



Ballots to be mailed June 8 for primary election

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

The ballots for the state's June 30 primary election will be mailed to active voters beginning June 8.

Unaffiliated voters, as well as voters affiliated with the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Unity Parties of Colorado, will have the opportunity to vote in the primary.

Coloradans who are registered to vote and are affiliated with the Colorado Democratic Party, Colorado

Republican Party, Libertarian Party of Colorado or Unity Party of Colorado by June 8 will receive only the ballot of the party with which they are affiliated.

Unaffiliated voters will be sent a ballot for both the Democratic and Republican Party primary election. They may also contact the county clerk to request a Unity Party ballot.

Unaffiliated voters may only vote one ballot.

According to the Colorado Secretary of State, see **Ballots A9**

BLM implements Stage 1 fire restrictions

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Additional fire restriction have been implemented for southwestern Colorado.

On May 29, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office implemented stage 1 fire restrictions due to dry conditions and high fire danger, following the U.S. Forest Service and Hinsdale County in implementing restrictions in the area.

Fire restrictions were implement-

ed on and around May 22 for the lower-elevation areas of the San Juan National Forest, the Upper Piedra area of southern Hinsdale County and La Plata County.

According to the BLM, its restrictions apply to all BLM-administered public lands within the boundaries of Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan and San Miguel counties, and the of Canyon of the Ancients National Monument until rescinded.

"Fire danger indices within the area are high, and the risk of fire is significant," said BLM District Manager. "We are implementing these restrictions to protect public lands and the communities that surround them."

See **Restrictions A9**

Class of 2026 earns more than \$1 million in scholarships

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) students, staff, family and friends gathered at Golden Peaks Stadium on Saturday, May 30, to celebrate 81 graduating seniors as part of the 116th annual commencement.

The class of 2026 had 12 students earn the distinction of gaining a 4.0 GPA: Reeve Wren Belarmino, Xyra

Jade Villanos Belarmino, Leah Nicole Blackman, Alexis Rose Campbell, Kylie Jade Chavez, Milo Anderson Deitemeyer, Dylan Ruskin-Holtz Dempster, Jenna Patricia Jenkins, Kaila Nollynn Limebrook, Kathryn Hastings Martin, Hayden Aleta Peterson and Truman Valin Vasek.

The class had six students earn the distinction of a 3.9 GPA: Faith Marie Aloha Domingo, Anja Marie Elizalde, Jade Villanos Belarmino, Leah Nicole Blackman, Alexis Rose Campbell, Kylie Jade Chavez, Milo Anderson Deitemeyer, Dylan Ruskin-Holtz Dempster, Jenna Patricia Jenkins, Kaila Nollynn Limebrook, Kathryn Hastings Martin, Hayden Aleta Peterson and Truman Valin Vasek.

See **Scholarships A7**



SUN photos/Randi Pierce
Archuleta School District graduates from Pagosa Springs High School (top) and San Juan Mountain School (bottom) celebrate their achievements by tossing hats and moving tassels at the end of their respective commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 30.

Residents voice concerns over drilling projects at Arboles community forum

By **Clayton Chaney**
Staff Writer

A group of constituents gathered in Arboles last Wednesday, May 27, for a community forum hosted by Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina.

See **Forum A8**



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney
Commissioner Veronica Medina takes questions from constituents during a community forum at the TARA Community Center in Arboles on Wednesday, May 27.

Suspect identified in damage to U.S. 160 reconstruction

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

A suspect has been identified in connection with the damage done to freshly poured concrete on the U.S. 160 reconstruction project that occurred Tuesday evening, May 12.

The damage was caused by a scooter being ridden through the

construction site.

According to an email from Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) Chief William Rockensock, a suspect was arrested on May 25 for the concrete incident.

Rockensock identifies the suspect as Thomas Dornfeld, 66, of Pagosa Springs, and states Dornfeld "was charged with criminal mischief 18-4-

501(1)(4)(E), a class 5 felony, damage between \$5000 - \$20,000."

"It's unfortunate when incidents such as these occur because our crew is working as quickly as possible to move this project forward," said Meredith Greene, a spokesperson for the reconstruction project, adding incidents like this cause delays with the project.

PSPD Officer Brandon Bishop explained on May 13 the PSPD was investigating the matter as criminal mischief, and the level of charges is still being determined.

The damage is believed to have been done between 7 and 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, May 12, Bishop noted on May 13.

randi@pagosasun.com

Commissioners approve agreement modification for maintenance on Forest Road 631

By **Clayton Chaney**
Staff Writer

During a meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Monday, June 1, the board unanimously approved its consent agenda, which included a modification of an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to add funding for the appli-

cation of magnesium chloride to the Piedra National Forest System Road (NFSR) 631.

Before voting on the consent agenda, Commissioner Warren Brown explained the county had received the agreement with the USFS last week.

"This is an agreement that we got in last week from the Forest Service," said Brown.

See **Road A8**

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Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Choose to be kind

Our community never ceases to amaze us.

Usually that amazement is for the good, but — especially around elections and political issues — it can also be for the bad and the ugly.

Last weekend, we again had the pleasure of celebrating our area's graduates alongside their families and friends, with the event one of several during a season of celebrating hard work and achievement.

And, like every year, we were pleased with the wisdom, kindness and grit these students have built and shown despite only being on the cusp of adulthood.

And those events were yet more examples that wonderful things can be accomplished when people come together — leap together — with a common goal instead of solely focusing on themselves.

We've also been pleased by the county's recent string of community forums, which have offered a great opportunity for residents to speak with county elected officials and staff about issues in a respectful atmosphere aimed at understanding, information and determining solutions to better

our county.

If we want our community to continue to be healthy, vibrant and welcoming, it's going to take supporting each other and showing respect for one another as we work together to understand the facts and find solutions.

We've before compared our community to a rich tapestry that is woven with all sorts of threads — some small, some shiny, some seemingly invisible but full of strength.

Some of these threads work quietly as a part of the whole, lifting others up so they can shine, and others provide embellishment.

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

Our community would be nothing close to what it is today if not for the mix of backgrounds, experiences, beliefs and lifestyles it holds and has held throughout time.

And it's important to recognize that each is part of our tapestry. Having every thread be the same would be nothing close to as beautiful as what's been created and can be created.

As we head into election season and the

season where Pagosa Country will feature event after event, it's important that we remember we have choices.

We can choose to discuss politics or not.

We can choose to vote for a candidate because we agree with the reasoning of a spouse, parent, friend or neighbor who suggests they're the best, or we can disagree and vote for someone we deem a better fit given our own experiences.

We can attend local events to support the people and causes and because they sound like fun, or we can choose to skip out when it might not be our style or a cause we don't support or aren't passionate about.

We can also choose to learn more about other perspectives.

A couple things we're always in favor of choosing are respect and kindness.

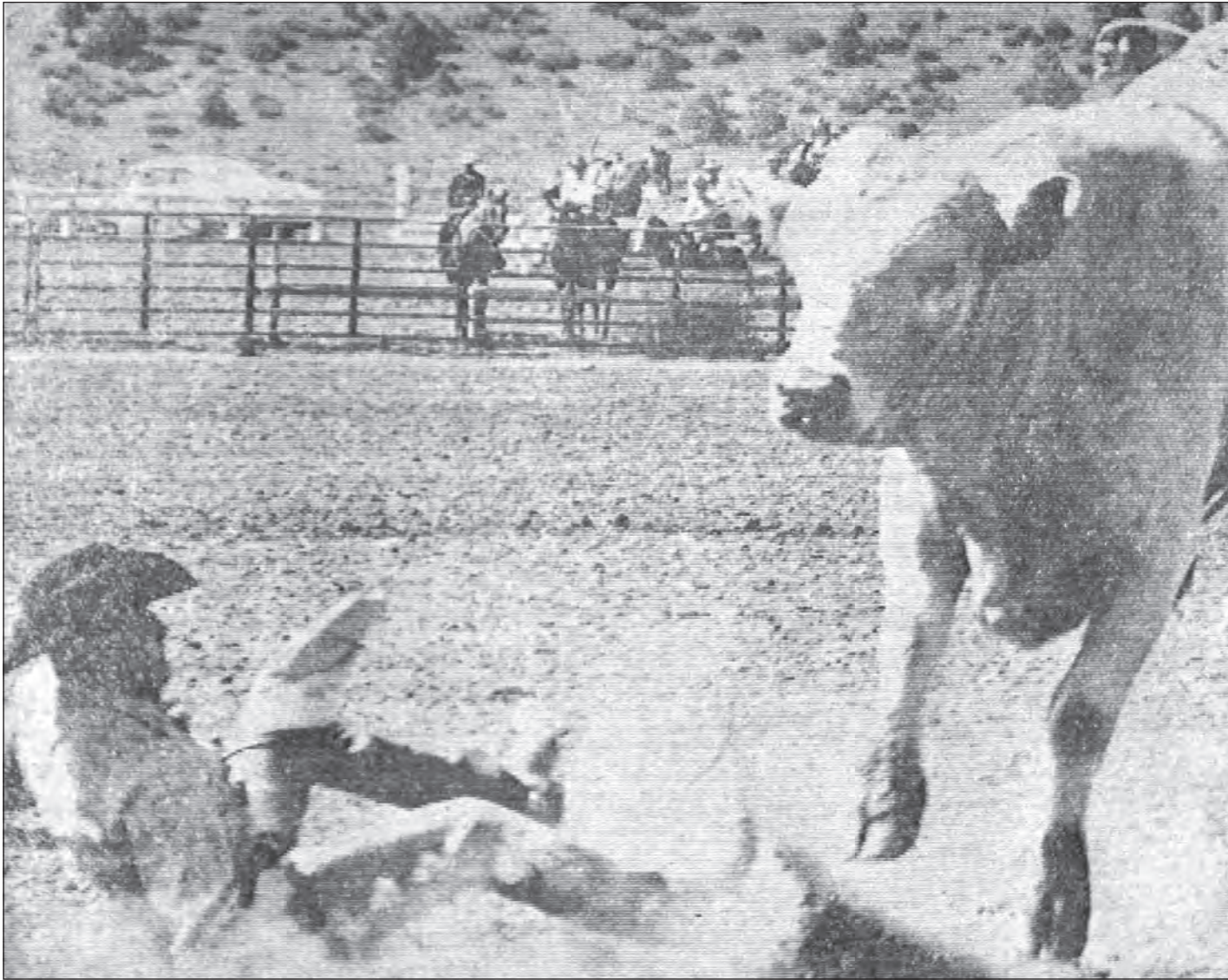
We can choose to be respectful in conversations, whether we agree with the person about everything or about nothing.

We can choose to be kind.

As J.M. Barrie said, "Always be a little kinder than necessary."

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the June 4, 1970, Pagosa SUN — UP AND DOWN — The cowboy is down, the bull is up. The ground was hard and the bulls were tough. This was the story at the End of the Trail rodeo in Pagosa Springs last weekend.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 4, 1926

Justice J. T. Morgan's court was quite busy Tuesday when he was called upon to preside at the preliminary hearings in two criminal matters brought by District Attorney W. Bruce Jacobson, who came over from Durango Sunday to conduct an investigation of the affairs.

On Tuesday Emery D. Hollowell was placed under arrest on complaint of Ollie E. Minium, former resident of this county but now of Aztec, who charged that on March 21, 1925, Mr. Hollowell, while president of the First National bank of Pagosa Springs, committed larceny when he converted to his own use two horses, a binder, a wagon and 42 head of hogs, valued at \$800, instead of giving the complainant credit on his notes at the bank following the sale of the chattels which had been turned over to him by Minium.

The hearing took place Tuesday afternoon, the defendant being bound over to the district court in the sum of \$1,000, which was furnished.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 8, 1951

The past week has seen several forest fires in the county, with the largest being on Indian lands. This blaze started last Saturday and has burned over 4000 acres since that time. Most of this land has been on the Apache and Ute Indian lands in New Mexico. The fire spread across the state line into this county the fore part of the week and destroyed several hundred acres here. As we go to press it is reported under control.

The Forest Service had a fire break out in the Devil Creek area last Saturday afternoon from an old snag that had smoldered 12 days from a previous lightning fire. The fire was out Sunday but broke out again Tuesday and burned 30 acres in about an hour. At present this fire is under control. The crew has just finished mopping up operations on the First Fork fire which burned over an estimated 400 or 500 acres. The timber and foliage are so dry this year that fires can smolder for a long time before breaking out. All campfires should be thoroughly wet down before they are left.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
June 3, 1976

A study committee, composed of local residents, has recommended to the school board that the present school facilities be expanded to the point where they will be capable of handling the growth that is anticipated. The committee recommended that a new addition to the elementary school should be ready by the fall of 1977 and a new high school by the fall of 1978. The report indicated a 25% growth in school population within the next four or five years.

San Juan Lumber Company has started shipping wood chips to an Arizona mill where they will be used to manufacture paper products. This is a first for the local mill and the end result will be that the teepee burner will no longer be used to dispose of waste products. They will be made into chips. Shipment is by truck to Gallup, N.M. and by rail from there to the Arizona mill.

Entries are being sought for the Red Ryder Roundup parades. The parade this year is being planned and directed by the Pagosa Springs Jaycees.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
May 31, 2001

Back to the drawing boards is an oft-used cliché, but one which specifically describes the action taken in a special meeting Monday by the Board of Education of Archuleta School District 50 Joint.

After reviewing bids for the construction of a new concession stand-restroom facility and the addition of ramps for the handicapped at the sports complex adjacent to Golden Peaks stadium, the board rejected the quotes as too high, directed architect Julia Donoho to redesign the structure and to re-advertise for bids.

Acknowledging the action will preempt having the project completed for this football season, the board opted to amend the schedule to have the ramps for handicapped done first, possibly along with utilities installation.

Donoho was directed to change the building design to a simple rectangular structure and eliminate the dressy exterior. Bidding is expected to be in by July 15, with an Aug. 1 starting date if a contract is awarded.

Board directors were a little concerned that only two bids had been received on the project.

Both quotes were substantially over the cost estimates for the job which had been estimated at \$100 to \$125 per square foot but actually totaled nearly \$170 per square for the proposed 1,300 square foot structure.

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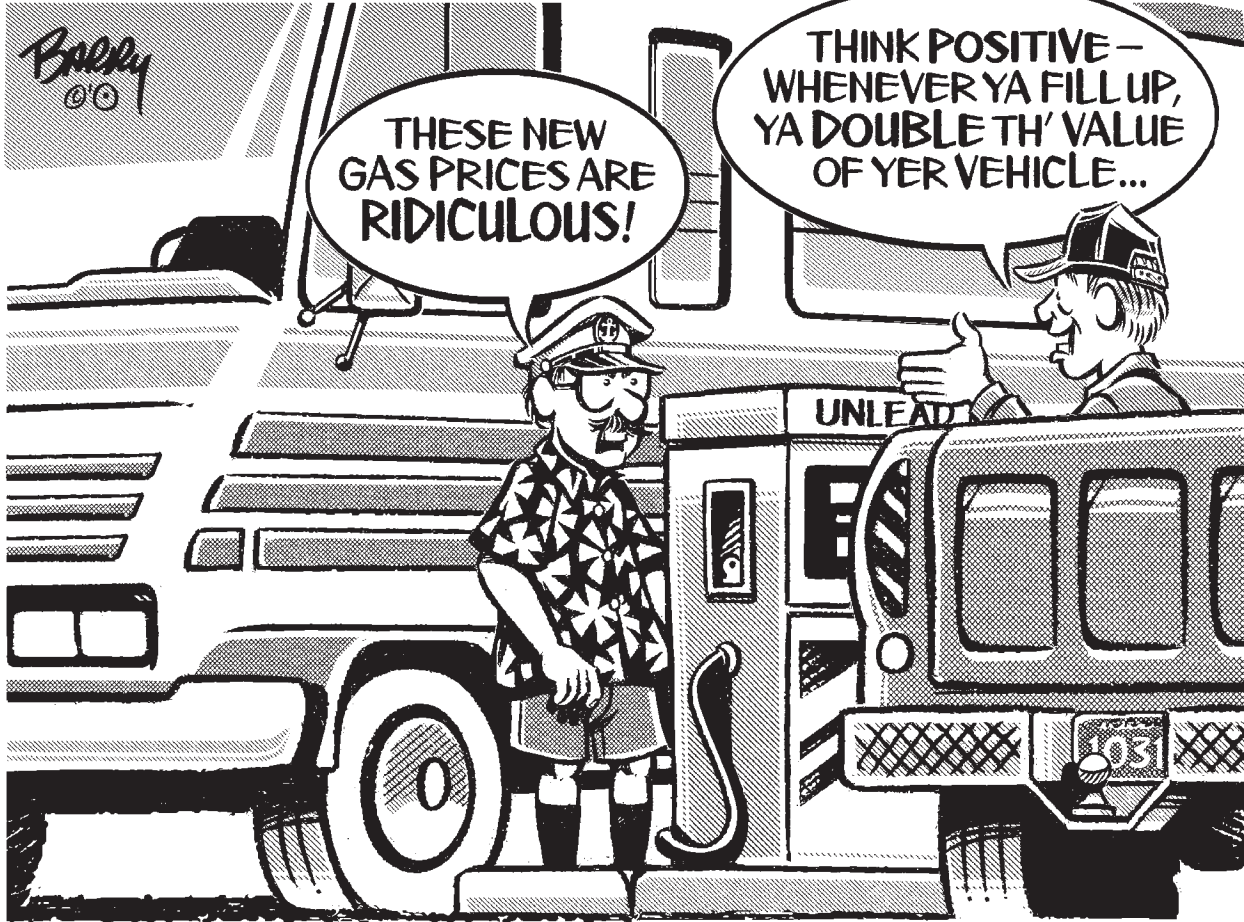


Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Moisture	Type	Depth
5/26	60	40	0.15	NA	NA
5/27	73	37	T	NA	NA
5/28	76	39	0.00	NA	NA
5/29	73	43	0.00	NA	NA
5/30	66	32	0.00	NA	NA
5/31	73	30	0.00	NA	NA
6/1	79	35	0.00	NA	NA

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Letters

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

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

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

Piedra Road

Dear Editor:

All commissioners and Road and Bridge were notified a week ago of the dangerous conditions on Upper Piedra Road. The Road and Bridge department said that they are not responsible for the upkeep of this stretch of Piedra. As the blame gets passed between Road and Bridge and the Forest Service, let's be reminded that there is a dangerous situation where people are getting hurt on primary county access roads. Upper Piedra is a heavily traveled road leading to numerous recreation destinations that are used by locals and tourists.

On May 30, there were 2 separate car accidents on the stretch of Piedra north of the second cattle guard and before Jack's Pasture all as a direct result of the horrific road conditions. One car with a trailer broke an axle, and another flipped onto its roof into a ditch, injuring a child. This is now a dangerous and potentially litigious situation. Piedra Road should be graded and maintained. County records show \$3.5M in federal funds was accepted for this forest-access road and the County collects

highway-tax funds for it —please prioritize the road thousands of us use daily. Road and Bridge had a 1.7 million dollar surplus this year. Surely, some of that money could be spent fixing this situation and preventing others from getting hurt.

Eric and Kelly Burt

Editor's note: For more information, see related article in this issue of The SUN.

A reminder

Dear Editor:

I'd like to offer a big "thank you" to the Editor of the Pagosa Sun, staff, owners, etc., who printed the photos of Pagosa Springs' graduating seniors in the May 28th edition of the Sun. I enjoyed looking at the faces of all those beautiful young people and silently wishing them well.

Because isn't it our job as parents and grandparents, as teachers and coaches, as aunts and uncles, as fond neighbors and members of the community, to express our congratulations to them for reaching this milestone? Don't we want a better future for them?

With all the hostility and trash talk that surrounds us, let's not make so much noise that we block out the joyful sounds of youth - the laughter; the wonder; the hope. These young adults are perched on the ledge of their futures. They deserve the best from us.

It might not be a bad idea to post those photos in front of the computers, where we seek and respond to hateful rhetoric. Let's post them alongside the TV, to remind us that those handsomely paid network hosts have one ratings goal - to make us feel outraged.

As these kids navigated the tricky landscape of middle school and high

school, we expected them to manage conflicts with increasing maturity. Let's expect at least as much of ourselves.

And so, I'm truly grateful for the timely reminder of what's really important. These kids are preparing to make their way in this world. We can help by making our community a place where adults recognize that there has always been and will always be disagreement. Disagreement isn't the problem. Our behavior is often another thing entirely.

Let's choose to model reasonable, civil, and non-judgmental behavior for these kids, who are watching so carefully. They'll eventually echo the lessons their elders teach them. What they see in us will be reflected in their future. Let's help to make it a great future for all of them.

Sincerely,
Kathy Muth

Dangers of dust

Dear Editor:

The May 28th edition of Pagosa Sun contained a letter to the Editor regarding the dangers of DUST!

During these dry times the many unpaved roads are very dusty indeed.

But what is dust - just dirt? In fact, it is any particle fine enough to be suspended in air. It can be anything that is in a roadway from vaporized urine (Hanta virus), human saliva with possible disease, silica or any mineral particle that can be suspended in air, and the list goes on. Man or beast, anything with lungs can suffer from "dust".

Who makes dust? Unthinking, fast drivers, particularly those pulling a trailer. Awareness should alleviate the problem however, maybe a "Dust Tax" should be in effect.

Dick Ray

Obituaries

Philip LeRoy Campbell

Philip LeRoy Campbell, age 58, of Bayfield, passed away May 16, 2026, in Durango, Colo. Born in New Mexico to Calvin LeRoy Campbell and Judith Lea (Miles) Campbell, Philip spent most of his life in the southwest, between New Mexico and Colorado. A graduate of Rocky Mountain High



School in Fort Collins, he attended CSU and then Metro State College. While taking college classes, he started his career in dispatch, dispatching fixed wing medical flights for Air Methods out of the Denver area. He discovered a love and aptitude for coordinating medical services and ended up dispatching ambulance transport at Reed Ambulance in Denver, fire apparatus at the Aurora Fire Department and medical helicopters at Air Life. He became a supervisor for the Aurora Fire Department and later moved into information systems. This experience brought him to Durango, where he was the systems analyst for the Durango La Plata 911 Center, eventually promoting to the director, where he retired in 2020. He brought his love for public safety to the community, participating in various statewide committees, task forces and brainstorming groups.

In addition to 911 systems, Phil's other great love was hot air ballooning. He began ballooning at only 5 years of age and progressed to his dad's crew chief in his early teens. Phil took his pilot's exam at 14, as soon as he was old enough to do so, and flew in various rallies across New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. He coordinated the Snowdown Balloon Rally in Durango for almost a decade. Being a balloon pilot was one of his greatest accomplishments, and there was no joy like watching Phil fly friends and family in his personal hot air balloon, "Whosyadaddy." In 2021 he achieved

a lifelong dream of flying the balloon into the Rio Grande Gorge outside of Taos, N.M. and brushing the basket to the river's surface. Phil loved sharing ballooning with people more than anything else in the world, and it was a tremendous part of the legacy he leaves behind. He never met a stranger when he was ballooning.

Phil is survived by his wife of 31 years, Diné, and his daughter, Cailin, both of Bayfield; sister Laurie Harper and brother-in-law Aaron Harper, of Peyton, Colo.; brother Kevin Campbell, of Centennial, Colo.; nephews and nieces Ryan Harper, Martha Cox, Ben "Scott" Harper, Jacob Harper, Joshua Campbell and Julia Campbell; and his uncle, Kenneth Campbell, of Encampment, Wyo.

