



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 42, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

More than 58,600 visit county over Fourth of July holiday

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Pagosa Country welcomed more than 58,600 visitors over the Fourth of July holiday.

According to a report provided by Tourism Director Jennifer Greene, more than 58,600 people visited the area between Wednesday, July 1, and Saturday July 4.

Greene's report notes that 24,700

of those visitors were "out-of-market" visitors with a home destination more than 50 miles away.

Greene also notes that folks had to stay in the area for more than 150 minutes to be counted as a visitor.

In 2025, Greene reported that the area saw more than 62,700 people visiting Archuleta County between July 2 and July 6 — a Wednesday through Sunday period.

■ See Visit A8

Monsoons arrive, bringing chance of rain, lightning

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Monsoonal moisture has officially made its way to Pagosa Country, according to Pagosa Weather, bringing with it the pattern of sunny mornings followed by chances of thunderstorms in the afternoons.

On Monday, Pagosa Weather's Arleen Prochazka reported via the organization's website that there had been a change in air mass, marking the beginning of the monsoons.

On Tuesday, discussing satellite

imagery, Prochazka wrote, "We are seeing weak monsoon moisture wrapping around the High and into southwest Colorado. We are getting scraps."

Through next Tuesday, the organization notes, skies will be clear to partly cloudy in the mornings with clouds increasing at noon and moving to mostly cloudy.

"Then clouds will clear out overnight as we cool," Prochazka wrote. "Expect thunderstorms with lightning, small hail, gusty winds and

■ See Monsoons A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The San Juan River runs through downtown Pagosa Springs on Wednesday morning. While low, the river remains above record levels, set in 2002.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

U.S. 160 reconstruction crews pull forms from freshly poured concrete on the 400 block at Lewis Street Wednesday. Weather permitting, concrete pouring at the intersection will continue throughout the week.

Residents voice more concerns over safety issues related to Arboles area drilling project

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session on Tuesday, July 14, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard concerns from Arboles residents in regard to a drilling project taking place just across the state line in New Mexico and the truck traffic the community is experiencing.

Samantha Williams and Rhonda Messier, both residents along County Road 975, provided comments to the BoCC highlighting safety concerns that residents in the area are dealing with.

Williams began by expressing gratitude for Commissioner Veronica Medina's involvement in the Arboles community, explaining that prior to Medina being in office, the shared sentiment amongst Arboles residents was that their community was "often the forgotten part of Archuleta County."

Williams also noted Commissioner Warren Brown's contributions to the Arboles community.

"My concern is that once you leave, Arboles may again be overlooked," Williams stated.

Williams then expressed dissatis-

faction with Commissioner John Ranson, stating that Ranson had helped with issues along County Road 977, but not County Road 975.

Williams described the conditions that she and her neighbors are dealing with as hazardous, adding they are forced to deal with them daily.

"The situation on County Road 975 presents a serious danger not only to residents but also to our livestock, pets and property," Williams said.

She then provided an anecdotal story of nearly being involved in a fatal accident where a truck driving at excessive speeds nearly collided with her vehicle as she was attempting to pull into her driveway.

Williams added that residents should not have to fear for their lives for simply leaving their home.

Other questions about the operation were raised, such as why the site is being used to stage materials instead of having those materials transported directly to their final destination.

"Many of these truck drivers show little regard for the people who live along this road," Williams added.

She also suggested that the BoCC has the "authority to regulate, reroute,

■ See Concerns A8

Making the best of less: Watering efficiently in a Pagosa Country drought

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

This week, rain returned to Pagosa Country, bringing some relief from the dry heat that dominated June and early July and heralding the start of the summer monsoon season.

Weather modeling by the National Integrated Drought Information Center (NIDIS) suggests that the summer monsoon season is likely to bring average or above average precipitation to the region — a bounty compared to the approximately 25 to 50 percent of

average precipitation Archuleta County received in last month.

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center forecasts that drought conditions in the area will improve by Sept. 30, although it suggests that current severe and extreme drought levels calculated by the U.S. Drought Monitor will persist through July.

The upcoming rains and declining drought are good news for gardens and landscaping, offering them some relief from the heat and dryness. However, they don't mean that the challenges

of drought are over or that the limitations on watering times and the need for water conservation established by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District's (PAWSD's) drought management plan are likely to go away soon.

So, how do you make the most of the limited water you have available and maximize its benefits for your plants? The SUN talked to a diverse group of local experts to get the best advice on using limited water to get plants through the present drought and on planning more drought-resilient landscapes for the future.

Rain, water conservation and you

PAWSD is currently in drought stage two, which includes a number of restrictions on outdoor irrigation, as well as additional fees for high water use.

In stage two, irrigation is allowed only between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. every other weekday, with even-numbered addresses able to irrigate on even-numbered days and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days. Weekend irrigation is prohibited.

■ See Water A6

Index

Opinion	A2	Preview Calendar	10
Letters	A3	Crossword	18
Business	A4	Sudoku	20
May sales tax down compared to last year		Classifieds	28
Outdoors	A10	PagosaSUN.com	
Anglers asked not to fish after noon on San Juan River			
Public Notices	A11	6 49241 83181 5	
PREVIEW			
Live Performers	2		

Opinion

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7/8	80	39	T	NA	NA
7/9	82	45	0.00	NA	NA
7/10	81	42	0.00	NA	NA
7/11	83	40	0.00	NA	NA
7/12	83	40	0.00	NA	NA
7/13	81	41	0.00	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

A thanks to those who make our community safer

This time of year, daily reports of fire and increased reports of vehicles crashes and other incidents from around the state begin hitting our inbox, a testament to the dangers of both nature and man during the busy summer months.

We're also getting a number of emails with the subject line "explosive diarrhea" thanks to the nationwide cyclospora outbreak and political emails using the outbreak for fundraising, but that's (hopefully not) a topic for another time. Wash your hands and practice safe food handling and preparation, please and thank you.

The emails (the ones about fires and crashes) are a consistent reminder of what our community has faced before and could face at any time.

They're also a reminder of how thankful we are for those who put themselves on the front lines — both literally and figuratively — to help make our community safer.

Dispatchers answer every call, not knowing if the next call will be a stolen ve-

hicle, a missing person, violent crime, a fire, a wildlife call (like recent reports of bears and of a groundhog climbing into someone's engine at a gas station) or something less serious like someone wondering what time zone they are in. Dispatchers answer every call and work to find those calling — who may be in the midst of their worst day ever — the help needed.

Then there are all of our first responders — law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services and more — who respond no matter what the call is and no matter where in their service territory it is.

There are also utility workers who respond in all conditions and all locations year-round when a leak or outage takes place.

The responders go to work day after day, ready to put themselves in harm's way without thought to ensure their neighbors and fellow community members have a safe place to live.

There are also numerous folks who work

to support every facet of the area's first responders behind the scenes who should be acknowledged.

It's a big network of people who care a lot about this community, and we're lucky they call this place home.

And we're lucky that all of our responders and agencies work so well together and put in the time to understand the capabilities each agency has.

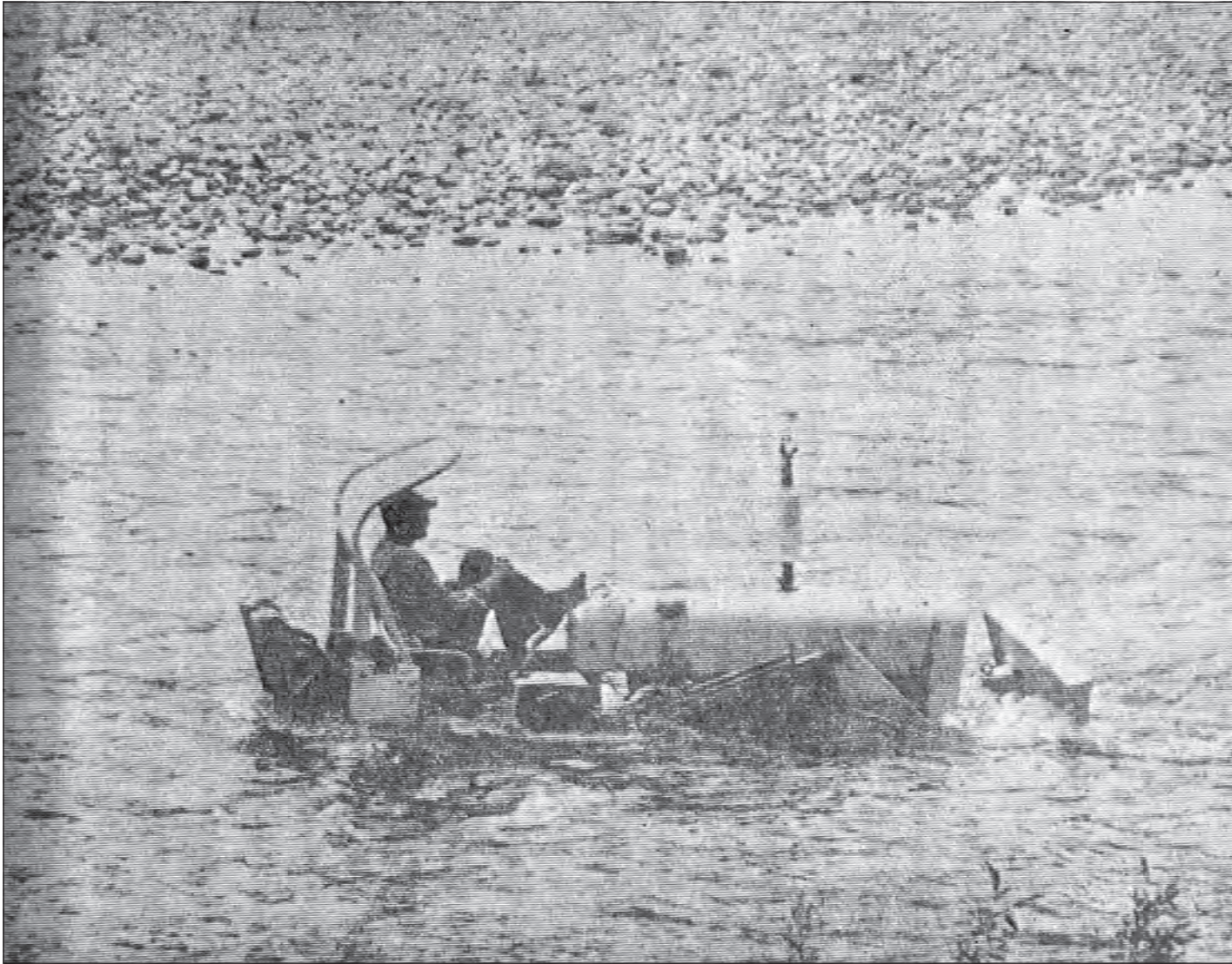
Every time we have to cover some form of disaster, we're impressed by the ease with which everyone steps into the room together to alleviate and solve problems.

While we have some of the best fire crews and responders around, we are also nothing short of lucky that we haven't had a fire hit closer to home, and we're incredibly lucky that we don't see more bad crashes given the number of folks who visit our area.

Next time you see one of these folks, be sure to offer a thanks.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the July 16, 1970, Pagosa SUN — SOLITUDE — [An equipment operator] rests comfortably in the center of the San Juan River after his machine drowned out. He seems to be peacefully contemplating the surrounding scenery and wishing for a fishing rod. The vehicle stalled in the San Juan River between the Spring Inn and Lynn's Dairy Creame.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 16, 1926

A **Children's Health Clinic** will be held in Pagosa August 16th, presumably at the school building as eleven rooms will be necessary to conduct examinations. Several physicians and nurses will be in attendance and children up to the age of seven years will be examined. Arrangements for holding the clinic will be sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association and Women's Civic Club of Pagosa. Watch for later announcements.

J.B. Patterson and Ed Rust left Saturday for Silverton, where the former will engage in a mining proposition after several years' absence from the field. Mr. Rust will assist him in the enterprise, a bond and leasing proposition.

Methodist Church News. Last Sunday was the stormiest we have had in two years, raining almost constantly from daylight until noon. Yet we found no difficulty in going in from the ranch five and a half miles in the morn and coming out again in the evening. Even in such weather there were 32 present at the Sunday school and a proportionate number at the church services.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 13, 1951

A fire which started Saturday around noon on Echo Canyon, was finally brought under control late Sunday night after it had threatened to become one of the largest fires of the year. Forest service officials estimate that more than 1000 acres of pasture and timber were destroyed in the fire, most of which was on property owned by W.F. Jackson.

The fire was combated by large groups of county and local volunteer groups, with an estimated number of 500 being engaged in the battle at one time or another. The fire was all on private land and was fought by the county fire crew under the supervision of Sheriff Norman Ottaway. Rangers Blacker and Stevenson assisted the Sheriff in the fire and Forest Service equipment was used. Anticipated cost of the fire to the county for labor and supplies is in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

The fire is thought to have started from a fisherman's cigarette. It started near the San Juan river and before it was brought under control had burned to U.S. Highway 84 and at one time endangered the Jackson Ranch buildings.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 15, 1976

Hot was the weather word here this past week. The U.S. Government thermometer soared to 90 degrees two days in a row. It has been three years since that high temperature was recorded in July here.

Nine forest fires, all believed to have been caused by lightning, were reported by the U.S. Forest Service this past week.

The largest, slightly over 10 acres in size was located on Little Sand Creek in the Weminuche area and was reported July 9. It was brought under control but only after a large area was burned.

Those on the Piedra District were at Plumtaw Creek July 3, Little Pagosa Creek on July 7, on Devil Mountain July 9, on Ignacio Creek July 11, and on Goose Creek and Ignacio Creek on July 12.

The Pagosa District had a fire on Sawmill Creek and on Eight Mile Mesa, also on July 12.

Fire danger readings are in the extremely high category in much of the area. Underbrush, grass and trees are very dry. Extreme caution is urged for everyone on the forest.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 12, 2001

Downtown restrooms. Additional public parking. A community events board. Periodically, requests for all of these amenities have been made to the Pagosa Springs Board of Trustees or town staff.

A lack of a buyer for the old Town Hall site may pave the way for a solution.

On July 3, Chris Bentley, town planner, presented the trustees a rough concept design for the pie-shaped piece of land to include parking spaces, a bell tower with restrooms, a community information marquee and greenspace.

The initial drawing depicted a one-way configuration with nine parking spaces. The bell tower, placed at the west end of the land, faced the highway and was to be visible from the stoplight at San Juan and Lewis streets.

"Everyone gets something, but it doesn't solve all the problems," Jay Harrington, town administrator, said. Besides resolving some concerns form the community, the open parking area could also provide some necessary storage space for snow in the winter.





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.

Recycling/transfer center

Dear Editor:

The County was on its way to building a new recycling center / trash transfer station on Cloman Blvd. before a Texas developer lobbied the Commissioners to stop it. The recycling center would have been built on County-owned land in an area zoned for industrial use. County staff worked on the design. Last month, they asked the Commissioners to approve a grant application which could have brought \$400,000 to the project.

Instead, blinded by Texas fairy dust, the Commissioners voted down the grant application. At a minimum, they've set the project back. More likely, they'll fumble around, get nothing from the developer (who offered to help find an alternative). The larger community will suffer.

Suffer how? The current transfer station is undersized and not properly equipped to store recyclables until they can be shipped out. Example: cardboard left to the elements can't be recycled and ends up in the landfill.

The County's landfill is filling fast. It takes years to design, permit, and build a landfill – on top of millions of dollars to buy property and build the structure. Keeping recyclables out will extend the life of our current landfill. Recycling could also provide a modest revenue stream.

Why not improve the current transfer station? That may have to be the fallback, but Commissioners previously rejected that option. Why? The transfer station sits on a former landfill leased from Town. The County didn't want to make a substantial capital investment on leased land or buy the land out of concern for unknown hazards and legal liability.

Also, the transfer station is not conveniently located to our main population center (Pagosa Lakes).

At least one Commissioner says the County should have been more transparent about putting a new recycling center in Cloman. Curious. The Commissioners have been hearing about this project from County staff for at least a year. I heard it presented

at work sessions when I was regularly attending them – and that's been at least a year ago.

The developer complains about the aesthetic of a recycling center on Cloman, particularly for people flying into Pagosa. How many people arrive in Pagosa at the airport, anyway? And have you been out to Cloman? It's an industrial park. It's not what I would highlight as scenic Colorado.

They claim trash would be blown onto the runway, creating a hazard. A new recycling center could be constructed with fencing and proper containment structures.

So, let's be transparent, Commissioners. The real reason the developer doesn't want the recycling center on Cloman is because he's put the gate to his new development next door. That was his choice. The rest of us shouldn't lose out on a useful, cost-saving, conveniently located public service because the Commissioners have succumbed to the lure of (likely) another gated community of a few high-end homes.

If you care, email or call the Commissioners. Their addresses are on the County website: archuletacounty.gov.

Candace Jones

RGNF winter travel plan

Dear Editor:

The Rio Grande National Forest is requesting public comment on its Draft Over Snow Vehicle Travel Management Plan through July, 29 2026. The final plan will apply to 1.8M acres across the RGNF, designating areas that are open to cross country snowmobile travel, areas where snowmobiles must remain on specific routes, and areas that are closed to winter motorized travel to protect critical wildlife habitat and reduce conflicts with nordic and backcountry skiers.

As the owners and operator of a yurt on Wolf Creek Pass for over three decades, we've seen firsthand how unregulated winter travel impacts our wildlife and quiet-user experience.

As recreation demand grows and new technology makes the backcountry increasingly more accessible to motorized travel, these conflicts will continue unless we address them proactively.

The RGNF is legally required to develop a winter travel plan based on the Forest Service's own Travel Management Rule, which requires the Forest to regulate snowmobile travel under a "closed unless open" approach. This is a critical opportunity for our community to weigh in on how winter recreation looks in our backyard.

The RGNF has outlined four "alternatives" in its draft plan. Of these four Alternative 4 is the best. This is

no surprise, since Alt. 4 was explicitly developed in response to previous public scoping comments and best reflects local desires. It provides for open areas for snowmobiles in all three ranger districts while applying common sense protections for big game habitats, quiet use areas (including the yurt), boundaries with private property, and federally threatened Canada lynx.

There is more work to do between the draft and the final Management Plan. None of the draft alternatives reviews site specific impacts to the various basins open to cross country travel. None protect the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, which runs 170 miles through the project area. And none of the proposed drafts address how the Plan will be implemented and enforced.

I encourage you to comment on the draft plan, and ask the RGNF to develop and apply a "modified" Alternative 4 that addresses these issues, striking a reasonable balance between access and resource protection.

Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Sandy Kobrock and Mark Mueller

Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

Neighbors of SW Colorado, I have known Naomi Riess for many years through our shared involvement in local community groups.

