the Wolverines, with kickoff slated for 7 p.m.

League play will continue with another home game for the Pirates as they are scheduled to host the Gunnison Cowboys on Oct. 17 at Golden Peaks Stadium beginning at 7 p.m.

The Pirates will then head to Cortez the following week to face off against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers at 7 p.m.

The Pirates will host the Alamosa Mean Moose at Golden Peaks Stadium on Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. in their final regular-season game.

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FOOTBALL

Pirates to host Kirtland Central in season opener Friday

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team will be back in action this week, hosting the Kirtland Central Broncos from Kirtland, N.M. for their first regular season matchup of 2025.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29, at Golden Peaks Stadium.

This is the second year in a row the Pirates are opening their season by hosting the Broncos. The Pirates claimed the victory in last year's matchup, defeating the Broncos 42-27.

According to stats entered into MaxPreps, the Pirates have a total of 24 players on this year's roster, with five seniors, eight juniors and 11 sophomores.

The Pirates are coming off of a 2024 season in which they went 5-5, including a league mark of 2-2, and got

knocked out in the first round of the state playoffs.

Coach Nathan Morales is returning for his sixth year in charge of the Pirates, and boasts a career record of 23-22 with the Pirates.

Morales could not be reached for comment by press time Wednesday.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time Wednesday, but is subject to change.

Following the Pirates' matchup against the Broncos on Aug. 29, the Pirates will host the Centauri Falcons on Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. at Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Pirates first road game of the season will be on Sept. 19, when the team travel will travel to take on Monte Vista. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

The Pirates will be on the road again the following week as they head to



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets

The DUST2 team poses for a photo at the top of the course above Lake Dillon on Aug. 24.

DUST2 mountain biking team kicks off season in Frisco

By Adelyn Hittle
DUST2

Entering another exciting race season, the Pagosa Springs DUST2 high school mountain biking team competed in its first race of the season last weekend.

The race was held on Sunday, Aug. 24, at the Frisco Nordic Center in Frisco, Colo. (9,026 feet).

This was the first time that DUST2 racers have competed at the Frisco venue, and the participants were all very excited to try a new course.

Taking place on the Frisco Peninsula Recreation Area, the course provided a mix of rocky doubletrack, windy singletrack and asphalt bike path with striking views of Lake Dillon, starting and finishing at the Frisco Nordic Center. Each lap included 552 feet of elevation gain running counterclockwise for 5.9 miles. The theme of the event was socks. Each team was encouraged to wear crazy fun socks to receive recognition at the end of the event and boost spirit. Merick Halterman, a member of the DUST2 middle school team, sang the national anthem the morning of the event. The races began bright and early with the junior varsity (JV) boys.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., the JV boys took off racing two laps on the course.

JV boys is Pagosa's largest representative category with five athletes.

First of the team to come in was Eric Smith (junior) in 58 minutes, placing 14th, adding 442 points to the team total and passing 40 other riders along the way. Next to come in was Justin Sewell (junior) in 25th with a time of one hour, gaining 388 points for the team and passing 39 other racers. Shortly after that, Aaron Sowle (junior) raced in with a time of 1:03, gaining 324 points for the team and coming in 52nd. Van Halterman (junior) was next to come in with a time of 1:05, placing 62nd. Following right behind Halterman, Jackson Chaney (junior) raced in with a time of 1:05 to place 63 out of 115 riders.

JV boys is the largest and one of the most competitive categories of the cycling league, and all of the athletes did extremely well.

The next race to roll out was the boys' and girls' varsity categories at 9:50 a.m.

The varsity racers complete three laps of the course to total 18 miles. Pagosa had two athletes in this division. The varsity boys started first, and the varsity girls followed five minutes after.

Weston Phillips (senior, legacy) came in 27th out of 38 racers with a time of 1:28 for three laps, scoring 415 points for the team. Phillips is a legacy rider, which means that he has competed in races all four years of his high school career. Adelyn Hittle (junior) then raced in with a time of 1:35 for three laps to place 10th out of 21 varsity girls to score 502 points for the team.

The JV and sophomore girls were the next Pagosa athletes to compete at 12:55 p.m.

Due to developing weather, the girls were only able to complete one of their two laps.

Kaylee Hensle (senior, legacy) was the only Pagosa participant competing in the JV girls category, and she came in 19th out of 32 racers with a time of 38 minutes, scoring 415 points for the team. Hensle has also raced all four years of her high school career.

Gianna Shaeffer was the only Pagosa sophomore girl racer, coming in eighth out of 19 participants with a 34-minute lap, scoring 441 points for the team.

Hensle and Shaeffer raced hard, even through the confusion of the race being cut short.

The freshmen girls' and boys' race was also shortened to one lap and pushed to start at 1:45 p.m. due to the rising weather.

Since the freshmen had never raced before, instead of a mass start, the athletes were started in lines of four in intervals of 30 seconds. Their times were then recorded at the finish and taken as a time trial. They will start in a mass start next race.

Pagosa had three freshmen boys racing last weekend. Amon Phillips finished 29th out of 75 racers with a lap of 32 minutes and added 332 points to the team score. Ward Halterman was the next to come in, with a lap of 33 minutes to finish 40th. Shortly after that, Drake Anderson finished with a time of 42 minutes, placing 64th in his first high school race.

Quinn Howard was the only representative freshman girl who raced. Howard came in 11th out of 30 participants with a lap of 35 minutes, scoring 420 points for the team and passing some of the male riders in the end.

DUST 2 finished the successful race day with an overall 3,993 points. All of the riders tried new things and pushed through the weather changes.

All 13 DUST 2 racers are excited to participate in the Haymaker Classic on Sept. 6 in Eagle, Colo.



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets

DUST2's freshmen boys (from left) Amon Phillips, Ward Halterman and Drake Anderson line up for their time trial race in Frisco on Aug. 24.



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets

DUST2 junior Eric Smith passed 40 riders to place 14th in the JV boys' category at the team's first race of the season on Aug. 24.

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

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High School eliminates entry fees for athletic events for 2025-2026 school year

Pagosa Springs High School

Pagosa Springs High School is pleased to announce that, effective immediately, there will be no admission fees charged for any regular-season athletic events.

This decision reflects our commitment to making Pirate athletics accessible to all community members and supporting our student-athletes with the largest possible home crowd advantage.


"We want to remove any barriers that might prevent families and community members from cheering on our Pirates," said Athletic Direc-

tor Chantelle Jordan. "Sports bring our community together, and we believe everyone should have the opportunity to support our teams without worrying about the cost of admission."

The new policy applies to all regular season games and matches across all sports. The only exception will be Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) playoff games, where entry fees will still be collected as required by the CHSAA.

Come out and support the Pirates this season — admission is free.

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Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Members of the Pirate cross-country team trek up a sand dune while carrying the “burden” at the team’s 22nd annual training camp at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. The team will open its season this weekend in Durango.

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates go 1-2 at Demon Invitational

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team opened the season by going 1-2 at the Demon Invitational in Glenwood Springs Aug. 22 and 23, with coach Chelsea Caler indicating the team learned a lot at the tournament.

“We learned a lot about ourselves this weekend,” Caler wrote in an email to The SUN. “It was very revealing in terms of both what we’re already doing well and where we have room to grow. That’s exactly what early season play is for to figure out where we’re at, and how we want to shape our identity moving forward.

We had a handful of really great moments, we working on finding consistency in that.”

The 3A Lady Pirates opened the season on Friday, Aug. 22, with a 2-0 loss to the 2A Meeker Cowboys, with the Cowboys winning both sets 25-15.

Shortly after that matchup, the Lady Pirates were back on the court, this time against the 3A Roaring Fork Rams.

The Lady Pirates won 2-0 over the Rams to pick up their first win of the season, winning the first set 25-22 and the second 25-15.

The following day, the Lady Pirates faced off against the 4A Steamboat Springs Sailors, with the Sailors taking home the victory in three sets.

The Sailors won the first set 25-20

before the Lady Pirates won a close second set 26-24. Steamboat Springs rebounded in the third set for a 15-5 set win and the overall win.

Stats from the games were not available by press time Wednesday.

“What stood out was our serve receive passing, and defense showed moments of grit,” Caler highlights of the team’s play. “We started to see our blocking work from practice carry over into matches. We also had some amazing kills and aggressive net play by all our hitters. These are all good signs that we’re building the right habits.”

This week, the Lady Pirates will get their first taste of home action as they host the 2A Sanford Mustangs at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30, before

opening league play against Alamosa the following week.

The Mustangs are 1-0 on the season after defeating Gunnison 3-1 on Aug. 23.

“The main focus right now is on us,” Caler wrote. “We want to get our offense into a rhythm, cut down on forced errors and build confidence in making smart, versatile plays. That will set us up well not just for this week, but for the season as a whole. We know both programs traditionally play fast and disciplined volleyball, so our priority is to keep pace by being clean on our side of the net. That means strong first contacts, good tempo and trusting our systems.”

randi@pagosasun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Aug. 28

Town of Pagosa Springs Public Arts Committee meeting. 4 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 2

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://archuleta-county-co-official-website/ agendas-and-minutes/>.

Upper San Juan Library District Board of Trustees special meeting. 10 a.m., Zoom. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398449146> and meeting ID: 833 9844 9146.

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

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting. 5:30 p.m., district administrative office, 165 N. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit <https://www.pagosafire.org/>.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

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://archuleta-county-co-official-website/ agendas-and-minutes/>.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Archuleta County builders and developers meeting. 5 p.m. Archuleta County administration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <https://archuleta-county-co-official-website/ agendas-and-minutes/>.

Town of Pagosa Springs east gateway river park public comment meeting. 5:30 p.m., Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://mypagosa.org/east-gateway-river-park-public-meeting>.

Archuleta County Fair Board meeting. 6 p.m., CSU Extension building, 344 U.S. 84. For more information, visit <https://archuleta-county-co-official-website/ agendas-and-minutes/>.

Thursday, Sept. 11

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., 100 Lyn Ave. or via Zoom. View on Zoom using meet-

ing ID 886 0969 7683 and passcode 223708. For more information, visit pawsd.org.

Monday, Sept. 15

San Juan Water Conservancy District special meeting. 4 p.m., 45 Eaton Drive Suite 6. For more information, visit www.sjwcd.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 16

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://archuleta-county-co-official-website/ agendas-and-minutes/>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m. Archuleta County adminis-

tration building, commissioners’ meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <https://archuleta-county-co-official-website/ agendas-and-minutes/>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information, visit <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Wednesday, Sept. 17

Upper San Juan Library District Board of Trustees meeting. 4 p.m., Zoom. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398449146> and meeting ID: 833 9844 9146.

Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School, 3133 Cornerstone Drive. For more information, visit pagosapeakopenschool.org.

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Please see our blog for a comprehensive guide on why structural fires are worse than they seem



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Tax

■ **Continued from front**
 District (PAWSD), where it is treated by PAWSD.

The town's Public Works Department, in conjunction with an assessment by Roaring Fork engineering, has concluded that the overall system is rated as "poor" to "fair," with the challenges including an aging pipe system (50 years of age on average) with one-third of the total system rated as needing "critical repairs or failing."

Most of the challenges stem from the 500-foot elevation gain the sewage must travel before it arrives for treatment at PAWSD's Vista plant, the website indicates.

The town has estimated that it will cost between \$80 million and \$100 million to make the system healthy

and efficient, with \$15 million needed "immediately" to repair the aging pipes just to keep the current system operational.

After considering other options to fund the needed repairs and upgrades, such as raising rates on wastewater customers or raising property taxes, both town staff and the council determined that the sales tax option was "the most efficient" way to obtain the funding needed.

Town Manager David Harris has stated that a 1 percent sales tax increase within the town would generate an estimated \$3.6 million in the first year and take an estimated 25 years to generate all the funds necessary to complete the project, if the town decides to build its own treatment plant.

A town-owned treatment plant downtown would cost in the neighborhood of \$40 million to \$60 million, Harris stated at a previous meeting, adding that costs "for infrastructure have gone through the roof, not just for our community, but nationwide."

The sales tax option was the most viable option because it would be generated by both residents and visitors alike "and is more equitable for our residents," Harris said.

It would create a dedicated fund that can only be used for sewer infrastructure maintenance, he added.

However, the sales tax increase would make retail and grocery purchases in town more expensive, Harris indicated, adding that, for example, "a family of four, would see the price of groceries go up roughly

about \$15 per month."

Town Attorney Bob Cole stated at the previous meeting that the sales tax ordinance would repeal the existing tax to be replaced with a new sales tax, if the voters approve it on Nov. 4, adding that the ballot language restricts the revenues to be collected for the sole purpose of sewer infrastructure and maintenance.

"The ballot question proposes that the sales tax would begin Jan. 1 of 2026 ... and it also proposes that the tax would remain in perpetuity until the town council or town voters initiated a provision to appeal it," Cole explained.

Harris stated at the most recent meeting that "the ballot language has been reviewed by two attorneys, as well as our marketing team."

Public Notices

2025 SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDED BUDGET NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Upper San Juan Library District has received a 2025 Supplemental Amended Budget for consideration. A copy for public inspection is available online or in person at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, Colorado. A public hearing on the 2025 Supplemental Amended Budget is set for Friday, September 5, 2024 at 10am via Zoom. Interested parties may file objections any time prior to final adoption as defined in §29-1-106(1), C.R.S. Published August 28, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN* (271966)

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT 50 JT.
 Surplus Vehicle Sealed Bids
 Archuleta County School District 50 JT will be accepting sealed bids until 2:00 pm on September 5, 2025, for one (1) school bus and two (2) passenger vehicles described below.
 Bids must include: full name, phone number, the bus/vehicle number, and your bid amount.
 To place a bid on multiple vehicles, please use a separate sheet of paper for each bid. The highest bidder for each vehicle will be notified no later than Friday, September 12, 2025, and vehicles must be removed from school district property by 3pm on Friday, September 19, 2025. All payments must be in cash or by certified check.
 -Bus #4 – 2008 International diesel 72 passenger bus, mileage 188,247 VIN#4DRBUAAN68B510507
 -Vehicle #35 – 2003 Ford Excursion, mileage 212,564 VIN#1FMMU41S33EA49490
 - Vehicle #42 – 1999 Chevrolet Suburban, mileage 222,926 VIN#1GNFK16K9SJ37502
 For additional information or to view the vehicles, please contact Dave Steadman, Transportation Director, at (970) 264-0394 x608.
 Bids should be dropped off at the District Administration office at 309 Lewis Street, or mailed to:
 Archuleta School District 50 JT
 Attn: Eric Burt - Vehicle Bids
 PO Box 1498
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

COMBINED NOTICE - SALE
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-006
 To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On June 26, 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) June J Balizan and James A Pacheco
 Original Beneficiary(ies) Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as beneficiary, as nominee for The Central Trust Bank
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
 Date of Deed of Trust September 06, 2019
 County of Recording Archuleta
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust September 09, 2019
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 21905117 Book: N/A Page: N/A Original Principal Amount \$250,381.00
 Outstanding Principal Balance \$228,364.28
 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 2 of Block 2 in ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 4, according to the plat thereof filed for record August 20, 1971 as Reception No. 74785.
Purported common address: 511 Blue Jay Cir, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCMBERED 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, 10/23/2025 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 8/28/2025
 Last Publication 9/25/2025
 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: 08/29/2025
 Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
 /s/ Elsa P. White
 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: Aricon J. Dall #51467
 Randall S. Miller & Associates PC 216 16th St, Ste 1210, Denver, CO 80202 (720) 259-9053 Attorney File # 23CO00165-4
 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 August 28, September 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (268417)

