



Photos courtesy Ashlyn Rochester, Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
The Rio Blanco Fire south of Pagosa Springs is pictured on Tuesday, July 28. The fire started around 3 p.m. on July 28 and grew rapidly. On Wednesday, the estimated fire perimeter was 436 acres.

Rio Blanco Fire prompts evacuations

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At about 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, the Rio Blanco Fire started 12 miles south of Pagosa Springs, with the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) calling it a "rapidly growing wildfire" and issuing evacuation and pre-evacuation notices.

By midday Wednesday, July 29, the fire was estimated at 439 acres, with the incident management indicating the fire perimeter was

mapped by aerial resources at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning.

The fire, according to the incident management team, is burning south of Pagosa Springs on Valle Seco B Road (NFSR 653.B).

At 4:10 p.m., the ACSO issued a pre-evacuation warning for the Lower Blanco area. At 4:29 p.m., an evacuation order was put out for County Road 335 (Lower Blanco Road).

At 6:18 p.m., a pre-evacuation
■ See Fire A7

Medical center board approves ballot question

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its meeting on Tuesday, July 28, the board of directors for the Upper San Juan Health Service District (US-JHSD) — which operates as Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) — unanimously approved going to the

district's voters to seek a continued waiver from the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

The waiver would allow the district to continue to collect, retain and spend all revenues generated from its existing mill levy — an exemption from the provisions in TABOR.
■ See Ballot A9

School board hears potential ballot measure poll results

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its special meeting held on Wednesday, July 22, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) heard results from a poll conducted by New Bridge Strategy gauging the community's appetite on a possible ballot measure for building

a new kindergarten through eighth-grade (K-8) campus.

New Bridge Strategy Director Kathryn Hahne explained that the poll was conducted from June 25 through July 8, with the goal of getting 300 respondents, like the last poll conducted in the summer of 2025.

Hahne noted that this year's poll
■ See School A8



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney
Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser visits with constituents at local business in Pagosa Springs on Wednesday, July 29.

Stage 2 fire restrictions rescinded, drought remains

By Randi Pierce and Josh Pike
Staff Writers

Pagosa Country has experienced a mixed bag of conditions since the start of the monsoon season in mid-July, including fire, rain, downgrading of area fire restrictions, alleviation of extreme drought conditions, a flood advisory for portions of the Piedra River and apparent record lows on the San Juan River.

For more information on the Rio Blanco Fire, see related article and www.PagosaSUN.com.

Stage 2 fire restrictions rescinded

Beginning July 22, area jurisdictions began rescinding Stage 2 fire restrictions, with Stage 1 restrictions remaining in effect in much of the

■ See Restrictions A7

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Town places successful bid for Village Pointe condos

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On July 23, Town Manager David Harris informed The SUN via email that "it's official," the Town of Pagosa Springs was the successful bidder for Village Pointe Condominiums.

Harris explains that the town was the backup bidder for Elk Run Townhomes and Masters Place Condominiums.

The town plans to use any acquisitions from what it's calling "Project 102" to increase the supply of workforce housing in the community. Village Pointe Condominiums

would add around 32 two-bedroom units to the workforce housing rental market.

Harris explained that, initially, the town would become the landlords of the condos, but that the town has not yet worked out the best long-term "organizational structure for this project."

He mentioned organizing a "housing corporation" or using a property management company to run the day-to-day operations of the condos as possible ideas that the town could consider for long-term management.

The town's successful bid for the Village Pointe condos was \$4,905,472, according to documentation filed in

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado.

The debtor is listed as Village Pointe Property Owners Association, which are made up of timeshare owners whose properties are managed by Club Wyndham, according to the documentation.

Harris explained that the town is the "backup bidder," and would only be able to acquire the other two properties — Elk Run and Masters Place — if the "winning bidder does not come through."

In a phone interview, he explained that he did not expect the town to succeed in the acquisition of those two

properties, adding that the successful bidders for the properties are serious about acquiring the buildings.

Harris explained that "there are many months to go before the town can close on the property."

He mentioned the "legal complexity of the numerous owners" as the reason for such a long closing period, adding that "it will take until at least March to complete the closing" of the property.

In the email confirming the town's successful bid for Village Pointe, Harris thanks Housing Coordinator Jeff Sams and Development Director James Dickhoff for their work on the issue.