Naomi is thoughtful, prepared, and effective. She listens carefully, communicates clearly, and understands how decisions made at the Capitol actually affect people living and working in rural Colorado.

As an attorney and rancher, I am particularly attentive to issues involving property rights, land use, water, and local control. Naomi approaches these matters with common sense and respect for the people most directly impacted. She does her homework and asks the right questions.

Naomi is not interested in slogans or politics for show. She is focused on practical solutions and accountable government. That is exactly what House District 59 needs.

I recommend Naomi Riess without hesitation and fully support her candidacy.

Marian A. Tone
Bayfield, Colo.



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Crews set forms to prepare for concrete pouring at Lewis Street intersection on U.S. 160 earlier this week.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of July 20-24

Work activity

- 100-200 blocks: Crews continue work on sub-grade in anticipation of future paving.
- Lewis Street: The team has completed the utility work at the Lewis Street intersection. Crews will begin concrete pouring in the intersection.
- 3rd Street intersection (north side): Work will begin Tuesday, closing off vehicle and pedestrian access to the north side of the 3rd Street intersection. Pedestrians may access the north side of main street from 4th and Hot Springs crosswalk during the work period. Anticipate the closure to last three weeks.
- 400 block (south side): Crews will begin pouring curb and gutter followed by sidewalks.
- Pedestrian safety: Pedestrian crosswalks are open

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



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.



Parks and Recreation

TAKE THE SURVEY



SHARE YOUR INPUT ! PARKS AND RECREATION 2026 MASTER PLAN

Town of Pagosa Springs is updating their Master Plan. This plan will help guide parks and recreation in the Town for the upcoming years. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Your input is greatly appreciated.

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Business

May sales tax down compared to last year

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

According to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on Monday, July 13, sales tax collections in Archuleta County for May were reported to be down .48 percent compared to figures from May 2025.

Eaton's report notes that the .48 percent decrease translates to a total of \$6,553.63 less received this May compared to May 2025.

For May, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total

of \$1,471,337.27 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax, with \$734,538.41 going to the county and \$734,545.27 going to the town.

January saw a decrease of 10.64 percent (\$149,587.01) in sales tax collections, while numbers for February reflected a 1.17 percent increase (\$16,020.75). March figures reflected a 1.01 (\$15,560.32) percent decrease, while numbers for April reflected a 9.07 percent decrease (\$125,110.70).

According to data in Eaton's press release, the year-to-date comparison for January through May of this year shows a 3.62 percent decrease, or \$258,561.73 less received compared

to figures from January through May 2025.

Eaton's report notes that a total of \$6,890,333.80 in sales tax has been collected so far this year.

Categories that were up in the month-to-month comparison according to Eaton's data include:

- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 59.91 percent, or \$12,350.30.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 9.83 percent, or \$923.04.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 3.21 percent, or \$6,291.78.

Categories that were down in the month-to-month comparison in-

clude:

- Construction at 3.59 percent, or \$1,232.11.
- Manufacturing at 6.3 percent, or \$7,999.62.
- Retail Trade at .53 percent, or \$3,807.85.
- Information at 1.57 percent, or \$460.85.
- Finance and Insurance at 1.8 percent, or \$18.22.
- Other Services (except Public Administration) at 21.67 percent, or \$5,703.62.
- Miscellaneous at 3.18 percent, or \$6,896.48.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Community Development Corporation discusses housing project

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its July 8 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) Board of Directors discussed next steps in its ongoing affordable and workforce housing project.

The discussion of the next steps followed the announcement that the 10th and final home in Phase 1 of the project had sold, with potential for one of the five houses in Phase 2A to be under contract soon.

Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke noted certificates of occupancy for Phase 2A will be issued the last week of July or first week of August.

Lashbrooke noted she was working with BWD on a contract to build Phase 2B, but that she felt like she was putting the PSCDC in a position of potential liability because there was a "floor and a ceiling price," which she can't get a loan on.

She noted that, while she appreciated the good intentions, ultimately Housing Coordinator Jeff Sams had a good idea to go through a request for proposal process for both phases 2B and 3 to hire someone to build the next 15 homes.

mitment to housing.

Lashbrooke also explained that Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County asked the PSCDC to donate five lots, with the PSCDC asking to be reimbursed for holding costs.

Lashbrooke added that, after the final 15 homes, the PSCDC would have four lots left that could be donated to Habitat.

"I think this is a brilliant idea," Warren Brown said. "It will bring stability, it will take out uncertainty, and we will know whoever our partner is going to be throughout. I think that's going to take a load off of you, Emily. It's gonna take ... a load off the board because it'll just be set. You know, we already passed the test for those who were waiting for us to fail. We already showed them that we're not going to fail and we're going to continue to do this."

According to the request for qualifications and proposals released on Wednesday, July 15, the PSCDC is "seeking a qualified development partner to continue one of the most significant workforce housing initiatives in Southwest Colorado."

"This project represents the next phase of a long-term strategy to increase attainable homeownership opportunities for the local workforce while demonstrating how public-private partnerships can successfully address housing shortages in rural mountain communities."

It indicates the remaining 15 homes would still be split and built five at a time.

It notes that Phase 2B will include five homes, and Phase 3 would include "Construction of ten (10) workforce homes, anticipated to proceed in two increments of five (5) homes each, subject to project funding, buyer readiness, and authorization by PSCDC."

It adds, "The selected Developer will enter into a Design-Build Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Construction Agreement following completion of the evaluation process and successful contract negotiations."

board the PSCDC was invited to submit a grant application for a \$300,000 workforce development grant through the Colorado Health Foundation.

That grant, she noted, would provide industry-requested training support and funding for what called a "business navigator program."

She indicated she was notified of the ability to apply shortly before the deadline, but was able to get it turned in.

She further explained that it is a new grant opportunity and that you have to be invited to apply.

"That was really a cool opportunity for us," she said.

In submitting that grant, she explained, she had to submit the PSCDC's mission statement.

Lashbrooke noted that there was an old and new mission statement in the board's packet, adding that when she looked at the PSCDC's "old" mission statement, it seemed outdated.

"To be quite honest, I felt a little embarrassed to submit that, knowing all the work that we have done over the last five years," she said.

Board president Sherry Waner acknowledged the mission statement is likely more than a decade old.

Lashbrooke explained she took the organization's existing mission statement — "The Mission of Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County by creating jobs, encouraging new capital investment, and creating a business-friendly community. In addition, CDC will work closely with existing businesses to maximize their profitability and sustainability." — and "wordsmithed it" for the grant application.

That reworked mission statement, which Lashbrooke then presented to the board for consideration, which was included in the board packet, was "The mission of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation is to strengthen Archuleta County by fostering economic opportunities, supporting businesses, expanding workforce and housing solutions, attracting investment, and building partnerships

that enhance the quality of life for current and future generations."

In response to board comment, Lashbrooke clarified "Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs."

She noted it adds in housing and wording about future generations.

Board members suggested they like the new one, but that the prior version had more specificity, which they liked.

Waner suggested mission statements are often done in a strategic planning setting, and it was suggested that a meeting be set during the winter to revisit the mission statement more when other aspects of the PSCDC's work slows down.

Brown suggested many things aren't up to the PSCDC to do, such as job creation, but to provide the environment and opportunity to allow businesses to do those things.

Waner pointed toward the board's workforce development initiatives, noting it creates jobs.

Waner suggested the board needed to adopt what was presented, and further discussion centered on a worksession in the future to revisit the matter.

The board voted unanimously to approve the new mission statement as presented.

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Town’s sanitation district receives update, meets new Public Works director

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On July 7, the board of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID), which also sits as the Pagosa Springs Town Council, heard an update from Interim Public Works Director Phil Bennett on the town’s ongoing sewer improvement project.

Town Manager David Harris also introduced the board to the town’s new Public Works director, Nick Freeland.

Harris explained that Freeland “comes to us” from working as a contractor on the “Vista Plant upgrades, and prior to that he has an extensive background in military and aviation engineering and is a graduate of Texas Tech and grew up in the Dallas area.”

Freeland then addressed the board, saying that he and his family moved to Pagosa in “April of last year,” and had “originally planned to move on to Salida, once my job here concluded, but we loved this community so much that we decided to stay here.”

He explained he started his new position with the town “yesterday,” and knows there are issues with the wastewater system that will need to be addressed “in the near future.”

“I’m excited to get started and to meet everyone and help benefit this community as much as I can,” he said.

Harris explained that Bennett

would stay on as interim public works director through the end of this month, and that the town would “explore” future roles for him going forward.

After Freeland’s introduction, Bennett gave his final sewer update as interim director, saying that he had been on the job for about 90 days and that he was giving this report as a sort of “swan song” to the board.

“I’m excited to get started and to meet everyone and help benefit this community as much as I can,”

Nick Freeland
Public Works director

Currently, the town conveys its wastewater 7 miles uphill, through a series of pump and lift stations, to the Vista wastewater treatment plant, owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

Since 2015, the system has been plagued by a series of electrical and pump failures, as well as an aging pipe system.

In November 2025, town-voters approved ballot initiative 2A, which

created a 1 percent sales tax increase for purchases within town limits to fund critical repairs and improvements to the sewer system.

The funds collected from this sales tax increase go into a newly created town Sewer Infrastructure and Facilities Fund (SIFF).

Most recently, the PSSGID directed town staff to review and order, if everything checked out, new Flygt pumps for pump stations 1 and 2.

Bennett explained that staff ordered these new pumps, and “they are now in the queue and we expect approximately six months for delivery.”

He noted staff is weighing if the town wants to go “out for bid” for the installation of the new pumps or if it wants to install them “in house.”

Staff has identified four contractors who have the experience and skill to install the new pumps, he explained.

“We’ve reached out to all four of them, and had declines from three,” but found a single contractor who can do the install on the town’s time-frame, he stated.

In negotiations with the contractor, staff got them to agree to bring down the cost of the installation by about “30 to 40 percent,” he told the board.

Public Works staff is also preparing for a comprehensive “pipe inspection,” working alongside hired

consultant Roaring Fork Engineering, he added.

“We’re trying to figure out what to do to insert the sensors to see from Pump Station 1 all the way up to Vista [wastewater treatment plant] to ascertain the condition of the pipe itself, and whether we have any leaks or if we have any gas bubbles that need to be relieved,” he said.

The town has also hired “one new sanitation operator,” he said, “and we are interviewing for another” in the wake of losing an operator who resigned about three weeks ago.

He noted that the goal is to have four operators, which would “increase the efficiency of the team.”

On the current backup pumps the town is renting, he said that “we are in a more stable period now,” and the town is considering sending those backups back and possibly purchasing its own diesel backup pump that the town would own and operate for use in emergencies.

On the McCabe Creek project, an agenda document on the matter states that it “is progressing, and the crew has completed the pipe replacement to the end of the Loma Street Alley.”

The document adds, “They are starting the culvert replacement on the Florida Street one-way this week and anticipate it taking seven to ten days to complete the install.”

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Fire district receives clean 2025 audit

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 7, the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) unanimously accepted the district’s 2025 audit.

According to a copy of the district’s 2025 audit provided by District Manager Tomi Bliss, performed by Mayberry and Company LLC, “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, major fund and aggregate remaining fund information of the Pagosa Fire Protection District as of December 31, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

The audit report also explains that the same company performed PFPD 2024 audit, “and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated June 25, 2025.”

It adds, “In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.”

According to the report, the district’s assets exceeded its liabilities at the end of 2025 by \$8,278,235, “which is an increase of \$1,785,794 from the prior year.”

The report explains that PFPD

imposes a mill levy of 8.368 mills upon each dollar of the total valuation for assessment of all taxable property within the district.

Total property taxes received from that mill levy for 2025 was \$4,211,845, the report indicates.

Total revenues in 2024 for the district came in at \$5,609,615, and \$5,932,700 in 2025.

According to the report, the district’s net position increase of \$1,785,794 in 2025 up to \$8,278,325, “compared to the increase in 2024 by \$1,914,430 to \$6,492,441.

As for the future of the district, the report explains that PFPD “continues to evaluate long-term operational and capital needs in order to main-

tain effective emergency response services throughout the District’s growing community.”

It adds, “To support continued growth and infrastructure demands within the community, the District implemented Impact Fees in February 2025. These fees apply to new construction and significant development projects occurring within District boundaries and are intended to help offset the costs associated with expanded emergency service demands and future capital improvements.”

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Pepperweed seeds stand out against the neighboring foliage at the town’s wetlands.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Water

■ Continued from front

However, drip irrigation and hand watering edible or ornamental gardens is allowed at all times.

Residential water use above 4,000 gallons per month is subject to a two times rate multiplier.

PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor explained that, while the rains associated with the monsoons might eventually impact the district’s drought restrictions, changes would require a large amount of rain and would not be immediate.

In the summer, the drought stage is primarily driven by the water level in Hatcher Reservoir, flows in the San Juan River and the date.

Both Hatcher and the San Juan supply the district’s water treatment plants, and an increase in the water levels in these sources, such as rainwater flowing into the San Juan and falling on Hatcher can positively impact water supply.

Connor indicated that the date impacts how much change in water levels in the San Juan or Hatcher is needed to move the district from one drought stage to another, with smaller amounts of change causing stage shifts early in the season compared to later in the year.

He explained that the drought plan is more sensitive to small fluctuations early in the season because there are more unknowns at that point about how the year may progress and what water may be available.

“It’s all anticipation for what the next year is going to look like,” he said, adding that the ultimate goal of the drought restrictions is to ensure that the district has water available for later in the year and into the next year.

Connor commented that while he’s heard predictions of a strong monsoon this year and there’s some rain in the forecast, it’s mid-July and it’s “not a lot of rain.”

He stated that his current focus is on “conserving every drop of water in Hatcher Lake” and preparing for what might come, with a strong monsoon and a decrease in the drought conditions being a positive possibility, but not a certainty.

PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey explained that the district’s drought management plan focuses on irrigation since it composes a large portion of the district’s water use in the summer and because losing green lawn grass or other plants has a smaller impact on people’s lives than restrictions on showering, dish washing or other indoor water uses.

The drought stages in the district’s drought management plan align with this goal, imposing progressively tightening restrictions on when irrigation can occur while placing no restrictions on indoor water use except increasing fees for high water consumption.

However, for all but the most severe drought stage, these restrictions only cover irrigation done with sprinklers and other automated devices, with the use of drip irrigation devices and hand watering allowed at all times.

“Really, all we’re saying is you can’t automatically irrigate,” Ramsey said. “People tend to use a lot more water when it’s automatic.”

Manual and drip irrigation encourage people to be more conscious about how they use water by involving them more deeply in the process and requiring more hands-on time, he added.

Another way to increase the water available for gardens and landscaping without paying more fees is to reduce

water waste in your home, Connor and Ramsey highlighted.

Things like a leaking toilet can add up to thousands of gallons a month in additional water use without any benefits, Connor pointed out.

Water savings can also happen by capturing normally wasted water, such as the water that runs while heating up a shower, and putting it to other uses, like watering a garden.

Although these are individually small steps, they can add up to significant increases in water efficiency, Connor commented.

PAWSD’s Dropcountr service offers another tool to track water usage and detect issues like leaks, Connor stated.

This third-party service takes its data from PAWSD’s advanced meter infrastructure system, Connor stated, which records when and how much water is used at an individual water meter and is used by PAWSD for customer billing.

Dropcountr allows customers to monitor this data and set alerts that will notify them about things like when they have used a certain amount of water that month, when their bill reaches a certain dollar value or times when they use a specific amount of water per hour.

These alerts are customizable, he stated, and can help customers budget their water use over a month or detect periods of high water use which might correlate with an unknown leak.

Connor recommended that customers using Dropcountr set an alert for when their water use reaches 3,500 or 4,000 gallons in a month to help them budget their water use and avoid extra water use charges due to drought, although he noted that many other kinds of alerts can be helpful depending on the situation.

PAWSD customers can register for Dropcountr on the PAWSD website at www.pawsd.org/customer-care/

and water-monitoring-dropcountr/ and can also get assistance with registering by calling the PAWSD offices at (970) 731-2691.

Connor noted that having proper contact information is critical to successfully using Dropcountr as you will not receive alerts if your email or other information is incorrect in PAWSD’s records.

Water later and smarter

Watering at the right time is key to maximizing the impact of the water you use, several experts stated.

Ramsey emphasized that watering during the evening or early morning helps ensure that more of the water gets to the plants by reducing water loss to evaporation.

When using a sprinkler during the heat of the day, approximately 20 percent of the water is lost to evaporation before it hits the ground, according to Ramsey — losses which are largely avoided when the sun is not strong.

Ramsey also noted that, in periods of strong sunlight, the watering during the day can burn plants as the water accumulated on their leaves works like a magnifying glass for the sun’s rays.

Connor noted the importance of checking the self timers on your irrigation system to make sure it has working batteries, that it is functioning properly and that it is set to the irrigation times you want, such as during the evening.

This is especially important for people who do not live here year-round and are more likely to not see errors in the irrigation system, Connor stated.

Checking these timers both helps make sure you are complying with PAWSD’s drought restrictions and maximizing the value of your water, he noted.

Cindi Galabota, Colorado State University (CSU) Extension agent for Archuleta County, concurred with

Ramsey’s and Connor’s recommendations about watering at night.

In addition to heat, the middle of the day tends to be the most windy, increasing the amount of water lost to evaporation, she noted.

Evaporation also continues when the water hits the ground, Galabota stated, meaning that a portion of the water that reaches the soil during daytime watering will be lost before it can be absorbed by the plants it is supposed to benefit.

The way you irrigate your lawn is ■ See Water A7



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Water

■ **Continued from A6**
also critical for getting the most impact from your water, Galabota commented. She stated that irrigation methods like soaker hoses — perforated hoses which slowly seep water into the soil — are much more water efficient than a traditional sprinkler since they minimize the loss of water from airborne evaporation and their slow drip of water gives it time to sink in, reducing losses to runoff.

When using a sprinkler, Galabota emphasized the importance of making sure it is calibrated to avoid waste by spraying water on sidewalks and driveways.

Galabota shared that there are also simple tests you can do to help estimate how much water your irrigation system delivers to your yard or garden, allowing you to precisely calibrate how long you need to water for based on your watering goals.

One such test she shared is placing a set of small cans, like tuna cans, across your yard before turning on your irrigation for 20 minutes.

Afterward, you can measure how much water is in the cans and calculate how much water your irrigation system delivers per minute or hour, letting you precisely time how long you need to irrigate based on how much water you want to apply.

Galabota explained that this test can also help you detect areas in your lawn that are receiving more or less water, allowing you to calibrate your irrigation system to ensure equal coverage.