He is preceded in death by his father, Calvin Leroy Campbell, and mother, Judith Lea Campbell, and grandparents Leroy and Vera Campbell and Philip and Lois Miles.

The family will hold a celebration of life on July 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Eagle Park in Bayfield, 1189 Bayfield Parkway, across from Joe Stephenson Park.

The family would like to encourage Phil's friends and relatives to donate to Man Up to Cancer at

www.manuptocancer.org or locally to Southwest Oncology through the Mercy Health Foundation.

Charles Formwalt

It is with great sadness and loss that we share the passing of our beloved Poppa, Charles Formwalt. He was born Jan. 15, 1936, and he passed away on May 27, 2026, surrounded by his family. Services and obituary are pending.

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.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

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U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of June 8-14

Work activity

- 500 block: Utility work continues in front of the businesses on the north side. Waterline work at this location is complete.
- 300 block: Crews continue to pour the roadway and sidewalks at this location.
- Hot Springs Boulevard intersection: The closure to begin utility and paving improvements of Hot Springs Boulevard (from the south side of the intersection to the bridge), in conjunction with the Town of Pagosa Springs, has been implemented. This closure is anticipated to take place June 3-18.
- Overlook parking lot: During the same closure of Hot Springs Boulevard, the overlook parking lot will be closed for utility updates. This closure is also expected from June 3-18, and the Town of Pagosa Springs will be promoting alternative parking options in the lot near the former courthouse building off of 5th Street.

- For the foreseeable future, crews will be working seven days a week.
- The intersection closure at Lewis Street and U.S. 160 remains in place. Please utilize 4th, 7th and 8th streets as an alternative to access businesses along Lewis Street. With the access closure, left-turn signals have been extended at the 4th Street intersection; look for the green left-turn arrow at the northwest corner of 4th and Pagosa Street (U.S. 160).

Stay informed and connect with the project

- Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.
- Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.
- Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.
- Subscribe to project updates: subscription.codotrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

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Business

County’s April unemployment rate drops to 2.8 percent

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County’s unemployment rate dropped to 2.8 percent in April, according to a May 26 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

That figure is down from 3.2 percent in March.

Archuleta County’s rate of 2.8 percent this April compares to 3.5 percent in April 2025.

Archuleta County’s labor force totaled 6,669 in April, according to the report, with 184 unemployed. That compares to a March labor force of 6,601 and 212 unemployed.

Colorado’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate again remained unchanged at 3.9 percent in April.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 700 to 126,400 from March to April.

“Colorado’s labor force decreased by 12,300 in April to 3,215,600,” states a press release from the CDLE.

It notes the share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 66.1 percent in April, two-tenths of a percentage point lower than in March.

The press release notes this marks the lowest labor force participation rate since August 2020.

“The U.S. labor force participation rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.8 percent in April,” it states.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.3 percent from March to April, it notes.

San Miguel County had the highest unemployment rate in the state in April at 6.6 percent, followed by Costilla County at 6.1 percent.

The lowest unemployment rate in the state for April was Yuma County at 1.9 percent.

Regionally, the data shows La Plata County with a 3.0 percent unemployment rate in April, San Juan County at 3.5 percent, Mineral County at 4.2 percent, Rio Grande County at 3.5 percent and Conejos County at 3.1 percent.

Job loss, growth

Employers in Colorado gained 11,800 nonfarm payroll jobs from March to April for a total of 2,967,800

jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased by 12,000, while government decreased by 200.

The release also notes, “March estimates were revised up to 2,956,000, and the over the month change from February to March was an increase of 2,800 jobs rather than the originally estimated increase of 1,400 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates).”

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job gains in April were:

- Professional and business services at about 4,700 jobs.
- Education and health services at about 3,900.
- Trade, transportation and utilities by about 1,400.
- Financial activities by about 1,200.

There were no private industry sectors with significant over-the-month job losses.

Since April 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased by 3,900, with the private sector increasing by 6,600 and government losing 2,700 jobs.

The largest private-sector job gains were:

- Educational and health services by about 19,200 jobs.
- Construction by about 3,800.
- During that same period, payroll jobs declined in:
 - Financial activities by about 3,900 jobs.
 - Information by about 3,900.
 - Other services by about 2,600.
 - Manufacturing by about 2,000.
 - Trade, transportation and utilities by about 1,900.
 - Mining and logging by about 1,200.
 - Leisure and hospitality by about 1,000.

“Colorado’s rate of job growth over the past year is 0.1 percent, below the U.S. rate of 0.2 percent,” the report notes.

It further notes that, over the year, the average workweek for all Colo-

rado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 33.1 to 32.9 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$39.09 to \$39.86, \$2.45 more than the national average hourly earnings of \$37.41.

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics data

Also on May 26, the CDLE released 2025 data from the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) survey.

The OEWS is a federal-state cooperative program that provides estimates of employment and wages for more than 800 nonmilitary detailed occupations in 22 major occupational groups.

Every year, the CDLE, in partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), collects and publishes occupation and wage data for the state of Colorado and for 10 substate regions.

In Colorado, 3,920 businesses were initially surveyed beginning in November of 2024 and 3,921 were initially surveyed beginning in May of 2025. After excluding establishments that were out of business or out of scope, a total of 82.4 percent of 7,326 businesses provided information on the job titles and wages of their employees. These data were combined with responses from the previous two years (a total of six semiannual surveys) to produce the May 2025 occupational estimates, the survey report explains.

According to a press release, “Workers in the State of Colorado had a mean (average) hourly wage of \$37.11 in 2025, about 10.64 percent above the US average of \$33.54, according to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the BLS. The statewide median hourly wage for all covered employment was \$28.75 compared to the US median of \$24.51.”

For Southwest Colorado, the average hourly wage was \$30.14, according to the survey data, with the median hourly wage at \$24.12. The average annual was \$62,695, and the median annual was \$50,164.

The occupational groups with the most workers for the state as a whole were office and administrative support (301,320 workers), sales and related (296,260), and food prepara-

tion and serving related occupations (269,820), according to the press release. These three groups accounted for about 30 percent of total covered employment. Management occupations had the highest average wage, while food preparation and serving related occupations had the lowest.

For Southwest Colorado, the No. 1 occupation is listed as fast food and counter workers (3,490), followed by cashiers (3,340) and retail salespersons (3,310).

randi@pagosasun.com

OPENS MAY 15TH

East Side Market

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 9:00 - 3:00

Locally Made Handcrafted Products

Pottery and Jewelry - Metal Art

Gems/Minerals - Woodworks - Tie Dye clothing

Fresh Seasonings & Jerky - Baked Goods

Blown Glass Art - Guatemalan Imports

Pagosa Adventure

Visit our Food Court

Lonchera Don Jose - Authentic Mexican Food

El Cumbias - Snow cones, Drinks, Snacks

Grilled Chicken Pagosa - Grilled, Fried, and More

Tasty On Wheels - Burgers & Fries

LIVE MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY 11-2

Downtown

225 E. Pagosa St.

HWY 160

225 E. Pagosa Street
www.esmpagosa.com

OPENS MAY 15TH

Ballion Rides

Rafting and Tube Rentals

PSMC Welcomes



Kate Gazenko, MD

PSMC is proud to announce that Dr. Kate Gazenko, board-certified general surgeon, is joining the PSMC surgery team and is now accepting appointments.

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Medical Center

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Open house to help residents access home energy rebates

La Plata Electric Association

Archuleta County residents curious about lowering their energy bills are invited to an Energy Rebate Open House on Tuesday, June 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the CSU Extension building off U.S. 84.

About \$4 million in home energy rebates (enough for about 300 homes outside of the Front Range) remain available to Southwest Colorado residents through the state of Colorado’s Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) Program.

With demand already high, residents are encouraged to act quickly before funds are depleted.

Through the HEAR Program, eligible households may receive rebates of up to \$14,000 for energy-efficient home improvements, including:

- Heat pump heating and cooling systems (up to \$8,000).
- Heat pump water heaters (up to \$1,750).
- Electrical panel upgrades (up to \$4,000).
- Other electrification and efficiency measures.

The open house event will be co-hosted by the Four Corners Office of Resource Efficiency (4CORE), La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and the Colorado Energy Office, and is free and open to the public.

LPEA and the Colorado Energy Office will give short presentations at 4:30 p.m. and again at 5:15 p.m.

Throughout the evening, approved contractors, energy advisors and program experts will be available to visit with attendees and offer personalized guidance.

HEAR program rebates are available to both homeowners and renters, and is income-qualified, with eligibility extending to households earning up to 150 percent of the area median income (that’s up to \$153,000 for a family of four in Archuleta County).

“Every home is different,” said Erika Brown, regional energy coach with 4CORE. “That’s why we’re bringing HEAR-approved contractors and program experts together in one place — so residents can get real answers about what makes sense for their specific situation, not just

general information.”

Attendees of the event can expect to:

- Learn about electrification and energy efficiency options and available rebates.
- Connect directly with HEAR-approved local contractors.
- Receive assistance from Colorado Energy Office staff with eligibility and the application process.
- Explore additional incentives and financing options with LPEA and 4CORE experts.

The Colorado Energy Office will sponsor food for the event.

Register for free on the 4CORE website at www.fourcore.org/events/heat-pumps-home-efficiency-rebates.

The same event will be offered at LPEA’s headquarters in Durango at 45 Stewart St. on June 10 from 4 to 6 p.m.

With limited funding available, residents are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to significantly reduce energy costs while improving home comfort and efficiency.

Pagosa Springs Main Street again receives national Main Street designation

Colorado Department of Local Affairs

The Department of Local Affairs’ (DOLA) Colorado Main Street Program is pleased to announce that 18 Colorado communities, including Pagosa Springs, have achieved National Main Street designations for 2026.

Colorado Main Street works with local program personnel and boards of directors to evaluate performance and impact using rigorous national community evaluation standards to recognize each local program for its work in revitalizing downtown districts and supporting small businesses.

Main Street America, the national coordinating body, accredits these communities for their commitment to preservation-based economic

development and community revitalization.

The announcement highlights how grassroots programs create jobs, rehabilitate historic buildings and foster resilient local economies.

“Accredited” is the top tier of recognition within the national program.

To qualify, programs must show a strong track record in six areas, including sustainable funding, community commitment and measurable results.

Main Street by the numbers

The impact of these programs is measured through local investment and job creation.

In 2025, Colorado Main Street communities resulted in:

- 87 net new businesses opened.
- 303 net new jobs created.
- 65 buildings rehabilitated.
- \$159,404,348 invested through public-private partnerships.
- 15,582 volunteer hours donated by the community.
- 2,777 events held, with more than 330,000 attendees.

According to Main Street America, in 2025, the national movement has resulted in more than 36,500 net new jobs, 6,900 net new businesses, 10,000 building renovations and \$9.4 billion in local reinvestment.

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

Price Reduced

1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$799,000

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>

Commercial

266 Sparrow Circle
\$250,000

MLS #835090

Discover mountain freedom in this permitted, custom container home! Complete with a Certificate of Occupancy, this 1-bedroom, 1-bathroom offers modern minimalism. Versatile terrain climbs up and over the hill behind the home. Prime sites to construct your main house allow you to live on-site during the process and transition the current home into a guest house or rental later. No HOA restrictions or covenants. Electric mini-split system for year-round heating and cooling. Hot water supplied by an on-demand electric water heater. Easy access to Highway 160. The roads are maintained by a Metro District paid for with property taxes.



Mountain & Meadow Real Estate
409 Lewis Street
Pagosa Springs, CO

1119 Hills Circle
\$499,000

MLS #833746

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.

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/1119-Hills-Cir>

Commercial

X Eagle Drive
\$225,000

MLS #833969

Prime 1.05-Acre Build-Ready Lot. Unlock the full potential of this premium commercial mixed-use property, perfectly positioned on the Highway 160 frontage road. Strategically located in the high-traffic corridor between uptown and downtown, this level lot offers unmatched visibility and accessibility for your next project. A blend of residential, commercial, retail, or office spaces. Stunning views of the East Range. Comes with water already installed, completed sidewalks, and electricity located within 100 feet of the property line.

To tour Eagle Drive go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/X-Eagle-Dr>



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR®, BROKER
C: 970.759.8109
ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
www.shelliehogue.com
Licensed since May 2011

1231 Ranchland Drive
\$290,000

MLS #829827

40 Acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag which has significant fire mitigation done and the property taxes are under \$200 per year. Borders the Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple flat build areas close to power. Single car garage and a 3 room insulated bunkhouse on a foundation with a 1200 gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. The solar panels power the 12 volt bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. The garage will accommodate a 22' RV and you can live for 2 years on the property when you are building. Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water. The kitchen has refrigerator, stove and sink. This is a gated community.

42 Sundown Circle
\$50,000

MLS #833836

Level building lot, only 200' of dirt road. The power and water are less than a 100' from the lot. This property is 5 minutes from downtown and 5 minutes from uptown, how awesome is that! This is an easy build lot, close to all of the amenities.

PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE

ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to §1-5-205 C.R.S., that a Primary Election will be held in Archuleta County, Colorado, on:

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

Eligible Voters

Active registered Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Unity and Unaffiliated voters.

Unaffiliated Voters

Unaffiliated voters will receive both a Democratic and a Republican ballot. Only one (1) voted ballot may be returned in order for your vote to count.

Mail Ballots

Beginning June 8, 2026, the Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder will send a mail ballot packet to every active voter registered in Archuleta County. To be counted, mail ballots must be received by the Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, June 30, 2026. Postmarks do not count.

Polling Locations

Beginning Monday, June 22, 2026, the Election Office located at 305 Village Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO, will serve as the official Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC).

VSPC hours:

June 22 through June 26, Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 27: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Monday, June 29: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 30 (Election Day): 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

VSPC Election Day Only

Ross Aragon Community Center
451 Hot Springs Blvd.
Pagosa Springs, CO
Tuesday, June 30 (Election Day): 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Drop-Box Locations

Secure ballot drop-boxes will be open 24/7 with video surveillance from June 8, 2026, through 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, June 30, 2026.

Locations:

- Pagosa Springs Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO (in front of the building to the left of the entry doors)
- Tara Community Center, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles, CO

Drop-Off Location

You may also drop off your voted ballot at the Election Office located at 305 Village Dr.

Hours:

- June 8 through June 18, Monday through Thursday: 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- June 22 through June 29, Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- June 27, Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- June 30, Tuesday (Election Day): 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The following are the official nominations that will be voted on at the Archuleta County June 30, 2026 Primary Election. All ballot styles have been combined for this notice. Your ballot will contain only the races for which you are eligible to vote.

Federal Offices

United States Senator

(Vote for One)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (01) Julie Gonzales
(Democratic) | (02) John Hickenlooper
(Democratic) |
|-------------------------------------|--|

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| (01) Mark Baisley
(Republican) |
|-----------------------------------|

Representative to the 120th United States Congress – District 3

(Vote for One)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (01) Alex Kelloff
(Democratic) | (02) Dwayne L. Romero
(Democratic) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (01) Ron Hanks
(Republican) | (02) Jeff Hurd
(Republican) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

State Offices

Governor

(Vote for One)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (01) Phil Weiser
(Democratic) | (02) Michael Bennet
(Democratic) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (01) Scott Bottoms
(Republican) | (02) Victor Marx
(Republican) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (03) Barb Kirkmeyer
(Republican) | (04) Write-In
(Republican) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (01) Paul Noël Fiorino
(Unity) | (02) Jeff Peckman
(Unity) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|

Secretary of State

(Vote for One)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (01) Amanda Gonzalez
(Democratic) | (02) Jessie Danielson
(Democratic) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| (01) James Wiley
(Republican) |
|----------------------------------|

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (01) Sean Vadney
(Libertarian) | (02) Alex Astley
(Libertarian) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

State Treasurer

(Vote for One)

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| (01) Jeff Bridges
(Democratic) |
|-----------------------------------|

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| (01) Kevin Grantham
(Republican) |
|-------------------------------------|

Attorney General

(Vote for One)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (01) Jena Griswold
(Democratic) | (02) David Seligman
(Democratic) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| (03) Michael Dougherty
(Democratic) | (04) Hetal Doshi
(Democratic) |
|--|----------------------------------|

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (01) Michael J. Allen
(Republican) | (02) David Willson
(Republican) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

State Board of Education Member – Congressional District 3

(Vote for One)

- | |
|--------------------------------------|
| (01) Barb Clementi
(Democratic) |
| (01) Sherri M Wright
(Republican) |

State Representative – District 59

(Vote for One)

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| (01) Katie Stewart
(Democratic) |
|------------------------------------|

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| (01) Naomi Riess
(Republican) |
|----------------------------------|

Archuleta County Offices

County Commissioner – District 3

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (01) Veronica Medina
(Republican) | (02) Randy Betts
(Republican) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

County Clerk and Recorder

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| (01) Kristy Archuleta
(Republican) |
|---------------------------------------|

County Treasurer

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| (01) Elsa P. White
(Republican) |
|------------------------------------|

County Assessor

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | |
|--|
| (01) Johanna Tully-Elliott
(Republican) |
|--|

County Sheriff

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| (01) Mike Le Roux
(Republican) |
|-----------------------------------|

County Surveyor

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Republican) |
|---|

County Coroner

(Vote for One)

- | |
|---|
| (01) There are no candidates for this office.
(Democratic) |
|---|

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| (01) Brad Hunt
(Republican) |
|--------------------------------|

Certified Write-In Candidates

Below is a list of the certified write-in candidates who have filed the required paperwork with the Secretary of State.

Governor

- | |
|------------------------------|
| (01) Kelvin “K-Man” Wimberly |
|------------------------------|



Kristy Archuleta
Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder
PO Box 2589
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-264-8331

Town council denies outdoor commercial establishment permit for downtown overlook

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On May 19, the Pagosa Springs Town Council denied an outdoor commercial establishment (OCE) permit for Shine Gelato.

The applicant was proposing to operate a seasonal OCE, consisting of a mobile, solar-powered cart at the downtown scenic overlook.

A staff report on the matter states that “the subject property is Town-owned land and is zoned Open Space and Parks.”

The report also explains more about the proposed operation.

“Although the unit is mobile, the request is for a fixed seasonal location within an existing public gathering area at the Town of Pagosa Springs Scenic Overlook,” the report states.

“The cart is designed to be self-contained and temporary. The operation is intended to serve pedestrian traffic in the area, including those using the Riverwalk and Scenic Overlook,” the report states.

“The site already includes seating and pedestrian access, and no additional permanent improvements are proposed as part of this request,” the report states.

Senior Planner Katelyn Tunnell explained that staff had reviewed the application, prepared by Shine Gelato CEO Matthew Sherrill, and that

she believed that it generally aligned with the applicable provisions of the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC), but that since the proposal is located on town-owned property, town council review and direction is required.

Tunnell also pointed to staff’s belief that this vendor would support a town goal of increasing “pedestrian activity” in the area.

The proposal was routed to Public Works, the Police Department, and Parks and Recreation, with the Parks and Recreation Department raising concerns regarding existing downtown conditions during the ongoing reconstruction project, including potential impacts to current businesses, she explained.

These considerations may be relevant when evaluating the timing and location of the proposed operation, she explained.

During public comment, Audrey Bliss, owner of an ice cream shop across the street from where the gelato stand proposed to do business, expressed opposition to the permit for that location.

She told the council she was worried about the “impact” that vendors would have on “our local brick-and-mortar businesses.”

“Our local storefront businesses have made a major investment in our community. We pay rent and mort-

gages, utilities, taxes, licensing fees, payroll, maintenance, and that’s always all year-round, even during the slower season when tourism drops,” she explained.

She said that “while vendors are entrepreneurial and valuable in some settings, they often operate with a significantly lower overhead and can enter during peak tourism seasons, which completely conflicts with the same customers that we’re trying to bring in.”

She continued, “This creates an uneven playing field,” adding that “businesses who have committed long-term to our community should not be put at a disadvantage by temporary competition that does not share the same obligations to the community.”

She added, “This isn’t about being anti-small business ... It’s about thoughtful planning and fairness.”

She concluded, “Vendors may be better suited for special events, farmers markets and specific locations that complement, not compete, with local businesses, and, furthermore, when the [town] overlook was built, it was never intended as a commercial space, hence the zoning.”

Council member Leonard Martinez noted that while he appreciated that this could increase pedestrian activity in downtown, he still worried about the concerns of “fellow

businesses.”

He added, “This is an exciting idea, but I’m not convinced this is the right time and place” for it.

Mayor Shari Pierce noted, “I always have a problem with things like this competing with our local brick-and-mortar stores,” expressing that she was “not in favor” of approving the OCE permit.

Council members Brooks Lindner and Mat deGraaf asked if the vendor should think about a different location.

Council member Gary Williams said, “I really like the idea that this kind of mobile business brings to town,” but also expressed that the local store front owner has “legitimate concerns” since this would be operating “right across the street.”

He suggested that the town’s planning commission should think about “mapping out a zone” where these types of vendors could operate.

Martinez suggested that the town needed to “get beyond” the reconstruction project disrupting downtown and then possibly reconsider allowing a vendor like this to operate.

“It’s not the right time,” he said.

When a motion was made to deny the OCE permit for Shine Gelato it was seconded and approved unanimously by the council.

derek@pagosasun.com

County to consider administrative rezone along with CDOT access project along in Aspen Springs

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on Thursday, May 28, Director of Development Eva Kruse spoke about an “administrative rezone” that the county may consider in the near future for an area along U.S. 160 in Aspen Springs where multiple commercial businesses are currently located within an agricultural zone based on the county’s current zoning map.

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) initially adopted its zoning map back in 2006, with the last major update approved in 2016.

During the planning commission meeting, Kruse also explained that a Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) project is being planned in the same area which will close down an existing illegal access and construct a new legal, permitted access.

Kruse indicated that she did not want to go into detail about which exact properties would be involved in the administrative rezone or CDOT project, as all of the property owners

would need to be notified.

“Most of the properties are in code violations because they are agriculturally zoned, being used for either commercial or industrial purposes,” Kruse said, explaining there is a “series” of these properties along U.S. 160 “where this new road access would be going.”

Kruse also explained that if the property owners were to submit rezoning applications on their own, they would be subject to the county’s land use regulations and potentially have to pay fees for things like a drainage study.

Doing an administrative rezone would eliminate the property owners’ need to submit individual rezoning applications, Kruse mentioned.

“This is something the county has the ability to do under current land use regulations,” Kruse said in regard to administrative rezones.

She went on to explain that “strip commercial” areas are not typically done in land-use projects.

“It’s just not good planning practice,” she said, noting this area in Aspen Springs along U.S. 160 has had multiple commercial businesses for many years now.

“These land uses that are being used as commercial, industrial, have been this way for a really long time,” she said, mentioning that existing land use conditions “really didn’t seem to matter” at the time.

“An administrative rezoning is not something I take lightly,” Kruse said, indicating that it is something the county is considering doing.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini asked if the area that Kruse had been referring to included the Aspen Springs Bar and Grill, and the Turkey Springs Trading Post, with Kruse indicating she did not want to provide any more detail until all property owners have been contacted and have the matter posted on the planning commission’s next meeting agenda.

Planning commission member Matt Nobles asked if property owners are aware that they may have to meet certain county codes (such as having a drainage study done) with rezoning properties from agricultural to commercial.

Kruse explained that those are elements of the site-planning process, indicating that if the properties were to individually submit a rezone request they would have to submit those site planning applications.

Kruse then clarified that, “If we do an administrative rezoning that would not apply,” and could save the property owners money.