County District Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an Answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the last day of publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.
 If you fail to file your Answer or other response to the Complaint in writing with 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be entered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
 This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado more particularly described as follows:
SUBDIVISION: PAGOOSA HIGHLANDS EST Lot: 73 PHE Sec 25 Twn: 36 Rng 2 SW
 Respectfully submitted this 28th day of July, 2025.
 /s/ Daniel L. Fiedler
 Daniel L. Fiedler
 First publication: August 7, 2025
 Last publication: September 4, 2025
 Published August 7, 14, 21, and 28, and September 4, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (268753)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
 NOTICE NO. 2024CV030063 DIVISION NO. 3
INITIAL COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEEM
 Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association V.
 Defendants, KAREN L. CLARK et al
 Regarding: Subdivision: PAGOOSA VISTA Lot: 592 AND: Lot 593 PV Sec. 19 Twn. 35 Rng. 2W PV DSES NOT INCORPORATED INTO THE RECORDS AND DEED: Lot 592-593, Pagosa Vista, according to the plat filed in the office of the clerk and recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Also known as: 506 Vista Blvd, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS, Please take notice:
 You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff's Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Civil Division of the Sheriffs Office of Archuleta County, Colorado at 9 a.m., on the 8th day of October 2025, at 85 Harman Park Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; phone number 970-264-8430. At which sale, the above-described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder. Plaintiff makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection with this sale.
****BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CASH OR CERTIFIED FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO COVER THEIR HIGHEST BID AT TIME OF SALE. ****
 Further, for the purpose of paying off, curing default or redemption, as provided by statute, intent must be

directed to or conducted at the above address of the Civil Division of the Sheriffs Department of Archuleta County, Colorado.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
 First Publication:09/14/2025
 Last Publication: 09/11/2025
 Published In: The Pagosa Sun
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CURE AND RIGHT TO REDEEM
 RE: Sheriff's Sale of Real Property pursuant to Order and Decree of Foreclosure and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq.
 This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated March 31, 2025, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of a lien recorded on July 22, 2024 at Rec. No. 22402970, in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The judicial foreclosure is based on a default under the Declaration of Restrictions Pagosa, recorded on June 24, 1970 at Reception No. 73297 in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The Declaration and notices, as recorded, establish a lien for the benefit of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, **WHICH LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS.**
 You may have an interest in the real property being affected, or have certain rights or suffer certain liabilities or loss of your interest in the subject property as a result of said foreclosure. You may have the right to redeem the real property or you may have the right to cure a default under the instrument being foreclosed. Any Notice of Intent to Cure must be filed no later than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. **A notice of intent to cure filed pursuant to section 38-38-104 shall be filed with the officer at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the first scheduled sale date or any date to which the sale is continued.**
If the sale date is continued to a later date, the deadline to file a notice of intent to cure by those parties entitled to cure may also be extended.
A notice of intent to redeem filed pursuant to section 38-38-302 shall be filed with the officer no later than eight (8) business days after the sale.
 In this regard, you may desire and are advised to consult with your own private attorney.
IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE

FORECLOSURE PROCESS.
 Colorado Attorney General
 1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
 Denver, Colorado 80203
 (800) 222-4444
 www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov
 Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
 P.O. Box 4503
 Iowa City, Iowa 52244
 (855) 411-2372
 www.consumerfinance.gov
 Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau P.O. Box 4503
 Iowa City, Iowa 52244
 (855) 411-2372
 www.consumerfinance.gov
 Further, you are advised that the parties liable thereon, the owner of the property described above, or those with an interest in the subject property, may take appropriate and timely action under Colorado statutes, certain sections of which are attached hereto.
 In order to be entitled to take advantage of any rights provided for under Colorado law, you must strictly comply and adhere to the provisions of the law. Further, you are advised that the attached Colorado statutes merely set forth the applicable portions of Colorado statutory law relating to curative and redemption rights, therefore, you should read and review all the applicable statutes and laws in order to determine the requisite procedures and provisions which control your rights in the subject property.
 DATED in Colorado this 6 day of August, 2025.
 Sheriff of Archuleta County, Colorado
 /s/Mike Le Roux
 Sheriff Mike Le Roux
 ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
 ORTEM CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
 1445 Market Street, Suite 350
 Denver, CO 80202
 Statutes attached: §§38-37-108, 38-38-103, 38-38-104, 38-38-301, 38-38-304, 38-38-305, and 38-38-306, C.R.S., as amended.
 Published August 14, 21, 28 and September 4 and 11, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (270643)

Invitation to Bid
Piedra Park Metro District Water Meter Replacement Project
Project Number: EIAF-25-165
 The Piedra Park Metro District is seeking qualified contractors to provide services for the **replacement of the water plant SCADA system and installation of 209 water meters** within the district. This project is funded through the Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Program and is subject to all applicable state and local regulations.
Scope of Work
 1. **SCADA System Replacement:** Design, procurement, and installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for the water plant.

2. **Water Meter Replacement:** Supply and installation of 209 water meters across the district, this will include up to 20 pit replacements.
Bid Requirements
 Contractors must be licensed and insured. Experience in similar water infrastructure projects is required. Bids must include a detailed cost breakdown, timeline, and references.
Bond Requirements
Bid Bond: A bid bond equal to 5% of the total bid amount must be submitted with the bid to ensure the bidder's commitment to the project.
Performance Bond: The awarded contractor must provide a performance bond equal to 100% of the contract amount to guarantee satisfactory completion of the project.
Payment Bond: A payment bond equal to 100% of the contract amount is required to ensure payment to subcontractors, laborers, and suppliers. If the contract price is less than \$50,000, the bonding requirements can be waived in favor of an irrevocable letter of credit.
Key Dates
Bid Opening Date: Aug 1, 2025
Bid Submission Deadline: Sept 1 2025
Project Start Date: SCADA System Sept 15, 2025 and Water Meter Replacement Oct 1 2025.
Project Completion Deadline: Nov 1 2026
Submission Instructions
 Interested contractors must submit their bids to:
Piedra Park Metro District
 PO Box 1609, Arboles, CO 81121
 piedrapark@yahoo.com
 Bids must be received no later than Sept 1 2025, 11:59pm. Late submissions will not be considered.
Additional Information
 For questions or to request project documents, contact Justin Smith at 970-553-0621 or jsmith1711@gmail.com
 The Piedra Park Metro District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.
 Published August 14, 21 and 28, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (270653)

PUBLIC NOTICE
 The Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the zoning designation for 1040 E. Hwy 160, as Open Space and Parks. A public hearing is scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on September 9, 2025** to be held at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs Boulevard. Anyone with questions or wishing to comment should contact the Town Planning Division or attend the public hearing and be heard.
 Published August 28, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (271967)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for "Final Major Design Review" for the Pagosa

"I believe that's in the part where our attorney told us we can only make minor changes, so I'm wondering if that's not set by state statute and that's the way we have to do it," Mayor Shari Pierce said, adding, "We can still check and make sure."

When a motion was made to approve the ordinance's second reading, calling for the coordinated election and setting the ballot language for a possible sales tax increase, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the council.

The new revenue generated would be used "to construct, reconstruct, improve, repair, better, extend, operate and maintain sewerage and wastewater reuse facilities to serve the town," the ordinance states.
derek@pagosasun.com

Auto Rents Parking located at 103 Majestic Drive. The applicant is proposing the development of a parking lot to support an auto rental business.
 The Design Review Board will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:30 pm** to consider the **Final Major Design Review Application**, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comments will be made in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes and Agendas** tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosaspings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mvpagosa.org/proposed-development-projects. We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either **970-585-8636** or kturnell@pagosaspings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Published August 28, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (271968)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for "Final Major Design Review" for the Pagosa Bible Church located at 209 Harman Park Drive. The applicant is proposing an addition to the existing building. The Design Review Board will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:30 pm** to consider the **Final Major Design Review Application**, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comment will be taken in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes and Agendas** tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosaspings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mvpagosa.org/proposed-development-projects. We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions at either **970-585-8636** or kturnell@pagosaspings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Published August 28, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (271970)

PUBLIC NOTICE
 The Town Council of Pagosa Springs will hold a public hearing to consider the zoning designation for 1040 E. Hwy 160, as Open Space and Parks. A public hearing is scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on September 16, 2025** to be held at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs Boulevard. Anyone with questions or wishing to comment should contact the Town Planning Division or attend the public hearing and be heard.
 Published August 28, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (271968)

ARCHULETA COUNTY JULY 2025 PAYABLES	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
VENDOR		
PS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP	DS FINAL PHASES B&C	\$476,547.00
BUILDINGS BY DESIGN	TRANSIT FACILITY CONSTRUCT	\$189,396.13
TOWN OF PAGOOSA SPRINGS	LDG TAX/CNTY ROAD MILLS/UTILITIES/	
	KIDZ SUMMER CAMP	\$178,995.06
	EMPL BENEFITS	\$170,530.09
	772 GP LEASE AGREEMENT	\$137,225.96
	CELL 48 CONSTRUCT	\$124,766.63
	CONCRETE/GRAVEL SITE PREP UTE PARK	\$85,804.32
	Q3 GRANT FUNDS	\$70,000.00
	LPC COURTHOUSE BILLING	\$49,692.74
	SFTWR/LABOR/RENWLS	\$45,775.25
	SCRAP METAL HAULING	\$44,955.00
	CNTY P-CARD PURCHASES	\$1,754.64
	COMP EQUIP	\$32,794.71
	PAG PEAK PLAYGROUND	\$27,984.58
	CELL 48 ENGLF MONITORING	\$24,930.09
	CNTY CLEANING SVCS	\$22,950.00
	EQUIP	\$22,532.04
	CNTY FUEL	\$17,833.74
	CAMERA SVCS	\$17,172.95
	CNTY FUEL	\$16,809.94
	FLYERS ENERGY	\$13,976.96
	VAN DIEST SUPPLY	\$13,517.85
	OPEN GOV PYMT	\$12,075.57
	QTRLY SFTWR	\$12,075.57
	LEGAL SVCS	\$11,712.40
	WATER TRUCK RNTLS	\$11,700.00
	CNTY ELECTRIC UTILITY	\$11,515.64
	LEGAL SVCS	\$10,000.00
	COMP EQUIP	\$9,961.40
	BROADBAND SVCS	\$9,935.83
	SHAMROCK SUPPLIES	\$9,104.65
	EMPL BENEFITS	\$8,694.75
	INMATE MED SVCS	\$8,361.28
	EMPL BENEFITS	\$8,342.24
	EXCAVATOR RNTL/SUPPLIES	\$7,962.80
	GRAVEL HAULING	\$7,677.70
	ASSR COMMERCIAL CONSULTING	\$7,600.00
	UCCS ONLINE SPAN COURSE	\$6,912.00
	CNTY LANDLINE UTILITY	\$6,533.77
	ENGLF ENR	\$6,277.50
	FLEET SVCS/SUPPLIES	\$6,255.78
	EQUIP/INSTALL	\$6,000.00
	Q2 2025 SUTA	\$5,712.71
	ZOLL AED PLUS	\$5,440.00
	PROFESSIONAL SVCS	\$5,371.50
	COPIER SVCS/LEASE/USE	\$5,120.79
	CNTY CELL PHONES	\$4,973.47
	ARPA SUBMISSION #37	\$4,923.25
	FAIR 2025 AUDIO EQUIP/TECH	\$4,800.00
	COMP EQUIP	\$4,395.00
	CHSDA DUES	\$4,375.00
	MNTHLY LEASE AGREEMENT	\$4,166.67
	BULK ASPHALT	\$4,027.50
	MAIN STREET GRANT AWARD	\$4,000.00
	FAIR 2025 LIVE ANIMAL SHOWS	\$4,000.00
	TECH ONSITE TESTING/INSP/EC	\$3,720.89
	FLEET SUPPLIES	\$3,360.70
	CONTRACT SVCS	\$3,270.00
	MAIN STREET GRANT AWARD	\$3,102.00
	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMNT PGRM	\$3,000.00
	MAIN STREET GRANT AWARD	\$2,800.00
	CNTY WATER/SEWER UTILITY	\$2,663.82
	MAINT STREET GRANT AWARD	\$2,500.00
	MAIN STREET GRANT AWARD	\$2,500.00
	CONTRACT SVCS	\$2,422.13
	FLEET PARTS/SUPPLIES	\$2,395.53
	FLEET SVCS	\$2,176.80
	FAIR 2025 PETTY CASH	\$2,000.00
	EMPL BENEFITS	\$1,988.44
	ARCHITECT SVCS	\$1,814.83
	ESCROW CNTY ROAD 500	\$1,786.40
	JANTL SUPPLIES	\$1,781.04
	CNTY GAS UTILITY	\$1,743.02
	TOWING/REPAIR SVCS	\$1,727.18
	AMMO	\$1,614.64
	OWTS FEES/CELL CONSTRUCT	\$1,605.00
	FLEET SUPPLIES	\$1,515.86
	YOUTH TOBACCO PROJ MPL	\$1,500.00
	FAIR 2025 BAND FINAL PMT	\$1,500.00
	ANN TRUSTEE FEE	\$1,500.00
	SMOOTH ROLLER RNTLS	\$1,482.35
	FLEET PARTS/SUPPLIES	\$1,450.19
	COMP EQUIP	\$1,415.11
	UNIT# 311 PARTS & SUPPLIES	\$1,400.00
	FLEET EQUIP/SUPPLIES	\$1,252.31
	CHRYSLER CHANGE	\$1,200.00
	ID NETWORKS	\$1,163.00
	HTP HORSEPOWER RANCH	\$1,105.00
	ELITE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL	\$1,103.76
	MOREHART MURPHY REGIONAL AUTO CENTER	\$1,063.18
	ARCH CNTY WEED & PEST	\$1,056.00
	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	\$1,023.51
	PS YOUTH BASEBALL	\$1,000.00
	CO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS	\$995.00

DISTRICT COURT
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
 Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Phone Number: 970-264-8160
 Attorney for Plaintiff:
 Daniel L. Fiedler #47916
 190 Tailsman Drive, Suite D-6
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 970-507-8528
 Case Number: 2025CV030034
 Plaintiff:
 MCCULLISS OIL AND GAS, INC. and C.O.T.A. RESOURCES, INC.
 v.
 Defendants:
 PAGLAND INVESTORS, INC., ARCHULETA COUNTY PUBLIC TRUSTEE, PAGOOSA LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION and All Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest In The Subject Matter Of This Action
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF: MCCULLISS OIL AND GAS, INC. and C.O.T.A. RESOURCES, INC.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Plaintiff to Quiet Title Pursuant to Rule 105 filed with the Archuleta

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
 Aug. 4 — Lost/found property, Blue Bell Circle.

Aug. 5 — Warrant arrest, Down and Out Road/Jack Rabbit Road.

Aug. 5 — Dog at large, vicious dog without injury, Ute Drive.

Aug. 6 — Burning prohibited item, littering, Majestic Drive.

Aug. 6 — Information only, Lake-wood Street.

Aug. 6 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Aug. 6 — Information only, County Road 551.

Aug. 6 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, careless driving, fail to yield right of way-emergency vehicle, U.S. 160.

Aug. 7 — Menacing-misdemeanor, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, dog at large, Ute Drive.

Aug. 7 — Information only, Navajo Circle.

Aug. 7 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 84.

Aug. 7 — Information only, Milton Lane.