Opinion



The Pagosa Springs SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

(970) 264-2100
PagosaSUN.com
Physical: 457 Lewis Street
Mailing: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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SUN STAFF

Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke

Publisher, Advertising, Circulation
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

Classified Advertising/Front Office
classads@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom Robert Penton
Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon
Mailroom William Thomas

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Annual In County - \$45
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7/24	89	54	0.17	NA	NA
7/25	89	55	0.00	NA	NA
7/26	92	55	0.00	NA	NA
7/27	89	55	0.05	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

It's a great time to celebrate community

This year is a year full of milestones and celebrations of the past, present and future.

It's also a great year to celebrate community — both our small communities and the larger communities that help make our state and nation what they are.

This week is, unfortunately, even more reason to celebrate community and the fact that our community shows up big when times get tough.

When the Rio Blanco Fire broke out Tuesday afternoon, responders quickly sprung into action, seeking out the best route to get to and battle the fire. Bystanders called it in, helping fire crews pinpoint it. When evacuation and pre-evacuation orders were issued, neighbors, friends, families and businesses made their support and available resources known.

Not a single person stayed overnight at the evacuation shelter, we're told. We see that as a testament to a community that cares.

That's something to be celebrated, and something we're adding to our list of celebrations from this year.

In July, we celebrated America's 250th. Saturday, Aug. 1 — Colorado Day — we'll celebrate Colorado's 150th.

While much of our area's celebration took place on July 4 with the Sesquicentennial Party in the Park that celebrated both the United States' and Colorado's anniversaries, Aug. 1 won't go by without local acknowledgement.

As History Colorado reminds us, Colorado's statehood on Aug. 1, 1876, was not without effort.

"On August 1, 1876, Colorado became

the Centennial State—but we almost didn't. It took five tries and more than fifteen years for Colorado to become a state," the organization states.

At 10 a.m., the Pagosa Springs History Museum and Pagosa Springs Main Street will be taking a final step in preserving some of Pagosa Country's past and present for the future with the closing of the history vault after months of collecting histories and pieces that will help tell future generations about the area, its people and the community it's become over time.

That morning, before it's sealed, you'll have the opportunity to peek inside and see the numerous items being preserved for those in our community to see in the future. While there to check out the vault, you can take in the museum's standing exhibits and multiple special exhibits in celebration of the Sesquicentennial.

You can also check out www.colorado150southwest.org to find additional ways 150 years of Colorado is being commemorated in the region.

And we'll have another opportunity to celebrate community past and present this week at the 75th annual Archuleta County Fair.

The fair is one of Archuleta County's longstanding traditions. It's the biggest event of the year for 4-H'ers, and is also a time to celebrate parts of Archuleta County's past and present, as well as the talent of our community. It's also another chance for fun as summer draws to a close.

Year-round, 4-H'ers (and their families) work hard and, undoubtedly, pour their blood, sweat and tears into their projects,

which range from cake decorating and sewing to research projects and raising livestock.

Throughout the weekend you'll find showmanship competitions for youngsters and a range of animals, from alpacas to poultry, swine and beef, and more.

The showmanship competitions lead up to some of the biggest and most humorous parts of the fair: Saturday's 4-H Chuckwagon Dinner and the 4-H Livestock Auction, and Sunday's parent showmanship competition.

But, as usual, the fair isn't all 4-H, and there's something for everyone.

For generations, community members of all ages have worked hard to create and grow items they later submitted to be judged at the fair, whether as part of 4-H or the open class exhibits.

It's always fun to see what our community's talented artists, bakers, brewers, gardeners and more put forward. We leave the Exhibit Hall with more ideas for our ever-growing list of projects and new things we'd like to try.

But outside of the animals and exhibits, the fair is set to include some fun entertainment, with this year's fair slated to include some returning favorites and some new entertainment, including exotic animals, BMX stunts, pie-eating contests, Wild West shootouts, Storytime with Smokey, rodeos, live music, dancing and much more.

We plan on making multiple trips to the fair this year, as we do every year, and hope to see many in our community do the same. It's time to celebrate.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 30, 1926

A deposit of concentrated lime, three-quarters of a mile from Dyke, about forty miles to the east of Durango, is being developed by Frank Glenn and associates, says the Durango Herald. This lime, when ground up, makes an excellent outside and inside finish for buildings. It adds luster, reflecting natural and artificial light in most pleasing manner. Another valuable element of this lime treatment, especially to wooden buildings, is in making them practically fire-proof.