Nobles added that some of the businesses in the Aspen Springs area have been operating there for many years, warning that it might not look good if the county were to come in and shut down a business until cer-

tain applications, studies and fees were submitted.

Kruse acknowledged Nobles’ comments, reiterating that extra applications and potential fees would not apply to those property owners if the county does an administrative rezone

In a later message to The SUN, Kruse spoke more about the CDOT project, stating “the illegal access is what would be closed.”

She added, “We’ll be actually fixing the access to the highway.”
clayton@pagosasun.com

Thanks Pagosa Springs Arts Council

The construction on Lewis Street is bothersome for businesses, but three individuals really stepped up to help us navigate for the upcoming June Festival of Arts show with directional signage: Meredith Greene (CDOT), James Dickhoff (Town of Pagosa Springs) and Jennie Green (Visit Pagosa Springs). We appreciate you.

Pagosa Springs Arts Council



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Cocktail Hour
Silent Auction
Live Auction
Pet Talent Show



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SATURDAY	08.29.26	5:30 PM
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465 Cloman Blvd., Pagosa Springs

Town council denies permit for private fireworks display downtown

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On June 2, the Pagosa Springs Town Council denied a permit for a private fireworks display.

The request for the permit came from John “Scott” Neal, who is having a birthday celebration for his husband on a property he owns at 210 10th Street, across from Pagosa Springs Elementary School.

Neal proposed to have a fireworks show the evening of June 6 between 8:30 and 9 p.m. as part of the event.

He explained that he had gotten permission from the school district to utilize the elementary school’s fields for the display and he had hired a professional company to put on the fireworks show.

An agenda document on the matter states that Neal had also put in an application with the fire district for a permit and for the district to provide

a fire watch for the event.

He also reached out to the town’s Public Works and Police departments to close a road and provide security, the document states.

Town Manager David Harris explained that even though Neal had been granted permission from these various entities, he would still need a permit granted by the town council.

Mayor Shari Pierce suggested that she had major concerns about the fireworks portion of this event.

Her concerns had to do with the amount of town staff (police officers) to close down a road and the general fire danger and the risks.

During public comment, Eddie Archuleta, who lives near where the fireworks display would happen, also spoke out about the risks of fire from the display, asking the council, “What are you gonna do about fires ... what about the noise and the neighbors?”

He asked, “You got those woods to

the west, and you can’t control where those fireworks are going. What if you catch that all on fire and burn the whole ... town down?”

He added, “I’m against this and you should be against this fireworks display that’s going on,” he said.

Council member Leonard Martinez stated that, from a risk-management standpoint, “adding another fireworks display [on top of the one the town is already planning for July 4] is beyond what I’m willing to support.”

He added, “This is too much risk for us to absorb.”

Council member Mat deGraaf asked if the council deems it too risky to grant the permit for this fireworks display, then how could it justify holding its own fireworks on July 4?

“If the fire chief signs off on it and says he’s comfortable with it and we’ll have the equipment necessary to mitigate the risk and our police chief says he’s OK with it ... I’m happy to

move forward with it,” he said.

Council member Gary Williams replied that the town’s display is still contingent on fire danger at that time and the contract with the display company allows the town to postpone the display until later in the year.

He said that he was “impressed with the amount of work the applicant put in, but the benefit-versus-risk ratio is way off, in my opinion. We are one fire away from total disaster here in this town,” he said, adding, “I’m reluctantly against granting the permit.”

When a motion was made to deny the permit, it was supported by Pierce, Williams and Martinez, with deGraaf voting against the motion.

Council member Madeline Bergon was absent for the vote.

“Moving forward, we need to be particularly cautious about fire danger in this town,” Williams said.

derek@pagosasun.com

Water conservancy discusses grant progress, consultant work

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed the district’s ongoing efforts to secure grants and its work with its engineer contractor RJH Consultants at its May 18 meeting.

SJWCD board president Randy Cooper provided an update on the district’s grant applications and work with RJH, which he indicated is continuing on multiple fronts.

He stated that the district is still awaiting a final figure from RJH for the cost of a water supply and demand study that the district’s recent attempt to apply for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funding indicated would be necessary.

However, he stated that the estimated cost for the one-year study would be around \$120,000.

Cooper added that the estimate seems accurate to him.

SJWCD board member Candace Jones commented that the estimate for the study was on the low end of estimates she had received from other water experts.

In response to a question from SJWCD board member Joe Tedder,

Cooper stated that RJH would be happy to assist the district in efforts to secure grant funding that might help cover this expense.

Cooper then discussed a Nature Conservancy grant that the district recently attempted to apply for, noting that RJH indicated that the district would likely be eligible for support on a water study through the grant while Jones expressed reservations about whether or not the grant would cover it.

Cooper commented that the grant application then entered a “holding pattern” and that the district had not yet applied for the grant, which was due May 22, as of the time of the meeting.

He added that RJH had recently reached out about where the district was with applying for this grant and that it was likely too late to apply.

He also commented that RJH would charge for any assistance on grant applications it provides, but that it would be willing to assist with any appropriate applications.

Tedder asked if RJH would have any insights into what grants might be suitable or possible for the district to obtain.

Jones commented that she received feedback on the Nature Conservancy

grant application from a contact there who indicated that the water study likely did not fit what the organization had in mind for the grant, which is more focused on river restoration.

“So, I really think they were looking for projects that were not this kind of planning work,” she said.

Cooper commented that RJH read the grant and believed that the district’s application would be suitable.

He added that he would ask RJH about its insights into upcoming grant opportunities and that he believed RJH would have information about opportunities since its staff frequently attend regional and state-level water organization meetings.

Jones commented that the SJWCD also needs to restart conversations about funding opportunities with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) now that the district is approaching a settlement of its litigation with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) over the Running Iron Ranch and the CWCB is likely less concerned about appearing to take a side between the entities.

The districts are litigating about PAWSD’s ability to sell the ranch, which is a proposed site for construction of a

reservoir that the SJWCD is attempting to build, without the SJWCD’s consent.

The CWCB holds the loans used to purchase the land, which PAWSD is currently making payments on, and is a party in a three-way agreement about the management of the property which is at the center of the litigation.

Jones noted that the CWCB has funding available that might be able to help move the project forward.

She commented that the district would have to do so carefully to ensure that these discussions are not a barrier to finalizing a settlement between the SJWCD and PAWSD, but that she is confident that the CWCB could “walk and chew gum at the same time.”

Cooper noted that is a “great point.”

Scholarships

■ Continued from front

beth Nasralla, Madison Ray Pacheco, Zachary Howard Pouyer, Travers Vincent Vasek and Hannah Ellen Woodhall-Harvey.

The seven graduates who earned the distinction of a 3.8 GPA are Olivia Anjelica Cardenas, Benjamin Creede Dozier, Katelyn George Fricke, Samuel Heng Ke Kelly, Chance Chavez Ramirez, Jayton Steele Ross and Marisol Renae Lusungu Talamante.

Those designated as being in the National Honors Society with a GPA of 3.4 or higher are Deaglan Richard Denen, Hope Felicitas Noelani Domingo, Xavior John-Thomas Haynie, Kaylee Jayde Hensle, Camden Alexander Hernandez, Syra Catelina Hernandez, Alia Renae Hibbert, Emerson Sofia Kladzyk Hubbard, Kennady Daisy Inez, Deisi Yanira Morin-Baxin, Elijah Lee Nehring, Stephen Rylee Pair, Carson Gregory Pilgrim, Caden Heinrich Plake, Heidy Zoe Renteria, Nicolas Michael Santille, Rebecca Morgan Stewart and Bianca Jade Zisa.

The following is a list of the scholarships awarded to graduates provided by PSHS Counselor Molly Gibson, totaling more than \$1 million, including more than \$160,000 from local organizations and businesses.

Blackman: Build Pagosa CTE Scholarship, \$1,000; Vets for Vets Benny Lohman, \$1,500; Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, \$12,000; Chama Peak Land Alliance Scholarship, \$500; Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000; Colorado State University-Fort Collins, \$20,000.

Campbell: Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, \$5,000.

Carter: Town of Pagosa Springs AIM HIGHER, \$5,000.

Chavez: Build Pagosa CTE Scholarship, \$1,000; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$1,500; Hagan Scholarship, \$60,000.

Dempster: Resport, \$1,000; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$1,500; Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, \$8,000; Rochester Institute of Technology, \$52,000.

Faith Domingo: Whit Newton Good Citizenship Award, \$500; University of Colorado Denver, \$13,940.

Jessie Richard Elledge: Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000; Treat Scholarship, \$1,500.

Matthew Fillmore Happ: Treat Scholarship, \$1,000; Full Sail University, \$40,000.

Haynie: Colorado Mesa University, \$84,000.

Hensle: Build Pagosa CTE Scholarship, \$1,000; Northern Arizona University, \$14,000.

Jenkins: San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$1,500.

Limebrook: Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000; Archuleta County Republican Women Scholarship, \$1,000; Chama Peak Land Alliance Scholarship, \$1,000; Vic and Ethel Poma Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000.

Katelynn Rose Mills: Resport, \$1,000; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$1,500; Town of Pagosa Springs AIM HIGHER, \$5,000; Moniker Scholarship, \$4,000; Chama Peak Land Alliance Scholarship, \$500.

Natalia Maria Monterroso: Jonah’s Light Memorial Scholarship, \$1,950; WHIPs (Women Helping in Pagosa), \$1,200.

Nasralla: Andrea McGinn Memorial Scholarship, \$2,000; LIM College, \$56,000.

Nehring: Build Pagosa CTE Scholarship, \$1,000; Vets for Vets Benny Lohman, \$1,500; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$1,500.

Peterson: Home Run Berglund Scholarship, \$1,500.

Pouyer: Vets for Vets Benny Lohman, \$1,500; Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000.

Renteria: APT Foundation Scholarship, \$80,000; Daughters of the American Revolution, \$750; Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000; University of Colorado Boulder, \$12,400.

Santille: Colorado Mesa University, \$14,000.

AmberLynn Fay Snarr: Vets for Vets Benny Lohman, \$1,500; Mullins Nickerson Post 108 American Legion Scholarship \$5,000; Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant Award, \$1,000.

Stewart: University of Northern Colorado, \$14,000.

Travers Vasek: Pagosa Springs Instrumental Society, \$1,000; Curtains Up Pagosa Scholarship, \$1,000; Colorado State University-Fort Collins, \$92,000.

Aidan Gabriel-Alano Vega: Vets for Vets Benny Lohman, \$1,500.

Woodhall-Harvey: Build Pagosa-Trista Naumann Scholarship, \$2,500; San Juan Rangers Scholarship, \$1,500; Uncle Leroy Lucero Memorial Scholarship, \$500.

San Juan Mountain School

The afternoon of May 30, students, staff, family and friends gathered to celebrate the graduation of 18 students from San Juan Mountain School (SJMS).

A quartet of SJMS graduates garnered scholarships, according to the school:

Judith Berry: Hamline University Full Honors, writing and art.

Tucker Jacobson: Clarendon College, Colorado High School Rodeo Association.

Josiah Shumaker: LPEA Lineworker Scholarship, Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant.

Matthew Iturralde: Community Marijuana Offset Impact Fund Grant.

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Card of Thanks

Chelsea Hill

We would like to thank all friends and family that attended the memorial on May 16th for Chelsea Hill.

A big shout out to everyone that helped and brought flowers: Diane Gomez, Denise Beye, Laurie Simi, Jenna Netherton, Wendy Adams and Tawnya Sheppard.

Also to Michael Derr at Just Click

Printing, Faire Society Bakery and Coffee Shop, Mariah Renaud baker extraordinaire, Mountain Peak Rentals, Wednesday’s Bouquet.

Friends Catherine Frye and Sharon Haag that were there in spirit.

Thank you,

William, Pamela & Jeremy Hill,

River and Coral Johnson

Forum

■ Continued from front

Residents brought up concerns in regard to oil drilling and natural gas operations occurring across the state line in San Juan County, N.M., involving Gore Energy, Phelps Energy and Hilcorp Energy.

One resident asked what Archuleta County can do in terms of enforcement collaboration with San Juan County, N.M., mentioning environmental concerns over the project and the amount of dust coming from the project sites.

Medina explained that Colorado does not have any jurisdiction as the business is based in New Mexico, although Archuleta County's roads are being used by the company's drivers to haul large amounts of material and equipment through the area.

In response to another question from the crowd, Medina explained that the county's roads are public roads.

She noted that her understanding is that the energy companies are using "back roads" instead of Colo. 151, adding that this is a "bigger question and an ongoing conversation."

County Manager Longinos Gonzales encouraged residents to send in any information about the situation, with Medina mentioning she has been attempting to contact these energy companies to see what can be done about the amount of traffic on county roads.

Residents indicated that the energy company's trucks are using County Road 977, "and they speed at night."

One resident claimed they have to wear ear plugs at night to sleep due to the amount of traffic noise on the road.

Gonzalez indicated that he would continue looking into the situation.

Medina explained that the situation was brought to her attention recently by a resident and that conversations with law enforcement and the county's Public Works Department are taking place.

"We don't have all the answers

yet," she said, adding that the county is trying to get "real answers" and that it will take more than a day or two to do so.

Another resident mentioned that the trucks leaving the fracking sites are overloaded, suggesting the county could charge for an overweight permit to get some sort of financial benefit from the project.

Medina indicated that with the business being based in New Mexico, Archuleta County does not receive any tax revenue from it.

Public Works Director Mike Torres provided some information on the matter, stating that it has been an ongoing issue for multiple years now, and "it seems like more now this year than it has been in the past."

Torres explained that he is reaching out to La Plata County to make sure Archuleta County has matching policies in regard to regulations on dirt roads.

Torres mentioned that an overweight permit fee won't solve the issue of the energy companies using county roads, but at least the county would be getting something in return.

"We are looking into it," Torres said.

La Plata Electric Association

Representatives from La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) were also in attendance and provided information on public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) and what LPEA is doing in terms of fire mitigation work.

LPEA Vice President of Operations Jerry Sutherlin explained that fire mitigation and wildfire have been a No. 1 concern over the past six years he's been in his position, noting that LPEA's goal is to always keep the lights on and improve reliability.

One way of improving reliability is through raptor protection devices that protect wildlife and prevent fires caused by electrocution, Sutherlin explained.

He also mentioned that LPEA

aims to inspect all of its lines every 10 years, including more than 40,000 poles throughout its service area.

The "last tool in the tool box" Sutherlin spoke about was PSPS, explaining that LPEA has had enhanced power safety settings (EPSS) over the last four years, which have been enacted on red flag warning days.

He explained that with EPSS, reclosure equipment is switched to a "one shot," meaning that if something comes in contact with a power line (wildlife or trees), the line tries to reenergize a single time and if the problem is still there the system will lock out and power will be shut off to that specific area.

Sutherlin noted that over the past four years, power has been shut off using EPSS in the Arboles area just one time.

"So, it's improving the safety of our system and not really affecting the reliability of our electrical system," he said.

Sutherlin then explained that LPEA has hired a third-party company called Firescape, which has developed a program that looks at an extensive list of factors and real-time weather data to predict when there is a high wildfire risk and when a PSPS might be necessary.

Sutherlin stressed that a PSPS will only occur in the "most extreme conditions."

LPEA Key Accounts Specialist Emily Missildine provided information on how LPEA intends to communicate to its members when a PSPS may occur, describing a PSPS as a "proactive shutoff."

Missildine noted that LPEA's goal is to have all partners and members notified ahead of a PSPS ahead of time to help people prepare by charging devices, arranging medications and checking on neighbors.

She explained that LPEA is able to send out a notification up to 48 hours in advance, encouraging residents to sign up for its text notification program.

Missildine also emphasized that a

red flag warning "does not equal power shut off," as it is just one of a series of factors used in making that determination.

In response to a question from the audience, Sutherlin noted that the Firescape service for one year cost LPEA roughly \$90,000.

He also explained that Firescape uses additional equipment on the ground as LPEA has 23 weather stations scattered throughout its membership area, though data from all of those stations is not publicly available.

Sutherlin mentioned that with the additional equipment being used, LPEA is able to be "very granular" when considering a PSPS or using EPSS.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The meeting concluded with Medina taking a few final questions that were centered around the county being denied disaster relief funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damage that occurred in Archuleta County due to the historic flooding events in October 2025.

One resident inquired as to why the Board of County Commissioners recently decided to sign a neutral letter on its stance in regard to the newly proposed Disaster Declaration Transparency Act.

Without speaking for the other county commissioners, Medina explained that she felt the letter supporting the bill offered "no real substance" and indicated that there has been a recent turn of events politically.

"We may have a different opportunity and I think because we did a neutral letter we may have a better opportunity to get some FEMA funding," she said.

The next community forum is scheduled for June 18 in Aspen Springs at Ute Park, located at 981 Ute Drive, at 5:30 p.m.

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Road

■ Continued from front

he said, explaining the agreement is for the county to provide maintenance on a portion of NFSR 631 located within Archuleta County twice a year. That includes a one-time magnesium chloride application and blade, and the second time is "blade only."

Brown also mentioned that he, and other county staff members, had been contacted numerous times by constituents asking for maintenance on the road, noting a crash occurred along the roadway over the weekend.

A second crash occurred on the same roadway the morning of June 1 shortly after the BoCC meeting.

"The county certainly can't be, nor can the Forest Service, be responsible for the driving actions of individuals

using that roadway," Brown said.

He went on to explain that there is a "maintenance challenge" in that NFSR 631 is located in Archuleta County, "but that is a Forest Service road."

Brown also noted that crews were on-site Monday morning working on the road.

"We are trying to do our best, but the county can not arbitrarily plow, maintain, repair other governmental jurisdictional roads," Brown said.

Commissioner John Ranson emphasized some of Brown's comments, stating, "That is not a very safe road to be passing on."

Ranson explained that his understanding of the crash that occurred

over the weekend was that passing "was part of the problem."

Ranson encouraged folks to be careful on all dirt roads, regardless of their condition.

Accidents

Two vehicle rollovers were reported on NFSR 631 (Piedra Road) over three days, with the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) confirming the first crash occurred on Saturday, May 30, at approximately 4 p.m.

According to an email to The SUN from CSP's public affairs office, the crash took place at NFSR 631 (Piedra Road) and Jack's Pasture Road involving a Toyota Camry.

"The vehicle rolled onto its roof on the edge of the road and was oc-

cupied by four. No injuries were reported and the vehicle was towed from the scene," the email explains.

The second crash involved another single vehicle that rolled onto its roof.

It occurred at approximately 9 a.m. on Monday, June 1, at NFSR 631 (Piedra Road) and Roush Drive.

"The single occupant claimed minor injuries," CSP's email states, noting the vehicle was towed from the scene.

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Ballots

■ **Continued from front**
tary of State's Office, the Libertarian Party of Colorado has prohibited Unaffiliated voters from voting in the Party's Primary Election pursuant to C.R.S. 1-4-1304(1.5)(c).

What's on the ballots?
According to the county's notice for the primary election, the election will be for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following local offices: Archuleta County commissioner for District 3, Archuleta County clerk and recorder, Archuleta County treasurer, Archuleta County assessor, Archuleta County sheriff, Archuleta County surveyor and Archuleta County coroner.

The ballots will also feature a number of state-level and federal-level positions.
Ballots for the Libertarian Party of Colorado and the Unity Party of Colorado's primaries will contain only one contest each, according to the Colorado Secretary of State's Office and Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Archuleta.
The Libertarian Party of Colorado has nominated two candidates for secretary of state; the Unity Party of Colorado has nominated two candidates for governor.

The official primary election candidate list from the Colorado Secretary of State's Office is available at www.coloradosos.gov/pubs/elections/vote/primaryCandidates.html.
Democratic primary election ballot

There are no Democratic candidates for county-level offices on the ballot.
For U.S. Senate, a statewide race, the ballot will include Julie Gonzales and John Hickenlooper.
For U.S. House of Representatives for District 3, the ballot will include Alex Kelloff and Dwayne L. Romero.
For governor, a statewide race, the ballot will include Phil Weiser and Michael Bennet.
For secretary of state, a statewide race, the ballot will include Amanda Gonzalez and Jessie Danielson.
For state treasurer, a statewide race, the ballot will include Jeff Bridges.
For attorney general, a statewide race, the ballot will include Jena Griswold, David Seligman, Michael Dougherty and Hetal Doshi.
For State Board of Education for District 3, Barb Clementi will appear on the ballot.
For State House of Representatives for District 59, Katie Stewart will appear on the ballot.
Republican primary election ballot
For Archuleta County Commissioner for District 3, Veronica Medina and Randy Betts will appear on the ballot.
For Archuleta County clerk and recorder, Archuleta will appear.
For Archuleta County treasurer, the ballot will include Elsa P. White.
For Archuleta County assessor, Johanna Tully-Elliott will appear.
For Archuleta County sheriff, the

ballot will include Mike Le Roux.
For Archuleta County coroner, Brad Hunt will appear.
For U.S. Senate, a statewide race, the ballot will include Mark Baisley.
For U.S. House of Representatives for District 3, the ballot will include Ron Hanks and Jeff Hurd.
For governor, a statewide race, the ballot will include Scott Bottoms, Victor Marx and Barb Kirkmeyer.
For secretary of state, a statewide race, the ballot will include James Wiley.
For state treasurer, a statewide race, the ballot will include Kevin Grantham.
For attorney general, a statewide race, the ballot will include Michael J. Allen and David Willson.
For State Board of Education for District 3, Sherri M. Wright will appear on the ballot.
For State House of Representatives for District 59, Naomi Riess will appear on the ballot.
Libertarian Party of Colorado
For secretary of state, a statewide race, the ballot will include Sean Vadney and Alex Astley.

Unity Party of Colorado
For governor, a statewide race, the ballot will include Paul Noel Fiorino and Jeff Peckman.
Voter information
Archuleta notes voters can make sure their registration is up to date by visiting the Archuleta County Elections Office at 305 Village Drive, which is open Monday through

Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., or online at www.govotecolorado.gov.
Eligible Coloradans can register to vote and update their voter registration at GoVoteColorado.gov through June 22 in order to receive a ballot in the mail. After June 22, Coloradans can still register and vote in person at a voting center until 7 p.m. on Election Day.
The elections office will also serve as a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC) beginning June 22.
From June 22 through June 26, it will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. On June 27, it will be open 8 a.m. to noon. On June 29, it will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 30 (Election Day).
The county has also partnered with the Town of Pagosa Springs to have a second VSPC at the Ross Aragon Community Center, with that polling center open on election day only.
There will not be a VSPC at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association location this year since the election's office is now uptown.
In addition to VSPCs, voters can return voted ballots to the county's secure ballot drop boxes.

Those boxes, located at Pagosa Springs Town Hall (551 Hot Springs Blvd.) and the TARA Community Center (333 Milton Lane in Arboles) will be open 24/7 with video surveillance from June 8 through 7 p.m. on Election Day.
Visit www.govotecolorado.gov for additional election information.
randi@pagosasun.com

Restrictions

■ **Continued from front**
Tres Rios Field Office are currently very high to extreme," said Tres Rios Field Office Manager Derek Padilla. "These restrictions are being implemented due to persistent drought conditions and ongoing coordination with our county and federal partners."
In addition to year-round wildfire prevention rules, the following are restricted under stage 1 on BLM lands:
• Campfires: You may only have a campfire in agency-provided fire grates located in developed campgrounds and recreation sites. You can use stoves that use gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel. Fire pans and rock campfire rings are not acceptable.
• Smoking: Do not smoke unless you are inside a vehicle or building, at a developed recreation site or in an outdoor area cleared of flammable materials (at least a 3-foot-wide barren spot).