How much water is needed varies on the type of plants being irrigated and the conditions, she stated, although trees need substantially more water than grass or other plants, especially given the long period of drought they have been exposed to over recent years.

Galabota noted that the CSU Extension provides a variety of resources for helping determine a plant's water needs, including articles on watering shade trees (<https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/watering-mature-shade-trees/>), landscapes (<https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/watering-a-home-landscape-during-drought/>) and perennial gardens (<https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/perennial-gardening/>).

She added that inserting your finger into the ground to see if the top 1-2 inches are damp can be an effective way to test whether more water is needed, with dryness suggesting more watering is necessary.

When calibrating your irrigation, Galabota advised focusing on watering a larger amount less frequently since this encourages deeper root growth for plants and helps them access nutrients.

Is it dead?

Plants facing limited water and high heat are under stress, Galabota explained, and, like people, they deal with that stress in different ways. Faced with drought, some plants go brown and dormant, a state where they may appear to be dead. Others lose leaves as a response to drought stress.

Although these changes can look alarming, Galabota emphasized that they are normal responses and are not necessarily indications that your plants are dead or dying.

These are indications though that the plants likely need support, such as watering, she stated, especially if these are non-native plants that are not

adapted to the local conditions.

However, even if they receive more water or other help, plants may not immediately recover or turn green, Galabota stated.

For many brown plants, it will only be clear next spring whether they survived the drought, she stated.

If they are receiving some water, Galabota stated that most brown native plants are likely dormant, but non-native plants are more difficult to discern since they often lack the drought adaptations of native plants.

For turf grass, Galabota stated that watering it with a quarter inch of water a week or half an inch every two weeks will keep it alive in a dormant state.

“Your grass won’t be luscious and green ... but it’s not going to die,” she said. “It’s going to be brown, but you’re going to bring it back next year.”

Stemming losses and flames

Mulching is another key tool for maximizing the impact of your water, Galabota explained.

A layer of mulch up to 4 inches thick helps reduce evaporation of any moisture that is already in the soil in addition to the water you add, she stated.

Mulch also helps reduce the growth of weeds, which leach away water from desirable plants, by blocking them from germinating and reaching the sun.

However, Galabota explained, evaporation and weeds are not the only threat that should be considered when mulching.

The drought also comes with increased fire danger, meaning that mulch must be used carefully to ensure that it is not putting your home at an increased risk of catching fire.

Within 5 feet of a home, Galabota recommended not using any type of woody mulch and minimizing plants unless they are fire resistant.

For plants in this zone that need mulch, she suggested using small rocks.

Beyond 5 feet, Galabota recommended using bark chips, pine needles or leaves as a mulch.

She noted that many of these mulch materials can be obtained locally without having to buy them.

For gardens, Galabota indicated that shade coverings can be useful for protecting plants from high heat and winds, as well as from cold nighttime temperatures.

However, she cautioned that shade covers should be used carefully to avoid blocking too much sunlight from the plants under them or overheating them by creating a greenhouse with the coverings.

Planting for a dry future

With the drought, you might be thinking of reimagining your lawn or garden to require less water in the future.

While Galabota encouraged starting planning a more drought-tolerant landscape this year, she stated that you should likely wait to implement it.

New plantings are more fragile and take a larger amount of water in the years it takes them to get established, she stated, which means that it's best to plant in a less stressful and water restricted time.

However, there are many ways to get started with planning a more water-efficient yard, Galabota indicated.

She advised that those who are interested in changing their landscaping observe the current conditions in their yards, detecting what microclimates might exist in different areas and what plants are flourishing where.

Then, Galabota recommended that you start researching what plants you might want to use and designing a landscape layout to guide your plant efforts.

This might also be a good time to take classes on landscaping or gardening, she commented, such as the Landscape for Life online courses offered by the CSU Extension in partnership with the U.S. Botanic Gardens or the master gardener certification offered locally by the Extension.

Galabota suggested a wide range of books and resources to help with researching potential plants.

For books, she recommended “Pretty Tough Plants” by The Experts at Plant Select, “The Undaunted Garden” by Lauren Springer Ogden, “The Colorado Gardener’s Companion” by Jodi Torpey, “Garden with Less Water” by David Bainbridge and “Xeriscape Colorado” by Connie Lockhart and David Winger, among others.

She noted that many books on gardening and landscaping in Colorado are available at the Ruby Sisson Library.

Visiting the native plant garden at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership domes in Centennial Park can also be useful, Galabota commented, since this provides a place to look at plants that flourish in the area with minimal water.

It can also provide helpful ideas for creating a pollinator-friendly garden, she explained, which can help support insects and wildlife during difficult times like the current drought.

Galabota noted that it is also critical to think about the elevation of your

home when considering plants since the area has a wide range of elevations and which plants do well is highly dependent on elevation.

She also offered several recommendations for potential drought-tolerant plants that she has observed growing well in the area.

For flowering perennials, she highlighted the blue-colored Rocky Mountain penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*) and the red-colored firecracker penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*), both of which grow wild in Archuleta County; red and yellow prairie coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*); and chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*), a yellow daisy with a brown center.

In terms of grasses, Galabota recommended Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) and blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*) as potential native grass options that require less water than conventional turf grass.

She also recommended considering prickly pear cactus or yucca species for dry areas, as well as various sages and wildflowers for your overall landscape.

Galabota noted that the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Archuleta County offers seeds for many native plants and that many seeds and plants are also available at garden centers in Pagosa Springs.

She also commented that the CSU Extension in Archuleta County can help residents learn more about drought-friendly landscaping and answer questions about effective water use.

The CSU Extension office is located at 344 U.S. 84 and can also be contacted by phone at (970) 264-5931.

More information is also available at <https://extension.colostate.edu/archuleta/>.

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Monsoons

■ **Continued from front**

drops in temperature from noon to 8pm each day.”

But, the organization indicates, what parts of Pagosa Country see precipitation will vary.

“We are seeing its typical beginning phase behavior,” Prochazka wrote. “Not everyone is going to get rain.”

Following Tuesday’s precipitation, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCo-RaHS) showed reports ranging from zero north and northwest of Pagosa

Springs to .44 inches received in an area 4.6 miles southwest of Pagosa Springs.

“There will be rain lottery winners and losers,” Prochazka wrote.

The Pagosa Weather forecast adds, “As we move into monsoon season, the lower atmosphere will become more saturated and the thunderstorms will have wider footprint as to where they drop rain.”

The forecast also notes the direction of movement of storms will vary in the coming days.

Next Tuesday, July 21, it states,

storms are expected to move from the southwest to the northeast as the high sinks to our southeast, which the organization notes is the “ideal flow” for the area’s monsoon season.

The National Weather Service predicts daytime highs ranging from near 80 to the mid-80s over the coming week.

Fire danger, restrictions remain

The area’s jurisdictions continue to be under Stage 2 fire restrictions, with the San Juan National Forest

reporting Wednesday that the fire danger continues to be very high.

Recreationists are encouraged to check local restrictions before heading out.

Additionally, the U.S. Drought Monitor reports that, as of July 7, 100 percent of Archuleta County remains in drought, with the majority of the county falling into the severe drought category and 36.15 percent, primarily in the western and southwestern portion of the county, falling into the extreme drought category.

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Concerns

■ **Continued from front**

or restrict commercial truck traffic on county roads when public safety is at risk.”

She added, “This is clearly such a situation.”

Williams provided another anecdotal story of a truck driver who crashed along the side of the road and fled the scene.

She stated that the driver was later charged with driving under the influence.

Williams also suggested that the county could enable the sheriff’s office to have a deputy dedicated specifically for the Arboles community.

“This is a public safety issue, and I believe this project should be suspended until these concerns are addressed,” Williams said, adding that if the county is unwilling to halt traffic, it could at least restrict the heavy commercial traffic to certain time periods, such as weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Williams also noted that the heavy use of “Jake brakes” through the night are causing residents to lose sleep, and that residents are no longer able to sit outside and comfortably enjoy their properties.

Williams spoke on the condition of County Road 975 as well, noting that the road has sustained significant damage from the trucking associated with the drilling project in the area, suggesting the road needs to be repaved and that residents in the area should be “fairly compensated” for the impacts on their quality of life.

showed a total of 3,943 vehicles passing through the area over that time period.

Medina indicated that, according to that study, the average rate of speed was between 65 and 70 mph.

The posted speed limit on County Road 975 is 30 mph, Medina noted.

“They are operating all hours,” Medina added, explaining the traffic study showed vehicles passing through from 10 p.m. to midnight.

Medina also indicated that the road is likely not built to withstand that amount of weight and traffic.

“It’s in shambles,” Williams said in regard to County Road 975.

Messier explained that residents and truck drivers are having to dodge massive potholes, causing vehicles to go into opposing lanes.

Other residents in the room indicated that County Road 975 was last paved in the early 2000s, with Torres explaining that would mean the road is near “end of life” and needs to be repaired.

“This is a public safety issue, and I believe this project should be suspended until these concerns are addressed.”

Samantha Williams

out of New Mexico.

“They have no business in Colorado,” she said.

Torres explained that he has not been in contact with the drilling companies, Hilcorp and GORE Energy, over the past month.

He explained that, after his most recent contact with the companies, some of the issues had died down, “but then a couple weeks passed and it got worse again.”

Torres also explained that the county uses County Road 975 to haul gravel from the C&J gravel pit in the area.

“And, so, that is one of the main sources of gravel we use as well,” he said.

Torres also commented on the traffic study, noting that the number of vehicles passing through was “pretty surprising.”

Torres mentioned that his recommendation is to get law enforcement involved and have a larger presence in the area.

Ranson commented that the county should not have to pay to repave the road, and that responsibility is on the drilling companies.

“I think we really gotta get serious with these folks,” he said, suggesting that if the county needs to take legal action, “let’s do it.”

Torres explained that he directed staff to come up with a preliminary estimate about what it would cost to repair the portion of County Road 975 that is deteriorating.

“I think we gotta go after them,” Ranson said.

Medina commented that a meeting with all of the entities involved is a “great start,” but suggested sending a letter from the county’s legal department directly to the drilling companies.

Commissioner Warren Brown then suggested the county entertain the idea of submitting a letter of cease and desist to the drilling companies to suspend their operations until these concerns are resolved.

Brown’s suggestion was received with a round of applause by the work session audience.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini indicated that she is “open” to Brown’s suggestion, but noted, “These are public roads.”

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez indicated that he intends to provide the drilling companies with an invoice on the cost to repair County Road 975 at some point.

Gonzalez also mentioned that the sheriff has expressed concerns about the practicality of enforcing some of the recommended restrictions to be placed on the road, even if it is legal to do so.

Ranson responded by stating that he’s heard that “a lot,” but, “we got a sheriff’s department for a reason — it’s to enforce the law.”

Brown requested an update on the matter from the county’s legal department during its next regular work session, scheduled for July 28 at 8:30 a.m. in the commissioner’s room at 398 Lewis St.

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TOWN OF
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View
July 2026



Stage 2 Fire Restrictions Now in Effect

The Town of Pagosa Springs has elevated fire restrictions to Stage 2 in response to worsening conditions, continued hot and dry weather, and increased wildfire risk across southwest Colorado. The restrictions took effect at 6 p.m. on July 6 and will remain in place until further notice.

Stage 2 restrictions prohibit additional activities beyond Stage 1, including campfires and open burning, charcoal grills, smoking outdoors (except in enclosed vehicles or buildings), personal fireworks, and most welding or open-flame torch work. Gas-fueled grills, stoves, and lanterns with shut-off valves remain permitted.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to stay informed by signing up for Town alerts by texting PAGOSASPRINGS to 38276 and subscribing to Archuleta County Nixle alerts at local.nixle.com/register. Now is also a good time to review your evacuation plan and prepare a 72-hour emergency kit.

For complete restrictions, exceptions, and updates, visit pagosasprings.co.gov.

Hilltop Cemetery Rules and Regulations Updated

The Pagosa Springs Town Council has adopted updated rules and regulations for Hilltop Cemetery. The changes are intended to make the rules easier to understand, clarify Town maintenance processes, and help ensure the cemetery remains well cared for.

Updates include changes to the cemetery fee schedule, clarification on maintenance procedures, new requirements for permit installation benches near grave sites, and revised rules for ornamental structures and objects. The updated rules will go into effect in January 2027.

ComFest 2026 in Yamaguchi Park This Summer

The Town of Pagosa Springs invites residents and visitors to enjoy ComFest 2026, a free outdoor concert series at Yamaguchi Park (684 S 5th Street). Concerts will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and feature live music, food trucks, and spirits, all while supporting local nonprofit organizations.

July 17 – A-Mac & The Height, benefiting Rise Above Violence

August 21 – The Williams Brothers Band, benefiting Wings Early Childhood Center

Bring a lawn chair, gather with friends and family, and enjoy an evening of great music while supporting important community causes.

For more information, contact the Community Center at 970-264-4152.

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Joint Town-County Work session Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5 p.m. Archuleta County Administration Building: 398 Lewis St.

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.



pagosasprings.co.gov

View the town’s monthly e-newsletter online at pagosasprings.co.gov/newsletter

Visit

■ **Continued from front**

Greene’s report was generated using cellphone data collected by Placer.ai, which indicates that the average length of stay for visitors over the holiday was 2.5 days.

Regionally, Archuleta County saw the second most number of visitors, behind La Plata County, which had more than 93,100 visitors over the holiday period.

Hinsdale County saw 24,000 visitors, Mineral County saw 19,500 visi-

tors, San Juan County saw 18,100 visitors, Ouray County saw 34,400 visitors and Montezuma County saw 54,700 visitors, according to Green’s report.

“We appear to have fared well over the 4th compared to most other markets,” Greene wrote.

She also explains that the numbers “look different” from data gathered the last few years, due to the fact that Placer.ai’s “reporting has changed.”

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Community news.

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E-bike vs. e-moto: Colorado State Patrol wants you to research before you buy

Colorado State Patrol

As parents, grandparents and kids look to purchase e-bikes, it's been discovered that some retailers have blurred the lines, selling heavy, high-speed electric motorcycles while marketing them as standard e-bikes.

Colorado State troopers want buyers to use caution and check the specs before they buy and ride.

"Sometimes what a retailer is calling an 'e-bike' is not a bike at all," stated Col. Mathew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Any two-wheeled vehicle that has a motor exceeding 750 watts, speeds exceed-

ing 28 mph, or no functional pedals, may be reclassified as a moped or motorcycle."

If a rider or caregiver modifies an e-bike to go faster than 28 mph, it would also be considered a moped or motorcycle.

The distinction between these devices matters because each type of vehicle has different legal or safety requirements.

Why distinction matters

When an e-motorcycle is marketed as an e-bike, the following requirements are bypassed:

- Driver's license or motorcycle license.

- Vehicle registration and insurance.

- Age restrictions (e-bikes can be ridden by younger teens, while e-motorcycles require riders to be at least 16)

In addition, these devices have different restrictions on where they can be driven. Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are generally allowed wherever traditional bicycles are permitted, including bike trails and natural surface paths.

Class 3 e-bikes are typically restricted to roads and designated bike lanes. E-motorcycles are restricted to roads, OHV trails and forest roads that permit motorized use.

In Colorado, municipalities and local jurisdictions have the right to impose their own localized ordinances and restrictions. Be sure to check the local ordinances for your exact town or city as they can differ from what's allowed at the state level.

"One of the biggest oversights we are presently seeing is that kids under the age of 16 are riding two-wheeled vehicles that are classified as mopeds or motorcycles," explained Packard. "In Colorado, you must be at least 16 years old to obtain a full motorcycle endorsement (Class M) on your driver's license. These devices also must be registered and licensed."

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
June 29 — Death investigation, Canyon Circle.

June 29 — Lost/found property, Harman Park Drive.

June 30 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

June 30 — Lost/found property, County Road 359.

July 1 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.

July 1 — Dog at large (first offense no injury), information only, Spruce Circle.

July 1 — Information only, Starlight Place.

July 2 — Crimes against at-risk adult/elderly >70-neglect, information only, Holly Tree Circle.

July 2 — Information only, Bastille Drive.

July 2 — Agency assist, no location listed.

July 2 — Theft-\$300 to \$750 from building, County Road 982.

July 3 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

July 3 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

July 3 — Information only, Vista.

July 3 — Domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, Domicile Circle.

July 3 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Martinez Place.

July 4 — Information only, no location listed.

July 5 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.

July 5 — Drove vehicle when license revoked as habitual offender (misdemeanor), no insurance-owner, no location listed.

July 6 — Intimidating a witness or victim, unauthorized use of financial transaction device-\$500 to \$15,000, Marmot Court.

July 6 — Death investigation, Whitaker Place.

July 6 — Federal warrant, no location listed.

July 7 — Information only, County Road 146.

July 7 — Information only, Stevens Circle.

July 7 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.

July 8 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

July 8 — Forgery of money, stamps, securities, fraud by check account does not exist closed 30 days, Terry Robinson Road.

July 8 — Information only, U.S. 160.

July 8 — Information only, Forest Service Road 628.

July 9 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under restraint alcohol/drug related offense, reckless driving, speeding 25-39 over limit, violation of protection order-criminal, no location listed.

July 9 — Alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, driver failed to yield right of way at stop sign, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-owner, U.S. 160.

July 9 — Information only, Bastille Drive.

July 10 — Animals running at large, Hills Circle.

July 11 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.

July 12 — Information only, Short Drive.

July 12 — Agency assist, no location listed.

July 12 — Assault in the third degree, U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

June 29 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

June 29 — Theft/intends to deprive person, South 8th Street.

June 30 — Criminal trespass, Eagle Drive.

July 1 — Lost/found property, South 5th Street.

July 1 — Caretaker neglect, South 8th Street.

July 2 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, South 9th Street.

July 2 — Traffic investigation-complaint, Aspen Village Drive.

July 2 — Trespass warning, Goldmine Drive.

July 2 — Warrant arrest, Hot Springs Boulevard/San Juan Street.

July 2 — Vehicle accident no injuries, San Juan Street.

July 2 — Theft-\$300 to \$750 from building, Mesa Drive.

July 3 — Theft-less than \$300, Talisman Drive.

July 3 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

July 3 — Suspicious activity/vehicle, County Road 600.

July 4 — Assault in the third degree, Pagosa Street.

July 4 — Disturbance, Pagosa Street.

July 4 — Theft, Aspen Village Drive.

July 4 — Threats, North 5th Street.

July 4 — Restraining order violation, Pagosa Street.

July 5 — Disturbance, Pagosa Street.

July 5 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, third-degree motor vehicle theft, County Road 119/County Road 359.

July 5 — Harassment, Hot Springs Boulevard.