The lime in its beds is in the form of quartz-like boulders, almost pure white in color. The Dyke deposit covers more than 160 acres of land.

For outside, stucco boulders of the concentrated lime are broken up into small pebbles, about the size of a pea. For inside finish, it is ground in a powdery substance.

So far as known the Dyke deposit is the only one in the state where great tonnage of this concentrated lime may be secured. Being only a short distance from the railroad, facilities for shipping the product are excellent.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 27, 1951

At a special meeting in Durango the 12th of July the San Juan Basin Health Unit adopted an ordinance dealing with the removal of garbage, rubbish and other waste material. The ordinance is similar to that adopted by the town of Pagosa Springs a short time ago, but provides that any place where people reside or eat must provide sanitary garbage cans and must have them emptied when needed. It also provides for a \$50 fine for anyone dumping trash or garbage in unapproved places and for anyone allowing garbage, trash or refuse to accumulate or to pile it in vacant lots.

The Buckman Lumber Company sawmill in the Blanco Basin area is a new one in this section and employs about thirty men. It will be cutting for the next four or five years on an estimated 9 million feet of timber.

A recent news release from the Forest Service emphasizes the importance of the timber industry to the economy of this region.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 29, 1976

The new county ambulance, purchased for the county, arrived this week and is now available for service.

The vehicle is equipped to handle all types of emergencies where an ambulance is called for. It has oxygen, respirator apparatus, splints, first aid supplies, plus room for attendants. It is also equipped with the necessary warning devices.

It will be housed at the Mounted Ranger ambulance building and will be operated by the Mounted Rangers and manned by EMTs.

The new ambulance was purchased as a result of a grant to the county. Under the terms of the grant, the ambulance had to meet state and federal specifications, as did the equipment. It also has to be maintained according to these standards and an EMT is required to ride it in emergencies.

The vehicle and equipment cost \$15,480. The federal grant was in the amount of \$8,000 and the Archuleta County commissioners budgeted \$4,000. These leaves the ambulance committee about \$3,500 short of funds to complete payment.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
July 26, 2001

"The most important thing I can tell you is, it is critical for the financial health of the county that you continue the sales tax as it has been," Tom Breed, Archuleta County's independent auditor, said Tuesday night at the regular meeting of the board of county commissioners.

Breed was delivering his "state of county finance report" following the annual audit of county financial practices by Haley, Breed & Crom, LLP, a Durango accounting firm.

The sales tax cited by Breed was approved by voters during 1994, implemented during 1996, and expires Jan. 1, 2003. The levy amounts to 2 percent of most retail sales in the county, including sales by businesses within the town. The county retains 1 percent of that amount, the town the other 1 percent.

"That tax generates about \$1 million, 21 percent of the county tax revenue," Breed said. "If you lose it you will have to radically change the scope of county services."

The financial condition of the county improved during the year 2000, Breed continued.



From the Aug. 17, 1978, Pagosa SUN — DRESS REVUE — Contestants in the 4-H Dress Revue section of the Archuleta County Fair last Saturday night were, left to right: Lorna Alexander, Kathy Shahan, Jesse Miner, Bryan Alexander, Daylene Hott, and Brenda Nossaman. They are wearing the garments they made for the dress revue.

Archuleta County Commissioners		
Warren Brown, Chair warren.brown@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8304	John Ranson jranson@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8307	Veronica Medina veronica.medina@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8305
Pagosa Springs Town Council		
Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov		
Madeline Bergon mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov	Brooks Lindner blindner@pagosasprings.co.gov	Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov
Mat deGraaf mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov	Leonard Martinez lmartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov	





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.

Living in terror

Dear Editor:

For the first time in my 74 years on this planet I'm living in terror. After watching the DC Correspondence Dinner on Friday and on Sunday the dozens of bizarre posts on Truth Social that the president made, I'm feeling terrorized.