Aug. 8 — Dog at large, Brook Drive.

Aug. 8 — Warrant arrest, Navajo Trail Drive.

Aug. 8 — Information only, Cat Creek Overlook.

Aug. 9 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Fawn Gulch Road.

Aug. 9 — Information only, U.S. 84.

Aug. 9 — Criminal attempt to commit, internet sexual exploitation of child-pornography material, sexual exploitation of a child-sexting, criminal invasion of privacy, County Road 500.

Aug. 10 — Theft-\$50 to \$300 from building, Bastille Drive.

Aug. 10 — Fourth-degree arson, fourth-degree arson, Raccoon Drive/Oak Drive.

Aug. 10 — Information only, Canyon Circle.

Aug. 11 — Information only, East U.S. 160.

Aug. 14 — Noise ordinance-first offense, Canyon Circle.

Aug. 14 — Crimes against at-risk adult/elderly >70-neglect, Bastille Drive.

Aug. 14 — Impeding traffic, DUI-nonmotorized vehicle, DUI per se, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, U.S. 160.

Aug. 15 — Trespass warning, West U.S. 160.

Aug. 15 — Disorderly conduct-petty, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Aug. 15 — Violation of protection order, information only, Colo. 151.

Aug. 15 — Fraud by check-other method, Cedar Drive.

Aug. 15 — Warrant arrest, Fortune Drive.

Aug. 16 — Failure to appear, Harman Park Drive.

Aug. 19 — Warrant arrest, Aztec Drive.

Aug. 19 — Menacing-misdemeanor, intimidating a witness or victim, Ute Drive.

Aug. 19 — Motor vehicle theft, Carefree Place.

Aug. 19 — Driver's license-driving without, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.

Aug. 22 — Trespass warning, Rec Center Road.

Aug. 22 — Agency assist, West U.S. 160.

Aug. 22 — Sets a loaded gun, trap or device unattended, weapon-prohibited use-drunk with gun, second-degree kidnapping-adult, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, pedestrian drunk on highway, County Road 119.

Aug. 22 — Information only, Jack Rabbit Road.

Aug. 23 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Aug. 4 — Careless driving, Village Drive.

Aug. 4 — Information only, South 10th Street/North 5th Street.

Aug. 4 — Careless driving, failed to notify police of accident, Eagle Drive.

Aug. 4 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Aug. 5 — Criminal mischief, San Juan Street.

Aug. 5 — Careless driving causing injury, Country Center Drive.

Aug. 6 — Second-degree burglary-forced entry-nonresidence, East Pagosa Street.

Aug. 6 — Nuisance/animal running at large, Aspen Village Drive.

Aug. 7 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Country Center Drive, South 5th Street.

Aug. 7 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Aug. 7 — Disturbance, San Juan Street.

Aug. 8 — Stalking-emotional distress-protection order violation, domestic violence, Country Center Drive, South 5th Street.

Aug. 8 — Second-degree assault, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, Lewis Street.

Aug. 8 — Trauma, U.S. 160.

Aug. 9 — Criminal trespass, Eagle Drive.

Aug. 9 — Lost/found property, Hermosa Street.

Aug. 10 — Animal complaint, Brookhill Drive.

Aug. 10 — Failed to notify police of accident, East Pagosa Street.

Aug. 11 — Death investigation, South 10th Street.

Aug. 11 — Theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000-other (includes gas), Pagosa Street.

Aug. 11 — Theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000-other (includes gas), Aspen Village Drive.

Aug. 12 — Wildlife complaint, no location listed.

Aug. 12 — Obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, disorderly conduct-petty, East Pagosa St.

Aug. 12 — Second-degree assault-aggravated-family-weapon, Eagle Drive/North 5th Street.

Aug. 13 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Talisman Drive.

Aug. 13 — Theft/intends to deprive person, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Aug. 14 — Criminal trespass, Country Center Drive.

Aug. 14 — Death investigation, South 8th Street.

Aug. 14 — Vehicle accident no injuries, Talisman Drive.

Aug. 15 — Warrant arrest, South 10th Street.

Aug. 16 — Information only, Eaton Drive.

Aug. 17 — Third-degree criminal trespass, disorderly conduct-petty, obstructing highway/passageway, Eagle Drive/Piedra Road.

Aug. 17 — Trespass warning, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Aug. 18 — Livestock, South 7th Street.

Aug. 18 — Harassment, Apache Street.

Aug. 19 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, South 9th Street.

Aug. 20 — Information only, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Aug. 20 — Follow up, Apache Street.

Aug. 20 — Second-degree motor vehicle theft, South 9th Street.

Aug. 21 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, Eagle Drive.

Aug. 22 — Driver's license-driving without, registration-fictitious plate, no insurance-owner, San Juan Street.

Aug. 22 — Trespass, East Pagosa Street.

Aug. 22 — Warrant arrest, West U.S. 160.

Aug. 23 — Lost/found property, West U.S. 160.

Aug. 23 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Aug. 23 — Attempt to locate, U.S. 160.

Aug. 23 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, South 5th Street.

Aug. 24 — Criminal mischief, Pagosa Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Aug. 11 — Shanna Whitworth, speeding 10-19 mph over PFL, four points off, fine and surcharge — \$162.

Aug. 11 — Timothy Macias, speeding 10-19 mph over PFL, four points off, fine, surcharge and court costs — \$197.

Aug. 11 — Heather Hoskins, failed to yield to oncoming traffic when making a left turn, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Aug. 12 — Christopher Gabbert, open container of alcohol in public place, fine and costs — \$85.

Aug. 12 — Jason Hollar, open container of alcohol in public, fine and costs — \$135.

Aug. 12 — Jason Hollar, prohibited acts in town parks, fine and costs — \$185.

Aug. 12 — Brandon Thraikill, shoplifting, \$70.95 restitution, fine and costs — \$185.

Aug. 26 — Eric Liebl, open container of alcohol in public place, fine and costs — \$85.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

July 11 — Michael T. Nelson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.

Aug. 1 — Gage E. Martinez, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Aug. 1 — Mark Allan Hanna, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Aug. 1 — Raif Leeds Harris, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Aug. 1 — Bianca Gonzalez, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$105.

Aug. 4 — Tapanga L. Blincoe, controlled substance-possession >4 G Schedule 1/2, two years probation, 29 days jail, fines and costs — \$3,178.50.

Aug. 6 — Rogelio E. Craig, careless driving, fines and costs — \$193.

Aug. 6 — Daniel J. Barborich, careless driving, fines and costs — \$238.50.

Aug. 6 — Daisy Faviola Castro-Pina, driving under the influence, 385 days jail, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 48 hours community service, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,985.50.

Aug. 7 — Michell R. Matthews, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Aug. 8 — Haynie Xavior, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$27.50.

Aug. 8 — Ambrose Fermin Valdez, driver under 18-pass not wear seat belt, fines and costs — \$27.50.

Aug. 8 — Limberly Rene Pierce, passed when prohibited, fines and costs — \$170.

Aug. 8 — Richard M. Rostron, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Aug. 8 — Sierra D. Montoya, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Aug. 8 — Marcus Mitchell, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.

Aug. 8 — June Marquez, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Aug. 8 — Juan F. Lucero, driver's license-not in possession, fines and costs — \$83.50.

Aug. 8 — Raziell Jimenez-Santiago, driving under restraint-outstanding judgment, fines and costs — \$81.50.

Aug. 8 — Melissa Jean Holland, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Aug. 8 — John Matthew Gonzales, speeding 10-19 over, moving violation in a construction zone sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$360.

Aug. 8 — Jessica Brandon, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Aug. 8 — Dylan Thomas Bowton, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Aug. 8 — Cameron Jerod Abraham, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Aug. 8 — Barbara Reaze-Saucedo, driver's license-driving without, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$28.50.

Aug. 8 — Ryan Edward Cook, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Aug. 8 — Kyle Arland Wilderson, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Aug. 14 — Terrence John Flaherty, driving under the influence-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,920.50.

Aug. 14 — Jerome O. Davis, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Aug. 14 — Jared Smith, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Aug. 14 — Kaleb Herrera, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.

Aug. 14 — Michael Willam Wisniewski, driving under the influence, 10 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community services, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$868.50.

Aug. 19 — Rachel Mary Factor, defective stop lamps/turn signals, fines and costs — \$50.

Aug. 19 — Andrew Rome, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$83.

Aug. 19 — Nathaniel Widger, license plate improperly attached or not visible, driver's license-driving outside class, fines and costs — \$129.50.

Aug. 22 — Mike K. Kouches, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

No report.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Aug. 18 — Lance Ulery, burglary 2-of building, theft \$300 to \$1,000, two years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.

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 Gems/Minerals - Woodworks - Tie Dye clothing
 Fresh Seasonings - Baked Goods
 Blown Glass Art - Guatemalan Imports
 Handmade Soaps - Jerky and Snacks
Visit our Food Court and dine in our shady picnic area!
Lonchera Don Jose - Authentic Mexican Cuisine
Robert's BBQ - Texas BBQ with the fixins
Downtown
 225 E. Pagosa St.
 HWY 160

 www.esmpagosa.com



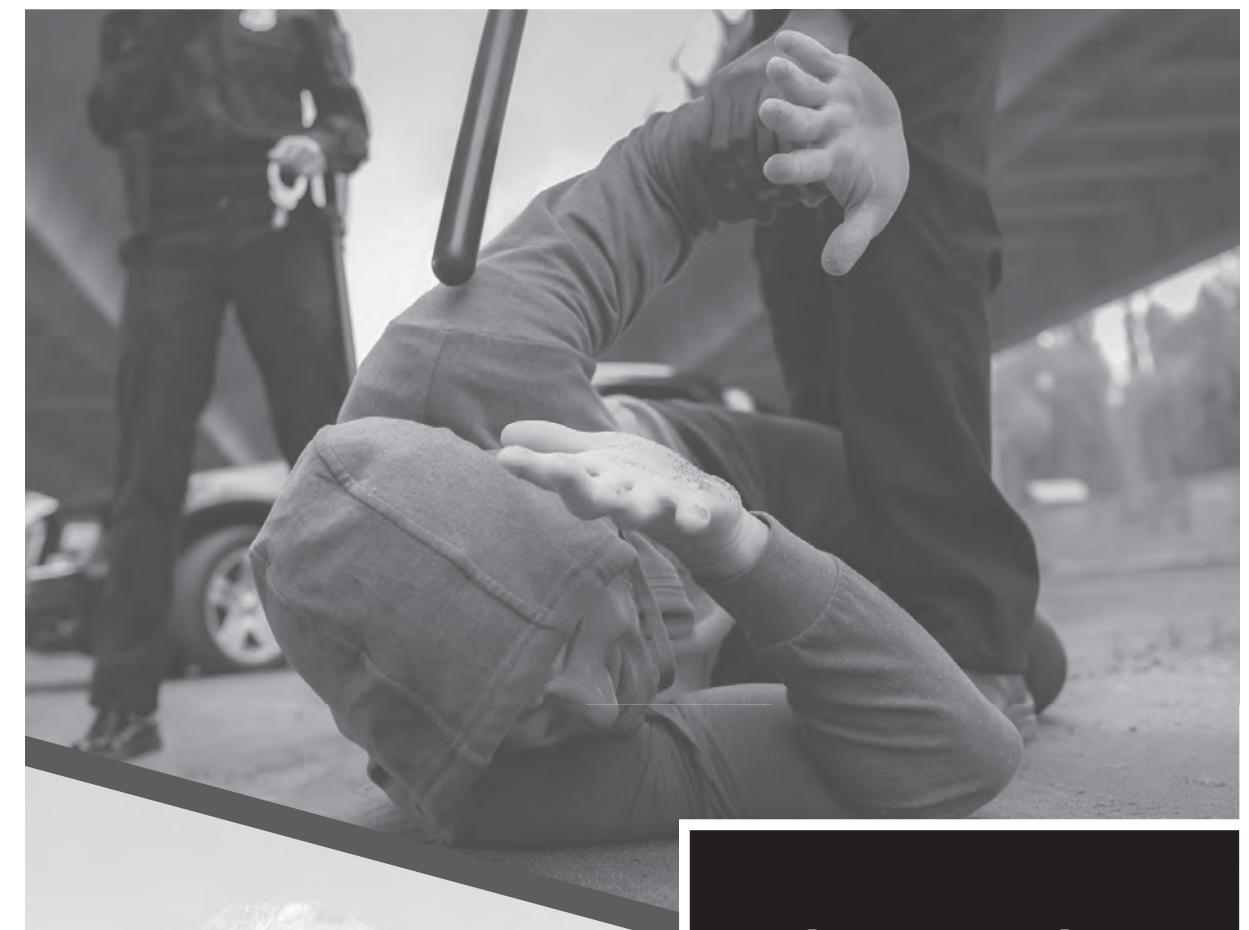
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Results: Sobriety checkpoints concluded in Ouray, Archuleta counties

Colorado State Patrol

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP), along with partner agencies, conducted two sobriety checkpoints to keep impaired drivers off the road last week.

The first was in Ouray County, at U.S. 550 near Ridgeway, on Aug. 22, and the second was in Archuleta County, at U.S. 160, on Aug. 23.

The results of the completed operation are below.

Ouray County

Participating agencies included the CSP, Ridgeway Marshal's Office, Ouray County Sheriff's Department and Colorado Department of Transportation.

The results are as follows:

- Total contacts made: 785.
- Total roadides: 6.
- Total DUI/D arrests: 1

There were no crashes in the area of the Ouray County checkpoint during the operation.

Archuleta County

Participating agencies included the CSP, Archuleta County Sheriff's Office and Pagosa Springs Police Department.

The results are as follows:

- Total contacts made: 670.
- Total roadides: 11.
- Total DUI/D arrests: 2.

There were no crashes in the area of the Archuleta County checkpoint during the operation.

These are the final sobriety checkpoints for August. New checkpoints will be announced for September.

If you plan on drinking, taking medications, or impairing substances that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying at home or making a plan for a rideshare, public transportation, or a designated driver.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact the CSP at *CSP (*277).

Drivers who are caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes and other expenses that can exceed \$13,000, not to mention the social consequences when friends, family, colleagues and employers find out.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Piedra River flows near the Piedra River trailhead on Saturday, Aug. 23. The river flow for the Piedra River near Arboles hovered at 4.74 cubic feet per second (cfs) that morning. Thanks to moisture this week, the river peaked at 14.6 cfs in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Aug. 27.

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Commissioners host meeting with community builders, developers

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissions (BoCC) held a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 20, in which the BoCC invited builders and developers in the county to provide input on the county's Development Services Department on areas it needs to improve, as well as what the department does well.

The meeting began with commissioner introductions, with Commissioner Veronica Medina explaining that the meeting was intended to be "really informal."

"We have a lot of issues but we're also looking for solutions," Medina said, encouraging folks to provide solutions to their concerns if possible.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that he has worked with numerous builders and developers in the county throughout his time in office, explaining that the time has come for the county to look at how to improve its services.

"Because that's government's job, is to serve you," he said, adding that if the county is not doing that, "then we need to do something different."

Commissioner John Ranson commented that the county is "really looking at you all for some ideas and suggestions on what's working and, more importantly, what's not."

He indicated that 80 percent of his phone calls have been dealing with building and planning since he took office in January.

"We're really hoping you guys come forward with some thoughts for us," he said.

Medina explained the county is looking to hire a development director, indicating that when applications start to come in, "I would really love for this community to be a part of that."