• Explosives/exploding targets: Do not use exploding targets or other explosive materials.
• Torch or welding work: Do not use a welder (gas or arc) or operate a torch with an open flame unless you have a pressurized fire extinguisher (minimum 8 ounces) and work in a cleared area that is at least 10 feet in diameter.
• Spark arrestors required: You may only use chain saws with a working USDA or SAE-approved spark arrestor. You must also have a chemical fire extinguisher (at least 8 ounces) and a round point shovel (at least 36 inches long) nearby. No operation of any internal combustion engine without a spark arresting device properly installed and in working order.
Additional BLM Colorado fire information can be found on the BLM website at www.blm.gov/programs/fire/regional-info/colorado.
Information on fire restrictions and current fires, including pre-

scribed fires and fuels treatment projects, throughout the state using the BLM Colorado Fire Information Dashboard at <https://bit.ly/4ekKzPb>.
Drought conditions
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of Archuleta County remained in severe or extreme drought as of May 26, with 36.15 percent falling into the extreme category — both figures consistent with earlier in May.
At the beginning of the calendar year, 100 percent of the of the county fell into the lowest drought category — abnormally dry.
Helping drought conditions worsen has been below-average precipitation four out of the five completed months.
According to Pagosa Weather, Pagosa Springs has received 5.07 inches of precipitation, which is 61 percent of the annual year-to-date average of 8.51 inches.

In May, the organization states on its website, 0.37 inches of precipitation was observed in Pagosa Springs, which falls short of the historical average of 1.26 inches.
National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center outlooks favor above-average temperatures and chances of precipitation for June, primarily during the first part of the month.
River flow
River flows also continue to be below median, with the peak runoff occurring in mid-May — earlier than is typical.
As of early Wednesday afternoon, June 3, the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs was flowing at 356 cubic feet per second (cfs) — below the median of 1,390 cfs.
The record low for June 3 occurred in 2002 with a flow of 116 cfs, while the high of 4,090 occurred in 1948.
randi@pagosasun.com

PAWSD updates rules and regulations

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved updates to the district's rules and regulations at its May 14 meeting, including changes to the district's backflow prevention regulations.
PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis explained that many of the changes were "clean up" from changes to how PAWSD treats new development that were made last year.
She added that there were also changes made to reflect PAWSD's current approach to the mainline extension process and how the district works with developers.
PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor explained that there are also changes to the regulations that would give more immediate ability to make decisions about turning off or on a customer's water, which he explained would simplify managing the 15 to 25 customer water turns-offs a month that the district manages.
He added that, currently, customers must wait 24 hours for their water service to be turned on again and that there are "some instances where we really need to turn that water back on."

Tautges commented that the district should attempt to draft a press release or other public education piece to inform the public about the changes and the process for getting their water turned on again.
Connor stated that the district would work on taking actions to inform its customers about this process.
PAWSD District Engineer Justin

Ramsey then spoke to the board about changes to the cross connection control and backflow prevention regulations.
He explained that the technician who ran this aspect of PAWSD's system moved about eight months ago and that he subsequently started looking at these regulations and realized that there was a disconnect

between PAWSD's regulations and current statutes.
He stated that his revisions did not change the district's program, but did alter deadlines and would help ensure that the district complies with state regulations.
The board then unanimously voted to approve the revised regulations.

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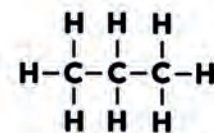
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Photo courtesy Bob Endres

Volunteers with the American Dipper Project in Durango and the Weminuche Audubon Society in Pagosa Springs are working to study American dipper nesting activity in the region.

American Dipper Project looking at nesting activity in southwest Colorado

By Bob Endres

Weminuche Audubon Society

Each spring along the cold mountain streams of southwest Colorado, a small gray bird begins an extraordinary ritual that most people never notice.

The American dipper — North America's only aquatic songbird — returns year after year to nests tucked above rushing water. Volunteers with the American Dipper Project in Durango and the Weminuche Audubon Society in Pagosa Springs have observed that many pairs appear remarkably faithful to the same nesting sites, rebuilding and repairing them each season.

The nests themselves are easy to overlook. From a distance, they resemble moss-covered clumps attached to rocks or bridge supports. Up close, they reveal careful engineering: rounded mounds about a foot wide, with a small entrance hole near the bottom. Each year the birds

patch the outside with fresh moss and line the inside with soft grasses before beginning a new family.

In southwest Colorado, a single pair may raise one or two broods each season, producing two to four chicks at a time. After the eggs are laid, the female remains hidden inside, incubating them while the male works tirelessly in the current below. Unlike most songbirds, American dippers hunt underwater, walking and swimming along the streambed in search of insect larvae clinging to submerged rocks. Regularly, he re-ascends to the nest with food for the female.

Once the chicks hatch, the pace accelerates dramatically. Both parents dive repeatedly into the rushing water, delivering food to the nest almost nonstop throughout the day. When the young birds finally fledge, they perch on nearby streamside rocks, fluttering their wings and begging loudly for more food while learning to fly and hunt

on their own.

If stream conditions remain favorable and the season is long enough, the parents may begin the entire process again only a week or two later. We've even seen them begin to build a new nest while they are still feeding nestlings in the first.

This year, volunteers led by Patti Spindler and Bob Endres are monitoring eight active nest sites in the Pagosa Springs area, and volunteers led by Steve Monroe and Shelley Silbert are monitoring four in the Durango area.

Ten of these nests have already produced eggs and hatchlings. Four nests successfully fledged three or four young birds earlier this season, while several others currently contain growing chicks.

Not all nesting attempts succeed, however. Two nests appear to have been discovered by predators. Both were heavily damaged, and the hatchlings — along with one adult bird — have disappeared. In one

case, however, the surviving pair has already begun rebuilding, suggesting they may attempt a second brood.

Another nest remains difficult for volunteers to observe directly because of its location above the stream, but the adults continue making frequent food deliveries, a hopeful sign that young birds may soon emerge.

The challenges facing these birds extend beyond predators. One nest site that successfully produced young

■ See Project B2

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11:00 am - Opening

11:30 am - Welcome, Announcements, Proclamations,
Legislation Update by CO Rep. Katie Stewart

12:15 pm - PSHS Equality Club

12:30 pm - Break/Visit Booths

12:45 pm - Drag Queen Aria PettyOne

1:00 pm - Music, Dancing, Booths

1:30 pm - On the Shoulders of Giants - Shane Nelson

1:45 pm - Music, Dancing, Booths

2:00 pm - Costume contest and parade

3:00 pm - Drag Queen Aria PettyOne

3:15 - 4:00 pm - Music, Dancing, Booths

4:00 pm - After party at the Neon Mallard

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Governor signs ‘negligently luring bears’ bill to enhance enforceability of state statute

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

On May 27, Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 26-1342, strengthening penalties to those found knowingly feeding bears.

HB 26-1342, which amended Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 33-6-131, was a priority bill for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources during the 2026 legislative session.

It removed the requirement to prove that an individual “intentionally” lured bears through mismanagement of food or edible waste and reduced the burden of proof to “knowingly.”

The bill also removed a previous requirement that first-time offenders receive a warning, enhancing enforceability. CPW, along with all peace officers, now have the discretion to either provide a warning or to immediately issue a violation to individuals whose knowing actions have caused some form of human-bear interaction or conflict.

“It is not always what is in the picnic basket that lures a bear; it can also be the common food waste we dispose of. Reducing human-animal conflicts starts by doing our part to properly store our trash and lock away food waste so we can safely share our communities with our furry friends coming out of hibernation. This new law takes another step to protecting bears and humans alike, and I appreciate the sponsors for their work,” said Polis.

“Human-bear conflicts continue to be a major safety issue for both the public and our wildlife,” said

CPW Director Laura Clellan. “This bill strengthens our ability to address these conflicts by updating the culpable mental state tied to this offense and increasing enforcement measures for individuals who knowingly leave out attractants and trash, ultimately helping us keep both communities and bears safe.”

Under current law, a person that knowingly places food or edible waste in the open in circumstances where there is a reasonable probability of luring a wild bear to the food or edible waste commits a misdemeanor offense.

HB 26-1342 raised the penalty for third or subsequent offenses of luring bears from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

The law does not apply to acts related to agriculture. “Food or edible waste” does not include live animals or food that is grown in the open prior to the food being harvested.

“This is an issue that my district is all too familiar with,” said Rep. Katie Stewart, D-Durango. “La Plata County saw over 12 percent of the total statewide reports, and in the Durango area alone, 241 conflicts were directly related to property damage from bears seeking food. CPW officers had to set 68 traps and relocate 17 bears in my district in 2024 alone as a result of these increasing conflicts. House Bill 1342 will help to keep bears and residents in the southwest corner of the state safe.”

“Once a bear has learned how and where to obtain human food, it’s really difficult to unteach this behavior, which ultimately leads to more human-bear conflicts and costly bear relocations and euthanizations,” said Rep. Meghan Lukens, D-Steamboat

Springs. “We are reducing barriers for CPW to minimize human-bear interactions to keep everyone safe, including Colorado’s bear population. Bears can cause extensive property damage, and this law mitigates human behavior that attracts bears and helps prevent bears from digging through your trash in the first place.”

CPW supported the bill, which was developed following stakeholder input through the agency’s statewide bear working group.

“Human-bear conflict is a human problem, not a bear problem, and this law focuses directly on careless human behavior — giving officers a realistic path to holding repeat offenders accountable before bears pay the price,” said Brenda Lee, executive director of the Colorado Bear Coalition. “This bill is about giving Colorado’s law enforcement the tools to ensure that one person’s repeated negligence doesn’t put an entire community at risk. That is a win for bears and the people who share their habitat.”

“Keeping bears out of trash is crucial for keeping bears wild and people safe,” said Lara Xaiz, city of Aspen wildlife coordinator. “We currently have a patchwork of codes in place throughout bear country, but there are many gaps remaining. This bill helps fill those gaps with standard language that prohibits leaving unsecured trash out in bear country. It can take several years for municipalities to prepare ordinances unique to their communities. This statewide language will be a valuable tool to use in the interim.”

Black bears are native to Colorado, and CPW estimates a population of 17,000 to 20,000 independent adults.

As the state’s population and visitation continues to grow and as natural food failures are likely to increase, human-bear interactions and conflicts have also increased.

In 2025, CPW received 5,299 reports of sightings and conflicts, which was 15 percent higher than the previous six years. Unsecured trash remained the leading source of conflict between humans and bears.

Of the 5,299 reports CPW received in 2025, 2,448 resulted in property damage to a shed, garage, home, vehicle, fence, etc. More than 57 percent were linked to trash, and 16 percent to bird seed, pet food, barbecue grills, coolers and refrigerators.

In 2025, 52 bears were relocated and 78 were euthanized because of conflict. In 2024, when CPW took 5,022 bear reports, 68 bears were relocated and 98 were euthanized because of conflict.

In order to avoid unsafe situations between bears and humans, it is imperative that Coloradans and visitors to the state properly manage attractants that might lure bears into situations of human conflict.

Key provisions of HB26-1342

- Changes language of CRS 33-6-131 from “intentionally” luring bears to “knowingly.”
- Removes the requirement for a first-time offender to be given a warning.
- Increases the fine for a third or subsequent offense from \$2,000 to \$5,000.
- Retains an exemption for acts related to agriculture, as defined in CRS 35-1-102.

New Colorado Stargazing Trail features state’s stunning night skies

State of Colorado

On June 2, Gov. Jared Polis and the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO), a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), launched the Colorado Stargazing Trail as part of Colorado Dark Sky Month in June to guide Coloradans and visitors to experience the night sky at the state’s certified International Dark Sky locations.

“Colorado is known for our world-class outdoors and natural beauty that we love and that draws visitors from around the world. This new guide will provide Coloradans and visitors alike with a map of the constellations to experience the beauty and wonder of our night skies and support our local tourism economies,” said Polis.

Colorado is currently home to 13 International Dark Sky Parks and eight International Dark Sky Communities that have committed to reducing light pollution and offering access to one of Colorado’s most unique natural resources: the night sky.

Colorado also leads the world with more than 30 locations, including 12 state parks, that have officially begun

the process of earning International Dark Sky Place certification.

The Colorado Stargazing Trail features these destinations, as well as stargazing events across the state, including tours on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad Dark Sky Train, guided stargazing with local astronomers and ranger-led night sky programs in Rocky Mountain National Park.

“By undertaking dark sky initiatives, the communities and state parks featured through the Colorado Stargazing Trail have created a real draw for Coloradans and visitors alike. We are thrilled to promote their work and support their local economies by helping more travelers experience the wonders of the night sky,” said Eve Lieberman, executive director of OEDIT.

To support Colorado communities and state parks in their efforts to achieve International Dark Sky Place certification, the CTO collaborates with DarkSky International, DarkSky Colorado, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to provide guidance and resources that can assist with implementation strategies that reduce light pollution and protect Colorado’s stunning night skies.

Since 2023, the programs have

provided a total of 1,402 technical assistance hours to 54 unique partners across 32 Colorado counties.

“The Colorado Stargazing Trail highlights the innovative ways communities across the state are protecting their night skies while creating unforgettable visitor experiences,” said Timothy Wolfe, CTO director. “From remote wilderness adventures to vibrant mountain towns and cultural landmarks, the trail invites travelers to experience a different

side of Colorado — one that comes alive after dark.”

“Colorado’s Dark Sky locations create unforgettable outdoor experiences,” said CPW Director Laura Clellan. “This trail celebrates communities and partners working to preserve these experiences for current and future generations.”

For more information on the Colorado Stargazing Trail, visit www.colorado.com/colorado-stargazing-trail.



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Project

■ Continued from B1

in 2025 was washed away during October flooding. Although the returning dippers briefly attempted to rebuild nearby this spring, they eventually abandoned the effort and may have relocated to a different section of stream.

This season, researchers are expanding the project beyond simple nest observations. Volunteers are also recording river temperatures, air temperatures, water clarity and stream flow conditions. They are also measuring the abundance and

diversity of aquatic insect larvae — the critical food source that sustains both adults and chicks.

The goal is to better understand how changing stream conditions affect the nesting success of one of the Rocky Mountains' most remarkable and resilient birds.

For many residents, the American dipper is little more than a quick flash of gray beside a river. But for those who pause long enough to watch, these small birds reveal a surprisingly dramatic world unfolding just inches above the current.



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All gave some and some gave all.

San Juan Mountains Association, San Juan Outdoor Club partner to bolster Pagosa area volunteer trail ambassadors

By MK Thompson
San Juan Mountains Association

Have you ever been out hiking in a new area and had a question about something unfamiliar to you? Maybe you wondered about a specific flower or the name of a peak.

I've been asked multitudes of questions over my years of working in uniform along the trails of the San Juan Mountains. A couple of my favorites have been "What kind of bird poops blue?" (Answer: one that eats blue berries) and "How far does this trail go?" (The questioner was 1 mile into the 486-mile Colorado Trail).

Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge of the San Juan Mountains with others? Are you looking for a way to give back to this incredible landscape and its native flora and fauna? It's not hard to understand why so many people want to visit this place.

Maybe you should volunteer as a trail ambassador.

The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA), in partnership with the San Juan National Forest (SJNF), has offered volunteer experiences such as these since 1988.

The beginnings of what is now known as the Trail Ambassador Program began in the early 1990s in the popular Chicago Basin area of the Weminuche Wilderness. The presence of volunteers has helped to minimize damage to fragile alpine vegetation as well as curb potential conflicts between the animals that live there and the people and pets who are merely visitors.

Over the years, volunteers have shared their knowledge of backcountry best practices in dozens of locations to thousands of visitors.

The overwhelming majority of



Photo courtesy Lo Williams, San Juan National Forest

Volunteer trail ambassadors are being sought to help the Pagosa Ranger District increase trail user education.

these visitors are grateful for these interactions with trail ambassadors and walk away feeling better about how to minimize their impacts in nature.

Most people don't want to do the wrong thing. In many cases, they honestly don't know any better. Maybe they live in an area where vegetation has a long growing season. Or, they might be city dwellers where there is always a trash can or a bathroom close by.

For 2026, the SJMA will partner with the San Juan Outdoor Club to fulfill the request of the Pagosa Ranger District to increase trail user education.

The SJOC has many folks who have been volunteering at local trailheads for the past several years. They have really laid out the groundwork for a successful trail ambassador program in the Pagosa area. The SJMA is excited to join this partnership. The

SJOC's expertise is critical to ensure the continuation of an already important volunteer project.

Volunteer trail ambassadors will be located at the Piedra and Fourmile trailheads (possibly more), where they will have an information table and be available to chat with people out on the trails.

If this sounds like an opportunity you'd like to join in on, there will be a training session June 10 on the back patio of the Pagosa Ranger District office from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please contact Brooks Letchworth from the SJMA (blechworth@sjma.org) with any questions.

Together, we can all make a difference in our little corner of the world, one question at a time. Let's share our knowledge and wonder with others and protect these incredible San Juans for generations to come. We hope to see you out there.

Colorado Avalanche Information Center shares findings on backcountry decision-making survey

Colorado Avalanche Information Center

As another snow season comes to a close in Colorado, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) is sharing findings from a 2026 backcountry decision-making survey.

The survey examined how backcountry users made decisions during an extended period of dangerous avalanche conditions this winter.

Following an unusually warm and dry start to the season, a series of storms beginning Feb. 11 brought heavy snowfall and strong winds, creating unstable avalanche conditions across Colorado's mountains. For 18 consecutive days, avalanche danger remained at considerable (3 of 5) or higher, including five days rated high (4 of 5).

During this period, avalanches

were large and could be triggered remotely from distances of up to 1,000 feet. The cycle also coincided with several fatal avalanche accidents in other Western states. In response, CAIC issued a combination of avalanche watches and warnings, special avalanche advisories, and increased public messaging through media outreach and social media platforms.

Eight people were caught in avalanches in Colorado during the 18-day cycle, and no fatalities were reported during that period. Colorado later recorded its first avalanche fatality of the 2025-2026 season on March 7, when a solo backcountry skier was killed near Vail Pass.

In March, the CAIC surveyed backcountry users to better understand how people accessed information and made decisions during

February's high-risk period. The survey, conducted between March 5 and March 21, collected 357 responses through the CAIC's Snow Pool research project and other channels.

Among respondents who traveled or planned to travel in the backcountry during February, 92 percent reported that avalanche conditions influenced their plans. Many reported making more conservative decisions, including choosing terrain with lower avalanche danger, staying on slopes less than 30 degrees and avoiding specific aspects or elevations.

CAIC resources were the most commonly used tools for trip planning, with 81 percent of respondents using the CAIC website. The mobile app, CAIC social media and media coverage also played an important

■ See Survey B4

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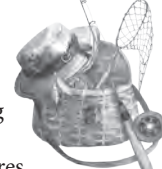
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Sports



TRACK

Pirates garner all-state honors

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Six Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate track and field athletes recently received all-state honors for their performances at the state meet.

First-team selections are athletes finishing first, second or third individually as well as first-place relay members.

Receiving first-team honors for PSHS are junior Malorie Morton for discus, senior Jeremiah Jones for high jump and senior Colton Lucero for the 100-meter dash.

Second-team selections are for those finishing fourth, fifth or sixth individually as well as those on second-place relays.

Receiving second-team honors for PSHS are freshman Rylan Ash for the 3,200-meter run, senior Creede Dozier for the triple jump and junior Emile Schneider for discus.

randi@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Trevor Gian

Several Lady Pirate soccer players recently received all-conference honors for their play during the spring season. From left to right are Katelyn Fricke (honorable mention), Xyra Belarmino (honorable mention), Ximena Garcia (first team) and Terriana Cage (honorable mention).

BASEBALL



Photo courtesy Jon Wells

Several Pirate baseball players garnered all-conference honors for their work on the diamond during the spring season. From left to right are Taylor Wells (first team), Sebastian Gonzales (honorable mention), Aaron Sowle (first team) and Zach Pouyer (first team).

Free Fishing Weekend set for June 6-7

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) invites resident and nonresident anglers of all ages to participate in Free Fishing Weekend.

On June 6-7, Colorado fishing license and Habitat Stamp requirements are waived, allowing anyone to fish in Colorado's 6,000 miles of streams and more than 1,300 lakes and reservoirs for free.

Colorado offers a diverse range of fishes, including more than 35 warm- and cold-water species that live in some of the nation's most scenic bodies of water.

Colorado offers Gold Medal and

Quality Waters for anglers. CPW fish management biologists have identified and nominated these waters based on fish sampling records, creel surveys and professional biological assessments. To find fishing locations, stocking reports and other resources, use the CPW Fishing Atlas or visit cpw.state.co.us/fishing.

All Colorado fishing regulations still apply as outlined in the 2026 Colorado Fishing Brochure. Anglers are required to follow any posted signage regarding water or fishing closures.

"Fishing is a great activity to share with family and friends, and the perfect chance to get outside and

enjoy Colorado's natural resources," said Angler Education Coordinator Andre Egli. "If you are new to fishing, a variety of beginner classes are offered around the state. Classes are available for new anglers, families or seasoned anglers that want to learn a

new technique like fly-fishing."

Join Colorado's vibrant fishing community by participating in CPW-hosted fishing classes, events and tournaments at Colorado state parks and state wildlife areas. Events are posted on the CPW Event Calendar.

Survey

Continued from B3

role in public awareness. The findings suggest that clear, consistent communication across CAIC's avalanche forecast products, digital platforms, social media channels and news media helped backcountry users understand the changing conditions and make more conservative decisions during a high-consequence period.

Anyone who spends time in Colorado's snow-covered mountains is encouraged to sign up for the Snow Pool at avalanche.state.co.us/snow-pool. Read the full February conditions survey results at avalanche.state.co.us/blog/how-coloradans-made-decisions-during-february-2026s.

dangerous-avalanche-cycle.

Summer conditions update

Although daily backcountry avalanche forecasts end on June 1, the CAIC will update the forecast anytime there is a significant change in avalanche conditions. Avalanches remain possible in Colorado's mountains whenever there is snow on a steep slope, including in spring and summer.

Backcountry travelers should continue to monitor weather, evaluate snow conditions and consider the consequences of being caught in even a small avalanche before crossing steep, snow-covered terrain.

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NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 2.8 of the Pagosa Springs Town Charter, that as of April 6, 2026, there is one vacancy on the Pagosa Springs Town Council. The council seat is an at large seat. During a public meeting to be held on June 16th, 2026 at 5:00 pm, at Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd, the Council will consider the appointment of one new Council Member to fill the vacancy.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any elector of the Town of Pagosa Springs interested in serving on the Town Council may submit a completed application, found on the town website, with the Administrative Assistant, Traci Bishop, at Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd or PO Box 1859 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, on or before June 10, 2026.

For town boundaries, eligibility, or more info call 970-264-4151 or visit www.pagosasprings.co.gov

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Education



Colorado Department of Education releases state-level results from 2026 CMAS and PSAT/SAT

Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education released summary state-level results from the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), PSAT and SAT assessments administered this spring to Colorado public school students in grades three through 11.

On Wednesday, May 27, districts and schools received access to their confidential CMAS student-level results to support planning and system-level instructional decision-making ahead of the 2026-2027 school year.

Families can also access their students' CMAS results directly through the Family Score Report Portal, while high school students may view their PSAT and SAT results through their online College Board accounts.