My question is where os our Congress. They are there to protect the citizens of the United States from tyranny. Allowing all our rights and benefits to be taken from us and not even one word of support on our behalf. I've been watching over the past 18 months huge amounts of benefit removed; world food assistance, WIC, Meals on Wheels, SNAP, Medicare, FEMA, EPA, green energy, national parks Endangered, Americans being murdered in our streets, immigrants Men, Women and children rounded up, put in concentration camps and abused. Now five months of conflict where 18 Americans have died and over six hundred wounded not mentioning the thousands of Iranian peoples dead on behalf of a cause that isn't our fight. America committing War Crimes that's not who we are. We have always been the champions of the underdog and working to benefit all Americans.

Now trying to interfere with the mid term elections trying to stop mail in ballots, trying to stop women from voting. The continued name calling and threats directed at anyone that speaks out about these atrocities. Where are our voices the people we have elected to represent our interests, to protect our rights our established benefits. Now our food is jeopardized farms going bankrupt because of tariffs, bacteria in our water and vegetables, worms in our beef a measles out break Americans are getting sick and some are dying. What will happen next year when the real medical cuts in benefits happens. I can't think of one part of my life not declining including gas and food prices and unaffordable housing. Everyday I wake up and wonder how will our world be affected today. How will our hard earned tax money be used in a way I don't agree with and have no say about. I have written the D3 representative many times and the few answers I have received has been thanks for writing and not once an answer about my concerns.

We have lived with non effective representation with the last two representatives and we deserve better. Republicans have hurt Americans and we have worked too hard to let them continue to terrorize us and divide us. Our community needs to send a message to our legislators to stop dismantling our rights and reinstate our benefits. I would like to wake up knowing that my elected officials will be working towards improving our lives and not working to only benefit themselves. We deserve better!

Rebecca Curling

U.S. 160 reconstruction

Dear Editor:

As our downtown road project gets closer (fingers crossed!) to completion, a lot of folks are lobbying criticism. I'm chair of the all-volunteer Main Street Advisory Board, and want to toss in a few facts:

* First, the rendering that people have seen on social media: It was not AI; it was drawn by the firm our Main Street board hired to create a video

of what Pagosa might look like after the project's done. They were focused on the road, not the surroundings (which is why the buildings look like ... well ... renderings, and the mountains and rivers aren't there). Is it great? Nope.

Does it show the road will work? Yep. Also several elements of the project have changed since this drawing was done three years ago, including the median on the 400 block.

* Community input -- There were a bunch of community meetings over the last decade. Early ones, I'm told, didn't attract a whole lot of interest or participation.

More people showed up and weighed in as the project got closer. CDOT had open houses to walk folks through the designs. The volunteers in our Main Street group put on monthly Cone Zone informational meetings and happy hours at downtown businesses for two years before construction and during the first year.

A few people (not that many) did yell. CDOT did listen.

The town and county did have a voice. Emergency services were consulted and did sign off on the design and median through the historic downtown.

* The main goal -- It's pretty simple: Safety. A more dependable concrete road surface with fewer potholes.

Updated infrastructure underneath. Wider sidewalks on the business side. Crosswalks with bump-outs, that will be more visible and easier for walkers, wheelchairs, families trying to corral kids. Slower traffic on a gentler curve in front of the old courthouse that's designed to actually be easier for 18-wheelers and RVs to glide around. A wider single traffic lane on each side -- again, safer. Bike lanes that will actually allow 2-wheel and 4-wheel vehicles to co-exist on the same stretch of roadway. A median barrier on the busiest part of a single block to funnel walkers to the crosswalks, where there will be better signage and where, God willing, fewer people will fear for their lives.

* The main problem -- It's a state highway the cuts through the heart of our town. Our main street IS our highway.

* The bottom line -- Is this perfect? Absolutely not.

Snow will still be a challenge. So will slower traffic. But is this better than where we were 3 years ago?

Absolutely.

Or at least it will be. Just look at how the main streets of Del Norte and Monte Vista are springing to life after CDOT projects. Or even here, where the stretch in front of the middle school is transformed with a spiffy new paint job and a smooth sidewalk that won't break any ankles.

Hang in there, folks. And give our new downtown a chance.

Rick Holter

Erasing dead soldiers

Dear Editor:

1st Lt. Tyler James Feehan, Pvt. Isabella Gonzales, Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton, Lt. Angel S. Rampersad.

These four young people were someone's child, spouse, parent, sibling. They were killed by Iranian bombs in Jordan and Iraq. The Defense Department erased their names from the list of troops killed in action. Secretary Hegseth wants Trump's War to look less like the failure it is.