She commented that the commissioners don't necessarily know what that position should have in terms of experience and knowledge, but that the builders and developers community does.

"You know what we don't know, and you know what that position really should have as far as experience, knowledge and understanding," she said, expressing she would like a "few" people to participate in that.

Another vacant position Medina referenced is the chief building official.

During a work session held by the BoCC on Aug. 26, Brown indicated that the position had been offered to Randy Betts.

During that same work session, Medina indicated that the county had received seven applications for positions in the Development Services Department.

Some comments expressed by attendees during the Aug. 20 meeting dealt with concerns over the amount of time it has been taking to have their building plans approved.

Brown suggested that it may be possible to have some plan reviews expedited through a different process.

Other suggestions from audience members included using some sort of technological mechanism to help expedite certain plan reviews.

Other audience members suggested the county could hire Betts and start resolving these issues immediately.

Another commenter expressed that he understood the frustrations of local builders, while noting, "I've seen a lot of mistakes by contractors here," adding that "sometimes you miss something."

Other concerns expressed throughout the meeting dealt with building code consistency and having to deal with unfunded mandates put forth by the state.

Brown explained the county is currently operating on the 2015 building code.

Interim Development Director and Planning Manager Owen O'Dell

explained that if any amendments are made to that code by the county, it would then be required to adopt the 2021 code.

Another commenter noted that the county needs to get back to a "commonsense era" in regard to its building codes.

Brown indicated, in relation to staying compliant with new codes that may be coming down from the state, that it is likely not going to get any cheaper for builders and developers before it gets more expensive.

One commenter expressed frustration with the county's Building Department, noting the department has been "so toxic" over the last few years and that builders have been "oppressed for so long" by someone who had a different way of thinking and a "control factor."

In response to comments about the meeting being held in hopes of solutions being brought forward, Medina explained that the county is in the process of creating a Board of Reviews and Adjustments and is currently looking for applicants.

Other ideas discussed during the meeting dealt with the difficulty homeowners are experiencing obtaining insurance either because codes are too restrictive or jurisdictions operating on codes that are out of date.

One idea expressed by Ranson was to have a hiring committee formed to help assist with the hiring process for the vacant positions in the Building and Planning departments.

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Auction for the Animals

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. • Sept. 6 • Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts



Photo courtesy Kat Ochabova

August 28, 2025

Humane Society to celebrate 30 years of Auction for the Animals with pet fashion show

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Move over, New York Fashion Week. This season's hottest runway stars have wet noses, four legs and wagging tails.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs is celebrating 30 years of the Auction for the Animals with a spectacular Pet Fashion Show at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts on Saturday, Sept. 6.

From the kennel to the catwalk, rescue pets will take center stage, showing off their unique style and sharing the stories that brought them there.

This is the nonprofit's largest fundraiser of the year, and it is more important than ever. Construction along U.S. 160 has sharply reduced sales at the Humane Society's Thrift Store, a vital funding source that normally covers half of the shelter's operating budget.

"The Auction for the Animals is a lifeline for pets in need," said Executive Director Elizabeth Kirwin. "Every ticket and every auction bid provides food, shelter and medical care for homeless animals in Archuleta County.

We simply couldn't do this lifesaving work without the community's support."

Guests will start the evening with a complimentary drink and enjoy a selection of hearty small plates. The menu will feature dishes like smoked petite filet medallions and toasted Italian meatballs, along with a variety of vegetarian and gluten-free options. A cash bar will also be available.

Jazz musician Maxwell Miller will set the mood with Frank Sinatra favorites and other timeless classics while guests browse the silent auction.

Afterward, the excitement will continue with a live auction featuring travel packages, gift certificates and handcrafted, rare artwork.

All of the evening's festivities will support pets in need while celebrating the lives forever changed.

For three decades, the Auction for the Animals has saved lives and created thousands of happy endings. Join the celebration on Sept. 6 and help ensure the next 30 years are filled with hope and new beginnings.

Tickets are available now at PagosaHumane.org.

Live Performers

Thursday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Karaoke with DJ Marcus, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock 'N Rebels, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Magi and the One Heart Orchestra, 7 p.m.
Time Out Sports Bar and Restaurant: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Christopher Cody Meacham, 5 p.m.

Monday

Coyote Moon Lounge: High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.

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Blood drive slated for Sept. 16

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The PREVIEW

As I volunteer as coordinator for Vitalant blood drives at Centerpoint Church, I am always learning and marveling.

I am learning more about blood, about the constant need for donations and the various ways we can help.

I am marveling at the transformative power of blood to serve cancer patients, newborns and new mothers, surgery and trauma patients, and folks dealing with blood disorders requiring regular transfusions.

There are four types of blood donations, including whole blood, platelet, power red (double red cell) and plasma.

There are four blood types (A, B, AB and O), which are then further classified by an Rh factor of either positive or negative.

Type O negative is only found in 9 percent of the population, but it is the type which can be given to help patients of every blood type, thus

called the "universal" blood type.

Enough with the facts, interesting as they are.

Here is the call for your help.

Every two seconds, someone needs a transfusion, and they will receive it only if family, friends and strangers have made the choice to donate blood in their community.

Please join us at Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive, on Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and

help in this effort.

There will be free hemoglobin A1C testing done on donations made in September, which can help inform you of your risk for diabetes.

To make an appointment, please contact Sharee Grazda by call or text at (970) 946-2760, call Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 or go online at vitalant.org.

Many thanks, and we hope to see you soon.

Registration open for Young Eagles flights for kids

By Paula Byra
EAA Chapter 1679

Local EAA Chapter 1679 will host Young Eagles flights at Stevens Field, the Archuleta County airport, on Sept. 6 and 7 from 8 a.m. to noon (weather permitting).

Kids ages 8-17 can take a free exploration flight.

Space is limited. Register at www.eachapters.org/event-details/PS1689NJ0.

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Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir will begin rehearsals for its 2025 Christmas concerts on Tuesday, Sept. 9, with the concerts slated for Dec. 12-14.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir's 2025 Christmas Concert rehearsals to begin Sept. 9

By Heidi Tanner
Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir will begin rehearsals for our 2025 Christmas concerts on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

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

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

This year's concerts will be on Dec. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. and on Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.

If you enjoy singing, please join us. It is helpful, but not necessary to read music to participate in the choir.

Our music director, Dan Burch, is a wonderful vocal coach and we provide learning tracks which you can use to practice at home.

Venita Burch, our accomplished accompanist, also assists us in learning our parts and we have plenty of rehearsals to help us prepare.

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

Registration for this year's Community Choir will begin at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

There is a registration fee of \$20 that is used for the purchase of new music and the operating expenses of the choir. Additionally, there are reasonable fees charged for our concert attire,

which can be purchased or rented. Financial assistance is also available for registration and wardrobe if needed. Lastly, students can participate free of charge. Registration and wardrobe fees are payable with cash or check.

Our theme for the 2025 season is "We Need a Little Christmas," and Dan Burch has chosen some wonderful music for us to sing. Look forward to singing Christmas favorites such as "Silver Bells," "The Little Drummer Boy" and the "Hallelujah Chorus," along with some lesser-known and new pieces such as "Even in a Manger."

To get a taste of what you can expect when joining the Pagosa Springs Community Choir, check out our website, singpagosa.org.

We look forward to welcoming you at registration on Tuesday, Sept. 9, starting at 6 p.m. in the band room of Pagosa Springs High School. Our first rehearsal of the 2025 concert season will begin at 7 p.m. sharp. We're hoping to see you there.

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

In "Something Rotten!" Dan Morrison charms as the minstrel, opening the show with a wink and a tune at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Thingamajig Theatre Company's summer season will draw to a close on Aug. 30.

Saturday Night Karaoke Dance Party

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Curtain call approaching for Thingamajig Theatre Company's summer season

By Tim Moore

Thingamajig Theatre Company

The lights are beginning to dim on one of the most exciting summers yet at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Thingamajig Theatre Company's 2025 repertory season is heading into its final week, with only a few chances left to catch two of its most talked-about shows.

Andrew Lipka's bold and jazzy "The Wild Party" closed Aug. 24 after a run that left audiences buzzing. Now, only a handful of performances remain of the Tony-winning "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" — a razor-sharp comedy of manners and misdeeds — and the hit musical comedy "Something Rotten!," which has filled the theater with show-stopping numbers and plenty of laughter.

"This has truly been a magical season, both onstage and off," said Producing Artistic Director Tim

Moore. "We're very proud of the work we've created and shared with the community, and grateful to everyone who came out to be a part of it."

The summer season has drawn together a company of professional artists from across the country, living and working in Pagosa Springs to create theater that feels both intimate and grand. For audiences, it has meant Broadway-level talent in the heart of the San Juan Mountains — an experience that blends world-class storytelling with small-town connection.

'Beetlejuice JR'

As the season closes on Aug. 30, the theater is already looking ahead to its fall and winter lineup, which will be announced soon. In the meantime, young performers have their own chance to take the stage through Thingamajig's Thingamajig WHO Teen Program, which this fall will mount "Beetlejuice JR."

Open to teens ages 13-18 (with

■ See Season on next page

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Photo courtesy Nikki Hedrick

Mischievous energy hits the stage for this performer in the title role in "Beetlejuice JR" alongside the ensemble cast at Emerald Coast Theatre Company. Thingamajig Theatre Company's ThingamaWHO Teen Program will present the production this fall.

Season

■ continued from previous page special requests considered for 12- and 19-year-olds), the program combines dance, vocal and acting lessons with the experience of putting on a full-scale musical.

Classes are designed with flexibility for busy teens — meeting Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., Sept. 7 through Oct. 12, along with scheduled small-group coaching sessions throughout the week. Public performances will take place Oct. 19 and 26, and Nov. 1, with the possibility of an added Halloween night show.

Instruction will be led by a team of Thingamajig's professional per-

formers and educators, including Samantha Luck (visiting professor of musical theater at Fort Lewis College), Trevor Brown, Educational Director Laura Moore and Artistic Director Tim Moore.

Space for "Beetlejuice JR" is limited, and students are encouraged to bring their personal schedules to auditions so rehearsals and performances can be built around availability. Past teen programs have brought "Alice in Wonderland JR" and "Pinkalicious" to the stage. This fall promises to be just as memorable.

Tickets and information for the final summer performances and the

teen program are available at pagosa-center.org or by calling the box office at (970) 731-SHOW.



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Program to explore signs of Alzheimer's

By Jim Herlihy
Alzheimer's Association of Colorado

An estimated 91,000 Coloradans are among 7.4 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, but, sadly, only about half of those are ever diagnosed.

To help address that, the Alzheimer's Association and Pagosa Bible Church will collaborate on a special program, "Let's Talk about Dementia and Alzheimer's," at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28.

"There are many misconceptions about Alzheimer's disease," said Bobbie D'Addario, senior program manager for the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado. "Many people believe Alzheimer's is a natural part of aging. Others do not recognize the 10 most common warning signs that, if spotted early, could lead to treatments that

can affect the course of the disease." While there currently is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, there are other treatable medical conditions that can mimic the symptoms of Alzheimer's, including depression, stress, untreated sleep apnea, side effects of medications, Lyme disease and certain vitamin deficiencies.

"Since there are a number of other medical conditions that can simulate the symptoms of Alzheimer's, it reinforces the importance of seeing a physician if one experiences several of the warning signs," said D'Addario.

Those 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's are:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems.
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks.

4. Confusion with time or place.
5. Trouble understanding visual images and distances.
6. New problems in speech or comprehension.
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.
8. Decreased or poor judgment.
9. Changes in ability to work or socialize.
10. Changes in mood and personality.

The Sept. 28 program will be held at 1 p.m. at Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. No advance registration is required.

To learn more about the information, programs and services provided at no charge by the Alzheimer's Association, go to alz.org or call the association's free Helpline, staffed 24/7 by trained professionals, at (800) 272-3900.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. on Aug. 31 will be "Are you an Earth Angel? Communicating with the Seraphim of Angels, God's Helpers" with Shayla Azriel.

It will be held at the new location, Xanadu Ranch. A love donation will be collected.

Upcoming events

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

- Aug. 31, 11 a.m.: Sunday inspiration at Xanadu. A love donation will be collected.
- Sept. 21, 6 p.m.: New Moon Drumming Circle at Xanadu.

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 Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosa-communitynewthought@gmail.com; or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.



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9 am to Noon

MLS # 824532

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, uptown near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Stunning mountain views. 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.

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

Register at both open houses and you will be entered in a drawing for two \$50 gift certificate to San Juan Eatery.



24 Glade Drive • \$1,225,000
1 to 4 pm

MLS # 826768

Discover an exceptional single-level home in the prestigious Ranch Community, nestled on a sprawling acre-plus lot. Meticulously crafted with every detail in mind, this residence exudes quality and sophistication. The thoughtful design features three spacious bedrooms and two bathrooms, seamlessly integrated with an open-concept kitchen, dining, and living area—perfect for modern living and entertaining. The kitchen has top of the line Samsung appliances, and leathered granite countertops. At the end of a tranquil road, this home offers serenity and convenience, with Lake Pagosa just a short stroll away and a golf course nearby.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>



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San Juan Stargazers to meet Sept. 4

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

On Thursday, Sept. 4, the San Juan Stargazers will hold their monthly educational meeting, and we invite everyone to a going away party honoring Ann Marie and Rex Kemp.

The meeting will include a going away party to honor and thank the Kemps at 6 p.m. during our social hour.

We meet at the United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. Please use the convenient parking lot and side door that leads into the kitchen and then fellowship hall. (We keep the front doors to the church sanctuary locked.)

The Kemps have been hard-working members since 2016, especially at the club's summer night sky programs at Chimney Rock. But, most importantly, Ann Marie Kemp has been our education director in charge of our use of the Great Courses.

The educational handouts at our meetings are not published by Great Courses; they were written by Ann Marie Kemp using the book and video presentations. She did a tremendous amount of work and probably learned more than anyone else in the club.

The Kemps will be greatly missed, but will be moving to Wisconsin to be near their children. If you have known them, please feel welcome to

join us to wish them the best.

At 7 p.m. we begin our educational program, which this month will be a presentation from the Great Courses. It is the program that we did not do in August because we got sidetracked by the night sky program. It will be exceptionally interesting about the beginning of our solar system.

A star is formed when the critical mass is achieved for a nuclear reaction to begin. The material that remains becomes the planets of the solar system, and the interesting part is how this happens. How do the planets form? In what order? Is it by location or size? There are a hundred questions to be answered, including if it happens the same way for every solar system. This will be a very exciting presentation and, I think, an unforgettable one.

Night sky programs

We still have two more night sky programs at Chimney Rock National Monument.

Our only Saturday night program will be on Aug. 30, with the gate opening at 6:30 p.m.

Our last night sky program will be on Sept. 19, with the gate opening at 6:30 p.m.

These are not only for out-of-town guests, but locals are always welcome and do not need a reservation. If the monsoon rains continue, we can use the visitor center since we never cancel our programs.

The loss of a member and a family activity

I have sad news to share that member Wayne Walls passed in August. Wayne and Nancy Walls always came with their son since astronomy was their family hobby.

That is a great idea to have an activity for everyone to do together. Our club is also especially good for kids who are home-schooled.

The Stargazers provides access to extraordinary science learning opportunities not only for the value of education, but valuable togetherness for the family to share having a "big picture of life in our universe."

Joining the Stargazers

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers you will also receive Reflector Magazine (again with hard copies), which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member.