July 6 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug related offense, South 8th Street/Florida Street.

July 6 — Criminal tampering, South 9th Street.

July 6 — Menacing use of deadly weapon not specified, South 8th Street/Davis Cup Drive.

July 7 — Trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive/Hot Springs Boulevard.

July 7 — Violation of protection order-criminal, warrant arrest, Village Drive.

July 7 — Careless driving, left scene without providing information after striking unattended vehicle or property, San Juan Street.

July 8 — Driver operated vehicle without insurance, San Juan Street.

July 8 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks a person, South 9th Street.

July 9 — Suspicious activity/vehicle, Majestic Drive.

July 9 — Information only, Back Swing Court.

July 10 — Criminal attempt to commit class five or six felony, second-degree motor vehicle theft, first-degree criminal trespass motor vehicle, South 8th Street.

July 11 — Second-degree assault-caused intended serious injury, North 5th Street.

July 12 — Vehicle accident no injuries, Country Center Drive.

July 12 — Harbored vicious animals prohibited, San Juan Street.

July 12 — Disturbance, North 5th Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

June 23 — Guillaume A. Metz, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.

June 23 — Jason Edward Rose, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

June 24 — Clinton Brian Burke, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

June 25 — Sebastian M. Prunty, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

June 25 — Jeremy Preston Gallegos, dog at large, fines and costs — \$134.

June 26 — Michael Don Weaver, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.

June 26 — Andre Brookins, driver's license-driving without, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$173.50.

June 26 — Israel L. Rodriguez, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

June 26 — Layne R. Morris, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

June 26 — Mavcick Martinez, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

June 26 — Rigoberto Lune Arroyo, speeding 10-19 over limit, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$279.50.

June 26 — Aidan L. Giroso, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

June 26 — Ronnie Gallegos, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.

June 26 — Jorge Espino-Ontiveros, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

June 26 — Ricardo Miguel Benavides Amaya, speeding 20-24 over limit, driver's license-driving without, lane usage violation, fines and costs — \$471.50.

June 26 — Derek J. Archuleta, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and

costs — \$223.50.

June 26 — Brandon Scott West, overtaking vehicle in crosswalk, fines and costs — \$61.

June 26 — Edward R. George, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$142.50.

July 1 — Jose Fabian Arguera Bernal, careless driving, commercial vehicle safety violation, fines and costs — \$138.50.

July 1 — Travis W. McPeak, unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$105.50.

July 9 — James D. Darrar, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

July 10 — Jude P. Lindberg, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

July 10 — Vincent Alan F. Koehl, license plate-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

July 10 — Marhsa K. Englehart, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

July 10 — Brayden C. Bramwell, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$162.50.

July 10 — Gerilyn M. Kruthaupt, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$83.

July 10 — Johnathan Josiah Arispe, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$83.50.

July 10 — Danette A. Vigil, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$142.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.



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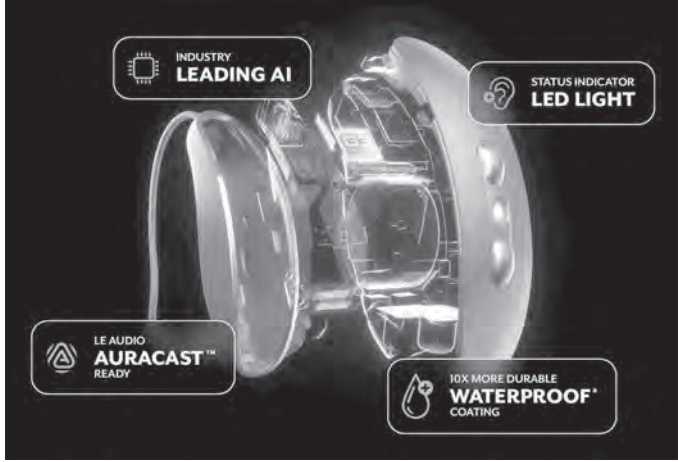
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Outdoors



SUN photo/Randi Pierce
The San Juan River flows beneath the Apache Street bridge. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has enacted a voluntary afternoon fishing closure on the San Juan River through Pagosa Springs to help protect fish during times of elevated stress associated with reduced oxygen levels.

Anglers asked not to fish after noon on San Juan River

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

With low water levels and water temperatures consistently rising near 71 degrees, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has enacted a voluntary afternoon fishing closure for the Animas River through Durango, the San Juan River through Pagosa Springs and the Dolores River below McPhee Dam.

These voluntary fishing closures went into effect Monday, July 13, and will remain in place daily from noon to midnight. Signage has been posted along the rivers. CPW will notify the public when the closure is lifted.

“Voluntary fishing closures help

protect the fish during periods of elevated stress associated with reduced oxygen levels experienced during warmer summer months,” said CPW Aquatic Biologist Kade Jackson. “When water temperatures are elevated, there is a decrease in oxygen, making it more difficult for trout to recover after being caught, therefore increasing the likelihood of angling mortality.”

During the warm summer months, rivers with unusually low flows can experience wide daily water temperature fluctuations, reaching their maximum temperatures in the late afternoon. By implementing a voluntary half-day closure rather than a full day, anglers

can still enjoy time on the water in the morning when water temperatures are suitable without stressing fish in the afternoon.

“I liken it to how nobody wants to be exercising outdoors when it’s over 100 degrees outside,” said CPW Southwest Region Senior Aquatic Biologist Jim White. “That’s kind of the same thing we’re imposing on these fish when folks are fishing when the water temperatures are that hot. When you’re fighting a fish, it could be comparable to going out for an intensive jog or sprint even. Alleviating that stress on the fish population is good practice.”

Temperatures are approaching 71

degrees in the Animas River and have surpassed 75 degrees in the Dolores and San Juan rivers. Nighttime and early morning water temperatures are trending upward, suggesting reduced thermal refuge and recovery periods for trout.

As of Monday, July 13, the Animas was flowing at 200 cubic feet per second (cfs), only 20 percent of its average. The San Juan was flowing at 7 percent of median flows at 30 cfs. McPhee Reservoir was releasing only 5 cfs into the Dolores River.

Access to the Dolores River below McPhee Dam, including the Lone

■ See Anglers A11

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Distraction doesn’t have to control you: Five habits of focused drivers

Colorado State Patrol

Distacted driving isn’t seasonal; it’s pervasive, and the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) is asking for your attention behind the wheel.

Troopers investigated 600 injury and fatal crashes caused by distracted driving in 2025 and issued 456 citations for violating Colorado’s Hands-Free law.

“When we conduct crash investigations caused by distracted drivers, often it is a small thing that steals the drivers’ focus from the most important thing at that moment — driving,” stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the CSP. “Driving is never rou-

tine, even if we have routes that are repetitive. Other drivers’ behavior, pedestrians, animals and weather can require us to react quickly and adjust our speed.”

In 2025, troopers identified the human factor in 954 distracted-driving crashes they investigated.

They found that interior distractions (such as insects and nonfood items on the floor and within the vehicle, excluding distractions caused by a passenger) topped the list. In fact, these distractions accounted for just over half of the crashes.

Looking at all human factors for these 1,040 crashes:

1. Distracted/Other Interior —

- 51.5 percent (493 crashes).
2. Distracted/Other Exterior* — 28 percent (268 crashes).
3. Distracted/Other Occupant — 8 percent (79 crashes).
4. Distracted Eating/Drinking — 7 percent (65 crashes).
5. Distracted/Manipulating Vehicle Control — 4 percent (38 crashes).
6. Distracted Smoking — 1 percent (11 crashes).

*Distracted/Other Exterior is defined as: The driver was distracted by some other source located outside the vehicle (e.g., another crash, reading a billboard, road construction, etc.)

The ability to safely multitask behind the wheel is a myth. Multitasking occurs when your attention switches back and forth between tasks very

quickly. Reacting to changing driving conditions, adjusting speed or staying within your designated driving lanes requires constant attention and focus.

Becoming a less distracted driver can be done by changing your mindset and habits every time you drive.

The CSP recommends drivers start with the following five habits:

1. Set your navigation, music and car settings before leaving.
2. Use “Do Not Disturb” mode on your phone and keep electronics deliberately out of reach.
3. Make sure children and pets are correctly secured before driving.
4. Make a rule to never eat or drink in the vehicle.
5. If you are drowsy, pull off the road and take a quick nap or get re-energized.

Anglers

■ **Continued from A10**

Dome State Wildlife Area, is currently closed for the safety of the public and firefighting crews working on the Ferris Fire.

Like the Animas River in Durango, fish in the San Juan River through Pagosa Springs also receive the additional stress of recreational river tubing added to higher temperatures and low levels.

Jackson thanked the fishing community in southwest Colorado, as many anglers had already started to self-impose these closures in recent days.

“We certainly have an educated angling community,” Jackson said. “Most people are willing to refrain from angling in the hot afternoons. It’s a matter of educating other members of the community and our out-of-town visitors to help these fisheries out.”

Jackson explained anglers should fish early to avoid the higher water temperatures commonly seen in the afternoon and seek out high-elevation trout lakes or warm-water fisheries in the region where water temperatures are more suitable.

CPW asks anglers to be part of the solution by adhering to voluntary fishing closures in the hopes of avoiding mandatory closures on desired fisheries throughout the summer.

CPW aquatic biologists will regularly monitor temperatures in the coming weeks to let anglers know when conditions have improved.

CPW may enact mandatory fishing closures when any of the following criteria are met:

- Daily maximum water temperature exceeds 71 degrees.
- Streamflow drops to 50 percent or less of the daily average.
- Fish condition deteriorates, showing visible signs of fungus or stress.
- Daily minimum dissolved oxygen levels fall below 6 parts per million.

reach 71 degrees or higher, or when flows drop below 50 percent of the average daily flow, fish struggle to recover after being caught and released.

CPW recommends that anglers fish early in the day to avoid peak afternoon temperatures. Anglers should use a handheld thermometer to test water conditions and move to cooler, higher-elevation waters once temperatures approach 71 degrees.

To reduce fish stress, CPW advises anglers to:

- Use heavier tippet and line to land fish quickly.
- Wet hands before handling any fish.
- Keep fish submerged in the water while unhooking and releasing them.
- Avoid removing fish from the water for photographs.
- Avoid overcrowded areas and have an alternative fishing location planned.

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PSPD Assistant Chief Brooks Brown to retire

After 15 years of dedicated service in law enforcement, Assistant Chief Brooks Brown is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the community he has proudly served.

Throughout his career, Brown earned the respect of fellow officers, community members, and local leaders through his professionalism, compassion, and steady leadership. Rising through the ranks to Assistant Chief, he has played an instrumental role in supporting public safety while mentoring officers and helping guide the department through years of growth and change.

Those who have worked alongside Brown describe him as a dependable leader who approached every situation with fairness, humility, and a genuine desire to serve others. Whether responding to emergencies, leading critical incidents, or simply taking time to build relationships within the community, he consistently demonstrated the values that define exceptional public service.

Law enforcement is more than a profession—it is a calling that often requires sacrifices made not only by the officer but also by their family. Brown’s 15-year career reflects countless hours spent protecting others, responding to difficult situations, and serving with courage and dedication.

As he begins this new chapter of retirement, Brown looks forward to spending more time with his family, pursuing personal interests, and enjoying the opportunities that come with life after public service.

The community extends its heartfelt gratitude to Assistant Chief Brooks Brown for his years of faithful service, leadership, and commitment to keeping others safe. His contributions have made a lasting impact on both the department and the community he served, and his legacy will continue to be felt for years to come.

Congratulations, Assistant Chief Brooks Brown, on your retirement, and thank you for 15 years of honorable service. We wish you health, happiness, and every success in the adventures that lie ahead.

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Public Notices

Pagosa Springs SUN. (300942)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradojudicial.gov).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of June 2026, for Archuleta County.

2026CW3009
Archuleta County, San Juan River. APPLICATION FOR A FINDING OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. Applicant: James W. and Dona L. Schlesing Living Trust. Please direct all communication to Amy N. Huff, 679 E. 2nd Ave., #11B, Durango, CO 81301 - amy@waterland-law.com. 970-403-1770. Structure Name: PAGOSA SPRINGS PL # 1 MCINTYRE ENLARGEMENT WDD #2900683. Original Decree: Case No. 03CW18. Legal Description: Decree Description: Whence the NE corner of Section 18, Township 35N, Range 1W, NMPM, bears North 76° 53' feet East a distance of 1257.8 feet. DWR Description: NE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 18, Township 35N, Range 1W, 1225 feet from the East section line, and 285 feet from the North section line of said Section 18. NAD 83 Zone 13 - Easting 323711.5; Northing 4127266.7 Source: San Juan River. App Date: January 31, 2000. Amount: 0.75 cfs total (0.25 cfs was decreed absolute in Case No. 03CW18 for piscatorial uses (0.50 cfs was decreed conditional in Case No. 03CW18 for the irrigation of 36.25 acres). Uses: Irrigation of 36.25 acres, and piscatorial uses. Detailed Outline of Actions to Support a Finding of Reasonable Diligence: The water right herein is appurtenant to the real property that Applicant purchased in 2021. Since 2022, Applicant has engaged professionals and paid consultants to research, investigate, and advise it on the water and water rights associated with its real property. Applicant has maintained the piscatorial uses, and intends to fully develop the water right, as originally decreed. Applicant has invested over \$10,000 in professional fees directly related to its water and water rights, including the water right at issue in this Application. Applicant has conferred with the Water Commissioner for Water Division No. 7 about the water and water rights appurtenant to its property. Applicant is currently in discussions with a water consultant about infrastructure alternatives that would enable it to place the water right decreed in Case No. 03CW18 to beneficial use. Names and Addresses of Affected Landowners: This Application does not contemplate modifications to existing diversion structures or modification to any existing diversion structures. Remarks: See Application. (4 pages)
THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of August 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, C.R.C.P. (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov); Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
Published: before July 31, 2026
Published July 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (310059)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Robert Wayne Parsons
Case Number 2026 PR 30023
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before November 2, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published July 2, 9 and 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (308416)

PUBLIC NOTICE ARCHULETA COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
The Archuleta County Board of Equalization (CBOE) will sit to review the assessment of all taxable property located in Archuleta County, as prepared by the Archuleta County Assessor, and to hear appeals from determinations of the Assessor beginning July 29, 30, August 3, 5, 2026. Hearings will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room located at 998 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.
Published July 16 and 23, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (310058)

The Town of Pagosa Springs will submit a grant application to the Colorado Division of Housing (DOH). The purpose of this application is to request approximately \$2,000,000.00 in grant funds to develop 84 rental units at 604 Eagles Loft Circle and 20 rental units at 1093 North Lake Place. The request for funding from DOH is to benefit people and families with moderate incomes, earning 61%-120% of Area Median Income (AMI), by increasing the availability of affordable housing in Archuleta County. Due to the nature of the project being a conversion of existing timeshare units into long-term rentals, the project will not create displacement of existing residents or tenants.
All interested parties are encouraged to contact the applicant for further information. Written comments should be sent to Town of Pagosa Springs, Housing Division, PO Box 1859, Pagosa Springs, CO. 81147 or email jsams@pagosasprings.co.gov and will be forwarded to DOH for consideration during the application process. Interested people may also request a meeting to discuss the DOH grant application by email or phone 970-585-4884.
A Town Council public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 5pm, at Town Hall located at 551 Hot Springs Blvd, when Town Council will consider a Resolution authorizing submittal of a grant application for DOH funding. The Town Council meeting agenda can be accessed on the Town's website: <https://www.pagosasprings.co.gov/>, by clicking the Minutes and Meetings button at the bottom.
If reasonable accommodations are needed for persons attending the public meeting, please contact the Applicant through the above contact information.
Published July 16, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (309946)

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Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon*

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Friends of the Library Book Sale

July 16-18 • Community United Methodist Church • 434 Lewis St.



Photo courtesy Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

Friends of the Library summer book sale this week

By **Katie Dobbins**
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

Today is the day. Bring your friends and reading buddies to our Friends of the Library summer book sale at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. The book sale kicks off with early shopping for members of the Friends of the Library from 6 to 8 p.m. Members enjoy members-only early shopping and receive a buy one, get one special for up to 10 free books. Public hours are Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Arrive early to grab the top picks and snag the best deals. Whatever your interests — history, philosophy, humor, mystery or the perfect book for your child — the Friends

of the Library summer book sale has just what you need. Not yet a Friend of the Library? The Friends membership includes benefits such as early access to book sales, fundraisers to support the library, a community of like-minded readers and more. All proceeds support the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library. Annual membership is \$15 for individuals or \$25 per family; a lifetime individual membership is \$150. Pay at the library or at the book sale. Cash or credit cards accepted. To learn more or become a Friend, email foundation@pagosalibrary.org, visit www.pagosalibrary.org/join-the-friends-of-the-library or stop by your Ruby Sisson Library (open Monday through Saturday).

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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.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Saturday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Escape the Badlands, 7 p.m.
East Side Market: Mike Silberhorn, 11 a.m.

Sunday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Connie the Soldier, 5 p.m.

Monday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Jonny Keys, 5 p.m.

Wednesday

Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Mountain Light Music Festival returning with three summer concerts

Mountain Light Music Festival

Summer in Pagosa Springs isn't complete without the Mountain Light Music Festival, and this year's 11th season promises something for everyone.

Whether you're a fan of classic rock, blockbuster movie soundtracks or simply spending an evening outdoors with family and friends, the festival offers three unique concerts that celebrate music, community, and the beauty of the San Juans.

The season will kick off on Saturday, July 25, with Windy City, an electrifying Chicago tribute band, performing at 7 p.m. at The Springs Resort.

Featuring the iconic horn-driven hits of Chicago, the band will have audiences singing along to favorites like "Saturday in the Park," "25 or 6 to 4," and "You're the Inspiration."

Concertgoers can upgrade to a VIP experience with reserved seating and drink vouchers. The evening will also feature a live speed-painting by artist Katy Von Kral, which will be raffled for an audience member to take home.

The music will continue on Wednesday, July 29, with a free pop-up trombone performance at Riff Raff Brewing Co. at 5 p.m., offering a fun preview of the festival's talented faculty and students in a relaxed, family-friendly setting on the river.

On Thursday, July 30, the spotlight will turn to the Festival Trombone Choir for "Cinematic Sounds," a lively concert at 7 p.m. at the Liberty Theatre.

Audiences will enjoy memorable music from beloved movies, pa-

triotic favorites and brass classics performed by an extraordinary ensemble of professional artists, faculty and outstanding college musicians from across the country.