Think about that. Trump and his hand-picked military leaders are erasing men and women who gave their lives for this country.

Shocking, but not surprising. Since Day 1 of Trump 2.0, cruel immigration tactics have dehumanized people, making it easier for the public to feel okay about ignoring the lawless brutality of ICE. Trump's cruelty has now morphed like a virus, taking away some peoples' ability to feel bad about disrespecting dead American soldiers and their Gold Star families.

Our Congressman, Jeff Hurd, is one lawmaker infected with Trump's virus of inhumanity. In his latest email newsletter, Hurd touted his vote for the Defense Authorization bill. Others withheld support for the bill until the public gets a truthful accounting of the war and Trump's plan to end it. Hurd crowed about presiding over part of the debate. He said nothing about the war's casualties.

The Defense Authorization bill would give the Pentagon another \$90 billion for Trump's War and \$1.5 trillion for other Defense spending. What spending? Trump's people in the Pentagon have given contracts worth hundreds of millions to Trump-affiliated companies. The Pentagon is spending hundreds of millions to outfit Trump's "free" fancy Air Force One. There's no guarantee new funds will be used to re-equip and re-supply our forces or care for our wounded and families of our fallen.

Hurd has an opponent who has not succumbed to Trump's inhumanity and who will not ignore the cruelty, chaos, and corruption of Trump and his minions. Hurd's opponent is Dwayne Romero. He's a veteran, father of active duty soldiers, and small business owner. He deserves your consideration.

Recovering from Trump's virus of inhumanity begins when we choose leaders who will react with outrage to a President who tolerates erasing dead soldiers.

Candace Jones

Re: Opinion

Dear Editor:

A letter was recently submitted to the Sun regarding the Department of Justice's legal 'Opinion'.

The Supreme Court Olmstead Decision and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have been misinterpreted to the detriment of highest-risk individuals. Comprehensive care settings, intentional communities, farmsteads and even workshops have been attacked because they are too "institution-like." The irony is that community based programing, while beneficial for the higher functioning is often times extremely stressful and isolating for others.

The DOJ Office of Civil Rights previously mischaracterized the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead v. L.C as an "Integration Mandate" while blatant-

■ See Letters A4



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

The Lewis Street concrete work is progressing in small pieces.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Aug. 3-8

Work activity

- Lewis Street intersection: Crews continue to make significant progress on paving operations, and the intersection is expected to open Aug. 8, pending weather delays.
- Overlook parking lot: Sidewalk work will continue along U.S. 160 next to the overlook parking lot. Parking spaces will be closed in areas where work is taking place.
- South 7th Street: The team is planning to close the intersection of South 7th Street to U.S. 160 early next week. Alleyway access will be affected.
- North 3rd Street intersection: Work continues on the north side of the 3rd Street intersection. Pedestrians may access the north side of main street from the 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard crosswalk during the work period. This intersection is expected to open Aug. 15, pending weather delays.
- 100 block: Crews will start paving the south side

of U.S. 160 from 2nd Street to the east.

- Pedestrian safety: Pedestrian crosswalks are open at 4th, 7th and 8th streets as an alternative to access businesses along Lewis Street or anywhere on the 400 block. Our team continues to see pedestrians not practicing good safety measures, jumping barricades and crossing U.S. 160. Our work zone is extremely active in several locations, and we want to keep everyone safe.

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

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.



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Colorado secretary of state certifies primary election results

Colorado Secretary of State's Office

On Friday, July 24, Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold certified the statewide 2026 primary election, making the results of the election official and final.

“Today’s election certification concludes the statewide 2026 Primary Election,” said Griswold on July 24. “I want to thank county clerks and election workers for their work. We will continue our work to ensure Coloradans can make their voices heard in the 2026 General Election.”

After Election Day, the Secretary of State’s Office worked with Colorado’s county clerks to complete a bipartisan post-election audit that verified the results of the election. After the audit, each county’s canvass board certified the election results. The canvass boards then submitted the final results to the Secretary of State’s Office.

Returning a mail ballot was the preferred method for voters. Mail ballots account for 98.29 percent of accepted ballots during the 2026 primary election — 1,419,623 ballots.