"State assessments provide one important measure of how well we are supporting students across Colorado, and these results show both progress and areas where we must continue to improve," said Colorado Education Commissioner Susana Córdova.

Córdova said, "Early literacy has been a major focus in Colorado, and we are encouraged by the progress we are seeing. When comparing the same cohort of students over time, CMAS English Language Arts (ELA) scores increased by 5 percentage points from third grade in 2025 to fourth grade in 2026. Similarly, ELA scores for students moving from fourth grade in 2025 to fifth grade in 2026 increased by nearly

8 percentage points. We are also seeing year-over-year gains in CMAS math performance. We know that we still have work to do, but we are very proud of the hard work that goes into these gains."

Full state assessment results — including state, district and school-level data, performance-level distributions, disaggregated student group results, and academic growth information — will be publicly released in August.

The 2026 state assessment results reflect continued academic progress in several grades and subjects, alongside opportunities to further strengthen student achievement.

CMAS, Colorado's statewide assessment aligned to the state's academic standards, measures the progress students are making toward grade-level expectations, while the PSAT and SAT provide important indicators of college readiness and support postsecondary planning for high school students.

Students at all performance levels continue to demonstrate important grade-level knowledge and skills as they progress toward mastery.

Highlights from the 2026 results include:

- ELA: The percentage of third-grade students who met or exceeded expectations declined slightly but remained generally consistent with last year's results. However, by the end of elementary school, a higher percentage of students met or exceeded expectations compared to previous years,

with fourth- and fifth-grade students continuing to show improvement over prior years.

When comparing the same cohort of students over time, CMAS ELA scores increased by 5 percentage points from third grade in 2025 to fourth grade in 2026.

Similarly, ELA scores for students moving from fourth grade in 2025 to fifth grade in 2026 increased by nearly 8 percentage points.

Middle school ELA performance declined compared with 2025 results. Students who approached expectations demonstrate reading and writing skills, including reading and responding to grade-level texts, while students who meet expectations generally demonstrate stronger accuracy, comprehension and depth in applying those skills.

- Math: Elementary and middle school students continued to demonstrate steady progress, with notable year-over-year gains in grades four and eight, and stable or modest improvement across other grade levels. Overall, Colorado continues to see positive trends in math achievement across elementary and middle school grades.

- Science: Science achievement remained relatively stable statewide in grades eight and 11, while the percentage of fifth-grade students who met or exceeded expectations declined compared with last year.

- Social Studies: More students met or exceeded expectations in grade

seven compared to grade four.

- PSAT/SAT: SAT results for 11th-grade students declined in reading and writing and remained consistent in math compared with 2025 results, while PSAT performance for students in grades nine and 10 generally improved compared with last year.

"Providing timely access to state assessment results gives families a clearer picture of year-end learning and helps them identify opportunities for summer support if needed," said Chief Assessment Officer Christina Wirth-Hawkins. "Making confidential student-level results available to districts and schools as early as possible also supports planning and system-level decision-making ahead of the new school year. By publicly releasing statewide summary data now and providing families direct access to individual student scores through the Family Portal, we're reinforcing our commitment to keeping families, educators and communities informed about Colorado student achievement before the start of the 2026-27 school year."

More information about state assessments is available on the department's website, and families can access their child's CMAS results at the CDE Family Portal. To access this information, parents and guardians must have their child's State Assigned Student Identifier (SASID). Parents can find this information on prior year CMAS reports, in their district's student information system, if available, or by contacting their district's assessment coordinator.



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School district approves new language arts curriculum

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its May 21 special meeting, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education unanimously voted in favor of adopting the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum for implementation beginning in the 2026-2027 school year for Pagosa Springs Elementary School and fifth grade at Pagosa Springs Middle School.

The board previously heard a presentation about the need to change curriculum, the reasons for choosing CKLA, how the district is piloting the new curriculum and more from Pagosa Springs Elementary School Principal Kelly Vining and Pagosa Springs Middle School teacher Amber Kirkham.

In their presentation, the pair highlighted that this will give the district consistent curriculum from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Vining explained that the elementary school was using two different curricula, one for kindergarten through second-grade that focuses on phonics and another for third through fifth grades that focuses on comprehension. Vining indicated the two different curricula has caused gaps, which

shows in the school's Colorado Measures of Academic Success, or CMAS, testing.

She noted the students are consistently approaching expectations on the test, with achievement being stagnant.

She also indicated there were some issues with the adoption of the two curricula in the building.

CKLA, she told the board, is a guaranteed and viable curriculum, adding she doesn't believe the school will see the gaps with CKLA it is currently seeing.

Vining also indicated issues with the curricula led to lack of clarity and, for students, an inconsistent or incoherent experience.

Midway through the 2024-2025 school year, she indicated, there began to be chatter about changing curricula, with a survey showing staff evenly split on the matter.

The school ultimately opted to look at new options, with Vining noting they owe it to the students to have a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

Kirkham explained the teachers are "really excited" about the new curriculum and having a fully aligned system from kindergarten through eighth grade, which she noted is also cool given the possibility of the district building a K-8 building in the future.

Vining noted the curriculum helps disadvantaged kids close achievement gaps and noted the "great growth" at the middle school, adding that the elementary school needs to jump on that.

Board member Amanda Schick asked about intervention with CKLA.

Vining noted that is a con of the curriculum, but added the elementary school has a good intervention system that results in great growth for students.

Vining also acknowledged it could be difficult for multilingual students, but that the representative has ways that can help mitigate difficulties and that there may be supports the school needs to put in place for English language learners.

Board member Tim Taylor asked about tests, with Vining explaining that's currently a stumbling block, but that CKLA has assessments built in and that it will align with benchmark testing the school uses that is created by the same company as CKLA.

In response to a question from Schick about the rollout of the new curriculum, Vining explained the school was incorporating seeds into professional development and some teachers were piloting the curriculum.

She added there would be ongoing support next year.
randi@pagosasun.com

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If you are interested in participating in the Red Ryder Roundup Mutton Busting event, please register by Thursday, June 25th. Applicants must be 6 years old or younger and a parent must attend the rodeo with you. There will be 10 riders per day on July 2, 3 and 4. Helmets, vests and ropes will be provided at no charge. There is no charge for this event and all participants will be drawn out of a box Sunday, June 28. If you are selected, you will be notified of the day you will ride by telephone or email.

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Parent's name
Parent's contact email and phone
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Shelby Aragon

Join us in congratulating Shelby Aragon on her completion of United States Air Force Officer Training School as a nurse practitioner.

From her childhood in Pagosa to her work as a health care provider, Aragon has touched countless lives through her compassion, kindness and unwavering dedication to others. This accomplishment is a true reflection of her perseverance, strength and commitment to serving something greater than herself.

Aragon and her family are beginning a new chapter in Colorado Springs, where she will be stationed at the Air Force Academy. While she will be greatly missed by her family, friends, patients and colleagues whose lives she has impacted, we know her calling to serve will continue to reach far beyond what we can see today.



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Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
May 11 — Drug paraphernalia-possess, head lamp equipment-improper, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, unlawful distribute/manufacture/dispense/sale-controlled substance, no location listed.

May 11 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

May 12 — Information only, Canyon Circle.

May 12 — Information only, Jaunty Court.

May 13 — Fraud by check-other method, Gallop Court.

May 14 — Violation of protection order, no location listed.

May 15 — Domestic violence, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges DV, violation of protection order-criminal, County Road 600.

May 15 — Information only, Redwood Drive.

May 15 — Vicious dog with injury to person, Carefree Place.

May 16 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

May 16 — Death investigation, Down and Out Road.

May 16 — Harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, Bonanza Avenue.

May 18 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

May 18 — Domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, County Road 600.

May 19 — Information only, Hinsdale County.

May 19 — Agency assist, no location listed.

May 20 — Careless driving, no location listed.

May 21 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.

May 21 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Eagle Drive.

May 21 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, County Road 359.

May 21 — Defrauding a secured creditor-\$1,000 to \$20,000, theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000-other (includes gas), Hills Circle/Grenadier Place.

May 21 — Sex assault, Acorn Drive.

May 22 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, trespass warning, Eagle's Loft Circle.

May 22 — Driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), no location listed.

May 22 — Unlawful sexual contact-no consent, Lake Forest Circle.

May 22 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

May 23 — Information only, Bastille Drive.

May 23 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, unlawful sexual contact-no consent, Surrey Drive.

May 23 — Information only, Oak Drive.

May 24 — Theft-\$1,000 to \$2,000, Spruce Circle.

May 25 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

May 25 — Impound, no location listed.

May 25 — Vicious dog with injury to person, East Fork Campground.

May 25 — Information only, Bastille Drive.

May 26 — Impound, Harman Park Drive.

May 25 — Internet sexual exploitation of child-pornography material, Waterfall Court.

May 26 — Dog at large, Colo. 151.

May 27 — Violation of protection order-criminal, County Road 119.

May 27 — Death investigation, Cross Creek Place.

May 27 — Violation of a court order/warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

May 27 — Information only, Trinity Lane.

May 27 — Information only, Corral Court.

May 28 — Theft-\$1,000 to \$2,000, Pinon Causeway.

May 28 — Third-degree burglary-safe or vault, no location listed.

May 29 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Cloud Cap Avenue.

May 29 — Open burning, no location listed.

May 29 — Agency assist, County Road 988.

May 29 — Failure to appear (bench warrants), Harman Park Drive.

May 29 — Information only, Navajo Trail Drive.

May 31 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Aspen Springs.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

May 11 — Marijuana prohibited over 21 openly and publicly displays

in manner to endanger less than 12 oz, Hermosa Street.

May 13 — Criminal mischief, no location listed.

May 13 — Identity theft-use information to obtain thing of value, no location listed.

May 13 — Lost/found property, U.S. 160.

May 13 — Warrant arrest, Country Center Drive.

May 14 — Theft M, harassment-follows in public place DV, Country Center Drive.

May 15 — Information only, Pike Drive.

May 15 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

May 15 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

May 15 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.

May 15 — Information only, Aspen Village Drive.

May 15 — Careless driving, left scene without providing information after striking unattended vehicle of property, Aspen Village Drive.

May 16 — Death investigation, South Pagosa Boulevard.

May 16 — Theft/intends to deprive person, San Juan Street.

May 16 — Information only, Legacy Drive/Aspen Village Drive.

May 17 — Information only, Country Center Drive/Eagle Drive/Pagosa Street.

May 18 — Trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 18 — Public indecency-expose genitals, trespass warning, San Juan Street.

May 18 — Violation of protection order-criminal, violation of protection order-criminal, South 9th Street.

May 19 — No insurance-driver, expired registration, South 7th Street.

May 19 — Careless driving, South 8th Street.

May 19 — Obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, driving under restraint, warrant arrest, 15th Street.

May 19 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-residence, North 5th Street.

May 19 — Assault, Pagosa Street.

May 20 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

May 20 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard/7th Street.

May 20 — Reckless driving, no location listed.

May 20 — Harassment/repeated calls with or without conversation, Hot Springs Boulevard.

May 21 — Theft-\$750 to \$2,000 other (includes gas), Bienvenido Circle.

May 21 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

May 20 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard/7th Street.

May 20 — Reckless driving, no location listed.

May 20 — Harassment/repeated calls with or without conversation, Hot Springs Boulevard.

May 21 — Theft-\$750 to \$2,000 other (includes gas), Bienvenido Circle.

May 21 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

May 22 — Information only, North 1st Street.

May 22 — Trespass warning, Talisman Drive.

May 23 — Speeding 25-39 over prima facie limit, West U.S. 160/Hot Springs Boulevard.

May 24 — Suspicious activity/vehicle, Aspen Village Drive.

May 24 — Criminal trespass, South 9th Street.

May 25 — Theft-\$300 to \$1,000, theft of firearm-theft in violation of 18-4-401(1), first-degree criminal trespass motor vehicle, North 8th Street.

May 26 — Trespass warning, Lewis Street.

May 26 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Talisman Drive.

May 26 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.

May 27 — Assault, criminal mischief, Pagosa Street.

May 27 — Harassment-repeatedly insults/taunts/challenges, Eagle Drive.

May 27 — No registration-failed to obtain registration within 45 days of purchase of vehicle, drove vehicle without insurance, San Juan Street.

May 28 — Information only, Hot Springs Boulevard.

May 28 — Trespass warning, San Juan Street.

May 28 — Found property, Eagle Drive.

May 28 — Hit and run failed to remain on scene of accident-damage only, Country Center Drive.

May 28 — Operate motorcycle without endorsement per CRS 42-2-103(3), no registration-failed to obtain registration within 45 days of purchase of vehicle, drove vehicle without insurance, Hermosa Street.

May 28 — Careless driving, failed to notify police of accident, Pagosa Street.

May 29 — Trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 29 — Littering, North 5th

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

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Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

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May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

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Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

May 29 — Careless driving, Apache Street.

May 30 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, Country Center Drive.

May 30 — Trespass warning, Little Pine Lane.

May 30 — Violation of protection order-criminal, trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

May 31 — Careless driving, commercial vehicle-safety violation, San

Street.

Juan Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

May 11 — Ashton Franco, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

May 11 — Thomas Wynn, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$126.

May 11 — Katherine Barnas, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs

■ See Blotter B7

May 11 — Ashton Franco, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

May 11 — Thomas Wynn, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$126.

May 11 — Katherine Barnas, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs

■ See Blotter B7

March 02, 2020
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.)
22001222
Original Principal Amount
\$201,286.00
Outstanding Principal Balance
\$184,849.02
Pursuant to CRS §38 38 101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF ARCHULETA, STATE OF COLORADO:

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THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 07/23/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication: 5/28/2026
Last Publication: 6/25/2026
Name of Publication: Pagosa Springs Sun

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 03/26/2026
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:

Lynn M. Janeway #15592
Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (855) 263 9295
Attorney File # 26 037220

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.

©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 5/2015
Published May 28, June 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (295578)

District Court, Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 970-264-8160

David G. Mandy Investment Trust, Plaintiff v.

National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC, a delinquent Colorado limited liability company; April Bergman, in her capacity as the Public Trustee of Archuleta County, Colorado; Elsa White, in her capacity as Treasurer of Archuleta County; and all unknown person who may claim an interest in the subject matter of this action, Defendants.

Case Number: 2025CV30073 Division 3

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

(1) National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC;

(2) All Unknown Person Who May Claim Any Interest in the Subject Matter of this Action

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the 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 the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last 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 within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action to quiet title of the parties, along with other relief, related in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, to wit: LOTS 259 and 260, CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE AT PAGOSA UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD IN THE REAL PROPERTY RECORDS OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO ON JUNE 4, 1973 AT RECEPTION NO. 77868.

Published in the Pagosa Springs Sun
First Publication: _____
Last Publication: _____
s/ Jeffrey B. Cullers
Attorney for Plaintiff

Publication: The Pagosa Springs Sun
[Publication dates]
Published May 7, 14, 21, 28 and June 4, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (300900)

District Court, Archuleta County, Colorado
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 970-264-8160

David G. Mandy Investment Trust, Plaintiff v.

National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC, a delinquent Colorado limited liability company; April Bergman, in her capacity as the Public Trustee of Archuleta County, Colorado; Elsa White, in her capacity as Treasurer of Archuleta County; and all unknown person who may claim an interest in the subject matter of this action, Defendants.

Case Number: 2025CV30075 Division 3

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

(1) National Recreational Properties of Pagosa Springs, LLC;

(2) All Unknown Person Who May Claim Any Interest in the Subject Matter of this Action

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the 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 the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last 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 within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action to quiet title of the parties, along with other relief, related in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, to wit: LOTS 259 and 260, CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE AT PAGOSA UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD IN THE REAL PROPERTY RECORDS OF ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO ON JUNE 4, 1973 AT RECEPTION NO. 77868.

Published in the Pagosa Springs Sun
First Publication: _____
Last Publication: _____
s/ Jeffrey B. Cullers
Attorney for Plaintiff

Publication: The Pagosa Springs Sun
[Publication dates]
Published May 7, 14, 21, 28 and June 4, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (300900)



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Two-way traffic is now flowing on the north side of U.S. 160 (Pagosa Street).

Water conservancy discusses Rio Blanco water dispute

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its May 18 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed water issues on the Rio Blanco and the district's role in potential future litigation. SJWCD board member Candace Jones summarized the situation, explaining that Archuleta County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini reached out to the district about an ongoing dispute between property owners on the Rio Blanco concerning one landowner's construction of "berms" that are potentially redirecting the river and causing flooding on a neighboring property. She noted that her description was "hearsay" and that she was "only going

on what I've heard." She added that Giovannini stated that the county was considering a lawsuit against the property owner erecting berms since he is not following land use regulations. Jones stated that Giovannini was interested in whether or not the SJWCD has any claims relevant to the potential lawsuit since it was previously involved in funding restoration on the Rio Blanco in the 1990s and 2000s. She indicated that she found a book detailing the project and distributed it to the board as well as speaking with Val Valentine, a former water commissioner who wrote the book. According to Jones, Valentine stated that the homeowners' associations in the area led the design of the restora-

tion project while the SJWCD helped apply for grants. Earlier in the meeting, in response to a question from Jones, SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane indicated that he believes the district likely has no actionable claims in the situation unless it had imposed any easement rights or other contractual obligations as part of the restoration. Jones replied that she would try to investigate the deeds involved more, and Kane indicated that he would also investigate the issue further. "So, it will be some interesting litigation to be aware of but I don't know, based on what Jeff said, that we have any direct interest there," Jones summarized. josh@pagosasun.com



Continued from B6

— \$126.
May 11 — Jason Brewster, speeding 20-24 mph over PFL, six points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$278.
May 12 — Juvenile, menacing, six months probation, 24 hours community service, fine — \$150.
May 26 — Lori Fortney, parked on a designated snow route, fine — \$50.
May 26 — Laura Nehring, parked on a designated snow route, fine — \$50.
May 26 — Jamelle Myers, speeding 10-19 miles per hour over prima facie limit, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$197.
May 26 — Larry Hamilton, failed to stop at a stop sign, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.
May 26 — David Taylor, obscene conduct, fine and costs — \$135.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
May 13 — Ostyn Raymond Blanchard, speeding 1-4 over limit, fines and costs — \$95.50.
May 13 — Anthony Victor Poma Jr., menacing, 120 days jail, fines and costs — \$258.50.
May 14 — Nichole Blair Thompson, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$903.50.
May 14 — Isaiah Rivas, driving while ability impaired, 180 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$646.50.
May 18 — Anthony Alvarado,

speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
May 18 — Anwar Moreno-Quezada, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.
May 20 — Jesse Hunter Laverty, driving while ability impaired, 180 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$686.50.
May 20 — Nicholas W. Holden, driving while ability impaired, 180 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$610.20.
May 20 — Darrel R. Tuck, no insurance-owner, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$638.50.
May 20 — Esteban Cardenas, driving ability impaired-with prior, controlled substance-possession Schedule I/II/III/, 365 days suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 24 months probation, 12 days electronic surveillance, 24 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,598.50.
May 20 — August L. Sparrow, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.
May 20 — Nicholas J. Byrum, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$64.50.
May 20 — Parks/rec violate park rule, fines and costs — \$136.
May 22 — Hevon Martinez, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 364 days Department of Youth Corrections, fines and costs — \$67.50.
May 22 — Dylan B. Sanchez, controlled substance-possession Sched-

ule I/II/III/, 30 days jail, fines and costs — \$1,146.50.
May 22 — Vincent Michael McPeak, harassment-inconvenient hours, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,172.50.
May 22 — Dustin R. Wood, passing on left improperly, fines and costs — \$172.50.
May 22 — Luis Michael Talamante, tail lamps/reflectors, fines and costs — \$81.
May 22 — Sean P. Platero, speeding 10-19 over limit, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$279.50.
May 22 — Brian Scott Lipsky, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
May 22 — James N. Gatrell, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.
May 22 — Isaiah J. Coleman, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
May 22 — Octavian Ros, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$255.
May 22 — Raymond Allen Riney Jr., burning without a permit, fines and costs — \$669.
May 22 — Colin Williams, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.
May 22 — Gavin J. Smelley, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.
May 22 — Shyanne L. Walden, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.
6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.



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— Samantha L

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— Haley T

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www.mountainmendm.com/when-mold-is-a-health-concern-vs-a-maintenance-issue/

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Graduation ceremonies

Archuleta School District held a pair of graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 30, honoring and celebrating about 100 high school graduates between the Pagosa Springs High School and San Juan Mountain School ceremonies.

SUN photos/Randi Pierce



preview

ARTS & LIFE

Festival of the Arts

June 5-7 • Tennyson Sculpture Park



Photo courtesy Kathleen Steventon

Festival of the Arts returning for fifth year

By Vickie Thompson
Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

Returning for the fifth year to Pagosa Springs, the annual Festival of the Arts will be once again held in Tennyson Sculpture Garden (475 Lewis St.) Friday, June 5, from 5 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This free event is open to the public and is family friendly.

This year for the first time we are opening the festival on Friday evening, where you can come and browse the artist booths and enjoy food, drinks and live music.

Throughout the weekend we will have more than 30 juried artists showcasing a variety of painting styles as well as wall art, ceramics, jewelry, wood carpentry, fused glass, functional pottery, leather goods, handbags, photography, hats, gourds and more.

Enjoy lounging in the Tennyson Sculpture Park and listen to a lively lineup of live music on stage in the park throughout the event.

The Pagosa Springs Arts Council (PSAC) is once again proud to sponsor this event. This year we have monetary first, second and third prizes for artist booths as voted by the public. We also have festival T-shirts and tote bags for a donation that you can collect at Two Old Crows or at the festival at the PSAC booth.

For more information or to grab a T-shirt/tote, visit psartscouncil.com/support.

During the festival and in support of art in Pagosa, the Liberty Theatre will once again host Guitars in the Round at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. Bo DePena, Sunny Gable, Colt Wayne Keeney and Brendan Forrest will be on stage of this fun event. Go to Pagosamovies.com for more information.

Don't be put off by the construction on Lewis Street. Parking is available at the new public lot on U.S. 160 and on Lewis Street. Construction has the west entrance to Lewis Street closed. Proceed east on U.S. 160 to the next stop light and turn left on 4th Street/Hot Springs Boulevard, then left on Lewis Street. For westbound traffic, turn right at the 4th Street light, then left on Lewis Street.

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Retro Cats, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Status Crowes, 6 p.m.
East Side Market: Mike Dae Hanlon, 11 a.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Chris Cody Meacham, 5 p.m.

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19th Hole Concerts

at Pagosa Springs Golf Club

Thursdays in June

5:30-7:30pm

\$10 ticket supports local nonprofits

June 4	Bob Hemenger + Wings Early Childhood Center
June 11	Jackson Mountain Ramblers + Upper San Juan WEP
June 18	Outlaw Firm + Pagosa Community Initiative
June 25	Bo DePeña + Aspire Medical Services & Education



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19th Hole Concerts opening night slated for June 4

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado invites the community to kick off summer at the first concert of the 19th Hole Concert series, happening Thursday, June 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

This opening night will feature beloved local musician Bob Hemenger, bringing his signature mix of Dixieland, jazz, soul, pop and blues to the outdoor stage.

The evening will also highlight Wings Early Childhood Center, with proceeds from the \$10 suggested donation supporting all four nonprofits participating in this year's concert series.