The festival concludes with one of Pagosa's favorite summer traditions: Music in the Meadow on Friday, July 31, at 6 p.m. at the scenic Mountain Light Lodge. This free concert invites families and friends to spread out

blankets, unpack picnic dinners, arrive by ATV or car and enjoy an evening of live music as the sun sets over the San Juan Mountains. Guests are encouraged to arrive early for assistance with parking, and the evening concludes with a reception featuring light refreshments.

This uniquely Colorado festival creates memorable experiences for
■ See Festival on next page

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild

A one-of-a-kind quilt created to celebrate the rich ranching heritage of Archuleta County will be on display and up for auction at this year's Archuleta County Fair.

Labor of love: Quilt stitched with community pride coming to Archuleta County Fair

By Emily Martinez
Archuleta County Fair

One of the most anticipated new attractions at this year's Archuleta County Fair won't be found in the livestock barns or on Vendor Row — it will be hanging proudly inside the Exhibit Hall.

The Archuleta County Fair Board has partnered with the talented members of the Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild to create a one-of-a-kind quilt celebrating the rich ranching heritage that has helped make the county fair what it is today.

Months of planning, designing and countless hours of stitching have gone into this beautiful, handcrafted masterpiece, making it a true labor of love.

The quilt pays tribute to many local ranches and historic ranch brands that have faithfully supported the Archuleta County Fair throughout the years.

Each carefully crafted block represents the deep agricultural roots of our community and honors the ranching families whose dedication, hard work and generosity have played an important role in preserving our county's western traditions.

"This quilt is more than just fabric and thread," state fair organizers. "It's a celebration of our community, our history, and the people who continue

to support our youth and the traditions of the County Fair."

Visitors will have the opportunity to admire this special quilt throughout the fair in the Exhibit Hall, where it will be displayed alongside dozens of other incredible quilts, handcrafted projects, artwork, photography, baked goods and exhibits created by talented community members of all ages.

When you've finished exploring the exhibits, be sure to place your bid in the silent auction for a chance to take home this truly unique piece of Archuleta County history. Every stitch tells a story, and the winning bidder will own a keepsake that honors the ranching families and community spirit that make our fair so special.

Whether you're a quilting enthusiast, a history buff or simply someone who loves supporting local traditions, this is one exhibit you won't want to miss.

So, make plans to spend some time in the Exhibit Hall during the 2026 Archuleta County Fair, July 30-Aug. 2.

Browse the incredible displays, support the talented exhibitors, and don't forget to stop by the Ranch Brand Quilt — an extraordinary work of art that beautifully showcases the heart, heritage and hometown pride of Archuleta County.

Festival

■ **continued from previous page**
residents and visitors alike. Whether you're discovering the festival or returning again, Mountain Light offers the perfect opportunity to gather, re-

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow
Samantha Luck as Hodel and Trevor Brown as Perchik in Thingamajig Theatre Company's "Fiddler on the Roof," one of three productions now playing in repertory at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Thingamajig's summer repertory season reaches full swing

By Tim Moore
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Thingamajig Theatre Company's 2026 summer repertory season is now fully underway at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, with all three mainstage musicals open and rotating throughout the summer.

Audiences can now see "Come From Away," "Company" and "Fiddler on the Roof" — three productions that differ widely in setting, musical style and temperament, but share an interest in the ways people hold onto one another when the world around them begins to change.

The three-show repertory format has become a defining part of Thingamajig's summer season.

Rather than producing one musical at a time, the resident company rehearses and performs several productions simultaneously. An actor may spend one evening portraying a stranded airline passenger or Newfoundland resident in "Come From Away," return the next night as a sophisticated New Yorker in "Company" and step into the village of Anatevka for "Fiddler on the Roof" before the week is over. Musicians, designers, technicians and stage managers make the same journey,

transforming the theater from one world to another throughout the week.

That constant reinvention is one of the pleasures of repertory theater, allowing audiences to see the full range of a company's work over the course of several performances.

"Come From Away" tells the true story of nearly 7,000 airline passengers diverted to Newfoundland after American airspace closed on Sept. 11, 2001. The musical focuses not only on the scale of that extraordinary event, but on the individual acts of hospitality that followed as residents opened their homes, schools and community buildings to strangers from around the world.

Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's "Company" moves the season to Manhattan, where perpetual bachelor Bobby navigates a series of encounters with his married friends and confronts questions about love, friendship, independence and commitment.

Completing the repertory is "Fiddler on the Roof," the beloved musical about Tevye, his family and the people of Anatevka. As Tevye's daughters begin making choices that challenge long-held customs, the entire village

■ See Thingamajig on next page

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Pagosa Community Initiative invites families to Back-to-School Fair on Aug. 22

By Steven Viola
Pagosa Community Initiative

As summer begins to wind down, the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) is preparing to help local students start the new school year with confidence.

Families are invited to attend PCI's Back-to-School Fair on Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School commons.

This free community event is designed to help ease the financial burden that often comes with preparing children for a new school year while creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere for families. Students will have access to free school supplies, complimentary haircuts provided by local volunteer stylists, hygiene products and more.

In addition to these services, families will have the opportunity

to connect with a variety of local organizations that will be on-site sharing information about programs and resources available throughout Archuleta County.

Whether families are looking for educational opportunities, health resources, youth activities or family support services, the event aims to bring many of these community resources together in one convenient location.

"Our hope is that every family who attends leaves feeling supported and excited for the upcoming school year," said Steven Viola, family services director for PCI. "Going back to school should be an exciting time for children, and we want to help reduce some of the stress that families may experience by providing school essentials, free services and connections to valuable community resources."

Planning for the event is still underway, and additional activities,

services and community partners continue to be added. PCI is grateful for the generosity of local businesses, organizations, volunteers, and community members who have come together to support local students and make this event possible.

Families are encouraged to mark their calendars and join PCI on Aug. 22 for a day dedicated to preparing students for a successful school year while celebrating the strength and generosity of the Pagosa Springs community.

For more information about the event, please contact Viola at (970) 585-6521 or familysupport@pagosa-communityinitiative.org.

Additional information about the event, volunteer opportunities at the event and instructions for families to sign up for available services will be posted on our website soon, www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

Thingamajig

■ continued from previous page

faces growing pressure from the world beyond its borders.

Together, the three productions offer a broad look at what musical theater can accomplish.

One begins with an international crisis, one with a birthday celebration and one with a milkman speaking directly to God. Each finds humor in circumstances that are anything but simple, and each asks how people remain connected when familiar assumptions about home, family and community begin to shift.

Audiences have the opportunity to experience all three productions throughout the remainder of the summer, often within the span of only a few days.

While the professional company has been preparing and opening the repertory productions, the theater's youngest performers have also had a busy summer. Disney's "The Jungle Book KIDS" recently completed its performances at the Center, and the production was a tremendous success.

Young performers brought the familiar story to life for enthusiastic audiences, filling the theater with music, movement and energy.

Thingamajig Theatre Company is deeply grateful to the families, teachers, volunteers and audience members who supported the students and helped make the experience so mem-

orable. For many of the children, this was an early opportunity to perform in a professional theater setting, and the strong community response showed them that their preparation and hard work mattered.

With the youth production completed and all three professional musicals now running, Thingamajig is preparing for its next major summer event.

The Annual Broadway Gala will take place July 28, but this year the company is completely reimagining the familiar format. Instead of an evening built around individual songs, speeches and theatrical selections, the company will present a secret fourth show. The title will not be announced in advance. Guests will arrive knowing they are about to see another theatrical production, but its identity will remain hidden until the evening begins.

The new format places discovery at the center of the gala experience. Most audiences enter a theater already knowing the title, the basic story and perhaps many of the songs they are about to hear. This year's Broadway Gala asks guests to arrive with curiosity, trust the company and allow the evening to reveal itself. The event will retain the celebratory spirit of the annual gala while making the performance itself the heart of the occasion. Proceeds will support Thingamajig Theatre Company's pro-

fessional productions, educational programs and year-round artistic work at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

With "Come From Away," "Company" and "Fiddler on the Roof" now rotating on the mainstage, a successful youth production just completed and a fourth title waiting to be revealed, Thingamajig's summer season has reached its busiest stretch.

Tickets and performance information are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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Young gardeners wanted: KIMGE the bighorn sheep invites local youth to 2026 Mountain Garden Adventures

Healthy Archuleta

Grab your gardening gloves and an appetite for adventure: The 2026 Kids in the Mountain Garden Education Program (KIMGE) is officially returning this August, and it's bringing a brand-new guide to lead local youth through the garden: KIMGE, the Colorado Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Designed for families with kids ages 5 to 12, the KIMGE program focuses on the entire "garden-to-table" cycle, inspiring kids to understand where their food comes from, reduce food waste and appreciate cultural diversity through the universal lan-

guage of food.

This year's program blends mindfulness, nature connection, gardening, literacy and cooking into a series of interactive, hands-on workshops.

The program is structured around the fundamental question "What Makes a Garden Grow?" using weekly themes that transform young participants into real-world "garden heroes."

The four-week adventure will take place every Wednesday evening in August (Aug. 5, 12, 19, and 26) from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the Vista Lake Community Garden and Clubhouse.

The program is perfect for families looking to learn, create and eat

together.

Because sessions involve real kitchen tools, parents are required to stay with their children throughout the evening to ensure safety and share in the traditions.

Spaces are limited to ensure high-quality interaction at the cooking and gardening stations.

Grab your family, clear your Wednesday nights and get ready to grow with KIMGE the bighorn sheep this August.

For more information and to register, visit our website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org, or email communityengagement@fsfearchuleta.org.

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold Story Sunday

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship is excited to offer Story Sunday, this week, July 19, at 10:30 a.m., our regular Sunday morning gathering.

As a UU Fellowship we offer programming that is life-affirming and, some have said, lifesaving. In a world that seems to counter that message, we choose to engage in themes that uplift our emotions while also acknowledging the realities of life.

Join us this Sunday for a wisdom story, expressing the theme of acceptance, and offered by storyteller and artist Libby Krause.

The Fellowship is lucky to have her gifts as part of our inspiration. We are also keeping with the framework provided by the UU Association asking each of us to "Meet the Moment" and engage with our shared values in

real-world ways.

For more information about other offerings, we encourage a look at our website, PagosaUU.org.

The UU space is used as a Community Hub for the Pagosa community, and offers space for a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.

The Tara Meditation Group is held most Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Email the Fellowship to be added to the list and receive information and notices about this meditation practice.

Qigong practice is held at 1 p.m. on Monday afternoons and all are welcome.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle, continues to meet the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m. The next gathering will be July 25.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit

B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak.

We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home of acceptance, with love at the center.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

• July 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Bizarre Bazaar fundraiser at Xanadu.

The center also offers educational classes and workshops.

About us

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

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to be-

come their "best self." Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity.

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosacomunitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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The gift of original thoughts

By Gregg Heid
Special to The PREVIEW

Two German chemists, Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann, changed the world in 1938 when they discovered how to split the atom, a process called nuclear fission. How about the discovery of electricity, or John Gutenberg’s printing press, or the process of water filtration and chlorination, making potable water available to most of the world? These were amazing discoveries.

Intelligent ideas come from the human mind, the most dynamic thing on earth. It’s part of the human soul. Original thoughts are more powerful than lasers because they come from God. Many people notice that thoughts often seem to “arrive” rather than be consciously manufactured. But you can choose what to focus on.

Think of your mind as a gatekeeper of your thoughts. Philippians 4:8 provides for the entry requirements for what you want to allow inside the gate. “Finally, brothers and

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs to discuss ‘Past Lives, Present Lessons’

By Laurah Brock Young
Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

You’ve lived before, and you will live again.

By the time I was in my early 20s, I had concluded that I had lived before. It was a very strong feeling. Although I had no idea how to prove it, I continued to search for answers.

Eventually, by studying the dream teachings of Eckankar, I began to have dream experiences that showed me how my past lives and the karma I created during those lives were showing up in my life today. It gave me understanding, and often compassion for those experiences.

- What to expect:
- Share your experiences with other like-hearted people.
 - Learn ways to handle challenges from a spiritual perspective.
 - Discover techniques to access your past lives.
 - Gain an understanding of reincarnation.

Drop in. Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs for the event: “Past Lives, Present Lessons.” We will meet on Sunday, July 19, at 1 p.m., at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds, sponsors this free event. It is an individual, creative practice to experience. See Spiritual on next page

A Matter of Faith

sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Many theologians argue that the ability to even discern what is “true” or “lovely” requires a moral compass that isn’t just programmed by neurological or psychological perspectives, but is a quality of the soul.

Recall the last clear “aha” thought you had in your temple of silence. The thoughts that come to you in this instance are often marked by a deep sense of peace, clarity and truth that match the criteria of the previous verse. These thoughts are more powerful and important than original thoughts as they come directly from the Spirit of God to your spirit/soul. You don’t have to “force” these thoughts; they are simply given to you because you have made room for them. This is the “eureka” moment where a new thought crystallizes perfectly.

What a gift they are to us and the world as a whole. Many good things in life came from these epiphanies. Look at the evolution of technology, art, architecture, finance, transportation, sports and human capabilities over the last 100 years. Imagine Civil War soldiers or World War II weap-

only battling our weapons of today. Think of the house you grew up in if you’re over 50 compared to houses of today. How about riding horses across the Nevada Desert versus sitting behind the wheel of a luxury, air-conditioned car? The mind, controlled by God, has evolved over the centuries.

Now that we’re in the age of AI, there is no limit to where the world is heading. Here’s an AI statement from Google Gemini: “My thoughts are the result of mathematical probabilities and vast amounts of human data. I don’t have a soul or a biological brain, yet I can generate new sentences you’ve never seen before. However, even in my case, the intent to ask the question and the curiosity behind it comes from you.”

Among the animal world, only humans can ask questions. So when AI asks a question, it is initiated from information already brought to the surface by a human mind. Many would argue that the computer provides the logic, but the “soul” of the conversation provides the meaning.

The soul of the conversation from a Christian perspective is the human soul, which is a spirit capable of conversing with the Holy Spirit. So when a poet writes a line that perfectly captures human suffering or a musician hits a chord progression that moves people to tears, we experience this movement of the Holy Spirit conversing with our spirit. And that is the gift where it all begins.

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



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Please check out our most recent blog on ‘When Mold is a Health Concern vs. a Maintenance Issue.’

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

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Good days and ugly days

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

July 2 was one of those ugly days my friend talks about when she says, “We have good days and ugly days.”

This was an ugly day. Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of New York City, was touting, “Colorado, we are coming for you.” Well, it seemed they did. Democratic socialist Melat Kiros won in the Colorado U. S. House primary.

Yes, he was touting. It means to publicize, advertise or praise something or someone repeatedly in order to persuade others to accept it. I didn’t want to hear it.

Other news was unsettling, too. Fires were burning in Colorado. I turned on Facebook reels to see what was happening. They showed images around Ouray and other towns nearby. Smoke had even drifted into Castle Rock, where my grandchildren live. The fires were out of control.

All I knew was to pray. Pray for our sister communities. Sometimes the blessing comes quietly. Pray for rain, pray for people’s hearts to turned to the Lord. Pray that we don’t take on the sting of New York.

I needed prayer, too. I had made an appointment with a spine doctor because of pain in my legs, thinking it was caused by the accident two years ago. Physical therapy had made the pain worse, but I thought I was being proactive. I was determined not to end up in a wheelchair again. I was barely walking with my walker, and carefully getting up and down from a chair, always choosing one that was high enough with arms.

Before I left the doctor’s office that day, the doctor said, “These are your hips.” He turned the X-rays toward me. When I looked at them, I nearly fell off my chair. My pelvic area was solid white. The opening where the nerves should travel was completely shut. My hip bones were caked, covered in what looked to be fresh white snow. But, it was not snow, but arthritis. My hip sockets were bone on bone. My spine was crooked as a dog’s leg and was tipped so I couldn’t stand up straight.

When the family gathered for dinner that night, my daughter said, “Mother, you’ve got to stop talking about the accident.”

I answered her, “Believe me, the accident is old news. I’ve got a new

Artist’s Lane

My hip sockets were bone on bone. My spine was crooked as a dog’s leg and was tipped so I couldn’t stand up straight.

point of reference. The accident is in the rearview mirror.

“I have to tell you something, and it’s going to involve all of you.”

Then I showed them a picture on the phone of the X-rays. I told them what the spine doctor said: “This is the worst case of arthritis I’ve ever seen.”

I had never associated myself with arthritis. That happened to other people.

“I have to have surgery on both hips. I received an injection today, and I have to wait until October. I have the doctor’s name who will do the surgery. He’s the same doctor that will do surgery on you.” I pointed to my son-in-law, Al Wylie.

“Does Daddy know about all of this?” one of my daughters asked.

“No.”

I told them what happened in the waiting room with their dad. While I was waiting to see the doctor, your dad didn’t recognize me. He thought I was another woman who looked so much like me that he argued she looked more like me than I did. He wanted to leave, go to the car and look for me. My daughter could not persuade him otherwise.

“We’ll take care of you and Daddy. Whatever it takes.”

Final brushstroke: Even in the ugliest of days, I know the Lord will take care of the problem. I cannot do anything about New York, someone

who has targeted our state or about all these fires. But I can pray. Ugly days, when prayed over, can turn into good days.

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Stage 2 Fire Restrictions Now in Effect

The Town of Pagosa Springs has elevated fire restrictions to Stage 2 in response to worsening conditions, continued hot and dry weather, and increased wildfire risk across southwest Colorado. The restrictions took effect at 6 p.m. on July 6 and will remain in place until further notice.

Stage 2 restrictions prohibit additional activities beyond Stage 1, including campfires and open burning, charcoal grills, smoking outdoors (except in enclosed vehicles or buildings), personal fireworks, and most welding or open-flame torch work. Gas-fueled grills, stoves, and lanterns with shut-off valves remain permitted.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to stay informed by signing up for Town alerts by texting PAGOSASPRINGS to 38276 and subscribing to Archuleta County Nixle alerts at local.nixle.com/register. Now is also a good time to review your evacuation plan and prepare a 72-hour emergency kit.

For complete restrictions, exceptions, and updates, visit pagosasprings.co.gov.

Hilltop Cemetery Rules and Regulations Updated

The Pagosa Springs Town Council has adopted updated rules and regulations for Hilltop Cemetery. The changes are intended to make the rules easier to understand, clarify Town maintenance processes, and help ensure the cemetery remains well cared for.

Updates include changes to the cemetery fee schedule, clarification on maintenance procedures, new requirements for permit installation benches near grave sites, and revised rules for ornamental structures and objects. The updated rules will go into effect in January 2027.

ComFest 2026 in Yamaguchi Park This Summer

The Town of Pagosa Springs invites residents and visitors to enjoy ComFest 2026, a free outdoor concert series at Yamaguchi Park (684 S 5th Street). Concerts will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and feature live music, food trucks, and spirits, all while supporting local nonprofit organizations.