Voters who chose to vote in person accounted for 1.71 percent of accepted ballots — 24,681 ballots.

2026 primary election statistics

- Total active voters: 4,027,400.
- Total ballots cast: 1,444,304.
- Turnout among active voters: 35.86 percent.
- Ballots cast by Democratic voters: 486,531 (33.69 percent of accepted ballots and 48.28 percent of active voter turnout).
- Ballots cast by Republican vot-

ers: 371,181 (25.70 percent of accepted ballots and 40.81 percent of active voter turnout).

- Ballots cast by unaffiliated voters: 582,786 (40.35 percent of accepted ballots and 28.13 percent of active voter turnout).
- Ballots cast by Libertarian voters: 3,627 (0.25 percent of accepted ballots and 10.37 percent of active voter turnout).
- Ballots cast by Unity Party voters: 179 (0.01 percent of accepted ballots and 5.87 percent of active voter turnout).

Letters

■ Continued from A3
ly disregarding ‘choice’ requirements set forth by majority opinions in the landmark decision.

After years navigating the fragmented Home and Community based (HCBS) system and repeated community systemic failures, our grandson receives the 24-7 care he requires in a Medicaid approved Intermediate Care Facility. Although often maligned as an “isolating institution”, it continues to operate in good standing with adequate federal oversight. Such facilities are recognized in Olmstead as necessary for a subset of this diverse population. Please consider:

1) Misrepresentation of the court’s holding is used to impose ideological trends through class action lawsuits. Discrimination against individuals with the most complex conditions has lead to an alarming number of community deaths.

2) One example - Georgia - Despite well documented tragedies that resulted in Georgia, the Obama Administration DOJ’s Office of Civil Rights testified before Congress in glowing terms about the settlement agreement, yet ignored tragic outcomes.

Reference: <https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/fellowships/projects/girls-death-among-500-one-year-community-care>

3) Families across the nation have sought relief from misguided implementation which blatantly ignores the complex support needs our loved ones require. Advocates including the National Council on Severe Autism have petitioned Congress, the Department of Justice, and former Obama appointee Attorney General Eric Holder amongst others. If a non-verbal adult affected with profound conditions functions at the toddler level, how is “justice” served when such individuals are forced into settings with too little supervision? I respectfully ask those creating undue alarm against the DOJ ‘Opinion’ please, at least consider Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s concurring opinion:

“We emphasize that nothing in the ADA or its implementing regulations condones termination of institutional settings for persons unable to handle or benefit from community settings. . . . Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it.” Olmstead, at

601-602.

..... For other individuals, no placement outside the institution may ever be appropriate...for these persons, institutional settings are needed and must remain available.”

• Olmstead v. L. C., 527 U.S. 581, at 604-605

I agree with Justice Ginsburg. I also agree with writer Kathy Muth: May God forgive us - may God forgive us for ignoring the needs weakest members of society unable to advocate or care for themselves. On behalf of such individuals, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Joan Kelley
Gardner, Kan.

Postal service

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your opinion in the Thursday July 9th Pagosa Springs Sun, “History Rtepeats Itself”. I would suggest that many patrons, waiting forever (so it Seems) to retrieve a parcel or mail a package would agree the postal service has seriously deteriorated. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Higher fees and slower service.

We appreciate the internet email, online banking, United Parcel Service and FedEx. As stated in your editorial, residents should file complaints with the USPS and our congressional representatives.

Philip Kuhl

Re: Dog feces

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the Letter to the Editor published last week regarding “Dog Feces” at last Friday’s ComFest.

The author appears to have mistaken dirt plugs left behind from aerating the field earlier in the week for dog feces. Aeration is a routine maintenance practice that improves turf health by removing small plugs of soil, which naturally break down and are reabsorbed into the ground over time.

The letter states that the field was “riddled with dog feces.” In reality, the field was covered with soil plugs resulting from the aeration process. If the field had truly been covered with dog waste as described, it would have created an obvious odor and generated numerous complaints. ComFest was attended by more than 200 people, and during the event no one approached me or Parks and Recreation staff with concerns about

dog feces on the field.

The Parks and Recreation staff take great pride in maintaining our parks and public spaces. They work diligently to provide clean, safe, and enjoyable facilities for residents and visitors, and I believe it is important to correct this misunderstanding, so the public has accurate information.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to discuss concerns directly with community members. Constructive conversations allow us to address issues, answer questions, and continue improving our parks together.