To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per individual or family. You can join the club at any of our meetings or on our website.

Check out our continuously changing website, sanjuanstargazers.org, with new information and spectacular photos.

We can be your connection to our extraordinary universe.

Registration open for Oct. 4 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo

Healthy Archuleta

The upcoming Archuleta Health Fair and Expo will be held Oct. 4 at Pagosa Springs High School.

This will be the third consecutive year for the health fair to be offered to the community. It has proven to be a very important part of helping our community stay focused on its health care needs and the overall health of their families.

A number of health care organizations will return this year and will be providing essential screening services. Some of the services to be offered will include hearing screenings, oral health screenings, breast cancer screening, labs, and vaccinations for flu and other needs.

Additionally, health-related information booths, health care organizations, food vendors, wellness vendors and community-based organizations will be available for attendees to connect with throughout the morning.

Take advantage of the free screenings, low-cost lab work, the vaccination clinic and access to several health care providers that can help guide you through health care programs that will suit your medical and wellness needs.

Healthy Archuleta recognizes that not everyone has the time to address their own health care needs due to their commitments and responsibilities. The Archuleta Health Fair and

Expo aims to create an event that provides the community with the opportunity to take a more invested role in its own health care.

It is important that we take time to take care of our own health and wellness, so that we are able to help our families, friends and neighbors when they may need support. Attending events such as the health fair brings attention to the importance of focusing on personal wellness and staying connected with our local health care system.

Registration is now open at <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html>, and we encourage you to register today.

If you plan to sign up for lab work, check the schedule for labs, which will be held from 7 to 10 a.m., and sign up for the time that works best for you.

There will be a delicious farm-to-table lunch again this year, prepared with locally sourced meats and produce. So, make sure you sign up for lunch when you complete your registration.

Last year, there were more than 320 registrants for the health fair, so we encourage you to register early.

You can register online at <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html> or click on the "2025 Health Fair & Expo" button on Healthy Archuleta's

website.

We look forward to this year's Health Fair and Expo and hope to see you there as well.

For additional information about Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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Flip for a good cause at fourth annual free community pancake breakfast

By Rob Foster and Rick Walker
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs and Vets-4Vets of Archuleta County

Get ready to flip, stack and savor as Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County (Vets4Vets) and the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs serve up fun, food and community spirit at the fourth annual free community pancake breakfast at Stevens Field Airport on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, from 8 to 11 a.m.

This beloved community tradition promises to be more than just a delicious breakfast — it's a celebration of community, service and a little pancake trivia fun.

While you're enjoying a stack of fluffy pancakes, here are a few fun facts to chew on:

- Did you know pancakes date back to ancient Egypt? That's right—archaeologists found pancake remnants on 5,000-year-old cooking tools. Pancakes have been fueling civilizations for millennia.

- The highest pancake toss on record soared to an incredible 31 feet. That's over three stories high — though we'll be keeping things a little closer to the griddle at Stevens Field.

- Ever heard of Pancake Day? In many countries, the day before Lent is celebrated with pancake flipping contests, races and, of course, indulgent breakfasts.

- Competitive eaters have pushed

pancake records to new heights. The current record for most pancakes eaten in one hour is a staggering 113 pancakes. (Don't worry — we're not expecting anyone to attempt this feat at the breakfast, but we're ready if you're hungry.)

But beyond the syrup and smiles, this breakfast has a deeper purpose. Vets4Vets is dedicated to supporting local veterans and their families, offering services focused on wellness, empowerment and self-sufficiency. From wellness check-ins to arranging transportation to appointments, Vets4Vets ensures that no veteran feels left behind.

"We serve pancakes, but, more importantly, we serve those who have served us," said Vets4Vets president Rick Walker. "This breakfast is a way to bring the community together, honor our veterans, and spread awareness about the resources and support available."

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs lives its motto "Service Above Self," awarding more than \$564,000 in scholarships since 1982, building homes, cleaning up our community and supporting local nonprofits.

Together, we turn generosity into lasting change.

The breakfast is free to the community, with donations gratefully accepted to support Vets4Vets and Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs programs.


Attendees can also learn more about upcoming meetings, volunteer opportunities and how to get involved with both organizations.

So, mark your calendars, bring your appetite and come join a heart-warming event that flips the focus back to community.

Whether you're a pancake pro or just in it for the syrup, the fourth annual free community pancake breakfast is a can't-miss morning of fun, food and fellowship.


For more information about Vets-4Vets and its ongoing efforts to support local veterans, visit vets4vetsspco.org.

To learn more about Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs and its projects, visit PagosaSpringsRotary.org.



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MLS 825434

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About:

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Mark Espoy

970-946-6658

mark@markespoy.com

'Do the next thing'

By Joyce Holdread
Special to The PREVIEW

What do you do when life slings sudden, raw suffering into your lap? Elizabeth Elliot was a 20-something, slightly-over-two-years married woman living in a tropical jungle with her husband and four other missionary couples when she learned that her husband and the other men had just been speared to death on the banks of the Curaray River in eastern Ecuador.

Do you scream or weep inconsolably? Slip into numbing shock? Dissolve in hopeless despair? I'm sure some of all that happened, especially in the initial stages of her grief. Moreover, she lived in a hut in the middle of a rainforest, surrounded by her husband's killers, probably with no immediate route of escape and limited means of communication with the outside world. It was 1956, and she had a 10-month-old infant daughter, Valerie, to raise — alone.

She decided to stay right where she was for the next few years and work at learning the language of her "enemies." She also labored at heart work — to forgive them. She engaged

A Matter of Faith

with two Huaorani women who taught her the Huaor language. During this time, Elizabeth developed a writing system for the Huaorani language, which paved the way for a translation of the New Testament by other linguists years later.

One of the two women who helped her learn the language became a Christ follower and, returning to her village, opened the way for Elizabeth and her daughter to live among this primitive tribe, some of whose members were the very murderers of her husband.

Eventually, she and Valerie returned to the United States and Elizabeth began a writing career, as she had already gained notable success with her first book, "Through Gates of Splendor," the story of the establishment of the mission outpost and the violent deaths of the five missionary

■ See Faith on next page

Ideal back-to-school gift for your youngsters

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff



Do you know the value of a home library for your youngsters? Research shows that kids who have books in their home have improved vocabulary and overall reading performance; do better in math, science and social studies; perform better on standardized tests and are more likely to go to college.

Those are impressive skills for your child to cultivate — and they are especially relevant now that Archuleta County kids are heading back to school.

Another valuable tip to help your youngster be successful in school and in life is reading aloud. You are stimulating language and literacy skills, as well as building motivation, curiosity and memory.

The free storytimes at your library can help build a love of reading in your children. Storytimes are a great way for them to have fun while building the literacy skills they need to become independent readers.

With back-to-school in our thinking, this may be a good time for parents, grandparents and other caregivers to make a personal resolution to help build home libraries for your little ones.

Library closure

Your library will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day.

Construction update

Here's the latest news on your library's construction project from Barb Brattin, library director:

"The walls are shaking outside my office as the trusses come down from the east side roof and the walls on the east side of the library disappear. They'll be digging out the footings

around the crawl space next and the first of September we will begin to see the foundation for the library addition. We are right on schedule to open the new library June 2026.

"Thanks to everyone for feedback on how to make it easier to visit. Though we can't do anything about the traffic backups on Hwy160, we can report these improvements: New signage will label the public parking lot west of the library Library Parking. We're also adding a sign on the construction gates facing 8th St. with parking information.

"A grant application has been submitted to LPEA's Round Up program to fund an additional book drop for the outside of the library building. This will serve as a convenient drop off point for after hours, especially for our downtown and east side residents. The Friends of the Library have generously offered to supplement any award we might receive from LPEA to get the drop installed.

"As well, a grant opportunity from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development section looks promising to fund new public computers. And in keeping with our commitment to a sustainable future, we are pursuing grants from the Colorado Energy Office to install several EV charging stations in the new library parking lot as well as solar panels on our roof.

■ See Library on next page

Faith

■ continued from previous page
men. She went on to host a daily radio program, became a sought-after speaker in global venues, was invited to be one of the consultants for the NIV (New International Version) translation of the Bible (her university degree was in ancient languages) and ended up writing more than 20 books.

Some years after her return to the U.S., she married a professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where she later also taught. However, she was shortly again bereaved as this husband died about four years later. At the age of 51, she again married, this time a hospital chaplain, and they traveled and ministered together until her death in June of 2015. Beyond her writings, her legacy also includes her daughter and son-in-law, and eight grandchildren.

Throughout all the ups and downs of her life, and the subsequent anguish and uncertainty, Elizabeth coined the phrase, "Do the next thing," as a way to find anchor in the midst of present, blinding pain and also hope that her life held purpose for tomorrow. But this was possible because she trusted a loving God, in spite of all circumstances, who was guiding, undergirding, reshaping and opening the way for her future.

She died of complications from dementia that she consciously knew was incrementally robbing her of her mind, yet she made the daily choice for a decade to "do the next thing" as she leaned into the heart of God.

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.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Vague feelings
- 6 Like some cheddar
- 10 "As ___ say...."
- 14 Steer clear of
- 15 Bridges of Hollywood
- 16 Male protagonist
- 17 Less common
- 18 Whiskey, for one
- 20 Some film artists
- 22 Chill-inducing
- 23 Long-snouted critter
- 24 Says "No thanks"
- 25 Craigslist abbr.
- 27 Legalese adverb
- 30 Secure, as a contract
- 32 Signal flags at sea
- 36 Do a host's job
- 38 Nothing
- 39 Playground item
- 40 Hypothetically
- 43 Wrapped up
- 44 Courtroom breaks
- 46 Narrow opening
- 47 Military rank indicator
- 50 Slender candle
- 52 Pleasant odor
- 53 Match up
- 57 Card for a sweetie
- 59 "Lou Grant" portrayer
- 60 Tree of life site
- 61 Hudson, for one
- 62 Rodeo contestant
- 63 Take a load off
- 64 Horn sound
- 65 Looks like

DOWN

- 1 Wang of wedding wear

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
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52						53	54						55	56
57						58				59				
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

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- 2 ___ the Terrible
- 3 Some deep voices
- 4 Accumulation of fluid
- 5 Angel with six wings
- 6 Revulsion
- 7 Backpack filler
- 8 Corn units
- 9 Fizzled firecracker
- 10 Entrance
- 11 Ones named in wills
- 12 Bert's pal
- 13 Oxen joiners
- 19 Obituary listings
- 21 1980's sitcom, "Family ___"
- 24 Domino dot
- 25 Gymnast Korbut
- 26 Catty comment
- 28 Sends forth
- 29 Financial hub
- 31 Disadvantage
- 33 El Paso's river
- 34 Teacher Krabappel on "The Simpsons"
- 35 Slip through the cracks
- 37 Boring tool
- 41 Hole-in-one
- 42 Calender period
- 45 Catches, in a way
- 47 Thrifty sort
- 48 WTO's concern
- 49 Casting slots
- 51 Borden "spokescow"
- 53 Tuscany ta-ta
- 54 Not taken in by
- 55 Be rife (with)
- 56 Misses the mark
- 58 Amtrak purch.

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	C	I	D		A	M	M	O		T	R	A	D	E
B	A	N	E		L	O	O	N		N	A	D	I	A
A	L	E	S		A	V	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	S
T	Y	P	E	W	R	I	T	E	R		S	P	O	T
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U	L	T	R	A		D	O	N	E		I	N	T	O
G	E	E	S	E		A	R	T	Y		A	T	O	P

Library

■ continued from previous page

"Whew! We are busy! Stop by and see us - we have lots and lots of new books for you to enjoy."

Activity locations are changed

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

Please check the listings in this column and on your library's website, <https://pagosalibrary.org>, for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

No more book donations, please

Regretfully, 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.

Online author talks

Our free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in August with one more talk for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording later this month.

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

Today, Thursday, Aug. 28, at noon will showcase organizational psychologist Dr. Tasha Eurich discussing how to thrive in a world of constant chaos.

There also will be three online author talks in September, beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 3, when Nicole Maehrer will discuss "On Writing Darkly Charming Villainous Love" at 5 p.m.

LEGO play Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to the free LEGO build on Saturday, Aug. 30, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours.

Family storytime

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

Writers Guild

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

During construction the group will meet at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enter through the left side of the building.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available
■ See Library on next page

Live Your Colorado Dream!



3 bedroom, 2 3/4 bath, 2 car garage, 5+ Acres with a large barn & amazing views of the North and East ranges of the San Juan Mountains. The unfinished basement was finished in 2016 and the 2,376 Square foot barn was also built in 2016. The house has new stain, the garage has new paint and the roof was replaced in 2018. The floors are porcelain upstairs and natural stone downstairs. The deck is 3/4 wrap around and the views of the San Juan Mountain Range are stunning. Large kitchen with a separate dining area.
MLS #827474 \$850,000



33 Fawn Court
\$949,000

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>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

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



471 Deer Trail
\$356,000

MLS # 826138

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.



109 Carol's Curves
\$294,000

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.



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.



1119 Hills Circle
\$500,000

MLS # 827227

This is a very cute 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with a 2 car attached garage. Across the street is an access point to enter National Forest. This is a very well-maintained home at a good price. The master bedroom is on opposite sides of the house from the guest bedrooms, and the colors are warm and inviting. This home is close to town and shopping, put it on your list.



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Library

■ **continued from previous page**
 from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources. No appointment is needed, but please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

English as a second language

Free in-person evening classes happen 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 at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.. Please help us pass the word about these classes.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free individualized 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.

Virtual legal clinic

Registration will open Tuesday, Sept. 2, for this month's free legal clinic. Participation is by appointment for Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 2 to 3:40 p.m. for you to meet with a volunteer civil attorney by phone.

To schedule an appointment, phone (970) 264-2209. When you call, let us know if you need a translator. Registration is required because space is limited.

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.

Poetry

"100 Poems That Matter" is an anthology of classical and contemporary poems collected by the Academy of American Poets. Included are works by Emily Bronte, E.E. Cummings, Kahlil Gibran, Audre Lorde and Emily Dickinson. "Love Poems" by Nikki Giovanni is a collection that contains romantic, bold and erotic poems by one of America's most celebrated and controversial writers. They include the revolutionary "Seduction" and the whimsical "I Wrote a Good Omelet."

Travel guides

We have eight new travel guides: Insight's Spain, DK's Florence and Tuscany, DK's South Africa, DK's Greek Islands, Rick Steves' Italy, Lonely Planet's Italy and DK's Hawaii, as well as Southwest Canyon Coun-

try's Best Nature walks by Roddy Scheer.

Other nonfiction

"North to the Future" by college student Ben Weissenbach describes an offline adventure in Arctic Alaska with some of the state's most distinguished scientists. "How to Think About AI" by Richard Susskind draws on his experience working on AI since the early 1980s. "Top Ten Ideas of Physics" by A. Zee presents the biggest ideas in physics. "Original Sin" by journalists Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson explores President Joe Biden's decision to run for reelection despite health and age issues. "A Different Kind of Power" by Jacinda Ardern is the memoir of the former prime minister of New Zealand.

Mysteries and thrillers

"Last Twilight in Paris" by Pam Jenoff explores the connection between a necklace, department store and death. "Don't Forget Me, Little Bessie" by James Lee Burke features 14-year-old Bessie Holland as the story's narrator. "Long Island Compromise" by Taffy Brodesser-Akner begins with the kidnapping of a wealthy businessman.