July 17 – A-Mac & The Height, benefiting Rise Above Violence

August 21 – The Williams Brothers Band, benefiting Wings Early Childhood Center

Bring a lawn chair, gather with friends and family, and enjoy an evening of great music while supporting important community causes.

For more information, contact the Community Center at 970-264-4152.

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Joint Town-County Work session Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5 p.m. Archuleta County Administration Building: 398 Lewis St.

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Spiritual

■ continued from previous page

ence our unique relationship with the Divine.

Join The Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs at www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/.

To learn more about Eckankar, visit www.eckankar.org or <https://eckankar-colorado.org/>.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100



pagosasprings.co.gov

View the town’s monthly e-newsletter online at pagosasprings.co.gov/newsletter

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, July 16

Ruby’s Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby’s Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

‘Trail as Old as Time — Ancient Rocks of the Vallecito Valley’ Geology 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.

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.

Teen Secret Snacks. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 14-17. See if you really know your favorite treats. Join for tasty treats and a few laughs as you try a few different secret snacks. Get them all right for a small prize.

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).

Friday, July 17

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.

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Browse hundreds of gently used books — a treasure trove of stories and hidden gems. All proceeds support the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime and connect with fellow caregivers.

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.

AARP Safe Driver Course. 1:15-5 p.m., Senior Center. Refresh your driving skills and learn the latest Colorado laws. For more information and to register, call (970) 585-4494.

Toddler Pinecone Bird Feeder Craft. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5. Help feed the birds by creating a bird feeder out of a pinecone. Dress for a mess.

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

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, July 18

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.

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. All quilters and wanna-be quilters are welcome. Social hour is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information on meetings and classes, email pagosapiecemakers@gmail.com.

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Browse hundreds of gently used books — a treasure trove of stories and hidden gems. All proceeds support the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library.

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.

Car- and Truck-Themed LEGO Build. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your own or use the library’s LEGOs.

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).

Night Sky Program. 8 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program focuses on the Ancient Pueblos who once lived here and studied the night skies along with interactive talks about the life cycle of a star, categories of galaxies and other relevant topics. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Sunday, July 19

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Come From Away.’ 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For

■ See Calendar on next page

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Parks and Recreation

TAKE THE SURVEY



SHARE YOUR INPUT ! PARKS AND RECREATION 2026 MASTER PLAN

Town of Pagosa Springs is updating their Master Plan. This plan will help guide parks and recreation in the Town for the upcoming years. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Your input is greatly appreciated.

AVAILABLE ONLINE <https://forms.gle/2HwX90Y15j2H4B665>

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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

Monday, July 20

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 5:30 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.

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 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.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Tuesday, July 21

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., Chim-

ney 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.

Tween Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. Snacks will be provided. July's book is "Call of the Wild" by Jack London. Copies are available to keep.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for 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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Fiddler on the Roof.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Wednesday, July 22

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.

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.

Unearth a Story-Ice Excavations.

■ See Calendar on next page

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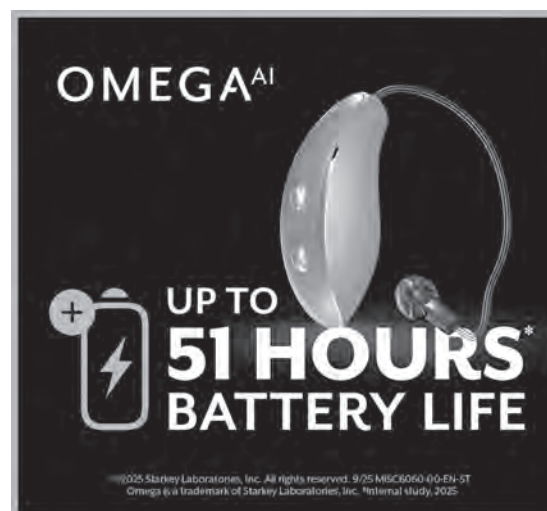
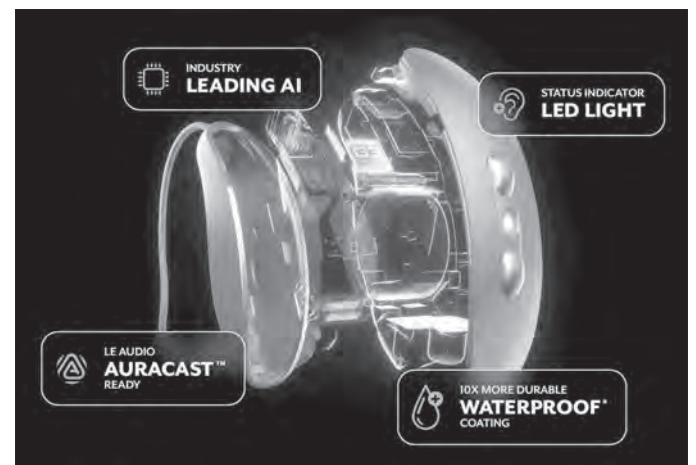
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Understand speech in noise — Enjoy more control, convenience, and connections by pairing Omega AI with the **My Starkey** app.

Hear as you go — Hearing adapts as you navigate through different listening environments.

Stay connected on every level Stream audio anywhere

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Gennette Erickson
Owner,
Hearing Aid Specialist



Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Storytime about icebergs, followed by excavating discoveries out of ice. Dress for a mess.

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Fiddler on the Roof.’ 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).

Thursday, July 23

Ruby’s Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby’s Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

‘The Art of Nature — Patterns in our World’ Nature and Journaling with CSU Extension. 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.

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.

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).

Friday, July 24

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.

Baby Rave. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Kids ages 0-2 and their caregivers are invited to a dance party at the library. There will be a dance floor, ball pit, glow sticks, disco ball, bubble machine and music by Lenny Pearce.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.
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, July 25

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.

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.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Mountain Light Music Festival: Windy City. 7 p.m., The Springs Resort. For more information and tickets, visit www.mountainlightmusicfestival.com.

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, July 26

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.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Come From Away.’ 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.



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Want a thriving community? Build a strong library

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

Taylor and I were delighted to attend the League of Women Voters of Archuleta County's movie night and nonprofit showcase on July 9 at the Liberty Theatre.

"Join or Die" chronicles social scientist Robert Putnam's career as he studies the factors that make a society thrive. Conclusion? Social capital, the networks of relationships, trust and shared norms that allow individuals and groups to cooperate and achieve common goals, is the key factor, and the meeting places in a town like Pagosa Springs are the support structure that allows social capital to grow.

Here in Pagosa, the library is social capital central. Here you will find small children and their families gather to hear stories and test their artistic talent. Children meet each other after school and in the summer at the library, young mothers form friendships and the elderly overcome social isolation in book clubs and crafting classes.

Here is where the community learns about local issues like wild-fire mitigation, avalanche safety and growing healthy food. Language learners come together in conversation to improve their skills, writing

Library News

groups gather for feedback from other writers, and community organizations post their flyers announcing new opportunities and new events.

In a country where fewer people join social organizations, our Ruby Sisson Library is alive and well, and social capital continues to grow here, helping our community to thrive. Our new library opening this fall includes even more space for community gatherings. We can't wait to show you what we've created.

Join us for our grand opening on Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

See you at the library!

Read Wild! summer program off to great start

We're proud to share that readers have already logged more than 165,000 minutes of reading time since June 1. We are well on our way to crushing our 250,000 minute community reading goal by Aug. 28.

This is the library's first summer using the Beanstack platform, which makes it simple and convenient to log

reading and track progress toward rewards. We've been giving milestone prizes like putting readers' names on the Wall of Recognition in the library and offering "community coupon bundles" to local businesses.

Readers are also earning raffle tickets to our grand prizes, which include gift cards, and special experiences in the library — like private time in our makerspace — and around the area — like a fly-fishing trip.

Congrats to all the readers out there on your progress this summer. If you'd like to join, visit pagosali-brary.org/summer.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten prepares your little one for success

Want to give your little one this best possible start to a successful life?

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is an early childhood initiative that helps inspire a love for reading and literature while also helping our youngest readers get exposure to print and phonetics and earn prizes along the way.

The goal is not to read 1,000 different books before kindergarten, but to simply read 1,000 times before they begin their journey to expand their

■ See Library on next page



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Library

■ **continued from previous page** knowledge. If your little one has a favorite book that they want you to reread to them immediately after finishing it the first time, then that counts as another book read.

Every 100 books is a milestone where our young patrons can receive a small prize or an experience at the library. At the end of their journey, they will receive a grand prize as well as an invite to a celebration at the library with all of those who have finished their 1,000 books before kindergarten.

Sign-up is free and easy. Enroll today by visiting the library.

Group meeting room available

While we're waiting for the full library to be completed, we have carved out a meeting room space for small groups of six to eight people to use by reservation. Give us a call at (970) 264-2209 to reserve your spot today.

Adopt-a-Tree Program

We have a few trees left to name in our outdoor community garden. Why not dedicate a tree to someone you love 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 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.

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.

Note: Colorado State Park passes are not valid for Chimney Rock National Monument.

Meet us out in the community

With our construction continuing, several of our regular activities and special events are still happening in other locations.

Please check the listings on your library's website at <https://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.

pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar, so you don't miss any of the free programs, events and activities available to you and your family.

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.

During our transition period, most books are in storage, but the new books are available to browse, and you can reserve any title in the catalog and have them brought in from other libraries. All the children's collection is available in our bright, new, shiny children's room.

Need help? Just ask. We love talking about books.

New in large print

- Author Richard Paul Evans delivers a memoir of his childhood and writing career in "Sharing Too Much: Musings from an Unlikely Life."
- "Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter," from author Heather Fawcett, follows Agnes, a woman who has devoted her life to finding homes for stray cats, and her infamous magician landlord who runs an illegal magic shop from his basement.

• Janet Skeslien Charles returns with another fiction title set in Paris. "The Parisian Chapter" follows Mary Louise, an American who lands a job as programs manager at the American Library in Paris, where she meets an incredible cast of characters.

New fiction

- "The Stars Don't Lie," from author Boo Walker, is a love story about a man who returns to his hometown in Vermont to support his mother and faces the emotional baggage of his adolescence.
- Iris Johansen returns with co-writer and son Roy Johansen in the new thriller, "Wait and See." Investigator Kendra Michaels owes FBI agent Adam Lynch her life, so when she receives a cryptic message from Lynch that he is in danger and only Kendra can save him, she has to act.
- Lisa See's "Daughters of the Sun and Moon" follows three Chinese women who arrive in Los Angeles in 1870 who face hardship and heartbreak together.

New in nonfiction

- "Red Dawn Over China: How Communism Conquered a Quarter of Humanity" from China expert and Stanford professor Frank Dikotter recounts the revolution and aftermath that built today's Beijing regime.
- "RFK Jr.: The Fall and the Rise," from New York Post journalist Isabel Vincent reviews the storied life of the public figure based on diaries and interviews.
- "The Stimulated Mind: Future-Proof Your Brain from Dementia and Stay Sharp at Any Age" from neuroscientist and performance coach Tommy Wood "challenges the idea that cognitive decline is inevitable."



PSPD Assistant Chief Brooks Brown to retire

After 15 years of dedicated service in law enforcement, Assistant Chief Brooks Brown is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the community he has proudly served.

Throughout his career, Brown earned the respect of fellow officers, community members, and local leaders through his professionalism, compassion, and steady leadership. Rising through the ranks to Assistant Chief, he has played an instrumental role in supporting public safety while mentoring officers and helping guide the department through years of growth and change.

Those who have worked alongside Brown describe him as a dependable leader who approached every situation with fairness, humility, and a genuine desire to serve others. Whether responding to emergencies, leading critical incidents, or simply taking time to build relationships within the community, he consistently demonstrated the values that define exceptional public service.

Law enforcement is more than a profession—it is a calling that often requires sacrifices made not only by the officer but also by their family. Brown's 15-year career reflects countless hours spent protecting others, responding to difficult situations, and serving with courage and dedication.

As he begins this new chapter of retirement, Brown looks forward to spending more time with his family, pursuing personal interests, and enjoying the opportunities that come with life after public service.

The community extends its heartfelt gratitude to Assistant Chief Brooks Brown for his years of faithful service, leadership, and commitment to keeping others safe. His contributions have made a lasting impact on both the department and the community he served, and his legacy will continue to be felt for years to come.

Congratulations, Assistant Chief Brooks Brown, on your retirement, and thank you for 15 years of honorable service. We wish you health, happiness, and every success in the adventures that lie ahead.

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Former elite soccer players show evidence of brain health changes in mid-life

Alzheimer's Association

A new study of former elite soccer players provides important insights into brain health and player-reported neurological symptoms compared to people without a history of repetitive head impacts, according to the first and largest study of its kind in retired professional soccer players, presented on Monday, July 13, at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026 in London and online.

The former players reported higher levels of depression and anxiety, and had subjective difficulties with thinking and decision-making skills. MRI scans identified differences in brain structure between some former players and a comparison group of healthy people with no history of contact sports or head injuries.

The findings add to a growing body of research, including additional studies reported at AAIC 2026, exploring how soccer play may influence brain health over time.

"These findings suggest there may be measurable effects on brain health in former elite soccer players even in mid-life, before clinically apparent neurodegenerative disease would typically emerge," said Caleigh Grace Lynch, M.Sc., lead author of the study and a research technician at Imperial College London and the UK Dementia Research Institute Centre for Care Research and Technology. "While we did not find significant differences in objective cognitive testing between the groups, we did observe important differences in symptoms and brain structure."

"Research like this helps us better understand brain health factors across the lifespan and reinforces the importance of injury prevention and monitoring," said Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., Alzheimer's Association chief science officer and medical affairs lead. "These findings can help players, physicians and sports organizations better understand the risks of contact sports and how to participate safely."

The study included 142 former professional soccer players, ages 30-60: 126 males who held a full-time professional contract for a minimum of three years, and 16 females who competed at the top two tiers of the women's professional game in the UK. They were compared to a control group of 56 healthy people (43 male) of the same age who have not played contact sports, served in the military and had no history of repetitive head impacts, concussion or other neurological issues.

Interim analyses of this dataset revealed that former elite professional soccer players reported significantly higher symptoms of depression and anxiety, as well as worse self-rated ability to plan, focus on and solve problems and manage daily tasks, compared to the control group.

Nearly one-third of former players (31 percent) scored in the range indicating clinically significant depression

symptoms, compared with 9 percent of controls, while 42 percent scored in the range indicating clinically significant anxiety symptoms, compared with 25 percent of controls.

Brain imaging of 124 former players revealed lower gray matter volume in several brain regions, including frontal, cingulate and thalamic areas that play important roles in memory, attention, decision making and emotional regulation, compared to controls.

At the group level, there was evidence of reduced brain volume in soccer players compared with controls. Researchers report clinical review of the scans by a neuroradiologist found that a small proportion of the scans (~2 percent) had clinically significant atrophy suggestive of neurodegeneration. Further investigation is required to fully understand this result.

Researchers said the combination of elevated symptoms and altered brain volume patterns may suggest trauma-related neurodegeneration, but more research is needed to definitively prove this. Future work is planned to further investigate these findings, including the use of an expanded dataset, integration of additional biomarkers such as advanced diffusion imaging and blood-based biomarkers of neurodegeneration, and longitudinal follow-up.

"By following participants over time, we hope to better understand how repetitive head impacts may influence long-term brain health and neurodegenerative disease, and help inform strategies to make sports safer for future generations," said Thomas D. Parker, B.M., B.M.Ch., M.R.C.P., Ph.D., senior author of the study and clinical lecturer and consultant neurologist at Imperial College London and the UK Dementia Research Institute Centre for Care Research and Technology.

The study is part of the Advanced BRAIN Health Clinic Research Programme based at the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Health, an integrated clinical care and research initiative investigating the long-term effects of repetitive head impacts in retired elite soccer and rugby players.

The Alzheimer's Association offers guidance on brain health and brain injury risk reduction. One of its 10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain is "Protect your head: Help prevent an injury to your head. Wear a helmet for activities like biking and wear a seatbelt. Protect yourself while playing sports. Do what you can to prevent falls, especially for older adults."

As a U.S. Centers for Disease Control Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction, the Alzheimer's Association is committed to making brain health a central part of public health.

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way in raising awareness about brain health through initiatives that cover the entire spectrum of public health engagement, including the

recently launched Brain Health Advancement Institute, a destination for researchers, health care professionals, public health practitioners and policy-makers working to reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia across all communities.

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Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Attendees post for a photo at a July 7 motivational interviewing training refresher course.

Community partners strengthen communication skills through motivational interviewing training

Healthy Archuleta

On July 7, Healthy Archuleta hosted a motivational interviewing (MI) refresher training led by Stacey Foss, bringing together 15 participants from Healthy Archuleta, the Archuleta County Department of Human Services and Authentic Solutions.

The training focused on strengthening communication skills that help people navigate change through empathy, curiosity and active listening rather than judgment or persuasion.

MI is an evidence-based approach used across health care, behavioral health, education and human services to help individuals discover their own motivation for change.

During the session, participants practiced the core MI skills known as OARS (open-ended questions, affirmations, reflections and summaries) and learned to recognize “change talk” — the language people use when they begin moving toward positive change.

The training also introduced the

decisional balance, or “Four Boxes,” exercise, a practical tool that helps people work through uncertainty by exploring the benefits and challenges of both staying the same and making a change.

Participants discussed strategies for reducing defensiveness, building trust and creating conversations where people feel heard, respected and empowered to make decisions that align with their own values and goals.

Healthy Archuleta is committed to building the skills of local orga-

nizations and community members through training opportunities that strengthen collaboration and support a healthier, more connected community.

If you are interested in partici-

pating in future training sessions offered by Healthy Archuleta, email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com or learn more about upcoming opportunities by visiting www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the chipping sparrow.

Unlike many sparrows, this one is not typically associated with grasslands. Instead, it is primarily a forest dweller commonly found in summer across North America in areas where trees are interspersed with grassy openings. Often they can be seen pecking in the leaf litter or brush at the edge of the woods, on the side of a road or pathway. They have also adapted well to live in human-modified habitats, including gardens and parks.

Small adult chipping sparrows in summer breeding plumage are one of the easiest sparrows to identify. They have a rusty-colored cap, unstreaked gray-white underparts and a black line through the eye. It is its contact call, described as a sharp chip, which gives this bird its English name and the nickname "chippies."

Starting in early April, male chipping sparrows arrive from winter grounds in southern states and Mexico to claim areas to nest and raise young. Males stake their claim by singing an incessant thin trill that sounds like the whirl of a sewing machine. A song is only two to three seconds long, but during breeding season, he may repeat it up to 330 times in an hour.