Darren Lewis
Parks and Recreation director, Town of Pagosa Springs

Reduced public lands

Dear Editor:

A July 13 proclamation from President Donald Trump reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah (Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante) by 90 percent—about 2.9 million acres. As explained by American Hunters & Anglers (AHA): “The largest rollback of protected public land in American history just happened and it was served with a side of lies.” AHA also pointed out that Trump said (incorrectly): “You can’t do anything. You can’t go hunting. You can’t go fishing. You can’t do anything. You can virtually not even walk on it.”

Hunters and anglers disagree. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) posted the following “Facts Incoming” response on Instagram: “President Trump says there’s no hunting, fishing, or even walking on the ‘Grand Staircase monument.’ Here’s the truth: hunting, fishing, and recreation have always been allowed in Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.”

Colorado’s Dinosaur National Monument may be next on the chopping block. During June the Bureau of Land Management leased thousands of acres in northwestern Colorado to oil and gas companies in the state’s biggest such sale in modern history. “More than 100 parcels included in the June 16 sale encompass elk, pronghorn and mule deer migration corridors,” I wrote in a June 19 Colorado Newsline opinion piece. “About two-thirds of the 156,000-acre sale is just south of Dinosaur National Monument.”

“This administration has systematically removed protections from over 100 million acres of public lands and waters,” the group Public Land Warriors emphasized. “In just the last 18 months alone, they have rolled back safeguards on 86 million acres. That is the equivalent of 38 Yellowstone National Parks.”

General Stanley McChrystal, who served as commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan from 2009 to 2010, said: “Every once in a while, in our personal lives we get a test on whether we are going to do the right thing or not. Whether we are going to show strength ... Whether we are going to do what we have to do.” This is our test, our occasion! Join us!

David A. Lien
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Grass fires

Dear Editor:

The July 23, PAGOSA SUN reports on multiple grass fires along U.S. 84 on July 20th.

This would not have happened a few miles further south on 84, on down in New Mexico.

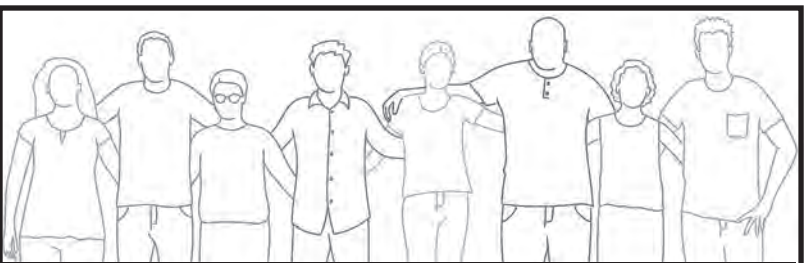
The reason being, the New Mexico Highway Dept. keeps the vegetation mowed down along the shoulder of US 84.

However, US 84 in Colorado is allowed to produce any form of vegetation right up to pavements edge. The tall weeds can conceal wild animals increasing the probabilities of road-kill and vehicle damage. The invasive, noxious and toxic weed species are of no benefit and only end up contaminating adjacent private lands.

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Town’s sanitation district updated on procurement process for new wastewater treatment facility

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On July 21, the board of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) — which also serves as the Pagosa Springs Town Council — received an update from staff on strategies for procuring a new wastewater treatment facility in downtown.

Projects Manager Kyle Rickert explained that town staff identified three procurement options to build the new treatment plant: construction manager at risk (CMAR), design-build and design-bid-build.

Rickert noted that, after meeting with industry experts on July 9, staff decided that the CMAR option would be best for the town.

A presentation on the matter explained that, under a CMAR, “the owner hires designers and builders under separate but overlapping contracts.”

It adds, “The owner contracts a construction manager during the design phase and oversees the project from buyout to close out.”

“It was decided that the CMAR option is the best fit due to it shifting much of the risk and responsibility

involved in the construction project over to the construction manager/general contractor,” an agenda document states.

Rickert explained that staff also recommends that the town hire an owner’s representative for the entirety of the project, and prior to starting the procurement process for an engineering firm.

She added that the town is in conversations with other municipalities who have used an owner’s representative on facilities like this, “and we are hoping to go out to an RFQ [request for qualifications] to start the process.”