Other novels

"It's Not the End of the World" by Jonathan Parks-Ramage looks at life in 2044. "Austen at Sea" by Natalie Jenner tells of two Boston women in 1865 who sail to England to meet the author's brother. "I'll Be Right Here" by Amy Bloom is a saga of a multi-generational family. "Fever Beach" by Carl Haasen begins when a man picks up a hitchhiker. "The Cardinal" by Alison Weir explores the rise in power of Henry VIII's chief adviser. "Dream State" by Eric Puchner opens with a wedding in Montana that has long-lasting repercussions.

"The Odyssey" by Homer is a new translation of the classic. "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" by Robert M. Pirsig is the 50th anniversary edition of this highly influential American classic. "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry features a woman dealing with a male-dominated society in India. "The Lady, the Tiger and the Girl Who Loved Death" by Helen Marshall is a dark fantasy about the conflict between love and jealousy. "The Accidental Favorite" by Fran Littlewood un.masks decades-old resentments at a family reunion. "Beyond This Place of Wrath and Tears" by Jack Ford explores the life of a female reporter in World War II.

"Promise of Unbroken Straw" by Ken Steele is a coming-of-age story sparked by a financial windfall. "Wayward Girls" by Susan Wiggs features young girls in a Catholic reform school. "Devils" by Joe Abercrombie is a fantasy about the blurred lines between good and evil. "The Sirens" by Emilia Hart is a fantasy about the bonds of sisterhood. "Things I Didn't Do" by Karin Anderson begins when

a child falls from a loaded pack mule in Utah. "Someone Like Us" by Dinaw Mengestu is about an Ethiopian seeking to understand a hidden family history.

DVDs

"Bones of Crows" is told through the eyes of a Cree woman who survived Canada's residential school system. "No Address" follows a group of homeless people. "The Wedding Banquet" is a Korean romantic com-

■ **See Library on next page**

HUD Publisher's Notice



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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Stay hydrated with produce

By Joan Ward
PREVIEW Columnist

Produce, like zucchini, watermelon, and many more fruits and vegetables, are heroes of hydration. A big challenge for seniors is getting enough water to be well-hydrated. Dehydration makes many health conditions worse, and makes you lethargic and weak.

The body needs to be about 70 percent water for good blood flow, for organs to work well and to help fight off some kinds of infections. It's not just water that helps you stay hydrated — many fruits and vegetables are also good ways to get enough water.

Enter zucchini, for example. This time of year, zucchini is abundant, and home gardeners are happy to share (read: unload) their extra zucchini. You've heard the joke not to leave your car unlocked or you might find a bag of zucchini on your front seat. Or that there is a neighborhood zucchini angel, leaving zucchini at your front door. Home gardeners can't seem to resist having several zucchini plants, even though they'll never use all of it themselves.

It's good news for you, though. Zucchini is about 97 percent water and very low in calories. It's a great addition to meals and snacks. Try zucchini as sticks and dip; chopped with other vegetables in a salad; lightly sauteed with oil, onion and garlic; or in a breakfast egg scramble. Baked, as in zucchini bread, reduces the water content, but still is worthwhile because zucchini contributes vitamins and minerals to your diet.

Fruits such as watermelon, grapefruit, cantaloupe and berries are good water sources. All the salad greens, celery, radishes, bok choy, cucumbers, tomatoes, spinach, and many more are high in water content (think how much watering gardeners need to do for those vegetables.)

Aim for three to five servings a day of high-water fruits and vegetables to help keep yourself hydrated. And watch for the zucchini angel in your neighborhood.

Library

■ continued from previous page
edy. "Brave the Dark" is based on a true story of a teacher trying to help a self-destructive student. "Crawl" is a thriller about the aftermath of a hurricane in Florida. "How to Train Your Dragon" is the Dreamworks hit. "How to Turn Your Passion into Profit" with Tara McMullin is a four-disc set. "How to Paint" with Professor Rocky Allman is a Great Courses four-disc set.

Quotable quote

"My dad, a very stern Scotsman, loved me dearly but he never hugged

Senior News

September program: 'The Gift Of Aging'

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) will have a guest speaker on Sept. 25 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center.

Marcy Houle will present the topic of "The Gift of Aging."

She will discuss frontline science and the insights of aging with health, joy and purpose.

More details will follow in future articles. It is free to attend, just like all our other programs and activities.

Senior Conversations

With the Labor Day holiday, Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmonsohn will move to Thursday, Sept. 4, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center.

It will return to Mondays the following week.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the

Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

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

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

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

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

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.

■ See Senior on next page

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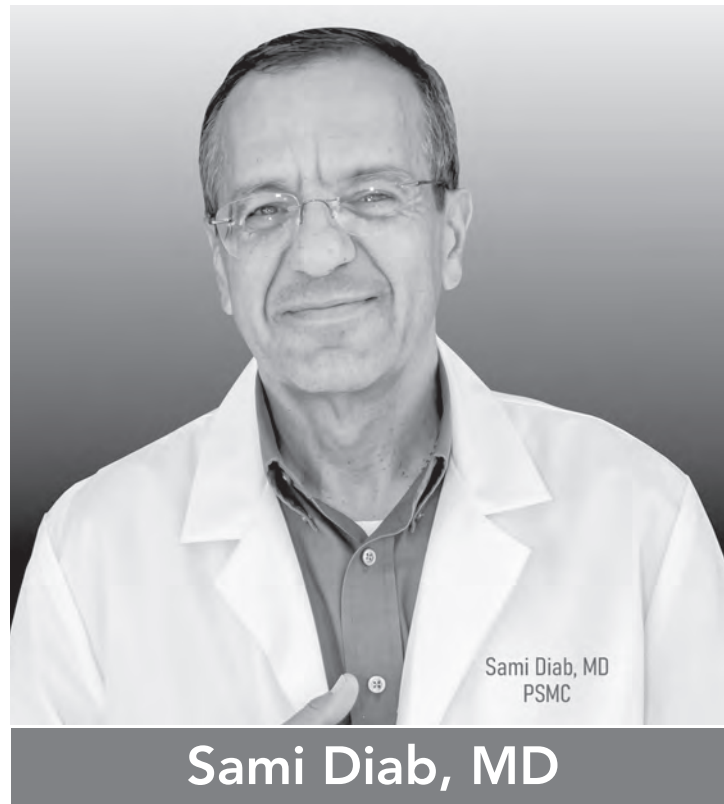
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Senior

■ continued from previous page Bridge

The game of bridge is hosted on Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. It has also been added on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and 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

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

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ruby's Writers Guild

The Ruby's Writers Guild meets on Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The Guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. We support writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join us.

Tai chi

Tai chi classes are being held at Yamaguchi Park on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. through September.

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 aged 55 and better, and class will last approximately one hour. No special clothing or equipment is required.

Bingo

The Senior Center usually hosts free community bingo games twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join the group on Sept. 5 and 26.

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.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Monthly birthday celebration

ASI celebrates seniors' birthdays once a month in the dining room. Join us on Sept. 12 for sweets and refreshments, and a little fun.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Silver Fox's Den in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9

a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call before 9 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed at short notice.

Thursday, Aug. 28 — New Orleans sausage and corn chowder, southern biscuit, beets, garden salad, fruit, Mississippi mud pie, and milk.

Friday, Aug. 29 — Cod Florentine, sweet potato, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Monday, Sept. 1 — Closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 2 — Shrimp and grits, zucchini saute, garden salad, pistachio fruit salad, and milk.

Wednesday, Sept. 3 — Chicken enchilada casserole, pinto beans, Spanish rice, garden salad, fruit, biscochitos and milk.

Thursday, Sept. 4 — Sliced ham with cherry sauce, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, fruit, brownies and milk.

Friday, Sept. 5 — Philly cheesesteak on hoagie with peppers and onions, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt, and milk.

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. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Moun-

■ See Senior on next page

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The Labor Day Holiday originated in 1882 to create a day off for working citizens.

HAPPY Labor Day

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Pagosa Community Initiative launches school supply drive to help local students

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative is honored to lead our town's effort to equip local students for the new school year.

Our annual School Supply Drive kicked off Aug. 1 and runs through Sept. 8, giving families and students a vital head start as they prepare for classrooms, projects and new teachers.

This drive is about more than just backpacks and pencils. It's a statement that our community stands with every student and family who works hard to meet the demands of a new school year. We're focused on building confidence in our students by making sure they have the essentials from day one.

The items we're seeking include notebooks, pens and pencils, erasers, crayons and markers, rulers, backpacks, binders and folders, calculators, glue sticks, and scissors. No contribution is too small; every donation moves us closer to ensuring a strong start for a child.

To make participation easy, drop-

off locations are spread throughout Pagosa Springs. You can bring supplies to The Pagosa Community Initiative Studios, Wyndham, Kip's Grill and Cantina, Rosie's Pizzeria, and Riff Raff Brewing.

For those who prefer to give from home, online donations are welcome at www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

We understand that families often face tough choices, especially at the start of a new school year. That is why we emphasize that generosity, in any amount, makes a real difference. A gift to this drive helps us keep more backpacks filled and more students ready to learn. Our hope is that the community will rally together to support our students, teachers and families through these weeks of preparation.

If you'd like more information or wish to arrange larger donations, please contact Pagosa Community Initiative at 550B Hot Springs Road or call (970) 585-6521. We're grateful for every donation, every volunteer hour and every kind word from supporters who believe in the potential of every child in our town.

As we work together, we are confident this drive will strengthen our classrooms, empower our students and reinforce the sense that Pagosa is a community that shows up for its youth. Thank you for your generosity and support.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page
tain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

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/>

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.

New, starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without itemizing on your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, non-itemizers can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filers and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.



HEALTHY SELF

THE BENEFITS OF READING FOR YOUR OVERALL HEALTH

In today's multi-media oriented world, will we soon lose the skill of reading? Today, I can listen to an audiobook or watch a do-it-yourself video to learn how to assemble something, rather than read the manual. Is all of this ease helping or hurting me? Consider that question as you read today's excerpt.

According to a survey conducted by an independent publisher, Jenkins group, reading regularly after finishing school has dropped drastically.

Over thirty percent of high school graduates never read a book for the rest of their lives, and 42% of college graduates never read a book after college.

The survey also found that 80% of American families did not buy or read a book in the year that the survey was conducted. Of course, it makes sense.

Only a generation or two ago, reading was the most common form of passive entertainment before the rise of popularity in television, video games, and the Internet.

Still, while many of us may have hated reading in school, simply because it was foisted on us involuntarily, there are many reasons for picking up a book during your down time. Here are a few.

Increased Ability to Empathize with Others. According to one series of studies, regularly reading fiction increases your ability to understand social situations with greater depth. It makes you more able to empathize with individuals who are very different from you.

Improved writing and general communication skills, two key job skills. One of the key job skills that employers have most recently lamented as deficient among new hires is their inability to communicate proficiently in writing. While you don't have to be a William Shakespeare to get a job these days, it definitely helps to be able to write clearly and concisely. And there are only two ways to substantively improve your writing skills: by reading and writing.

Source: "The Benefits of Reading to Your Health." By Brett Blumenthal

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

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." Romans 15:4

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

GRILLIN' AND DISTILLIN'

Photos courtesy Jeff Laydon

Scene ... enjoying music and food at the inaugural Grillin' and Distillin' at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds on Aug. 23, which featured competition, dancing and more.



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 mountain bluebird.

Skiers relish those bluebird days, ones with cloudless skies the color of this western bird. Sky blue, paler on the underside than on the back, is the color of the adult male mountain bluebird. Gray-brown females and immatures are a little trickier to identify. Their blue shows up only in the wings and tail.

In summer, mountain bluebirds inhabit much of western North America that has open areas with grasses, shrubs and some trees. They are found up to 12,500 feet in elevation and breed as far north as Alaska. In our area, their range overlaps that of the western bluebird, whose males have rusty-orange color on the breast and flanks, and who are typically found in more wooded, lower-elevation habitats.

Like other bluebirds, mountain bluebirds are ground feeders, foraging for a variety of insects and spiders. They watch from perches for food on the ground or on vegetation, and will fly out to snatch prey in mid-air. Unlike others, they also hover over the ground like mini kestrels while watching for movement below. This energy-intensive hunting style is used when food is scarce.

Secondary cavity nesters like this one compete fiercely for nest sites. Tree swallows, western bluebirds, house wrens, chickadees, house sparrows and European starlings are among the other species all looking for a similar spot to nest. Female mountain bluebirds are thought to choose a mate solely on the location and quality of the nesting site that a male shows her. Constructed nest boxes have provided a population boost for this and other cavity-nesting birds.

Mountain bluebirds arrive on breeding grounds early, which confers an advantage in claiming a suitable cavity. The downside of this strategy is the danger of arriving when they may encounter late snow storms and freezing temperatures. They can withstand short spells of winter weather, but risk starvation and freezing during prolonged ones.

As breeding season ends, these birds gather in flocks. In winter they depart from high-elevation and northern areas for warmer temperatures, where they feed on a variety of small fruits and seeds, including those of juniper, mistletoe, currants, cedars and sumac. Their winter range varies from year to year depending on food supply.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheadubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/.

Backyard ideas on a budget

Special to The PREVIEW

Many people enjoy the possibilities that outdoor living offers and admit they would spend more time outside if the exterior spaces of their homes featured more amenities.

According to a 2024 survey by Allstate Protection Plans, Americans love outdoor living and entertaining. Seventy-six percent of those who own outdoor products use their backyards, porches, patios or balconies at least three times a week.

It's clear people from all walks of life value time spent outdoors, but many homeowners cannot afford a major backyard overhaul. Thankfully, there are budget-friendly upgrades anyone can embrace to maximize style and function.

Source thrift shops

Thrift shops are ideal places to find gently used items for the yard. Scour the aisles for patio sets, planters and more at deeply discounted prices. If you can't find a matched set, look for patio pieces that have similar lines and materials to create a cohesive look and feel.

Grab some pallets

There's an entire craft offshoot involving the repurposing of pallets acquired from warehouses or hardware stores. Pallets can be transformed into everything from

■ See Budget on next page

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Tuesday-Sunday
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GEOLOGY TRAIN:

September 7

ADDITIONAL FALL DEPARTURE TO OSIER:

9:00am Departure by Train & Return
 September 20, 27 &
 October 4, 11 & 18

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Aug. 28

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

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 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.

Online Author Talk: Dr. Tasha Eurich. Noon., virtual. Dr. Tasha Eurich will discuss how to thrive in a world of constant chaos. For details

and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. 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.

Labor Day Kickoff Concert. 5-7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Golf Club. Soul-Fire will play classic rock, blues, soul and country. The \$10 ticket supports the Archuleta County Fund of the Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado. There will also be a silent auction, and food and drink for purchase. No outside food/drink or pets allowed. For more information, visit www.swcommunityfoundation.org/labor-day-kickoff-concert/.

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 '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).

Friday, Aug. 29

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10 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 an-

■ See Calendar on next page

Budget

■ continued from previous page
tables to sectionals to benches. Visit www.instructables.com/Pallet-Furniture/ for building ideas, or check out YouTube video tutorials offering tips on getting started. Pallet furniture can be much more affordable for those on tight budgets, particularly since pallets are often free.

Lend a hand

Taking on some of the backyard renovations yourself can save money. Speak with a contractor, mason or landscape architect to see if you can pitch in to lower costs. You might be able to tear out existing landscape to reduce

labor expenses so that the professional can come in and get started right away.