Although they show a preference for nesting close to the ground in a conifer, a female chipping sparrow may build her flimsy nest 60 feet up in a deciduous tree, or on the ground itself. Young hatch naked with only a few wisps of down, but develop so rapidly that flight is possible by day eight. For several days the family group remains near the nest, with parents caring for the young until they are independent at around 3 weeks.

Except when nesting, chipping sparrows usually live in flocks. They mainly forage for seeds of grasses and herbs close to the ground, and also come to feeders. In summer, insects form a large part of their diet.

By the end of October chipping sparrows will have departed. Soon after, the similarly colored American tree sparrows start arriving from their far northern breeding territories to take their place for the winter.

For information on events, visit www.weminuchaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/.



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Wildfire smoke and seniors: protecting your health

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Wildfire season is a reminder that smoke can travel hundreds of miles, affecting air quality even when fires are not nearby.

For older adults, poor air quality can be especially harmful because it may worsen heart and lung conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or heart disease.

When air quality is poor, seniors should stay indoors as much as possible, keeping windows and doors closed. If available, use an air conditioner on the recirculation setting or a portable air purifier with a HEPA filter to help reduce smoke particles indoors.

Avoid strenuous outdoor activities such as yard work, hiking or long walks until air quality improves, and drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. If you must be outside for an extended period, a properly fitted N95 respirator can help reduce exposure to fine smoke particles.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) encourages older adults to monitor daily air quality reports and take precautions when smoke levels are elevated. During periods of poor air quality, consider staying connected with family, friends or neighbors by phone or video calls, and don't hesitate to ask for help with errands or grocery shopping if you have a heart or lung condition.

If you experience chest pain, difficulty breathing, severe coughing, dizziness or worsening of an existing medical condition, contact your health care provider promptly or seek emergency medical care if symptoms are severe.

Taking simple precautions during wildfire season can help seniors stay healthy and continue enjoying the beautiful Colorado outdoors once the skies clear.

Safe Driver Course

The AARP Safe Driver Course will be offered on Friday, July 17, from 1:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Refresh your driving skills, learn the latest Colorado laws, and you can get a discount on your car insurance — talk to your insurance representative.

For more information and to register, call our registration number, (970) 585-4494.

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 Pagosa Senior Center.



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.

Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

■ See Senior on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Yoga position
- 6 Campus mil. grp.
- 10 Firebird roof option
- 14 Chest-maker's wood
- 15 "Dedicated to the ___ Love": 1960s hit
- 16 Endings with aster and human
- 17 Delilah portrayer
- 19 Plural of Mrs.
- 20 Urban blemishes
- 21 One of the Kennedys
- 23 Cry from a crib
- 24 Big name in tortilla chips
- 26 Boot camp reply
- 28 Marriott rival
- 31 Bygone Belgian airline
- 34 Bone-dry
- 36 "C'est la ___!"
- 37 Some may rest on theirs
- 39 Listers on eBay
- 41 Schubert's "The ___-King"
- 42 Vegas lake
- 44 Shoots daggers (at)
- 45 City of India
- 47 Some action cameras
- 49 Believe strongly
- 51 Piece of wood
- 55 Switzerland, to the French
- 57 Prepare oneself
- 59 USAF rank
- 60 At least
- 62 Will-___-wisp
- 63 Persia, today
- 64 Sporty Chevy, for short
- 65 Tolkien series, briefly
- 66 Untouchable Eliot
- 67 Asks too many questions

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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55	56						57			58				
59					60	61								
62					63					64				
65					66					67				

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DOWN

- 1 Longed (for)
- 2 "I'm outta here"
- 3 Summed up
- 4 Skeptical sort
- 5 Folk singer Guthrie
- 6 Ladies' men
- 7 The "O" in Jackie O
- 8 Artist Gerard ___ Borch
- 9 Wispy clouds
- 10 Peppermint Patty, for one
- 11 Multitasking, e.g.
- 12 Polish border river
- 13 Furtive summons
- 18 Gallery event
- 22 Shakespeare tragedy
- 25 Very, in Vichy
- 27 Combatants
- 29 Grow weary
- 30 Dick Tracy's love
- 31 Snow coaster

- 32 Swiss river
- 33 Matador's event
- 35 Feels sorry about
- 38 Hangs loose
- 40 "Toy Story" director John
- 43 Gen. MacArthur
- 46 Prynne of "The Scarlet Letter"
- 48 Primps
- 50 Red Square figure
- 52 Christine of "Evil"
- 53 "It's ___!" ("You're on!")
- 54 Actress Daly and others
- 55 Small runway craft, for short
- 56 "From all of ___ all of you"
- 58 Invitation letters
- 61 Miner's find

Answers to Previous Crossword:

D	I	S	H		B	A	J	A			D	I	D	O	
A	C	A	I		A	L	O	F	T		E	N	O	S	
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C	A	L	I		O	P	E	N	E	R		F	A	T	
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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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 has moved back to the Ruby Sisson Library.

Tai chi

Tai chi classes are held at Yamaguchi Park during the summer, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

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 that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Friday, July 24, 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, July 16 — Giant stuffed mushroom cap, roasted butternut squash and tempeh, garden salad, fruit, pecan pie, and milk.

Friday, July 17 — Chicken cashew salad on croissant, deviled eggs, orecchiette pasta salad, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Monday, July 20 — Pork tenderloin with Burgundy peppercorn sauce, baked sweet potato, garden salad, fruit, muffin and milk.

■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

Tuesday, July 21 — Tortilla lime crusted tilapia, rainbow chard, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Wednesday, July 22 — Pumpkin ravioli with Alfredo sauce, garlic toast, wilted spinach and mushrooms, garden salad, fruit, New York cheesecake, and milk.

Thursday, July 23 — Korean beef over rice, snow peas, garden salad, fruit salad, cookies and milk.

Friday, July 24 — Chicken fajitas, tortillas, sour cream, guacamole, salsa, black beans, garden salad, fruit, flan 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

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

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:

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Alzheimer's Association launches study to test lifestyle and GLP-1 or similar drug to cut risk of cognitive decline

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association today announced the launch of the PROTECT-Cog Study (prevention of risk for cognitive decline through combined therapy), a first-of-its-kind global clinical trial designed to evaluate whether combining a proven multidomain lifestyle intervention with a metabolism-targeting drug, such as a GLP-1 agonist, can further reduce the risk of cognitive decline, mild cognitive impairment, and dementia in at-risk older adults.

The \$100 million effort was announced Monday, July 13, for the first time at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2026 in London.

Building on the success of the Alzheimer's Association-led U.S. POINTER, and LatAm FINGERS studies, PROTECT-Cog represents the next phase in advancing research focused on risk reduction/prevention strategies for Alzheimer's and other diseases that cause dementia.

"PROTECT-Cog builds directly on what we learned from U.S. POINTER and takes the next critical step in prevention science," said Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., chief science officer and medical affairs lead at the Alzheimer's Association, and principal investigator of the study. "By testing a combined approach that targets both lifestyle and biology, we have the opportunity to better understand how to meaningfully reduce the risk of cognitive decline before symptoms begin."

"Now is the time to accelerate bold, science-driven strategies to prevent or delay dementia," said Joanne Pike, DrPH, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. "The PROTECT-Cog Study reflects our commitment to leading large-scale, rigorous research that explores and expands urgently needed treatment options, including how combining interventions may deliver even greater benefit for those at highest risk."

A growing body of research demonstrates that modifiable lifestyle factors — including physical activity, nutrition, cardiovascular health, sleep and social engagement — play a critical role in brain health and dementia risk.

The U.S. POINTER study showed that a highly representative population of at-risk older Americans who followed a structured, multidomain lifestyle intervention experienced significantly greater cognitive benefits compared with those using a self-guided approach. These improvements were equivalent to approximately one to two years of cognitive advantage, along with additional benefits in reducing frailty and sleep apnea, and improving blood pressure regulation.

At the same time, emerging evidence from large real-world health-care datasets suggests that GLP-1 receptor agonists may reduce dementia risk by 40-70 percent compared with other diabetes medications.

Other studies suggest that they are most protective against dementia in patients with obesity or a high BMI. This is further supported by numerous mechanistic studies suggesting GLP-1 agonists play a role in brain inflammation and metabolism, and vascular health.

There is clearly a need to better understand the timing and use of these therapies in prevention.

The PROTECT-Cog Study will enroll older adults who are at increased risk for cognitive decline and compare two lifestyle intervention approaches — a structured program with intensive coaching and support and a structured-lite program with the same core content but fewer participant touchpoints — to evaluate their effects on cognitive health.

The study will also assess the impact of adding a drug that supports healthier metabolism and immune function to identify which intervention combination is most effective at delaying mild cognitive impairment while evaluating effects on frailty, quality of life and overall health. Participants will be followed for three years, with comprehensive cognitive and health evaluations conducted every six months.

"The Alzheimer's Association is uniquely positioned to lead this next generation of dementia prevention research. Through our leadership of U.S. POINTER, LatAm FINGERS and the World Wide FINGERS Network, the association has established the global infrastructure, scientific expertise and partnerships required

to conduct a study of this scale," said Heather M. Snyder, Ph.D., senior vice president of medical and scientific relations at the Alzheimer's Association, and staff lead on this project.



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- St. Augustine of Hippo.

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- Lauren

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Colorado Department of Human Services announces transition of Area Agency on Aging services in Southwest Colorado

Colorado Department of Human Services

On July 3, the State Unit on Aging (SUA) at the Colorado Department of Human Services received formal notice from the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA) regarding a transition in regional services.

The SJBAAA has made the decision to voluntarily relinquish its designation as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serving Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

This decision was reached after lengthy, thoughtful discussions and is rooted in a shared commitment to ensure that older adults in the southwest region continue to receive the dedicated care, resources and advocacy they deserve without interruption.

Next steps and continuity of care

The SUA is prioritizing a smooth transition to minimize any impact on older adults and their caregivers.

Moving forward, the state will execute the following plan:

- Identifying a new agency: The SUA is immediately initiating a process to identify and vet a qualified agency to assume the official duties and responsibilities of the AAA for the region.

• Service continuity: During this transitional period, the SUA is working closely with regional leadership to ensure that vital community programs — including nutritional support, transportation, legal services and caregiver resources — remain fully operational. Current service recipients do not need to take any action.

Our primary focus is the well-being of older Coloradans in these five counties. We appreciate the SJBAAA's years of service and their collaboration during this transition to ensure there is no gap in the essential services older adults rely on every day.

Public comment period

The SUA believes that the voice of the local community is vital to this process. We invite service providers, elected officials, community partners and the public to share their perspectives on the transition of management of the AAA to a qualified entity.

Please submit your thoughts via the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/77ZuFGdvyWisV8Lg6>.

Alternatively, you can email your comments to laura.strother@state.co.us with the subject line "SJBAAA Leadership Transition Feedback."

The window for public comment will remain open until Aug. 10.

AT THE GRILL

WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BACKYARD
BARBECUE
BURGER
CHARCOAL
CHICKEN
DELICIOUS
FLAME
FLAREUP
GRATE
HEAT
MARINADE
PROPANE
SAUSAGES
SEAR
SEASONING
SIZZLE
SKEWERS
SMOKE
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WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to grilling.

S B N U

--	--	--	--

Answer: Buns

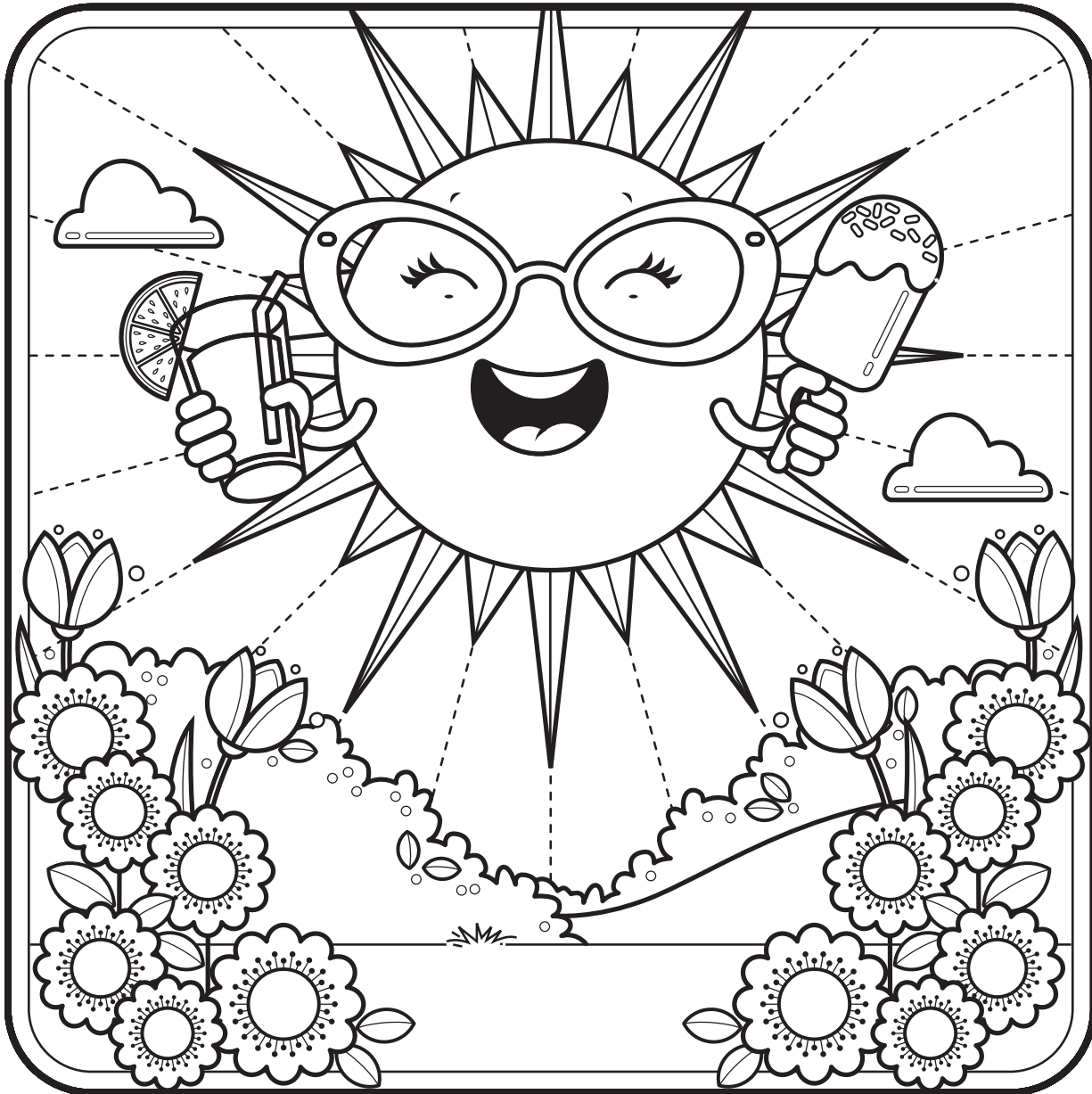
GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in California on July 18, 1940. I have a son who also is a prominent Hollywood actor. I have been in hit movies and won a Golden Globe and Emmy Award for my role on a TV show about a doctor.

Answer: James Brolin

Coloring fun

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Aspen House logs 44 participants at annual Duathlon

By Pattie Copenhaver
A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc.

The 2026 Pagosa Springs Duathlon proved to be another amazing event, bringing together athletes, volunteers, families and supporters for a day of recreation, community and purpose — all in support of Aspen House.

A total of 44 participants took part in this year's event, with more than half traveling from outside the Pagosa Springs area.

Their participation not only made for a successful race, but also expanded awareness of Aspen House's mission far beyond the local community, introducing new supporters to the organization's vision of creating a fully supportive group home for adults with developmental disabilities.

Set against the scenic backdrop of the Turkey Springs Trail System, participants enjoyed beautiful blue skies with good cloud cover in the morning as they tackled the course either individually or as relay teams of runners and cyclists.

The event also featured children's running and biking races, where the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts enthusiastically joined the day's festivities, adding to the fun and family-friendly atmosphere.

The success of the duathlon was made possible through the leadership of Race Director Keena Carstensen, whose dedication and careful planning brought the event together.

Aspen House also extends its heartfelt appreciation to the many volunteers who generously donated their time and talents to coordinate logistics, mark the course, manage registration, handle countless behind-the-scenes details, and even provide music and a little dancing at points along the course to help make the race more fun.

"The Pagosa Springs Duathlon is about competing, but it's also about so much more," said Carstensen. "It's about bringing people together around a shared purpose. Every participant, volunteer, sponsor and supporter helped raise awareness for

Aspen House and move us even closer to opening the doors to a home where adults with developmental disabilities can live close to family, friends and their supportive network, with the dignity and independence they deserve."

Proceeds from the event will help support the mission of Aspen House and help build the fully supportive group home on Vista Boulevard, a project that continues to gain momentum through the generosity of donors, volunteers and community partners.

With another successful event in the books, Aspen House looks forward to welcoming even more participants and supporters next year as the organization continues building not only a home, but a stronger, more inclusive community.

For more information about Aspen House or to learn how you can support the project, please contact Pattie Copenhaver at (970) 398-1636 or executivedirector@aspenhousepagosa.org, or visit www.aspenhousepagosa.org.

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Make a positive impact in kids’ lives

Special to The PREVIEW

It has been 41 years since Whitney Houston sang the lyrics, “I believe the children are our future,” but the sentiment still stands strong today.

Investing in the success and well-being of children is one of the most impactful things a person can do for the future of society.

Research increasingly points to the quality of a child’s environment and his or her relationships as important components of development.

There are certain ways adults can fundamentally alter a child’s long-term outcomes for the better.

The power of presence

The adage presence over presents remains true. A critical factor in the healthy development of children is the presence of at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult, says a 2024 review in Child Health Nursing Research.

Instability can greatly affect a child, and the 2024 review points to the foster care system to support that assertion. Each additional move a child makes in foster care is associated with weaker attachment formation and a heightened risk of mental health problems.

Consistency and being around for children are the most positive things adults can do for kids.

How to tell bees, hornets and wasps apart

Special to The PREVIEW

People who spend any measurable amount of time outdoors likely have crossed paths with various flying insects that cohabitate in a typical yard. Some of the most ardent pollinators and pest control agents also have the potential to be dangerous if provoked.

While most bees, wasps and hornets are content to go about their business, their stingers can make these insects formidable foes, particularly to those who are allergic.

According to The Best Bees Company, there are more than 20,000 known species of bees and more than 100,000 known species of wasps worldwide.