The 19th Hole Concert Series is a June tradition, offering four consecutive Thursday evenings of live music, community connection and local impact. Thanks to corporate sponsors, 100 percent of donations go directly to the featured nonprofits, with funds pooled and distributed equally at the end of the series.

Looking ahead to June 11

As the community gathers for opening night, organizers are also encouraging everyone to save the date for the second concert on Thursday, June 11.

That evening will feature the ever-popular Jackson Mountain Ramblers, a fan favorite known for their eclectic mix of original songs and feel-good hits spanning the 1960s through the 2000s.

The June 11 concert will spotlight the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP), a local nonprofit working to protect and enhance the health of the Upper San Juan River Basin.

The WEP is the only nonprofit organization in Archuleta County dedicated to collaborative on-the-ground watershed restoration in the Upper San Juan River Basin. After years of increasingly severe drought conditions, destructive wildfires and

historic flooding along the San Juan River underscored our rivers' and streams' vulnerability and the need for long-term watershed resilience and infrastructure protection.

Funding will support project planning, partnership coordination and community engagement to advance projects to implementation.

The WEP will be hosting a film premier event of a short film documenting the success and challenges of the recently completed Pagosa Gateway River Project on Aug. 19 at

the Liberty Theatre.

A summer tradition worth showing up for

Whether you're attending one concert or all four, the 19th Hole Concert Series is a chance to enjoy great music, support meaningful work and connect with the community in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Bring a chair, bring a friend and join us starting June 4, and then come back the following week to keep the momentum going.

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

Members of the cast of “Come From Away” bring the story of Gander, Newfoundland, to life on the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts stage. The Tony Award-winning musical, based on the true events following Sept. 11, 2001, continues June 5 and 6 at 7 p.m.

‘Come From Away’ to resume run Friday at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

By Tim Moore

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

There is something special about the beginning of a repertory season. The paint is barely dry. Actors are still discovering new moments. A joke lands differently than it did the night before. A song suddenly reveals something no one expected. Audiences sense it, too. What they’re witnessing isn’t simply a finished production, but a company coming alive in real time. That process is now underway at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

This Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, at 7 p.m., “Come From Away” returns following an opening week-end that reminded audiences why this modern classic has become one of the most beloved musicals of the last decade.

Based on the true story of the small Newfoundland town that welcomed 7,000 stranded airline passengers after Sept. 11, 2001, “Come From Away” could easily have been a story about tragedy.

Instead, it is a story about kindness. The musical celebrates the ordinary people who chose to help when the world suddenly stopped making sense. Filled with humor, heart and a soaring folk-inspired score, it has become one of Broadway’s most cherished contemporary musicals.

Director Andrew Barratt Lewis, who recently concluded his work on the production, believes that universal humanity is what makes the show resonate so deeply with audiences.: “Every rehearsal reminded us that

audiences don’t leave this show talking about airplanes or world events. They leave talking about people. They leave believing, at least for a little while, that kindness still matters. That’s what makes ‘Come From Away’ such a special piece of theater.”

While audiences are discovering “Come From Away,” another company of artists is hard at work down the hall. Last Friday, rehearsals began for Stephen Sondheim’s “Company,” opening June 12.

When “Company” premiered in 1970, it changed the landscape of musical theater. Gone were the traditional love stories and tidy endings. In their place was a smart, funny and often surprisingly emotional examination of modern relationships.

At its center is Bobby, surrounded by friends, marriages and questions he can no longer avoid. More than 50 years later, Sondheim’s score remains remarkably contemporary, filled with wit, insight and songs that continue to resonate with audiences navigating the complexities of connection, commitment and adulthood. This fresh new production promises to bring those timeless questions into a distinctly modern world.

Then, on June 26, the season expands again with “Fiddler on the Roof,” one of the most beloved musicals ever written.

Set in the village of Anatevka, “Fiddler on the Roof” follows Tevye and his family as they navigate changing traditions, changing generations and a rapidly changing world.

Featuring unforgettable songs including “Tradition,” “If I Were a

Rich Man” and “Sunrise, Sunset,” the musical remains a powerful celebration of family, faith, resilience and community.

One of the unique joys of summer theater in Pagosa Springs is the repertory model itself. The same company of professional performers appears

■ See Center on next page



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NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 2.8 of the Pagosa Springs Town Charter, that as of April 6, 2026, there is one vacancy on the Pagosa Springs Town Council. The council seat is an at large seat. During a public meeting to be held on June 16th, 2026 at 5:00 pm, at Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd, the Council will consider the appointment of one new Council Member to fill the vacancy.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any elector of the Town of Pagosa Springs interested in serving on the Town Council may submit a completed application, found on the town website, with the Administrative Assistant, Traci Bishop, at Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd or PO Box 1859 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, on or before June 10, 2026.

For town boundaries, eligibility, or more info call 970-264-4151 or visit www.pagosasprings.co.gov



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San Juan Stargazers to hear from Tom Hanchett of Apollo Mission Control

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

On Thursday, June 4, we are having the monthly meeting of the San Juan Stargazers, and we are having a very special speaker: Tom Hanchett, who lives in Pagosa Springs and was part of Apollo Mission Control Houston covering all the launches of Apollo seven through 17.

I don't think we can even imagine how exciting that must have been to be there for the launches, the various unique missions, the problems and complications, and the experiences of all the Apollo astronauts, whom he personally knew and spoke with during the mission.

Hanchett lived the history of our NASA Space Program, knowing every astronaut and being present for each exciting moment.

Hanchett is one of the most remarkable men I have ever met. He is interesting and filled with wisdom and compassion.

On June 4 we will have an amazing opportunity. I want to invite everyone in Pagosa Springs and especially every student who has thought about outer space to come to hear the sto-

ries he will tell.

He has recently been to a reunion of the Apollo missions and all the employees were encouraged to go home and speak to students to get them excited about the future.

Hanchett not only has amazing stories to tell, but he has a unique attitude toward work. I would love for all our Pagosa students to have exposure to the way he looks at life and how that was expressed in his own work and career.

You can come around 6 p.m. if you want to visit or have any astronomy questions. Hanchett will begin around 7 p.m., talk for about an hour and then answer questions.

It is an amazing opportunity that I hope you will take advantage of. We will also be celebrating his 89th birthday.

The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall of the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St. Use the parking lot entrance.

Mark your calendar

Our July meeting, on July 2, will be a members-only business pizza party where we will be evaluating events, having an election and making plans for the future. The pizza will be served close to 6 p.m. You will need to RSVP with your pizza order.

July 15 and Aug. 12 will be night

sky events near Hatcher Lake for both telescopes and binoculars. More information for both activities will be announced later.

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For more information: psartscouncil.com/news

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Center

■ continued from previous page

across multiple productions, allowing audiences to watch actors transform from role to role as the season unfolds. A performer who makes you laugh in one show may break your heart in another just a few days later.

All three productions will continue throughout the summer, but there is a compelling argument for seeing them now rather than waiting until August. By late summer, these productions will be polished and seasoned. Today, they possess something equally exciting: possibility. Audiences have the opportunity to witness the discoveries, surprises and electricity that come with a season just finding its stride.

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Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting to focus on nightscape photography

By Andy Butler

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The June meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will be held on Wednesday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Our program this month is “Nightscape Photography,” presented by Andy Butler.

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

If attending in person, feel free to arrive any time after 6 p.m.; the actual presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

It’s hard not to feel a sense of awe when you look at the stars on a clear, dark night.

Modern digital cameras are able to produce high-quality images from long exposures of weak starlight. This allows photographers to extend landscape photography into the night, producing stunning “nightscape” images in which both the land and the sky are important compositional elements.

In this presentation, Butler will be providing information on planning and capturing nighttime landscapes in which the moon, star trails or the Milky Way are featured.

For planning night sky photos, we will discuss the cycles of the moon and Milky Way, how to find dark skies and tools for scouting locations. For capturing nightscape photos, there will be tips on gear that may be helpful, beyond just your camera; suggestions for focusing and composing in the dark; and use of both natural and artificial light to illuminate the foreground.

During the next new moon phase in June, the club will have a night photography outing where you can put these ideas to work to create your own nightscape images.

Following the presentation, members may share and discuss up to five recent photos with the group in our monthly Image Share session. Please bring these on a thumb drive.

June Virtual Shutter Challenge

Each month, the Photography Club holds a Virtual Shutter Challenge on its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub>.

All photographers are invited to participate, whether a club member or not.

The June Challenge is “Intentional Camera Movement.” Trade sharp detail for energy and surprise, and see what emerges from your lens.

Refer to the excellent May presentation from Chris Roebuck, <https://pagosaphotoclub.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/chris-motion.pdf>, and use intentional



Photo courtesy Andy Butler

The Milky Way photographed near Abiquiu, N.M., in early fall. The Pagosa Springs Photography Club will discuss nightscape photography at its June 10 meeting.

camera movement to create impressionistic images.

You can use your iPhone on long-exposure mode. To participate, share up to three images on the theme by commenting on the post on this topic on our Facebook page. As always, like and comment on the works of others.

Connect with others

The club offers opportunities to learn from others and have more fun with your photography. The club has both programs and outings to help photographers of all skill levels improve their photography.

Membership is just \$25 a year (\$35 for families). You can download a membership form from our website (<https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/>) and send it in with

your payment (the form has all the details), or you can bring it to a club meeting.

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Photo courtesy Max Miller
Max Miller will delight attendees of the Wings Grand Gala on June 24 at Keyah Grande. Tickets are on sale now.

Max Miller to bring jazz to Wings Grand Gala

By Donna Mosher
Wings Early Childhood Center

Max Miller grew up in Pagosa Springs singing Frank Sinatra in the car and in the shower. Now, at 32, he’s doing it professionally — and locals are listening.

Miller will delight our community at Keyah Grande on June 24. Wings Early Childhood Center is hosting its first gala fundraiser — and you are invited.

Miller specializes in classic jazz and the music of the “Rat Pack”: Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Bobby Darin, and other entertainers from the 1950s and 1960s. He includes in his sets Broadway show tunes and Michael Bublé, a bridge between the classic crooner era and modern pop.

“My parents played them when I was a kid, growing up here,” Miller said of the Rat Pack era icons. “When I was like 7 or 8 years old, I sang along to them. I’ve always had an ear for it.”

Miller spent nearly a decade in New York City pursuing a career as an actor. He trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, a prestigious conservatory, and studied musical theater at the University of Northern Colorado. In New York, he landed Broadway

auditions and callbacks, and pursued film and television work. He moved back to Pagosa during the pandemic.

“Going to New York was a stark contrast to Pagosa Springs,” he said. “It made me appreciate Colorado. I’m very glad to be back.”

Miller launched his jazz business about three years ago with modest expectations.

“I just wanted to do it for fun and see where it took me,” he said.

It has taken him further than he expected. Audiences of all ages love him, including children who come up to tell him how much they enjoy the music.

“Those little kids are dancing, too,” he said with a laugh, pushing back on any notion that his repertoire belongs only to an older crowd.

Away from the microphone, Miller is an outdoorsman at heart — hunting, fishing, camping and backpacking in the Colorado wilderness his family has called home since they moved to Pagosa when he was 2 years old.

His mission, he says, is simple: “I just want to keep the crooners alive. I don’t want that music, that genre, to die. So, I keep it alive the best way I can.”

The Wings Grand Gala promises

■ See Gala on next page

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Healthy Archuleta holds gathering conducted in Spanish

Healthy Archuleta

As a college intern, you expect your summer to be filled with spreadsheets, coffee runs and standard office meetings. What you don't expect is to sit in a room and witness a community completely transform the way it communicates.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the latest gathering conducted in Spanish hosted by Healthy Archuleta. The meeting was a very unique experience. It was so cool to see the efforts Healthy Archuleta makes for the community to feel more included and involved in the work it is trying to promote. The organization did an amazing job ensuring our local Hispanic community felt heard, included and empowered to interact freely. Walking into the room, the first thing that caught my eye was the technology, specifically the specialized earpieces paired with live interpreters.

The earpieces were incredible. Because of them, language barriers completely melted away, allowing everyone to understand the conversation in real-time. You could visibly see the joy in the room; people were genuinely happy to have been thought about and actively included in the dialogue.

Because of this intentional environment, attendees felt comfortable asking tough questions and making bold statements. It wasn't just a presentation; it was a living, breathing conversation.

The heart of the meeting centered

around a series of powerful listening and mindfulness exercises. In a world dominated by screens, the room shifted toward deep, face-to-face human connection.

Participants were asked to pair up for a dedicated listening exercise, which sparked some eye-opening reflections from the crowd:

- On mindful listening: "Sometimes it's so easy to be listening to someone and constantly interrupting them about your own experiences, and it's very easy to make them feel like we aren't really listening. My own daughter has told me I do this to her, and I also feel this was about my partner; sometimes I'm trying to tell her things and she constantly interrupts me and it makes me feel unheard."

- On face-to-face connection: "It's weird to sit face-to-face with your partner and actually listen to them. Normally all we do is communicate over the phone."

- On stress relief: The meeting also incorporated grounding techniques. "The breathing exercises were cool, and I could actually see myself using them on a regular basis."

There was a great turnout for the event, largely because folks in the group did a great job of bringing a "plus one." The room was full of people who might normally never cross paths, yet everyone was interacting and deeply engaged.

Parents in attendance also took the opportunity to ask pressing questions about their children and family wellness.

Healthy Archuleta team member

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to hear from Jim Bramwell June 6

By Keena Carstensen
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, June 6.

We will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in the fellowship hall.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a program by Jim Bramwell.

Bramwell, of Pagosa Springs, is a respected member of a multigenerational ranching family known for

its deep commitment to conservation, sustainable agriculture and the stewardship of southwest Colorado's working lands. He served as the region's brand inspector for 40 years. He will share stories from his life and family.

The genealogical society meets on the first Saturday of each month. It hosts guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to genealogy and history, including the rich history of our area.

For more information, contact Keena Carstensen at keenaruntherace@gmail.com.

Gala

■ continued from previous page
an elegant summer evening at the picturesque Keyah Grande Guest House with great food, drinks and, of course, Miller. You will enjoy locally curated hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and the opportunity to take part in an auction of delightful experiences.

Quality childhood education is critical to children's lifelong success. Your support of the Wings Early

Childhood Center Grand Gala helps to provide the outstanding care and education that the center offers to children and families of Archuleta County. We rely on grants and private donations to support families who otherwise could not afford quality early childhood education.

Tickets are \$100 each and are available at Tangled, 189 Talisman Drive, and online at WingsEarly-Childhood.org.

and community behavioral health clinician Debbi stepped up to answer every single question, balancing professionalism with a deeply personal, compassionate touch. Seeing a community come together to practice being truly present for one another was inspiring. People left the meeting happy, connected, and, above all, feeling like their partners and neighbors were actually listening.

Healthy Archuleta continues to pave the way in helping to build a more inclusive community.

Visit us on our website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org, and social media platforms to learn more.

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

1119 Hills Circle

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MLS #833746
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.

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/1119-Hills-Cir>

1231 Ranchland Drive

\$290,000

MLS #829827
40 Acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag which has significant fire mitigation done and the property taxes are under \$200 per year. Borders the Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple flat build areas close to power. Single car garage and a 3 room insulated bunkhouse on a foundation with a 1200 gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. The solar panels power the 12 volt bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. The garage will accommodate a 22' RV and you can live for 2 years on the property when you are building. Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water. The kitchen has refrigerator, stove and sink. This is a gated community.

266 Sparrow Circle

\$250,000

MLS #835090
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To tour Eagle Drive go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/X-Eagle-Dr>

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MLS #833836
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Photos courtesy Seeds of Learning

Three of the contestants of Seeds of Learning's Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories are Stetson and Cia Adkisson, competing as a duet; Leela Simpson; and Dawn Siggett. The event is set for Aug. 24.

Seeds of Learning spotlights contestants of Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories

Seeds of Learning

As excitement continues to build for this summer's event, Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories, Seeds of Learning Early Care and Education Center is proud to begin introducing the talented local performers who will take the stage at this year's fundraising event on Aug. 24, at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

This unique competition pairs hometown talent with an unforgettable evening of music, storytelling and inspiration from acclaimed Nashville Hall of Fame and award-winning singer-songwriters Jeffrey Steele, Wendell Mobley, Danny Myrick and Megan Linville.

Contestants will compete for both Judges' Choice and People's Choice honors while helping raise critical funds to support Seeds of Learning's high-quality early childhood education programs.

The first performers featured in our contestant spotlight series are Stetson and Cia Adkisson, competing as a duet, along with solo artists Leela Simpson and Dawn Siggett.

Stetson and Cia Adkisson are a husband-and-wife duo and long-time residents of Pagosa Springs. Stetson Adkisson grew up in Pagosa cowboying, outfitting, fly-fishing and is a finish carpenter by trade. Cia Adkisson grew up in California in a musical family and now provides rental guest services here in town. After traveling and playing music together for several years, the duo now focuses primarily on raising their three children. They still perform on occasion for church and special events and are excited

to be part of Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories.

Simpson is a 16-year-old who's had a passion for lighting up the stage by singing, dancing and acting since the age of 5. Over the last 10 years, she has appeared in numerous productions with Thingamajig Theatre Company, as well as middle and high school shows, and musicals with Curtains Up Pagosa. She has also been studying voice and piano with Venita Burch since she was 7. Through a program at the middle school, Simpson enjoyed reading and working with the kids at Seeds of Learning. She's incredibly grateful for this opportunity to sing and help raise money for her community's early education center.

Originally from Michigan, Siggett moved to Pagosa Springs with her husband in 2021, drawn by the stunning views and the lifestyle that comes with living near the mountains. Twice a week, Siggett teaches a cardio dance class, and her habit of singing along to the music sparked something unexpected: she began singing for friends and family. With the help of talented friends on guitar, they've spent the past year performing at open mic nights, around campfires and in living rooms filled with people they love. Siggett is excited to be part of Seeds' voice competition this year.

Each singer brings a unique musical style, personality and passion to the stage, making this year's competition one of the most exciting community events of the summer.

Additional singers will be debuted next week.

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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship announces June services

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship Sunday services for June will focus on Pride Month, and congregational organization and planning.

We come together to wonder, explore, learn and be inspired to take action in living our values in the world.

We invite all to join us most Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. This month is a bit different as we hold special fellowship events. As we continue to grow and gather for spiritual nourishment, we take time to celebrate with the wider community and focus on some fellowship business.

Along with the fellowship’s programming, we host a variety of community endeavors to build community and spiritual growth:

- Tara Meditation Group and Dharma Practice: Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Qi Gong Practice: Mondays at 1 p.m.
- Wise and Wakeful Circle – 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 10 a.m.

You can find us at the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd. Unit B-15, on the north side facing Pagosa Peak.

We also offer Zoom services the first and third Sundays of the month. Find our current newsletter at PagosaUU.org for the link to join on Zoom and further information.

Following is a schedule of Sunday services and programs for June:

- June 7: Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. — “What You Need to Know About the Anti-Trans Movement” from the organization Transforming Hearts Collective.

We take this month to recognize and honor the LGBTQ+ community as a Welcoming Congregation.

We will share an informative and enlightening video which provides an overview of the anti-trans political movement, where it came from, and some of the threats that trans people in the U.S. are currently facing. It offers facts to counter some of the worst misinformation that is a central part of the anti-trans movement’s tactics to erode public support for trans people. This is part of a series from the Transforming Hearts Collective, which “represents a vision of a world in which queer and trans people can show up fully as ourselves in all of the places we call home.” Discussion will follow.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is one of the faith sponsors of Pagosa Pride,

and we hope to see you at Town Park on Saturday, June 13, to celebrate.

- June 14: Going Deeper Sharing Circle, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

This small-group setting is where we practice deep listening and sharing from our hearts. The themes for this group vary each month, but all are welcome in this open and safe circle.

- June 21: Celebrating the summer solstice at the Annual Fellowship Picnic. We honor the turn of the wheel for the summer solstice with music, ritual and community. This event is held at the home of one our members. Email us if you’re interested.

- June 28: Fellowship Planning Retreat. There will be no Sunday service at the fellowship.



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Plant profile: grasses

By Ethan Proud and Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnists

Grasses are an often overlooked and underappreciated part of our ecosystems.

They are not as stately as trees and lack the “wow” factor of wildflowers; however, they provide many ecosystem services and play a larger role in the environment than just a sod-forming green lawn.

A healthy grassland provides habitat and forage for wildlife ranging from the smallest rodents, game birds and large ungulates like elk; reduce

Extension Viewpoints

soil temperature; sequester carbon; and reduce flooding.

The deep, fibrous root systems of native grasses make them much better at reducing surface runoff than non-native grasses like Kentucky bluegrass, which have very shallow roots.

Native grasses roots help breakup

soil compaction (a major plus in our clay soils), which allows water to work into the ground rather than flow over the surface. Because of this, native grasses can be used for stormwater management.

The majority of the plant’s biomass is below ground and therefore stores carbon in the ground. Less of the accumulated carbon is released into the environment in the event of wildfire; inversely, during a forest fire, trees release a large amount of carbon as most of their biomass is above ground. Of course, a tree is much larger than clump of grass and

■ See Viewpoints on next page

Community United Methodist Church to hold service in Town Park

By Ken Daniell
Community United Methodist Church

On Sunday, June 7, the Community United Methodist Church is doing something simple.

We are going outside. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m. in Town Park (“Pirate Park”) right by the San Juan River. We will worship together, share a potluck lunch and spend some time by the water that runs through the heart of this valley.

This is part of a yearlong series we have been in called the “Seven Longings,” exploring the deep human hungers that most of us carry whether we have ever been inside a church or not.

This week we are sitting with a

passage from John 7 where Jesus stands up in the middle of a crowded public festival and calls out to anyone who is thirsty.

We have been thinking about our river a lot lately. The snowpack this year was one of the lowest on record, or so I’ve heard. The San Juan is running at a fraction of what it should be. Real water is finite. Real rivers can run dry. The kind of thirst Jesus is talking about, and the kind of water he is offering, does not depend on what fell in the mountains last winter.

If you have been away from church for a while, or have never been, or are just looking for a place to belong in this valley, come find us by the river on Sunday morning.

Bring a dish. Bring a chair. Bring a plate and cutlery to reduce waste. Bring whoever needs to come with you.

Everyone is welcome. No exceptions.

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Former County Commissioners and Former Mayor Proudly Support the Re-Election of Veronica Medina for Archuleta County Commissioner District 3.



Clifford Lucero
former County Commissioner



Michael Whiting
former County Commissioner



Ronnie Maez
former County Commissioner



Ross Aragon
former Mayor

Veronica Medina has been a strong voice for Archuleta County, demonstrating dedicated leadership, commitment to our community, and a tireless work ethic focused on the people of Archuleta County. Her service, advocacy, and passion for protecting rural values continue to make a positive difference for our families, businesses, and future generations.



Re-Elect VERONICA MEDINA

Archuleta County Commissioner District 3

Paid for by Marilyn Harris



Photo courtesy Keith Bruno, Audubon Rockies

Archuleta County will hold its inaugural Bioblitz — a fun and relaxed community science event where experts, community members and volunteers work together to document and record the biodiversity of an area — on June 20.

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Viewpoints

■ **continued from previous page**

will naturally contain more carbon, but food for thought is still food for thought.

The World Wildlife Fund estimated that in 2022 1.9 million acres of grassland were converted to cropland in the Great Plains, which in turn reduces the biodiversity and impacts pollinator and bird populations.