Reuse and refresh

While thrift stores are one place to find inexpensive outdoor living items, you also can transform older furniture or hand-me-downs with some sanding and a coat of paint. Breathe new life into found items with paint, fresh cushions and enthusiasm.

Renovating an outdoor living space is achievable in a budget-friendly way with some creativity and know-how.



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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
cient 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.

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.

Lecture: 'The Chimney Rock Great House and Chaco Regional System.' 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Dr. Susan Ryan will present as part of the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association's lecture series on "The Chaco Phenomenon."

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).

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football. 7 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Kirtland Central.

Saturday, Aug. 30

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.

Garden Adventures. 9 a.m., Pagosa Springs Community Garden. Make a stained "glass" windows using nature and craft supplies.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, call Marie Rascoe at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Great House Tour. 10 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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 1 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Sanford.

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. 8:15-10:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This 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 adults, \$10 for kids 5-12, and free for those under 5. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Sunday, Aug. 31

Great House Tour. 10 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.

Monday, Sept. 1


Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 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.

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cient 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.

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Mon-

■ **See Calendar on page 21**



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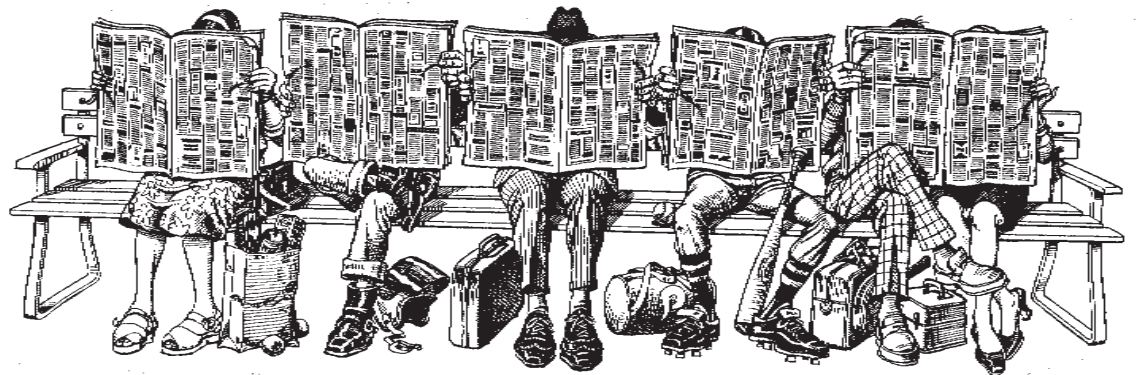
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 19

ument. 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.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who are experiencing the hardship of divorce or separation. It features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or call the church at (970) 731-2205. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 2

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Great House Tour. 10 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., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. 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.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5-7:30 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the

anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

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 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 5-7:15 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.

Online Author Talk: Hannah Nicole Maehrer. 5 p.m., virtual. "On Writing Darkly Charming Villanous Love" with Hannah Nicole Maehrer, TikTok star and bestselling author of "Accomplice to the Villain." For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Thursday, Sept. 4

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Great House Tour. 10 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

■ See Calendar on next page

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August's Educational information is Top 5 Hidden Dangers after a House Fire

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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.

Nonprofit Tips, Tricks and Treats: Board Recruitment and Orientation with Briggen Wrinkle. Noon-1 p.m., Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Join the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado for sessions to get nonprofits together for networking, idea sharing and helpful tools for organizations. Feel free to bring lunch; dessert will be provided.

Senior Conversations. 1:30 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. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. 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.

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San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by an educational presentation at 7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football. 7 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Centauri.

Friday, Sept. 5

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 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.

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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.

Saturday, Sept. 6

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.

Free Community Pancake Breakfast. 8-11 a.m., Stevens Field Airport. Enjoy food, fun and community spirit. A fundraiser for Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County and the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, call Marie Roscoe at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Great House Tour. 10 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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys'
■ **See Calendar on next page**

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Classified Advertising: Tuesday, Sept. 2, 10 a.m.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN will be closed
Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Soccer. 11 a.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Aztec.

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.

30th Annual Auction for the Animals. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. The evening will include a pet fashion show, food, drink, live music, silent and live auctions, and more. Tickets are \$110 and are available at Pagosa-Humane.org.

Sunday, Sept. 7

Free Community Pancake Breakfast. 8-11 a.m., Stevens Field Airport. Enjoy food, fun and community spirit. A fundraiser for Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County and the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs.

Great House Tour. 10 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.

Full Moon Program. 7:30 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Combine the Full Moon Program with an early, guided tour

of the Mesa Village Trail to create a four-hour event. The cost is \$25. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Monday, Sept. 8

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 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.

Great House Tour. 10 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.

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.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who are experiencing the hardship of divorce or separation. It features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or call the church at (970) 731-2205. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

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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Accumulating stuff we can't let go of

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

In the writers' group, we were presented with five prompts to loosen our creative memory and write.

"Take 15 minutes to jot down a story or experience. We'll have fun reading them. Choose one."

I chose, "What were you thinking?" Several writers chose the same prompt.

"What were you thinking?" became stories about accumulating junk and being burdened by stuff with no benefit for us today. It's amazing what we've collected over a lifetime that seemed important at the time we acquired it.

Some of us began scaling down in our 70s. I refused to go to any more garage sales no matter how enticing they were. In the past, I bought things because they were a good deal, never to use them, only to store them away. What was I thinking? It was a bargain, and that made it OK.

My Sweet Al isn't there yet. He wants to go to garage sales. He's still hanging on to things. He finds enjoyment sorting through his little purchases, looking at them, moving them around and forgetting where he put them.

At 80 and 90, who has the physical

Artist's Lane

energy to do anything with all that stuff? Our kids worry that they will be saddled with our fun and frivolous years of collecting. They have already warned us that a roll-off dumpster is on its way and they will send our special finds to the dump. Our treasures mean little to them.

One writer said she had five waffle irons. What was she thinking? Another writer talked about the filing cabinets filled with slides, pictures that can't be used today. Another had made friends with her books and she couldn't let go. After all, they were friends.

It's all interesting since the majority of our writers' group is between 60 and 90 years old. Everyone has gathered so much stuff they will never use, but can't turn loose.

That is how it is with my art. I have five cabins filled with oil and water-color paintings and painted furniture. I still have art supplies, every size of

■ See Lane on next page

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OMG is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. For more company information, please go to our website at www.orourkemediagroup.com.

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.

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- 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.

Colorado's programs aim to aid student well-being during back-to-school season

Colorado Behavioral Health Administration

For many students and their families, back-to-school season is exciting and anxiety-producing.

This year, the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) is working with schools and communities across the state to highlight resources that can help students start the year strong and thrive, both mentally and academically.

"When children and youth have easy access to high-quality mental and behavioral health support, our school environments and families get stronger," said Dr. Kelly Causey, BHA deputy commissioner.

I Matter is the state's flagship program supporting youth mental health, offering free therapy sessions, regardless of insurance coverage, to students across the state, both in-person and virtually.

Since its launch in 2021, nearly

70,000 free sessions were provided to more than 16,000 children across all 64 counties in Colorado.

To get connected with a trusted provider, parents and students can visit the I Matter website in English and in Spanish (imattercolorado.org and yoimportocolorado.org), and sign up for the I Matter newsletter to stay up to date on new information and resources.

The BHA continues to raise awareness for this vital program through ongoing collaboration with schools, providing educational and promotional materials so that students and families know that they are never alone when they need support the most.

For kids and parents who may be struggling, the 988 Colorado Mental Health Line complements I Matter with immediate, 24/7 support for emotional, mental health or substance use concerns.

For the first time this year, thanks

to recent legislation making 988 Colorado's primary 24/7 lifeline, the 988 resource will appear on student ID cards across the state alongside Safe2Tell contact information.

For more information, visit bha.colorado.gov/gethelp.

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Why pay more?

Lane

■ continued from previous page
frame, a mat cutter and mats, 50 art books on how to paint using different techniques. I could never pass up a good bargain on a frame. Never knew when I might need it.

In my cabins sit two art tables and three large easels. One easel belonged to a well-known artist, Claire Goldrick. She probably wondered where that big beautiful easel was. How can I turn loose of that one? She did, but I can't. None of my art supplies have been used since I started my new creative endeavor, writing. I haven't picked up a brush for the last 10 years. But when someone says, "Just have a garage sale and sell your paintings for \$10 each," I recoil inside.

It has become a moot conversation, with a strong, "No." My art represents 50 years of my life. I love my paintings and I'd rather give them away than have someone buy them because they are a bargain. They need to love my art. If they don't, then it's not for them. My life isn't a bargain or a garage sale find. Oh, me. What has become of "Me?"

I am very aware that the dumpster is waiting in the wings to take my art things away. It's just a matter of time before I step off stage for another leading actor to take my place, namely my son.

"What were you thinking?" The writing assignment stared me in the face. I couldn't turn to my own undoing with my art, so I turned to my muse, my Sweet Al. He is always a story to be told. I immediately remembered the conversation I had with my daughter over the weekend.

I asked her, "Have you seen the closet? Your dad's shoes are scattered all over the closet floor. What was he thinking?"

"I don't know."

I asked Al what he was thinking—why his shoes were out of the rack and on the floor?

He had a reasonable answer. "I was trying to find a pair for church."

"Yikes. You have taken all 48 spaces in the three racks. Four pairs of cowboy boots on the top of the shoe rack, not worn in years, and winter boots lined along the wall, not to mention totes of hunting boots.

You have every kind of tennis shoes imaginable, polished wingtips, black and brown Florsheim from the '50s, slip-on loafers and six pairs of house shoes. Your shoe fetish has gotten out of hand. Surely you could've found one pair to wear to church."

There's always a reason. Maybe not rational, but a reason. I think I know what Al was thinking. In his hey day, he was a very successful salesman. He never left the house without his shoes polished. He believed that his polished shoes made him look successful and he sold more insurance. He was successful because his shoes were polished.

In his younger days, he would sneak a new pair of shoes into the house. He would put them high in the back of the closet. On occasion, he'd pull a pair down from the almost out-of-reach shelf. When I asked him where he got those shoes, he would reply, "Oh, these old things, they've been up in my closet forever."

So, there you have it. Al's shoe fetish takes up one closet we share, my art takes up five cabins. We can't turn loose of them.

Final brushstroke: Well, I know where I'm going to start purging. I'm going start with Al's shoes. I'm going to bag them up and give them to the homeless. They will love them and will look successful.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT at Sunlight Camp. Love Speaks —Speakers from Monte Vista. September 26-28. Register at pcwomenretreat.org.

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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ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST. Join our team and help support our mission to provide a safe haven for animals in need, promote adoptions, humanely reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs, support lifelong pet ownership, and to educate the community. We are seeking dedicated and compassionate team members. The ideal candidates will have a strong passion for animal care and welfare, with experience in handling various types of animals. As an Animal Care Specialist, you will play a crucial role in ensuring the health and well-being of the animals in our care while providing exceptional service to our clients. Highlights of position: **Please see our website for position details** <https://pagosahumane.org/join-our-team/>. Pay: \$16.00 -\$17.00 per hour DOE. Expected hours: 32 per week — weekends are required.

ANIMAL SHELTER MANAGER. Join our team and help support our mission to provide a safe haven for animals in need, promote adoptions, humanely reduce pet overpopulation through spay /neuter programs, support lifelong pet ownership, and to educate the community. **Overview** This is not your average desk job — it's a dynamic, hands-on leadership opportunity to manage a dedicated team, ensure the highest standard of care for our animals, and innovate strategies that increase adoptions, reduce length of stay, and grow our foster program. If you're ready to lead with purpose, we want to hear from you. **Please see our website for position details** <https://pagosahumane.org/join-our-team/> Ready to Make a Difference? Submit your resume and a short cover letter telling us why you're the right fit for HSPPS. Help us continue to raise the bar in animal welfare — and be part of something extraordinary. Job Type: Full-time. Pay: \$55,000.00 -\$65,000.00 per year DOE.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CDL DRIVER. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring a CDL Driver. This is a full-time position. Duties include deliveries, loading /unloading trucks, and helping customers. Requires the ability to drive a stick shift and have a Class B endorsement. We offer paid time off, medical, dental, vision, prescription, 401(k) and Profit Sharing. Please apply at Ponderosa Lumber 2435 Eagle Dr. (970)731-4111.

CITY HALL CAFE, now taking applications for servers. Apply in person.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is expanding our crew. We are seeking a general laborer. Starting pay is \$18-\$20 per 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 fill out an application.

HELP WANTED

\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS*

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.
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.

*Bonus paid \$500 after 90 days and \$500 after 6 months.

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

Cole Plumbing

24/7 Service
EMERGENCIES SAME DAY
in most cases

Boiler service & repair
Tankless water heater
specialist

Adam 575-574-7284
Located in Pagosa Springs

**Retractable
Awnings**

(505)539-6021

**Remodeling
Security Checks
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High Meadows Properties, LLC
Call today (970) 403-2263

**Kitchen Deep Cleaning
Now Offered!**

Pagosa SPARKLES
Detail Oriented, Trustworthy
& Reliable Cleaners
For All Your Housekeeping
& Window Cleaning Needs

Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446

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Tree trimming and felling
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WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL
Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience
REFLECTIONS Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 -FREE estimates.

Blueprints

Have your plans drawn now.
Don't wait!
Be ready to start your house,
barn, garage or deck on time.

Call Rick
946-1737

**CUSTOM
HOMES**

BWD
(970) 731-9700

HEALTH

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.

PagosaSUN.com

Email us at
classads@pagosason.com
to submit your classified.

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.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

Terry's ACE
PAGOSA'S 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 \$22/hr. depending on experience

Benefits include health insurance, paid time off, profit share, discounts and more.

Apply in person Monday-Friday

Applications on terrissace.com

Join us in serving our Pagosa community!

BANK OF THE SAN JUANS
DIVISION OF GLACIER BANK

Part-time New Account Representative Teller

Do You LOVE Where You Work? We Do!

Come work for a company that genuinely cares about its communities and celebrates its employees. We are seeking a professional individual with strong customer service skills and cash handling experience to join our team and working 30 hours per week. Banking experience is a plus. Are you ready to make a difference? Apply Today and be part of a company that prioritizes its people!

Apply online at www.glacierbancorp.com.

Bank of the San Juans is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DONATIONS RECEIVING SPECIALIST. Job Highlights Please see our website for position details <https://pagosahumane.org/join-our-team/>. The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store is looking for a donation receiving team member to help cover our new uptown donation drop off center and work shifts at the downtown location. Hours and pay will be flexible according to what responsibilities and experience candidates bring. This can be a fast pace job with a lot of movement throughout the day. It requires repeatedly lifting heavy boxes and furniture. The ideal candidates will also assist with furniture pickups and drive a box truck. Clean Driving record for a minimum of 5 year is required. Job Types: Full -time, Part -time. Pay: \$16.00 - \$17.50 per hour.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

HELP WANTED

WINTER WORK!

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
Winter Seasonal: November - April

Lift Department
Base Operations/Parking
Ski School
Food & Beverage - Baker - Barista
Rental
Retail - Ticket Office
Snow Removal - Grooming
Custodial & Building Maintenance
Ski Patrol
Onsite Call Center/
Customer Service - Snow Reporter

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF \$19/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience

Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment

Send applications and resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

WOLF CREEK
THE MOST ENJOY IN COLORADO!