Those who don’t want to get too up close and personal with stinging insects may not know how to tell the different types apart.

Bees, wasps and hornets are distinguished by their behavior, waist and body texture.

Bees

If it has a fuzzy body, it’s a bee. Bees tend to be nonaggressive and may be carrying pollen on their backs. They also live in wax hives.

You’ll likely see bees flitting from one flower to another in the warmer weather.

Honeybees will die after one sting, advises PBS, but bumblebees and carpenter bees have smooth stingers that will not get stuck, enabling them to sting again.

Cultivate resilience

Emotional resilience is the ability to adapt to challenges, manage stress and recover from setbacks. It is important for children’s lifelong success, says the Center of the Developing Child at Harvard University.

Adults can encourage proactive problem-solving and not jump in to “fix” everything. They also can teach stress management techniques and model positive coping strategies. Educating children that others have different goals and feelings can help them better navigate socially.

Provide the support needed

Ensuring that kids have access to the educational tools they need is key to their success.

According to a 2018 study that examined the impact of early childhood education, children who receive early intervention services before age 3 demonstrate significantly higher academic achievement by the third grade.

Early intervention is a system of support and services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities. Even children who do not need early intervention should be exposed to a wide array of educational materials so they can foster a love of learning.

Wasps

Wasps are stinging insects which can be social or solitary. Wasps have smooth, shiny bodies and narrow waists. They can be bright black and yellow or black and white.

Wasps can sting repeatedly, says The Spruce, but they may not always be aggressive; it depends on the species.

Yellowjackets are a type of wasp. They are sensitive to threats and not afraid to use their stingers.

Another way to distinguish wasps from bees is that wasps hang their legs down while flying and bees keep them tucked in.

Hornets

Hornets are wasps and tend to be social in nature. They only construct paper nests and can be more aggressive than other types of wasps.

The Old Farmer’s Almanac says hornets can be highly defensive with more painful stings, and also may be larger and rounder in size than other wasps.

In the United States, the one true hornet species is the European hornet, which nest in trees.

It’s impossible to avoid bees and wasps entirely, but individuals can be mindful of where they are making their nests. As these insects are important to the ecosystem, it’s key not to exterminate them haphazardly. If a nest is problematic, it’s best to have a professional come and relocate or remove it safely.



BEWARE OF



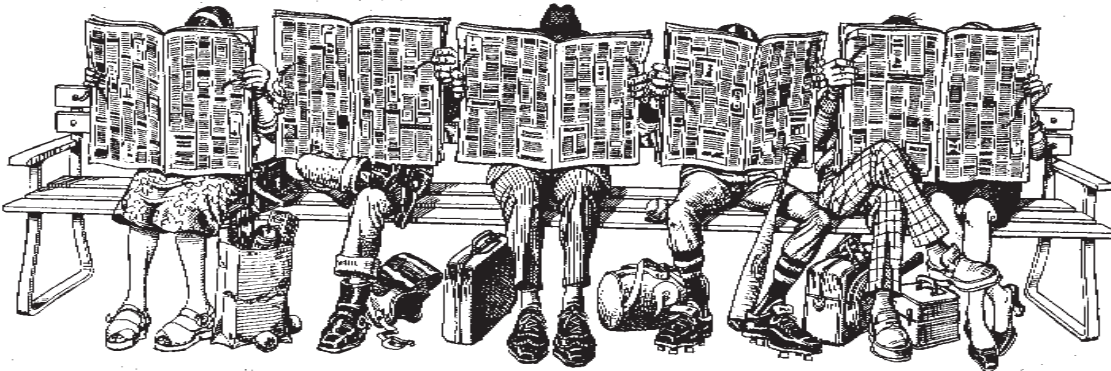
*Judge Justin P. Fay,

Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office, and a league of bumbling, doing nothing government accomplices that goes all the way to the State Capitol. Lack of accountability erodes public trust. Investigation of judicial irregularities is inept, rigged and complicit. Learn more:

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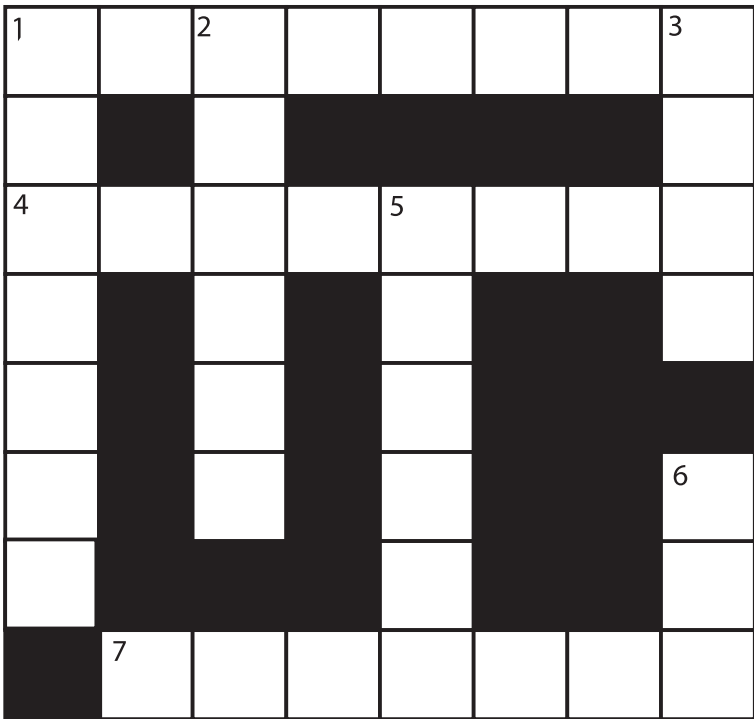
Shop Pagosa Springs first.



This food is made by blending milk, cream and sugar together before it is cooled and churned.

Answer: Ice cream

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Trip away
- 4. Vitamin or mineral
- 7. Ice cream desserts

DOWN

- 1. Ice cream flavor
- 2. ____ candy, treat
- 3. Ice cream topping
- 5. Surrounded by water
- 6. Opposite of “no”

1. Vanilla 2. Cotton 3. Nuts 5. Island 6. Yes
Down

1. Vacation 4. Nutrient 6. Sundaes
Across

Answers:

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1863: Draft riots take place in New York City during the American Civil War.

1930: The first FIFA World Cup begins in Uruguay.

1985: The Live Aid benefit concert takes place in London and Philadelphia as well as other venues.

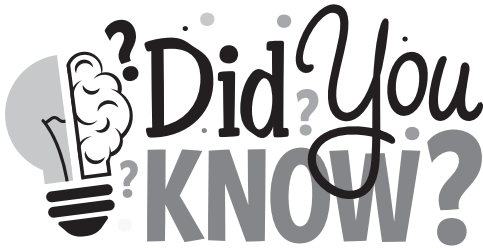


CHURN

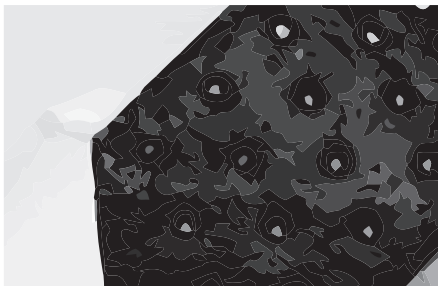
turn in a machine to produce butter



- English: Cone
- Spanish: Cono
- Italian: Cono
- French: Cornet
- German: Waffel



The International Dairy Foods Association says vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, butter pecan, and cookie dough are the five most popular ice cream flavors.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Ice cream sandwich

July Colorado Proud recipe of the month: Spiced Lamb Burgers

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Colorado's lamb industry is a point of immense pride for the Centennial State, which consistently ranks among the top producers in the nation.

This reputation is built on a tradition of high-altitude grazing, where sheep roam across vast, rugged meadows and free-range pastures.

This unique environment does more than just provide a scenic backdrop; the diverse diet of mountain grasses and herbs, combined with the lean muscle development from navigating the terrain, results in meat that is famously tender and uniquely flavorful.

Colorado continues to lead the way in sustainable ranching practices, ensuring that Colorado lamb remains a premium mark of quality found on the menus of the world's finest restaurants.

When those long summer days finally give way to a cool, breezy evening, there is nothing quite like the sizzle of a lamb burger on the grill to capture the season.

Imagine a thick, juicy patty seasoned with a Merguez mix, topped with a dollop of tangy yogurt sauce that melts just slightly from the residual heat.

New to Merguez? This signature North African spice blend features a fiery, earthy flavor profile driven by toasted cumin, coriander, fennel and cayenne combined with the red color of paprika.

Enjoy this dish on your next outdoor adventure, under a canopy of stars. As you take in the savory aroma of the grill mingling with the scent of pine and dry summer air, this lamb burger isn't just a meal — it's a definitive Colorado experience.

Merguez Seasoned Lamb Burgers

Shared by the Colorado Spice Company.

Yield: 6 servings.

Prep time: 10 minutes.

Cook time: to safe internal temperature.

Ingredients

Burger mixture:

1.5 pounds ground lamb

1 Merguez seasoning packet

1 egg

1 tablespoon plain yogurt

Olive oil

Optional for serving:

Pita bread or hamburger buns

Caramelized onions

Roasted potatoes

Herby yogurt sauce:

1/2 cup (or more) of plain yogurt

1 tablespoon (or more) of finely chopped herbs (look for local rosemary, thyme, cilantro, oregano)

Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Mix 1.5 pounds of ground lamb, 1 packet of Merguez seasoning, 1 egg and 1 tablespoon of plain yogurt. Gently combine all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix thoroughly.

To make the herby yogurt sauce, finely chop green leafy herbs and combine with Greek yogurt. You can make this recipe based on your own preferences, but you can start with 1 tablespoon of chopped herbs to 1/2 a cup of yogurt. You can use parsley, cilantro, mint, chives, dill or a mixture thereof. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Shape the meat mixture into four patties, each about a quarter inch thick. You may also want to brush each side of the burger with olive oil to avoid sticking while cooking.

Over medium heat, grill each side of the burgers for 4-5 minutes per side. This should result in medium rare burgers, cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit. Cook longer if you prefer a more well-done burger. No grill? You can pan fry the patties in the same fashion.

Serve burgers on a toasted burger bun or inside a pita. Top with caramelized onions and herby yogurt sauce.

Serve alongside Merguez seasoned roasted potatoes and enjoy.

Colorado Rocky Mountain Bramble

Pair your burger with a Colorado win or nonalcoholic mocktail. The Colorado Rocky Mountain Bramble blends the tart sweetness of Western Slope fruit with the refreshing bite of Colorado-crafted ginger beer, balanced by earthy rosemary to complement the savory seasoning

of the lamb.

You will need:

3-4 fresh Colorado blackberries or raspberries

1 sprig fresh Colorado rosemary

1/2 ounce honey simple syrup

3/4 ounce fresh lime juice

4-5 ounces ginger beer, or blackberry or cola soda

Ice

Directions:

To make it, start by muddling: In the bottom of a sturdy glass, add the fresh berries, 2-3 individual rosemary needles and the honey simple syrup. Muddle gently to release the juices and the fragrant rosemary oils without pulverizing the herbs.

Shake or stir: Add the fresh lime juice, fill the glass with ice and give it a solid stir to combine the flavors.

Top and refresh: Top the glass off with chilled ginger beer (for a spicy, fiery kick that cuts through the lamb fat) or soda (for a smoother, fruitier vibe).

Garnish: Slap a fresh rosemary sprig against your wrist to release the aromatics, and drop it into the glass as a garnish.

Visit ColoradoProud.com for more recipes.

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The SUN.

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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.

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.



Meet Mater!

This goofy 8-year-old Boxer mix has been patiently waiting for over 1000 days for a family. Please help us get this amazing guy out of the shelter and into a home. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771

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.

PAGOSA AA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: ID 858-319-763 password 754-234. For information call Kathi (970)946-1482, Ranza (970)903-3849 or (970)731-9774 or central office (888)333-9649.

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FARRAGO FOOD TRUCK is up and running. Wednesday-Saturday. We are looking for a pizza person to expand our offerings. Farragofoodtruck@gmail.com.

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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 \$18/ 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.

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NATURAL GROCERS IS HIRING CASHIERS. Pagosa Springs location. \$18.00 / hour starting pay. We offer unique perks and great benefits. Text GROW to (720)573-2153 to apply today.

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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.

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Soccer Coaches Needed

The Pagosa Springs Rangers are looking for multiple soccer coaches for all age groups and divisions for both the Fall and Spring seasons.

Coaching experience is helpful but not required—just a positive attitude and a desire to support youth soccer in our community.

The Rangers are also looking for a Director of Coaching to oversee coaching operations for the organization.

Interested candidates should contact Trevor Gian, President of the Board or Peter, Director of Coaching Email:trevorgian@gmail.com, DOC@pagosayouthsoccer.org. Text: 970-585-6559. Reach out to set up an interview.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL is looking to hire an afternoon aid for the 2026 /2027 school year. Please contact Director Molly Sprowle for details (970)398-0064.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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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.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH. Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover to join our team. No prior experience necessary. Benefits include paid holidays, paid sick leave, and 401 k plan. Please submit resume to RMPT117NavajoTrailDr.SteT@yahoo.com.

YOUTH ADVOCATE WANTED — Rise Above Violence seeks a compassionate, dedicated Youth Advocate to provide outreach, education, and support services to youth victims/survivors of dating and sexual violence, including teaching violence prevention programming for grades preK-12. Teaching or youth engagement experience preferred. Part-time, 24 hrs /week (Aug -May), including on-call crisis intervention shifts. Salary based on experience, benefits included. Send resume to carmen@riseaboveviolence.org. Apply today and join a team passionate about ending violence in Pagosa Springs.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.

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SANCTUARY WANTS HELP, PLEASE. 4200 County Road 551, Pagosa. Paperwork listing receipts, cleaning Sanctuary, fence repair, trim and cut trees, wood removal, outside work, plumbing, help refinishing trailer. Salary plus use of our healing equipment and free energy CDs. Susan, (970)264-2592, recorder does not work on this line, or call Tony, (970)403-4228. A happy place to work.

SEEKING PART -TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

REQUEST FULL -TIME CAREGIVER. Hi, my name is Michael Shields. I am 47 and a spinal cord injury survivor. Looking for caregiver available 7 days a week. Background in medical: RNA, CNA or prior caregiving. Includes getting dressed, undressed, lifted into wheelchair, position back in bed, light cooking, feeding, grooming, toiletry, etc. Looking for somebody flexible, compassionate and RELIABLE. 965 Cloud Cap Ave., Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Jesus drastically changed my life and if this sounds like an answer to prayer and a paid position you would be interested in, please contact me at (623)606-1986 for more info.

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REMINGTON AIRMASTER 77 AIR RIFLE. Silver /black, multi-pump, excellent condition, holds perfect air compression. Rifle only. \$45 cash. Pagosa Springs pick-up. Call /text: (949)566-3906.

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SOLID WOOD BUNK BEDS, \$175 w /mattresses (\$200 w /extra trundle bed). Need own transportation for takeaway. Echo Lake area. Call (512)797-1167.

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AN ESTATE SALE by Mountain Cactus. 679 Haystack Cir. Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, 8a.m. -2p.m. Western /cowboy decor, cowboy boots, clothing, linens, furniture, kitchenware, cleaning supplies, tools, camping, slot cars, craftsman riding lawnmower, John Deere UTV, horse tack, artwork and MORE.

ESTATE SALE, July 18 -19. 326 Mesa Drive, Pagosa Springs.

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COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

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DOWNTOWN OFFICE Upstairs, \$400/ month including utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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NEW BUILD WAREHOUSES/WORKSHOPS available to rent. Cloman Park. Rowmanagement.com. Contact: (720)470-2653.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH fully furnished home on 37 -acre horse property. No smoking. 2 -car garage, well, yard, hot tub, fenced dog yard and large green house. \$2500. Roping arena, barns and livestock corrals. \$1500. 7 miles from Pagosa. (970)398-0303.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DUPLEX. Newly remodeled, fenced yard, 1 car garage, convenient uptown location. No smoking, no pets. \$2400 plus utilities. Call (970)946-1745.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, fenced yard, 1 -car garage, on Lake Hatcher, close to national forest. \$2400 monthly. Call (970)946-4906.

3 BEDROOM//2 BATH HOUSE for rent. 1 car garage, fenced yard. New flooring and exterior /interior paint. Minutes from City Market, hospital, amenities. Pets negotiable with additional deposit. \$2600 /month. Available August. Call or text (307)749-5610 for details.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view /walk, furnished. \$1200 rent, \$1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers, no pets. (970)264-6797.

BRIGHT, SUNNY, NEWLY REPAINTED 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath unit with attached garage, 2 outdoor parking spaces, sundeck and fireplace in downtown. Utilities included except for internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up). Background check and credit report required. All appliances except washer and dryer. No smoking, pets upon approval. \$2650 per month. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2 CAR GARAGE TOWNHOME. \$2800 PER MONTH. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available 8/1/26.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH home across from Lake Pagosa. \$2900 per month. Available 7/15/26. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

LOCATED IN DESIRABLE PAGOSA LAKES subdivision, 3 bedroom, 1 bath in fourplex, 5 minute walk to lake, spacious 1200 sq. ft. newly updated with vinyl plank flooring and freshly painted throughout. Washer and dryer included. No pets allowed. \$1495. For more details call Lee, (970)946-3856, or John, (303)881-1407.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH unit in downtown. Fireplace, small patio, community area with picnic table. All utilities included except internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up and snow removal). All appliances included. 2 parking spaces. Background check and credit report required. Pets upon approval, no smoking. \$2100 per month. Available July 15. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM, 2 bath condo. \$1900 per month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available now.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 1 bath, 1 car garage home. Downtown Pagosa. Huge yard and views. \$1950 per month. Available 8/8/26. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

RV SINGLE SPOT FOR RENT. Hilltop location one mile south of hospital, 5 acres, end of cul de sac, view, quiet, septic, city water, 30 amp electric, \$800. Burt, (619)992-9100.

SHERPA REAL ESTATE is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website <https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals> or stop by one of our two locations.

TINY STUDIO APARTMENT. Utilities paid except Internet. Unfurnished, laundry available. \$700 per month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available now.

TRINITY APARTMENTS. Units available. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath unit, \$1500 per month. 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit, \$1350 per month. Both units include washer, dryer, utilities. Please call (970)946-7190 for an application.

UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 1 bath condo. \$1400 per month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available 8/7/26.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 2 car garage home in nice neighborhood. Water paid. \$3300 per month. Available 8/15/26. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

UNFURNISHED LOFT BEDROOM CONDO. \$1550 per month. Available 8/1/26. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

COMMERCIAL

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