Archuleta County may not be part of the Great Plains region, but native grasses still play a vital role in our ecosystems, urban environments and agriculture. Native grasses can be planted to form a “lawn,” which requires less external outputs such as fertilizer, requires less mowing and reduces water consumption. Species like blue gramma, little bluestem and Indian rice grass can add structure and winter interest to gardens while providing habitat for pollinators and birds.

When seeding a lawn or pasture (or revegetating after noxious weed removal) it’s best to utilize a mixture of warm- and cool-season grasses.

Cool-season grasses are active in spring and fall, and warm-season grasses come out of dormancy during the hottest months of the year. Utilizing a mix will ensure that your lawn is green for longer or that there is forage for your livestock or wildlife.

Choosing a seed mix is difficult and best left to a professional. Reaching out to a major seed retailer will pair you with an expert who can make the best recommendation for your desired use and area.

The Archuleta County Weed and Pest Department, the San Juan Conservation District, and Colorado State University (CSU) Extension have partnered for the last 5-plus years on a seed reimbursement program for those managing noxious weeds on their property. This program is funded through the Colorado Department of Ag Noxious Weed Fund Grant. Reach out to the Weed and Pest Department or the San Juan Conservation District for more information on this program.

Bioblitz

Save the date for Archuleta County’s inaugural Bioblitz and learn all about grasses and other flora and fauna found in our local ecosystem.

A bioblitz is a fun and relaxed community science event where experts, community members and volunteers work together to document and record the biodiversity of an area.

This year, participants will explore the natural areas near downtown Pagosa Springs along the San Juan Riverwalk and Reservoir Hill while collecting valuable ecological information on June 20 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature and appreciate the vibrant life that thrives in this ecosystem.

No prior experience is necessary; just bring your curiosity and enthusiasm for nature.

■ **See Viewpoints on next page**



HOW EXERCISE HELPS REVERSE DEPRESSION

If you are suffering from mild to moderate major depression, get out and get moving! This is the good news medical research has for those who suffer from depression. Discover the science for yourself.

In his valuable book *The Upward Spiral: Using Neuroscience to Reverse the Course of Depression, One Small Change at a Time*, Alex Korb, Ph.D, notes that “almost everything that depression causes can be combated by exercise.”

For instance, while depression makes you lethargic, exercise boosts your energy. While depression makes it harder to concentrate, exercise helps with mental sharpness and decision-making. While depression sinks your mood, exercise improves it. And it diminishes anxiety and stress. Exercise strengthens our brains, writes Korb, also a neuroscientist in the department of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles.

“Exercise increases nerve growth factors, such as brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which are like steroids for your brain. BDNF makes your brain stronger, so it’s more resistant to all kinds of problems, not only depression,” he writes. Any kind of movement boosts the firing rate of serotonin neurons, which triggers the release of more serotonin. Antidepressants actually target the serotonin system to increase motivation and willpower. (Antidepressants also increase BDNF, and exercise does, too.)

Movement may be anything from vacuuming to gardening. Exercise also reduces the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline, and increases norepinephrine. Korb writes that the difficulties in concentration “are mainly the fault of a lagging norepinephrine system.”

Source: “Exercising When You’re Depressed.” By Margarita Tartakovsky. Mental disorders and mental illness

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

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” Isaiah 41:10

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

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

Thursday, June 4

Ruby's Writers Guild. 8:45-10:30 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.

'Read the Weeds' Invasives Identification Hike. 9 a.m. The hike

is free, but sign-up is required at SJMA.org.

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 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

■ See Calendar on next page

Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

The cost is \$25 per adult and \$10 per student/child and includes dinner, a T-shirt and a fun day of learning.

To learn more and to register, visit <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQyNjMyMzY=> or email Cindi Galabota at cindi.galabota@colostate.edu.

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by CSU Extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month

at the CSU Extension building, generally on the third Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on our website, archuleta.extension.colostate.edu.

Volunteer for the Archuleta County Fair

Be a part of preserving the rich heritage and timeless tradition of the Archuleta County Fair and help plan the 75th anniversary Fair in 2026.

You'll contribute to an annual tradition that brings our community together, supports local agriculture and creates lasting memories for generations to come.

To learn more, contact Tonya Steadmon at tsteadmon@archuleta-county.gov or (970) 264-5931.

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
dusk and is located in the wooded area behind the parking lot at the wooden cross.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Tai Chi. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. An Archuleta Senior Center program.

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.

Citizenship Class. 2-4 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This Sisson Library program helps immigrants and people preparing for citizenship with classes, training materials, tutoring, informational resources and ways to connect to the community.

19th Hole Concert. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Golf Club. Live music by Bob Hemenger. The cover charge is a \$10 donation that supports the season's four nonprofits.

San Juan Outdoor Club. 6 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. There will be social time and snacks at 6 p.m. At 6:30 p.m., CSU Extension Agent Cindi Galabota will discuss current offerings from the Extension office and Weminuche Audubon Society Community Naturalist Keith Bruno will discuss the Bioblitz on June 20.

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.

Friday, June 5

A Tour of Two Trails. 7:15 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 adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This

family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Summer Reading Program Launch Party. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Meet at the pavilion for program sign-ups, outdoor activities, refreshments and book giveaways.

Bingo. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Festival of the Arts. 5-8 p.m., Tennyson Sculpture Garden, 475 Lewis St. Thirty-two juried artists will have their work on display, and there will be live music and more. Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Arts Council.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Come From Away.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, June 6

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Jim Bramwell will speak.

Life at Chimney Rock Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-oriented event provides interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan people and more. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tennyson Sculpture Garden, 475 Lewis St. Thirty-two juried artists will have their work on display, and there will be live music and more. Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Arts Council.

Spaceship LEGO Build. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Come From Away.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, June 7

Life at Chimney Rock Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chimney Rock

National Monument. This family-oriented event provides interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan people and more. For more information, visit www.chimneyrockco.org.

Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tennyson Sculpture Garden, 475 Lewis St. Thirty-two juried artists will have their work on display, and there will be live music and more. Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Arts Council.

Monday, June 8

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 5:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program offers a unique two-hour tour of the archaeological sites with a special emphasis on the view of the sun rising atop the mesa. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Plant Walk. 9 a.m.-noon. Join certified herbalist Lake McCullough to explore early summer herbs, wildflowers and edible plants in the ponderosa pine ecozone in Martinez Canyon. Call ahead to (970) 398-0923 to reserve a spot. There is a 15-person maximum.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 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. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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Attention Mutton Busters!!

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If you are interested in participating in the Red Ryder Roundup Mutton Busting event, please register by Thursday, June 25th. Applicants must be 6 years old or younger and a parent must attend the rodeo with you. There will be 10 riders per day on July 2, 3 and 4. Helmets, vests and ropes will be provided at no charge. There is no charge for this event and all participants will be drawn out of a box Sunday, June 28. If you are selected, you will be notified of the day you will ride by telephone or email.

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

Child's name

Child's age

Parent's name

Parent's contact email and phone

Preferred day (no guarantee)

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

American Sign Language Class. 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Tuesday, June 9

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Archuleta County Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive. Join to discuss "Listen for the Lie" by Amy Tintera.

Citizenship Class. 2-4 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This Sisson Library program helps immigrants and people preparing for citizenship with classes, training materials, tutoring, informational resources and ways to connect to the community.

Tween Minute to Win It Game Night. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 11-14. Do you have a minute? Join at the library for an evening of fun as we play different mini games for prizes. Come by yourself or make a team of your own.

LPEA Energy Rebate Open House. 4-6 p.m., CSU Extension building, 344 U.S. 84. Resident curious about lowering their energy bills are invited to learn about home energy rebates.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages

Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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WHISPERING PINES

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

\$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 7 p.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Wednesday, June 10

Summer Reading Program: Chimney Rock National Monument Field Trip. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The first 20 registered receive complimentary entrance for the A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. Meet at the library parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Legal Clinic. 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via 20-minute phone appointments. Registration opens June 1 and space is limited. Registration is required. Call (970) 264-2209.

A Tour of Two Trails. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877)

444-6777.

Community Conversations. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. The conversation will focus on the county lodging tax.

Volunteer Trail Ambassador Training. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Pagosa Ranger District Office back patio, 180 Pagosa St. Contact Brooks Letchworth at the San Juan Mountains Association with any questions, bletchworth@sjma.org.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

Thursday, June 11

Ruby's Writers Guild. 8:45-10:30 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.

'Spring Songs-Audubon Bird Walk' Birdwatching Hike. 9 a.m. The hike is free, but sign-up is required at SJMA.org.

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Tai Chi. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. An Archuleta Senior Center program.

Emotional Freedom Techniques. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center. Practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

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.

Citizenship Class. 2-4 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S.

■ See Calendar on next page

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www.mountainmendm.com/when-mold-is-a-health-concern-vs-a-maintenance-issue/

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Pagosa Blvd. This Sisson Library program helps immigrants and people preparing for citizenship with classes, training materials, tutoring, informational resources and ways to connect to the community.

Teen Minute to Win It Game Night. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Do you have a minute? Join at the library for an evening of fun as we play different mini games for prizes. Come by yourself or make a team of your own.

19th Hole Concert. 5:30-7:30 p.m.,

Pagosa Springs Golf Club. Live music by the Jackson Mountain Ramblers. The cover charge is a \$10 donation that supports the season's four nonprofits.

Friday, June 12

A Tour of Two Trails. 7:15 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 adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Early Explorers: Paleontology. 3-5

■ See Calendar on next page

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the olive-sided flycatcher.

Birds that are members of the flycatcher family arrive in May to spend the summer here raising young and feasting on insects. Of the more than 400 species in this bird family, only about 35 of them are typically found in the U.S. and Canada. These are divided into three groups: the large and assertive kingbirds, the medium-sized crested group which nest in tree cavities and the small-sized grayish or greenish forest-dwelling ones.

The olive-sided is included in this last group, whose members can be visually hard to tell apart. Of these, it is one of the larger, and is stocky in appearance with a large head and relatively heavy, long bill. The dark gray sides of its breast are divided by white in the center, looking almost like it's wearing a vest.

The best clues that identify this bird as an olive-sided are its habit of sitting bolt upright on the top of the highest dead branch of a tree and its easily recognizable song. Early field guides translated the distinctive three-part song as "quick, three beers," which we remember when hearing the bird today.

This flycatcher is a long-distance migrant that winters in South America, through Central America and into Mexico. Some migrate up to 7,000 miles to breed in Alaska, with others stopping in the boreal zones of Canada and in the western mountains of the U.S. For nesting they prefer habitat in forest edges or openings with wet meadows, beaver ponds, bogs and muskegs. These provide dead or dying trees with exposed perches and an abundance of aerial insects.

The olive-sided flycatcher seems to benefit from natural disturbances and occurs at higher numbers in burned over unburned areas. They may respond positively to logging as long as some trees and snags remain. From a high perch, they watch for aerial insects, which they fly out to catch and return to the perch to eat. They subsist almost entirely on flying insects, a large percentage of which are wasps, bees, and winged ants.

Shockingly they have experienced a population loss of 78 percent since 1970. According to Partners in Flight, these steep losses "parallel declines in other aerial insectivores such as swifts, swallows, and nightjars."

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.



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Pagosa Pride

June 13

Saturday 11am - 4pm

Town Park, Hermosa St., Pagosa Springs
Be aware of construction for alternate access!

Movie at the Liberty Theater

Thursday,
June 11, 6 PM
Opens at 5:30 PM

Showing:
"To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything"

Get tickets at pagosamovies.com

LOOK FOWARD TO:

- ★ Interactive Booths
- ★ Inspirational Speakers
- ★ Kids Activities
- ★ Live Performances by Drag Queen Aria PettyOne
- ★ Food and Drink Stalls
- ★ Parade and Costume Contest!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11:00 am	- Opening	1:30 pm	- On the Shoulders of Giants - Shane Nelson
11:30 am	- Welcome, Announcements, Proclamations, Legislation Update by CO Rep. Katie Stewart	1:45 pm	- Music, Dancing, Booths
12:15 pm	- PSHS Equality Club	2:00 pm	- Costume contest and parade
12:30 pm	- Break/Visit Booths	3:00 pm	- Drag Queen Aria PettyOne
12:45 pm	- Drag Queen Aria PettyOne	3:15 - 4:00 pm	- Music, Dancing, Booths
1:00 pm	- Music, Dancing, Booths	4:00 pm	- After party at the Neon Mallard

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5. Children and their caregivers are invited to explore the world of paleontology in a safe and age-appropriate environment. Get ready to make crafts, read some stories, move around, play in the sensory bin and more. Please dress for mess.

Pagosa Springs Car Show. 5-8 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Classic cars, hot rods and custom vehicles will line the street, offering a nostalgic and family-friendly experience. There will be live music, contests and more.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Company.’ 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).

Saturday, June 13

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Car Show. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Classic cars, hot rods and custom vehicles will line the street, offering a nostalgic and family-friendly experience. There will be live music, contests and more.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Pride. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Town Park. For more information, see the Pagosa Pride Facebook page or email pagosapride@gmail.com.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Flute Music at Twilight Program. 6 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program begins with a guided, short walk through a mesa village followed by live Native American flute music accompanied by a deepening night sky to reveal celestial bodies. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Company.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosa-center.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, June 14

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly 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 \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Church bell sound
- 5 Takes off
- 10 Tiny fraction of a min.
- 14 Start to bat?
- 15 Commercial creator
- 16 Wistful words
- 17 Thanksgiving centerpiece
- 19 "The Amateur" actor Malek
- 20 Set straight
- 21 Like some herbs
- 23 More popular song, usually
- 24 Soon, in old times
- 25 Declared
- 27 Missionary Junipero ____
- 30 Airport vehicles
- 33 Puzo and Cuomo
- 34 Mother ____
- 35 "Lent" body part
- 36 Washed out
- 37 Allow
- 38 Digitally endorses
- 40 Samoan seaport
- 42 Equally irate
- 43 Diocese division
- 44 Dappled, as a horse
- 46 Like a ____ bricks
- 50 More thin
- 52 Use more WD-40 on
- 53 Lymph ____
- 54 Haughtily
- 56 Radio transmission
- 57 Jason of "The Wrecking Crew"
- 58 TV's "How ____ Your Mother"
- 59 Makes one
- 60 Defeat decisively
- 61 Prefix with -graphy

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20						21				22				
23						24								
				25		26				27			28	29
30	31	32							33					
34					35			36			37			
38			39				40				41			
42						43								
			44			45				46		47	48	49
50	51									52				
53						54				55				
56						57					58			
59						60					61			

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DOWN

- 1 Rainforest rodents
- 2 Reason for a food recall
- 3 Right Guard rival
- 4 1974's and 2005's "The ____ Yard"
- 5 Animal pouch
- 6 Dashboard gauge
- 7 Current units
- 8 Made a surprise attack
- 9 Slow mover
- 10 Seattle slugger
- 11 Place of bliss
- 12 Jane Austen heroine
- 13 Top off a room
- 18 Neglected
- 22 Sicilian Mafia
- 26 "Oh, woe!"
- 28 "The Witches" director Nicolas
- 29 Regarding, in a memo

- 30 Mets' old stadium
- 31 Name on toy fuel trucks
- 32 Unrestricted
- 33 Wise Men
- 36 Naval officers' hangout
- 39 Diving maneuvers
- 40 Sicilian seaport
- 41 Cardinals' home
- 43 Pirate's pet
- 45 Grins widely
- 47 "Who did this?" reply, maybe
- 48 Persian Gulf ship
- 49 Reach by plane
- 50 Old TV problem
- 51 Letter sign-off
- 55 Opening

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Travel by the book

By **Barbara Brattin**
PREVIEW Columnist

Journalist and photographer Andy Isaacson, who chose his profession because of an innate obsession to see the world, has realized his dream.

He has been to every country and region on the globe, including both the north and south poles. But when his friend recently asked him what a place smelled like, he stumbled on his answer. While he'd taken thousands of pictures and could tell you exactly what the Taj Mahal looked like at dawn, he'd been so focused on the visual aspects of the places he'd been that he hadn't really experienced them.

So, he decided to join visually impaired (VI) travelers on a trip to India.

The idea of VI travel is to pair the sighted with the visually impaired so that the sighted can share what they see and the visually impaired can share what they sense.

Isaacson was awestruck by what he learned. Experiencing the world with sight, he said, is like watching the movie. Experiencing the world while visually impaired, he said, is like reading the book. More than likely, the book is better.

I couldn't help but smile at this analogy. For me, well-written books provide both rich description of the seen, blended with sensory details of sounds, smell and taste, leaving just enough gap for my imagination to fill in the blanks. The result is deeply personal. What you read is not what I read, not entirely. And that's what makes reading so magical.

My appreciation for the sensory nature of writing flows over into my

Library News

own travel journals. "Reykjavik rest-rooms make O'Hare look like a day spa," I write. "Lima smells like fish." "There is a solemn hush and the air is damp and chill as returning G.I.'s file through the Hanoi Hilton."

I wish you a summer full of travel adventures, experienced with all your senses. May you always travel by the book.

To listen to the full podcast of Isaacson's experience, search for "Sites Unseen: What's Revealed by Traveling with the Blind" from the New York Times Daily podcast.

Library to be closed June 15-21 for moving days

It's almost time to move into the new addition and vacate the old section for renovations.

We're hoping it will only take a week, but please be patient with us if we take a little longer.

If all goes well, we'll be open again on June 22 and you'll be parking in the new south-side parking lot and walking through the new front entrance on the west side of the building.

The children's room will be all set up and we'll be ready to plant a garden out back. We'll have public computers, and resume copy, scan and fax service. And, we will have a

■ See Library on next page

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Our Savior Lutheran School
Wolf Creek Ski Team



“

I had my first appointment with Dr. Nylund at Black Diamond Dental today. Dr Nylund and his staff are so kind and gentle! There is no judgment, just genuine kindness and caring! My whole family will be going there for all our dental needs!

- Melissa G

They were so freaking nice I have not been to the dentist in a while and they did not shame me for it they just made an action plan and were so helpful highly recommend.

- Samantha L

Took my 9 year old son to Black Diamond Dental after having a poor experience elsewhere. Every single person who works there was very personable and great with kids. My son even mentioned how nice everyone was and how he doesn't want to go to any other dentist. The atmosphere is perfect. Very clean, bright, all smiles.

We finally found a dentist for our whole family.

- Haley T

New equipment arriving! Just in time for your spring projects!

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Library

■ continued from previous page

meeting room for you to reserve.

Watch our calendar to see what summer programs are in the new library and what is being held out in the community. We’re going to have a lot going on this summer.

If you are strong enough to help set up shelving, box up books and shelve our collections, we need you. Please reach out to Judy at the library, (970) 264-2205 to schedule a shift. And if you have any sturdy, clean, medium-sized boxes you can provide for the move, we would love to have them. Just bring them by, broken down, if possible.

Adopt-a-Tree Program

We have 26 new trees planned for our outdoor community garden, and you could put your name on one of them in exchange for a \$500 donation. Individuals, families, clubs, businesses and organizations are welcome to participate.

Interested? Here’s how to get started: Write a check to Ruby Sisson Library or donate online at <https://www.pagosalibrary.org>. Fill out a donation form telling us what you want your garden stake to say in six words or less. Forms are available on our website or in paper form at the library.

Thanks for helping us create a beautiful new outdoor space in our community.

Summer Reading Program underway

Between June 1 and Aug. 30, summer readers can track their reading on the Beanstack app, complete bingo activity challenges and attend free events at the library and across the community.

With our ongoing construction project and reduced programming space, we’ll be hosting some events at places like Yamaguchi Park, Chimney Rock National Monument, the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park and more. These field trips are for all ages and any entry admission will be covered by the library.

We’ll have a whole lineup of “Read Wild!” themed events in addition to our standing offerings for children, teens and adults. You can visit [pagosalibrary.org/summer](https://www.pagosalibrary.org/summer) for more details.

Citizenship classes

The citizenship classes will be taking a summer break June 9-16.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

The weather is perfect to get outside. Colorado state parks require a paid pass to enter, but you can borrow one from the library for a few days at no cost to you.

Passes come with a backpack filled with nature guides, binoculars and fun activities. Reserve yours today.

Meet us out in the

community

Now that we have much less space for our operations and no meeting rooms during construction, several of our regular activities and special events are happening in other locations.

Please check the listings in this column and on your library’s website, [pagosalibrary.org](https://www.pagosalibrary.org), for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly calendars at the library or check the website, www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar, so you don’t miss any of the free programs, events and activities available to you and your family.

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 Archuleta Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enter through the left side of the building.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library’s online resources. No appointment is needed, but please bring your device’s charger and passwords with you.

New books collections brimming with interesting titles

For a full list of new titles and to reserve your copy, go to www.pagosalibrary.org and choose “Search the Catalog” at the top of the screen.

Don’t forget, if there is a waiting list for the book, it may be available now as an e-book or e-audiobook on CloudLibrary or Libby.

New nonfiction

• In “Bonfire of the Murdochs: How the Epic Fight to Control the Last Great Media Dynasty Broke a Family and the World,” bestselling author Gabriel Sherman tells the inside story of the epic family war, one whose seeds were planted a half century ago in Australia when the patriarch Robert left his homeland and formed the media empire that controlled Fox News.

• In “Body Electric: The Hidden Health Costs of the Digital Age and the New Science to Reclaim Your Well-Being,” TED Radio Hour host Manoush Zomorodi presents an eye-opening investigation into the impact technology and sedentary living has had on our bodies and our brains and how we can reclaim our health.

• “Pope Leo XIV: the Biography.” Elise Ann Allen, journalist and Rome

correspondent for Crux writes this intimate new biography of Pope Leo XIV, including his first-ever public interview as pope. Timely in the wake of Leo’s controversial new encyclical, “On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence.”

New fiction books

• “Sometimes an Island” follows the descendants of 10-year-old Deborah and her father, who have fled the persecution of the Cossacks, landing on a remote island on Maine’s

■ See Library on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

ANSWER:

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!

Alzheimer's Association encourages Colorado residents to take charge of their brain health

By Jim Herlihy
Alzheimer's Association

During Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month this June, the Alzheimer's Association is calling on people across Colorado to take charge of their brain health and learn how healthy habits and early detection can make a meaningful difference.

In Colorado, nearly 91,000 people are living with Alzheimer's disease, and 211,000 family members and friends provide unpaid care. As the population ages, those numbers are expected to grow, underscoring the importance of brain health education and early detection in local communities.

Despite growing awareness of Alzheimer's, a significant gap remains between understanding that brain health matters and knowing how to protect it.

According to the 2026 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, nearly 9 in 10 Americans say brain health is important, yet only 1 in 10 say they know what to do to maintain it.

"Here in Colorado, we see firsthand how empowering people with the right information can change lives," said Valerie Lombardi, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association of Colorado. "Practical, everyday steps — like staying physically active, eating a healthy diet and challenging your mind — can help

support brain health at any age."

Growing evidence shows that adopting healthy habits may help reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia. One major global analysis estimates that nearly half of all dementia cases worldwide could be

■ See Alzheimer's on page 23

Library

■ continued from previous page

Penobscot Bay, seeking refuge and a new beginning.

• "The Midnight Train," the sequel to "The Midnight Library" by bestselling author Matt Haig, uses time travel to ask if Wilbur, years later on the brink of his death, can return to days past and repair the damage done to his marriage.

• Prolific western writer Craig Johnson is back with "The Brothers McKay," the 22nd murder mystery in the beloved Longmire Series.