HOMETOWN INSURANCE is looking to fill a full-time receptionist /administrative assistant position to add to our existing team. Prior experience is required. Must be detail oriented, able to multi -task and proficient in Google Docs, Sheets, Excel, Word and Adobe. Phone and typing skills are a must. Our ideal candidate will have a friendly and warm personality while being professional, responsible and motivated. A customer -oriented approach is essential. Send resumes with references to info@hippsllc.com.

JAND 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.

JANN C. PITCHER REAL ESTATE is hiring an office support position. Must be friendly and dynamic. Tech skills helpful, people skills crucial. Part time to possibly full time. Contact Blue Pitcher Lindner at (970)946-1877 or (970)731-4065.

HELP WANTED

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

KITCHEN ASSISTANT. Entry level food preparation and packaging for Archuleta Seniors Inc, Pagosa Springs Senior Center Community Café. Join our positive professional team in a commercial kitchen dedicated to serving the seniors in our community. Hours 7a.m. to 3p.m., part time with weekends off, PTO and health stipend. Competitive pay and daily meal provided. Potential for advancement though in-house training. Call (970)264-2167 or stop by to pick up an application.

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 \$16/ hour, part-time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LINE COOK POSITION Hiring a **part-time line cook** starting August 15th. Experience preferred. \$20 /hour. Send resume to: theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com or call (970)731-1162.

LOOKING FOR PART-TIME maintenance help. 20 hours per week. Please email hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

LOOKING TO HIRE an experienced equipment operator for new residential construction. Great pay, flexible hours. Call Luke, (970)946-3966.

MOUNTAIN EYE CARE IS HIRING. Come join our great team. We are looking for an optometric technician. Position involves working with patients and doing optometric testing. Looking for someone who is motivated and works well with others. Please stop by our office, or reach out to our team at (970)731-4347, or email mountaineyecare@gmail.com to apply.

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@ourorkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OFFICE MANAGER NEEDED. We are seeking a detail -oriented Office Manager to support two affiliated companies in the construction industry. This role involves overseeing daily office operations, managing AP/AR, handling HR and other compliance requirements, and providing excellent customer service. We offer competitive pay and a supportive team environment. Send your resume to info@fullertonworks.com or call (970)403-5119.

HELP WANTED

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL is hiring a morning and afternoon aid for our Preschool class. Please contact Molly Sprowle at (970)398-0064.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN SCHOOL is hiring an Upper Grades Part-time Teacher/Aid, and Substitute teachers. Please contact our Headmaster, Mr. Aaron Longmire, for position details at (920)585-6494.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH — Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover to join our team. No prior experience necessary. Benefits include paid holidays, paid sick leave, 401 k plan, and a profit-sharing program. Please submit resume to RMPT 117 Navajo Trail Dr, Ste T or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com.

PLUMBING APPRENTICE — Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Assist plumbing projects & gain education/experience toward licensure. Install, repair, and maintain systems per industry standards. Supervise laborers and maintain excavation /site prep. \$24.33 per hour. To apply, contact: Alpine Plumbing, Attn: Amy Fresquez, 512 E McCabe St., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or alpineplumbingamy@outlook.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE for Service Department Assistant. Computer skills a must. Monday – Thursday 7a.m. to 6p.m. Apply in person at Piedra Automotive, 505 County Road 600, Pagosa Springs.

REGION 9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT is seeking a FT Office Manager for Durango location. Looking for professional and productive team player with at least 2 years relevant work experience. Position requires dependability, efficiency, strong customer service and computer skills. This is an in-office position with some travel required. Salary \$24-27 per hour to start with benefits. Submit resume/ cover letter/references by 5pm, Friday, September 5th to laura@region9edd.org and to request job description. EOE. Learn more about us at www.region9edd.org.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SALESPERSON WANTED. Local radio station looking for a self-motivated, friendly individual to join our team. If you enjoy working with people, building relationships, and helping businesses grow, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Christie at christie@kwf.com for more details.

SEEKING CONSTRUCTION MANAGER for our new Pagosa home. Lot is in Town, utilities in. Send qualifications: lkenlaz@gmail.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST — Video-Forward Storyteller Wanted. The Springs Resort is searching for a creative Social Media Specialist to capture and share the magic of our hot springs and resort culture. This is an on-site, video-forward role: you'll concept, shoot, and edit, post, and promote social content that stops thumbs mid-scroll while engaging with our online community. If you have 2+ years of hands-on experience creating high-performing social content, know your way around Meta and TikTok, and thrive in fast-moving environments, we want to see your work. Send your resume plus portfolio to marketing@pagosahotspings.com.

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.

THRIFT STORE ASSOCIATE. Join our team and help support our mission to provide a safe haven for animals in need, promote adoptions, humanely reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs, support lifelong pet ownership, and to educate the community. Pagosa Springs Thrift Store. This role is crucial in ensuring a positive experience for donors and customers, which in turn supports our mission of helping animals in need. **Highlights of Position: Please see our website for position details** <https://pagosahumane.org/join-our-team/>. Join us in making a difference in the lives of animals and their people by leveraging your customer service and organizational skills. Apply today to become part of our dedicated team! Job Type: Full-time. Pay: \$16.00-\$16.50 DOE per hour. Expected hours: 32-40 per week. Join our team and help support our mission to provide a safe haven for animals in need, promote adoptions, humanely reduce pet overpopulation through spay/neuter programs, support lifelong pet ownership, and to educate the community.

WINGS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER is seeking an Executive Director to lead 10+ teachers and 70+ children ages infant to 5 in an enriching, nature-based program that offers quality, child-led education with love and respect. We especially appreciate an early childhood education degree with childhood development and administrative experience. Find a full job description at WingsEarlyChildhood.org. Salary \$60-75K. Email resume to Director@wingsearlychildhood.org.

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

ASPEN AND PINE DRY FIREWOOD for sale. (719)937-8707.

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 or text, Kathie (303)358-6218.

GAS -POWERED HUSQVARNA BRUSH SAW and Stihl pole pruner. Both in good condition. \$100 each OBO. Good for restoration /fire mitigation work. Text (970)903-9897.

MOUNTAIN MEADOW GRASS HAY. \$8 in the field, \$10 in the stack. Call (970)946-1581.

NEED FIREWOOD? Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$600. 1 cord loads \$300. Pine/Fir mix. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

NEW GARAGE CONTAINER, \$6,200. New single doors, starting at \$4,500, delivered. Cash or rent to own. Pagosa Springs Storage, (970)731-0007.

SAMSUNG TV, 52". In good condition, pic-in-pic smart tv, four ports, \$250. Call Dave, (970)946-0761.

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).

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES. Ready 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, \$5,500, great condition. 1995 Arctic Cat 580 EXT, 429 miles, \$500. (817)896-3284.

WANTED

WANTED: OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR MACHINE for home and portable /travel. All sizes considered. (830)798-6407, text or leave voicemail.

AUTOS

2002 SUBARU FORESTER. Good condition, high miles, garaged. New tires. \$2,800 OBO. (970)903-2492.

2008 HONDA FIT. 131,000 miles, no issues, mechanically sound, well maintained, second owner. \$6,500 OBO. (602)579-1928.

2010 FORD TAURUS SLE, 97,000 miles, \$9,000, firm. 2008 Dodge Dakota SLT, 27,000 miles, \$20,000, firm. Can be seen by appointment. (970)903-5789.

2010 SUBARU FORESTER XT. New dealer engine, new turbo, struts, tires, radiator, battery, etc, Price reduced, \$6750. (970)946-1700.

2013 TOYOTA RAV4 Limited. Runs and drives perfectly, 180,000 miles. \$9,500. Text (970)946-6446.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES

BARN SALE. 92 Everest Court, Meadows 4, Saturday, August 30, 9a.m. -2p.m. Something for everyone. Lots of horse tack, cash only.

ESTATE SALE. Friday, August 29 — Saturday, 30 in Arboles. 8a.m. -2p.m. Furniture, tools, guitars, kitchen items, and so much more. 94 Eagles Pl. in Arboles.

MOVING SALE Friday, August 29, Saturday, August 30. 8a.m. to 2p.m. 65 Caballero Dr. Pagosa Springs. Queen bedroom sets, pictures, hunting, camping items. 3 sets snowshoes. snowblower, love seat with chair. 12x 16 portable shed.

MOVING SALE: All must go, priced to sell, Friday, August 29, Saturday, August 30, 8a.m.-2p.m., 645 Twin Creek Cir. (off N. Pagosa), home decor, wall art, tools, yard, sporting, kitchen, designer clothing, games, much more, text: (843)458-0839.

MOVING SALE. Used furniture, garden tools, small appliances, new King bed frame in blue fabric, 2 Trek bicycles, miscellaneous other. Saturday, August 30, 9a.m. - 3p.m. 81 Laguna Pl., off Saturn.

YARD SALE. 391 Mesa Dr., Saturday, August 30, 8a.m. -2p.m.. sports equipment, bicycle, craft items, furniture, lots of odds-n-ends.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

FLEX -INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE Space Available. Flexible commercial /industrial 1,000 sf space on the western side of Pagosa Springs available September 15. Comes with overhead garage door, side door, and bathroom. It will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized. Tenants in compound include building trades, UPS, light manufacturing, and artists. Rent is \$850/mo. Please contact Jessica at raswheeler@gmail.com.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 -\$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

WINTER STORAGE AVAILABLE in large 3200 space. Vehicles and household goods. You pick the size \$1.20 a sq. ft. (720)470-2653.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOMS. Call (720)869-8877. Hickory Ridge Apartments.

3 BEDROOM, 2 FULL BATH condo, very nice, great uptown location, one or three month lease. \$2,400 per month plus deposits, utilities included. Available immediately. Call Gary, (970)585-4415.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view, furnished. \$1000 rent, \$1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers. No pets. (970)264-6797.

BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM /2 bath home for rent on acreage with amazing mountain views, sunsets and direct National Forest access and only 5 miles down Hwy. 84 from Pagosa. Two story home with lots of room for the family and space to work remotely. Hike or bike right from the front porch. Available September 1. \$3,000 per month and includes utilities except propane. Don't miss this opportunity to rent an amazing Pagosa property which includes an unoccupied chicken coop and greenhouse. Call or text (970)398-0573 for more details.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

DOWNTOWN OLDER 3 BEDROOM 3 bath home. One small dog allowed. Available for viewing with appointment. Call (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to view home. Available around September 10.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

LAKES AREA, LONG -TERM RENTAL. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, newer property, totally furnished. Asking \$2850 per month. Call Candace, (970)264-4447.

LARGE 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH doublewide MOBILE HOME, 800 Prospect Blvd. Covered deck and double carport. \$1,850/month. No pets. Call/text (970)585-6494.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaproperties.com.

MONTH TO MONTH studio apartment. 1 bath, Unfurnished but with a Murphy bed . Washer dryer. Unit is for sale and must be available for showings. Utilities included. Call (970)731-8599 or visit the website teampagosa.com. Available now.

PANORAMIC VIEWS. OFF-GRID, one bedroom cabin in Cabezon Canyon near Chimney Rock National Monument. AWD required in winter, full bath. \$895 per month plus utilities. (970)883-2600.

QUIET, RESPONSIBLE FEMALE plus small dog looking for long -term housing alone. (970)902-3145.

RURAL 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 car garage. Call (970)731-8599 or visit the website: teampagosa.com. Available NOW!

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How to make mental health matter

Special to The PREVIEW

Mental health is now discussed more openly than it once was. Mental illness or issues that affected mental health used to be stigmatized, and many people suffered in silence and might not have gotten the help they needed.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) reports more than one in five adults in the United States lives with a mental illness. Mental illnesses include many different conditions that may vary in degree of severity, from very mild to severe. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health advises that, in any given year, one in five Canadians experiences a mental illness as well. Such statistics highlight just how common mental illnesses are.

The NIMH notes self-care plays a significant role in maintaining mental health and supporting recovery.

People can safeguard their mental health in many ways, and doing so will improve their overall health as well.

• Spend time in nature. Nature can have a calming effect on people. Going for a walk can help tame stress and break patterns of nega-

tive thinking. In Japan, the concept of forest bathing is said to improve mental health. Forest bathing involves spending time in a forest or another green area experiencing the different sounds, sights and smells that nature offers.

• Set boundaries. B2B Reviews says 12 percent of U.S. workers were fully remote in August 2023. Estimates suggest that number may have increased to around 14 percent by 2025. Working from home can make it more challenging to set firm divisions on time spent working and for home life. Establishing boundaries means not being available 24/7 for calls or emails and not feeling guilty about taking time away from work.

• Get regular exercise. Just 30 minutes of exercise each day can get feel-good endorphins flowing through the body to boost mood and bodily health.

• Get more sleep. Adults generally need between seven and nine hours of sleep for optimal health and reaching deep sleep phases, according to the Mental Health Foundation. Creating consistent sleep routines that include going to bed and waking at the same time each day; avoiding screens before bed; and avoiding caf-

feine or vigorous exercise late in the day can help improve sleep.

• Try relaxing activities. Relaxing activities can include reading, listening to music, meditation, or low-stress crafts and hobbies. Make time each week for these calming pursuits.

• Socialize with others. Socialization provides opportunities to see others and talk about anything you want to get off your chest. People feeling stress or anxiety might think they are alone. But having conversations with others can illustrate that these are common problems and there are solutions. Sometimes just talking about an issue can help you overcome it.

• Use your vacation time. Too many people are not using enough of their deserved and accrued time off. A survey from the financial services company Sorbet found that 62 percent of Americans don't use all of their paid time off. A Pew Research Center survey found that nearly half of U.S. employees with paid time off take less time than their employers offer. Failure to take time off is a recipe for burnout. Mental health should be a priority.

Safeguarding mental health can involve various self-care techniques that anyone can employ.

Device-free activities families can enjoy at home

Special to The PREVIEW

Family time is an umbrella term that can encompass a range of activities, but it generally involves parents and children spending quality time together away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Finding distraction-free family time has always been challenging, but it might be even more so in the modern world, where a device with internet access is seemingly always within reach.

A January 2024 report from Parks Associates indicated the average United States household with internet access had 17 connected devices in 2023. Though such devices have become integral parts of the daily lives of billions of people across the globe, tablets, smartphones, smart watches and other items can make it hard for families to enjoy distraction-free time together.

With that in mind, families can consider the following device-free ways to enjoy one another's company:

• Designate a night each week for board games. Classic board games like Monopoly, Scrabble and many more don't require an internet connection, making a family board game night an ideal way to disconnect and spend time together. Even if the

competition gets heated, there's still plenty of time for families to catch up and discuss what's going on in their lives, an important benefit that's not always so easy when devices are commanding everyone's attention.

• Get out in nature. Routine afternoons spent in Mother Nature is another great way for families to disconnect and spend time together. Whether it's an afternoon spent at a local beach or river, or a family hike through a nearby park, the great outdoors provides a wonderful excuse to put down the devices and reconnect in a beautiful, natural setting.

• Get in touch with your collective creative side. Families with a knack for producing their own creations can host periodic family craft nights as a fun and productive way to spend time together away from their devices. Tie seasonal celebrations like Halloween and the holiday season into craft-making sessions. Let a different person choose a craft before each session, or make it a contest to determine who can make the biggest, funniest or most complex decoration.

• Cook together as a family. Dinner can be an unenviable chore in busy families, but parents can designate one night each week when the family cooks together. Sunday night cooking sessions might make the best sense, as kids' schedules are

more likely to be free on Sunday than any other day during the week. That makes Sunday afternoon and early evening a great time to catch up on the previous week and spend time together without devices.

Families looking to spend time together away from their devices can do so in any number of ways.



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