New in large print

• Fort William First Nation tribal member Tanya Talaga's new book, "The Knowing: How the Oppression

of Indigenous Peoples Continues to Echo Today," explores Canada's reconciliation with Indigenous peoples after decades of oppressive government- and church-sanctioned policies.

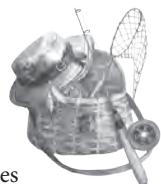
• Spiritual teacher, television personality and former Philadelphia public defender Iyanla Vanzant provides a guidebook to living wholly in "Spiritual Hygiene: A Practical Path for Clean Living, Inner Authority, and Divine Freedom."

• "All My Bones," book number two in the Old Juniper Bookshop mystery series, follows Madeline Brimley as she discovers a buried body outside the walls of her new bookstore.



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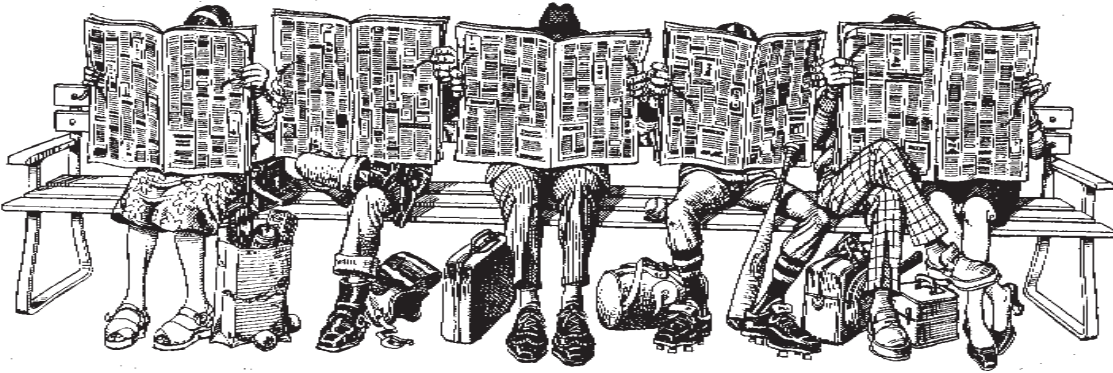
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Helping seniors thrive on a fixed income

By **Ricardo Martinez**
PREVIEW Columnist

For many older adults, living on a fixed income can be challenging as the costs of groceries, utilities, medications and fuel continue to rise.

Seniors can help stretch their budgets by planning meals carefully, shopping sales, using senior discounts and reducing unnecessary expenses whenever possible.

Staying socially connected and active is also important, as isolation and stress can negatively affect both emotional and physical health. Community resources can make a significant difference in helping seniors maintain their independence while improving their overall quality of life.

Alzheimer's

■ **continued from page 21**

attributed to modifiable risk factors.

The Alzheimer's Association leads and funds groundbreaking research on the impact of healthy habits, including the landmark U.S. POINTER lifestyle intervention study, which found that combining multiple healthy habits — physical activity, a healthy diet, social and cognitive engagement, and regular health monitoring — can help protect and improve cognitive function, including memory and thinking.

Early detection matters

Early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is more important than ever.

Only about half of people living with Alzheimer's ever receive a diagnosis, delaying access to care and potentially putting individuals at greater risk. Detecting Alzheimer's or another dementia early offers significant benefits for individuals and their families, including greater access to treatment options and more time to plan for the future.

Early diagnosis also improves access to treatment. Therapies are now available that can slow disease progression for people in the early stages of Alzheimer's, underscoring the importance of timely diagnosis. More than 150 additional treatments are advancing through the research pipeline, supported in part by Alzheimer's Association funding initiatives such as Part the Cloud, which helps accelerate promising approaches to treating the disease.

How Colorado residents can get involved

- Take the (re)think your brain 6-Step Challenge, a step-by-step guide to help you take charge of your brain health. Sign up today at rethinkyourbrain.org.
- Donate: Support efforts to empower people at every age to take charge of their brain health at alz.org/donate.

Senior News

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) is dedicated to supporting local seniors through programs designed to ease financial burdens and promote healthy living. The center provides nutritious congregate meals, Meals on Wheels services, wellness activities, educational programs, social opportunities and assistance connecting seniors with valuable community resources.

These programs not only help

seniors save money but also provide companionship, encouragement and support.

By working together as a community, we can help ensure that local seniors continue to live safely, independently and with dignity.

Juneteenth closure

ASI will be closed June 19 for Juneteenth. No meals or services will be provided that day.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. at the Archuleta Senior Center.

■ See Senior next page

- Go purple: Throughout the month of June, go purple — the color of the Alzheimer's movement — to raise awareness of the disease. Dress in purple and share your story on social media using the hashtag #ENDALZ.
- Join a local fundraising event: Advance Alzheimer's care, support and research by participating in Walk to End Alzheimer's, Do What You Love to End ALZ or Ride to End ALZ. Learn more at alz.org/fundraisingevents.
- Connect with others: Join free live-learning webinars on brain health, dementia and caregiving at alz.org/livelearning.
- Volunteer: Help your community recognize the signs of Alzheimer's

and reduce dementia risk. Visit alz.org/volunteer.

- Advocate: Urge your member of Congress to support the bipartisan ASAP Act and help make early detection standard care. Visit alzimpact.org/ASAP_Act.
- Accelerate research: Use Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch, a free service connecting individuals living with Alzheimer's or another dementia, caregivers and healthy participants with current research studies, at alz.org/trialmatch.

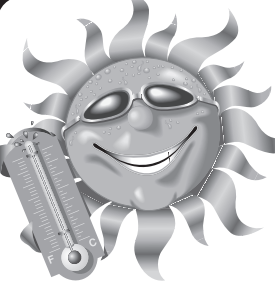
All of the programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association are provided at no charge. Go to alz.org to learn more or call the Association's free Helpline, staffed 24/7 by trained professionals, at (800) 272-3900.



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

American mahjong

American mahjong is played using a set of tiles and the current year score card. Play includes groups of three or four players and follows a pattern of division exchange and display of tiles.

Bring your card and come to play or watch and learn from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays at the Senior Center.

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Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of play, 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 Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., join the “Tappers,” who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

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 from 1:30 to 3 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 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

Tai chi

Tai chi classes are held at Yamaguchi Park from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

There will be no tai chi on June 18 or June 25.

Tai chi is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy

■ See Senior next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page
that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Fridays, June 5 and 26, at 1:30 p.m.

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; just show up.
All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

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 a 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 Community Cafe, also known as 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 8:45 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 or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, June 4 — Beef stroganoff with egg noodles, carrots, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, June 5 — Fried chicken with country gravy, peas and pearl onions, peach cobbler, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Monday, June 8 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, mashed potatoes, beets, garden salad, fruit, fig bars and milk.

Tuesday, June 9 — Asian chicken salad, chicken potstickers with dipping sauce, rice pudding and milk.

Wednesday, June 10 — Smoked tempeh chili, honey cornbread, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, brownie and milk.

■ See Senior next page



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We appreciate all the support from within the community. We encourage all to support our local businesses. We also encourage all to support those businesses downtown during this road construction, they need our support.

Thank you all,
Ted Eckerson
Chairman Vets4Vets Memorial Golf Tournament

All gave some and some gave all.

Senior

■ continued from previous page

Thursday, June 11 — Sliced ham steak with cherry sauce, scalloped potatoes, green beans, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, June 12 — New England clam chowder, oyster crackers, broccoli, garden salad, strawberry angel cake 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 Mountain 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. 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



Photo courtesy Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. recently honored Eve Taylor, a Gold Star Mother, and thanked her for the incredible sacrifice she and her family have made for our country. Her son, Sgt. 1st Class James E. Thode, served with the Army National Guard and gave his life in protecting our freedom on Dec. 2, 2010, in Afghanistan. ASI states it is deeply grateful for the example of patriotism, resilience and devotion Taylor represents.

New, starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing 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.

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: www.psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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MISCELLANEOUS

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

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PAGOSA AA: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30 Men's Tuesday 5:30 Ladies Friday 11:30a.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12 noon. Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only: Zoom ID 858319763 password 754234. 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Call Kathi (970)946-1482, or central office (888)333-9649.

PAGOSA SPRINGS CARD SHOW.. June 20th and 21st. Benefits Pagosa Pirates. Sports cards, Pokemon, OnePiece, memorabilia. Vendors wanted. Call Diamond (970)264-1073. Pagosaspringscardshow.com.

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? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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Foundation work • Back fill compacting
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CALL BIG D FLOORING for a free consultation and estimate at (575)419-2366 or visit us at bigdflooring.com to schedule online.

CLEAN CUT CONSTRUCTION. (970)585-4578. Offering handyman services. Yard maintenance, interior /exterior painting and staining, dry wall install and repair, carpentry and much more.

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DRIVEWAY SEALING — 7 -year product. Prep, pressure wash, crack seal and touch up. Free estimates, local and trusted. **INTERGRATED** Home Services, LLC. Call /text, (970)731-3558.

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KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

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METAL ROOF MAINTENANCE- featuring roof screw replacement. Stop the leaks by changing out worn out screws with new screws and fresh washers. Call Arlies Chimney Sweep (970)731-2543.

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Detail Oriented, Trustworthy
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RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

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TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning mitigation, and lawn care. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

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Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

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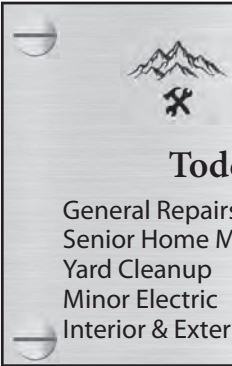


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REFLECTIONS Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 -FREE estimates.

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Be ready to start your house,
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HELP WANTED

3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license. 40 hours a week available. 20 bucks an hour. (970)264-5160.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE- We're looking for a reliable Dishwasher. Reliable, hardworking person wanted for dishwashing and basic kitchen help. Friendly, supportive team, steady hours, and a positive work environment. Please apply in person at 214 Pagosa St. Tuesday -Thursday 2p.m. -3:30p.m.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in creating clean and comfortable living spaces? We are looking for a reliable and detail-oriented part-time house cleaner to join our team. We offer flexible scheduling, competitive hourly pay, mileage reimbursement, and all tools and supplies are provided. Experience preferred but not required. Please call (970)731-3005 or email office@abracadabrapagosa.com.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in making a difference in your neighborhood and community? Community Connections, Inc seeks part-time Community Ambassadors to promote Southwest Colorado Cares (SWCC). These part-time positions (7 hours a week) are perfect for a community member who wants flexible, meaningful part-time work. Hourly rate is \$20, plus reimbursement for travel. We are looking for Community Ambassadors who: have experience working with community members and organizations in Archuleta County or Dolores County; AND /OR have experience working with older adults; AND /OR who are bilingual in Spanish and English and have experience working with Spanish speaking community members. Training will be provided; no educational experience required. Interested candidates should apply at www.communityconnectionsco.org/careers. Applications will be accepted until 5p.m. on JUNE 3, 2026 EOE.

HELP WANTED

FULL -TIME GROUNDS KEEPER /MAIN-TENANCE Healing Waters Resort and Spa. Hours will include evening and weekend hours, along with a mandatory early-morning pool cleaning rotation. Looking for someone who is handy with tools — or has the willingness to learn; who doesn't mind sweeping, raking, and shoveling; and who is self-motivated. If this is you we'd love to talk! Download application thru the Employment Link at www.pshotsprings.com, stop by 140 Hot Springs Blvd, or email resume to sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Maintenance Position. Employees and immediate family soak for FREE. Apply today.

HELP WANTED — SERVICE WRITER. Bucks-kun Towing & Repair is seeking a dependable Service Writer. Duties include customer service, answering phones, scheduling, preparing work orders, and communicating with technicians. Automotive or service industry experience preferred. Pay DOE (depending on experience). Apply in person or send resume to buckskin-ap@outlook.com or call (970)264-2500 for more information.

HELP WANTED — TOW TRUCK DRIVER. Bucks-kun Towing & Repair is hiring a Tow Truck Driver. Valid driver's license required, CDL is preferred but not required; experience preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Must be dependable, professional, and able to work flexible hours. Competitive pay based on experience. Apply in person or send resume to buckskin-ap@outlook.com or call (970)264-2500 for more information.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call or text for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

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 /YARD ASSOCIATE. Ponderosa Lumber is hiring a CDL Driver / Yard Associate. 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.

HELP WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE. The Pagosa Springs SUN is seeking a reliable and friendly customer service representative to join our team and work with some of the friendliest people in Pagosa Springs. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs. Hours: 8a.m. to 4p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8a.m. to noon on 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: 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 deadlines. • Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels. • High level of proficiency in Google applications. • Compensation range/benefits: • \$18-20 /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. Submit your resume and letter of interest to shari@pagosasun.com. About the company: O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in nine states, 45 markets with 64 publications and hyper-local websites.

ELEVATION HEAD SHOP seeking dependable and enthusiastic part-time help. \$16-\$18 /hour. Every other weekend required —2 -3 days /week. 21+ Retail experience preferred. Email resume to elevationheadshop@gmail.com.

FARRAGO FOOD TRUCK is looking for cooks and dishwashers. Send info to farragofoodtruck@gmail.com.

Email us at
classads@pagosasun.com to
submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

(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

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 \$17/ hour, full or part -time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LINE COOK POSITION OPEN. The Keyah Grande Guest House is hiring a part -time line cook (\$20 /hour) for our new fine dining restaurant. Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

LOOKING FOR PART -TIME TECHNICIAN. 15-20 hours per week. General maintenance, work orders, unit turns, grounds keeping and seasonal tasks. Great fit for someone with handyman experience looking for steady part -time hours. Email background and resume to hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

MECHANIC WANTED. Up to \$40 per hour to start. Dulce. Rescue Remedy, (970)585-4508.

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for dependable LMTs to join our team. Part -time and back -up therapists needed. Utilize your healing gifts. TOP PAY \$55/ hour plus tips. Email racheldevloo@gmail.com.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/ personal time, performance -based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

NOW HIRING:Part -time restaurant staff at Keyah Grande. Beyond the Gates at The Keyah Grande Guest House is seeking dependable and friendly team members to join our restaurant staff. Part-time position available Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday mornings. Duties include guest service, maintaining a clean and welcoming environment, assisting with restaurant operations, and providing an exceptional dining experience. Pay: \$14.42 /hour plus tips. To apply, please send your resume to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

HELP WANTED

Jicarilla Service Unit

Come join our team of dedicated medical professionals working to meet the health care needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives

"We're an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment."

Seeking Motivated Team Members to fill the following positions:



The Jicarilla Service Unit is located in the beautiful northwest region of New Mexico on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in Dulce, NM
55 miles south of Pagosa Springs, Colorado and
30 miles west of Chama, New Mexico

Seeking Motivated Team Members to fill the following positions:

- Infection Preventionist (RN)
- Physician
- Pharmacist
- Optometrist
- Pediatric Dentist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Certified Medical Assistants
- Community Health Dental Hygienist
- Supervisory Health System Specialist (PRC)

- Competitive federal salaries and benefits
- Loan repayment programs (Indian Health Service and National Health Service Corps Site)
- USPHS Commissioned Officers are eligible for Special Duty Pay and Retention Pay (Select Positions and Job Categories)
- Recruitment and retention incentives for well-qualified employees
- Weekday schedule (Monday - Friday) 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- No holiday or weekend coverage, no on-call, closed for all federal holidays

To learn more or if you have additional questions, please contact:

Sharon Grinsell, Administrative Assistant
PH: 575-759-7263 sharon.grinsell@ihs.gov
Apply today at USAJOBS.gov



ELITE
RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

NOW HIRING - UNDER CDL DRIVER / LABORER(S)

Elite Recycling & Disposal is seeking dependable and safety-minded individuals to fill Under CDL Driver / Laborer positions. Duties include driving company vehicles, assisting with collection & delivery services, and performing general labor tasks.

Requirements:

- Valid driver's license
- Good driving record
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to pass a pre-employment drug screen and background check
- Reliable attendance and strong work ethic

Full-Time • Competitive Pay • Benefits Available

Apply in person at 250 Industrial Circle or send your resume to creams@bruinwaste.com.
EOE

ELITE
RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **Class B CDL Driver Trash Recycle Route Driver** position open. Pay based on experience and includes a sign-on bonus of \$500 payable after 6 months of accident-free employment.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

HELP WANTED

Now Hiring.

Archuleta County is hiring for multiple positions.

Benefits package, paid time off, 401K match.

Apply today.

970-264-8379 • archuletacounty.org

Apply Now



Individually strong,
collectively mighty.
Join us and become a part of the bigger picture.

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



CASHIER

- Starting at \$18/hr DOE, 32-40 hr/week

FURNITURE DEPT

- Starting at \$20/hr DOE, 32-40 hr/week

Apply in person.
Applications available on
www.terrysace.com

Weekends and holidays required. Benefits include discounts, paid time off, sick pay, profit sharing and more!



Terry's ACE HARDWARE
525 Navajo Trail Dr., PS, CO 81147

PART -TIME AND FULL -TIME Front Desk — Friendly, dependable team member wanted to help create a consistently warm, welcoming guest experience. Shifts vary between 8a.m.-10p.m.; must be available for a mix of shifts, including evenings/weekends/holidays. Apply:www.pshotsprings.com | sales@pshotsprings.com Or in person: Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

STONE RABBIT SANCTUARY looking for housekeeper, outside work, fence repair and build. (970)264-2592. County Road 551.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a **Utility Operator** in the Public Works Division. The individual selected for this position will perform a variety of working level, skilled, and technical duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of the Sanitation District collection system, pump stations, and Geothermal System. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

(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

HELP WANTED

PETS

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

Colorado Dream Homes Is Hiring!

We're building a new construction crew and looking for reliable people with varying levels of experience in **framing, concrete, and roofing.**

All employee positions include:
PTO
Paid holidays
Year-end bonuses
Year-round, full-time work (40 hours)
Mileage/gas reimbursement for jobs outside of town radius.

Crew Leads:
\$70-80k per year, with hourly wage and completion pay based on square-foot framing and lineal concrete. Must be experienced in reading plans and details, comfortable directing crew members to execute and hands on as a lead. Subcontractor arrangements may also be considered.

Experienced Crew Members:
\$26+/hour for applicants with moderate construction experience. Subcontractor arrangements may also be considered.

Entry-Level Crew Members:
\$20+/hour. No experience required/some experience desired, but applicants must have a strong work ethic, consistency, and a desire to learn and grow in construction. Entry-level positions are employee-only.

To apply or learn more please swing by the office at 2283 Eagle Drive, or email resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com

Terry's Colorado Home Supply and Ace Hardware

is accepting applications for an **accounting clerk.**

Full time, 8 to 5, Monday-Friday

Job duties include all Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable; accounting background is desirable. Proficient computer skills and excellent people skills are a must. The ideal candidate is detail oriented, dependable, and eager to learn.

Start at \$20-\$22 per hour, DOE.

Full-time benefits package included.

Apply in person Monday-Friday. Applications on www.terrysace.com

Terry's ACE
525 Navajo Trail Dr.

STONE RABBIT SANCTUARY looking for someone to farm 50 acres. We have irrigation. (970)264-2592.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS Police Department is hiring for the following positions: • Assistant Police Chief • Community Service Officer • Evidence Technician • Police Officer/Police Officer Recruit. These are full-time positions with benefits. For more information on the positions and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

AUTOS

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales. 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

Business Opportunity

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD SALE. The Dump Truck special is back. Get a HUGE load split and delivered for \$500. Pine mix. Only while supplies last. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

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).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer. www.PagosaHumane.org.

PETS

AKC Lab Puppies for sale. Yellows and Blacks, \$1,500. (970)749-4288

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

2014 POLARIS RZR XP 1000 2 pax. 4300 miles, 4 extra tires /rims, Aluma single axle trailer with ramps. Extra tie down cleats , 2 MCs /2ATV /RZR. Must sell together. \$15,000 for both. Text (702)371-0672.

ATV FOR SALE. 2012 Yamaha Rhino 700FI, 2 passenger plus cargo bed and rollbar. 700 cc fuel injected engine with 780 total hours. Used nearly exclusively by a senior adult on forest service roads in the Upper Blanco Basin. Garaged during winter months. Plexi-glass windshield. Professionally maintained. **\$4,900.** Call: (512)557-6193.

TRAILER FOR SALE. Hebeco 2012 lightweight single axle ATV trailer. 3500 GVW, approximately 9'x 12', with spare wheel, drive on-off tailgate, large toolbox, 6 tie -downs. **\$3,500.** Call: (512)557-6193.

YARD SALES

A MOVING SALE by Mountain Cactus Estate Sales. Gardening, antlers, hunting, camping, 2 youth bows, mattresses, tools, new and antique furniture, kitchenware, tool chest, grill, and more. Saturday June 6, 9a.m. -2p.m. Half price at noon. Pictures on Facebook. 95 Alta Ct. in Elk Park. Gates will be open at 7:30a.m.

ESTATE SALE FOR SUSAN KANYUR. Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, 8a.m. sharp. We promised to do an estate sale for them before we retired and now's the time. Household, furniture, kitchen, chest freezer, antiques, collectibles, barnwood frames and furniture, decorative items, tools, work tables, old farm implements, Kubota tractor, books, bookcases and lots more. Hwy. 160 west, right on Piedra Road, about 8 miles up Piedra, right on Jack's Pasture Road, right on Jacobson Circle, house number 813. Rain or shine. AEHPOS.

STORAGE UNIT SALE — Friday and Saturday, 9a.m. -1p.m. 177 Bastille Drive. Renner's Mini Storage #B-17. Miscellaneous furniture, unique China and porcelain sets, bedding, household items and more.

YARD SALE. Friday, June 5 -Saturday, June 6, 8a.m. -4p.m., 418 S. 7th St. All proceeds will send a female wrestler to summer camps. No early birds allowed.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE.

1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE

Upstairs, \$400/ month including utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

LARGE COMMERCIAL -INDUSTRIAL LOTS

in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

OFFICE SPACE

upstairs with reception area and private bathroom. All utilities included except electric. Fiber internet also included. Centrally located. (970)946-8687.

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.

RESTAURANT FOR LEASE,

great location uptown, available immediately. For information, call (970)903-4481.

WAREHOUSES /WORKSHOPS

available to rent. Cloman Park new build 1100 sq. ft. \$1,300. Has bathrooms and loft space Contact: (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

1.1 ACRE COUNTRY LIVING — Warehouse plus mobile home , \$2000/month plus utilities. 1243 sq. ft. warehouse (former studio /shop). 624 sq. ft. mobile home (new interior paint and floors). Creek -bordered, pasture on one side — more space to breathe. Conveniently close to the 160, 17 minutes from downtown. 1 -year lease. Live, create or store. Contact now, (970)946-2728.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL —

One and two bedrooms available. \$1350 -\$1825. Walking distance to hot springs and shops and restaurants in old downtown. (720)470-2653.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA SPRINGS APARTMENT

for rent. Modern 2 bedroom, Energy Star efficient, brand new build, private deck, available now. No smokers, no pets. (720)470-2653.

FOR RENT ON PAGOSA LAKE:

2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished upstairs unit. \$1425 per month plus deposit and utilities. No pets and no smoking. Long -term lease. (303)929-8860.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE.

Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

ONE BEDROOM WITH LOFT,

short ways out of town, wood stove, efficient ETS heating unit, large deck, private fenced yard. \$1500 per month, first month, security deposit and half of last month. (970)731-2010.

PAGOSA LAKE VIEWS

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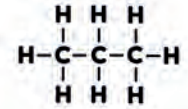
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