She added that once the town hires an owner’s representative, then it would “create a short list of design engineering firms of three to five firms that fit the type we are looking for and then go out to RFQ and further get those packages of proposals from the contractors.”

She continued, “So, this is ... what we’ve come up with to slowly get this process moving while we simultaneously work on funding this project through the state revolving fund,” as well as other funding opportunities.

She noted that the new Public Works Director Nick Freelen has a lot of experience with CMAR projects from the contractor side of things.

Mayor Shari Pierce said, “I’m concerned. You guys say, ‘Yeah, this is what we should do, but then you also say that one of the negatives [of a CMAR] is that they [the contractor] might cut corners to save money.”

She noted that, after what the town went through with the uphill waste-

water conveyance system, “I’m really not happy about this, and so is this the decision that’s been made, or will there be more discussions?”

Rickert explained that this potential negative could be mitigated by “an open-book policy, where we regularly inspect their books to be able to see that there isn’t any cutting corners.”

Rickert added, “We would inspect them regularly to avoid that as a potential negative.”

“But a lot of the corner cutting [on the conveyance system] was in the ground, and in the work that was done. It wasn’t necessarily in the books,” Pierce said, asking, “So, how do we keep an eagle’s eye on that?”

Rickert explained that hiring the “owner’s rep” would mitigate these potential negatives, “and it would have to be someone close enough to be on-site for the majority of the project.”

Freelen added that “a lot of it comes to the selection of your contractor. When you’re bringing them in earlier, they have more ownership and are more involved, but you also need to be wise in who you choose, and go out there and follow those recommendations and references.”

He also said the owner’s rep would be responsible to “make sure that the contractor follows the engineering design, the specs and the drawings, and that would be the whole reason we are bringing them on board, to make sure that this doesn’t happen again.”

Development Director James Dickhoff chimed in to say, “When

we built the Public Works facility, we did use a CMAR process and that was a very successful project that we completed.”

Dickhoff explained that the town did not have an owner’s rep during the installation of the wastewater conveyance system.

He added that he recommends this CMAR process, giving the example of the “success” of the public works facility.

Rickert added that whoever the town chooses to be the owner’s rep would “have the expertise to complete the project.”

Town Manager David Harris said, “We’d be hiring an expert who will have our back,” referring to the owner’s rep.

Rickert said that Roaring Fork Engineering, who the town contracted with to evaluate its wastewater conveyance system, has names of some potential candidates for the town.

Board member Madeline Bergon said that it sounds like there’s “a lot of liability on the owner’s rep, because if they’re approving something and it turns out to be not the right decision or faulty, then there’s a path for us to seek resolution, potentially.”

Again, Freelen gave the advice, “If you find a contractor that has great reviews, make sure you go out and follow up on all those reviews.”

He also stressed that “you allow them to come in early,” because “there are numerous changes that they can make at that early stage that will reduce cost and increase quality.”
derek@pagosasun.com

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Town receives clean 2025 financial audit

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On June 21, the Pagosa Springs Town Council heard the results of the town’s 2025 financial audit, presented by Crimson Singleton of Squire CPAs, who completed the audit.

An agenda document on the matter states that the town’s “Administration staff worked closely with the Squire staff to provide information promptly.”

Squire’s presentation on the matter states, “Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.”

It adds, “Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually, or in aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.”

Town Clerk April Hessman explained that the town has worked with the Squire firm for “a few years now” and their “team did a great job on our audit information.”

Singleton noted that “there is a lot of work to get us all the information, and so we really appreciate all the work” that the town staff did to get Squire the information “we needed.”

She added that the purpose of the audit is to make sure that the “numbers and financial statements appear to be materially correct.”

She stated that the town’s General Fund had an increase in balance of \$348,000, while the Capital Improvement Fund increased by \$1.16 million, the Tourism Fund by \$95,000 and the Conservation Trust Fund by \$10,000.

Decreases were seen in the Sanitation Fund and Geothermal Fund, she pointed out, for a total of about \$846,000.

Squire conducted its audit in accordance with “auditing standards generally accepted in the United States ... applicable to financial audits issued by the Comptroller of the United States,” the presentation states.

Singleton noted that the town is in a “good position” and has “a little bit of cushion there to use as things come up.”

Overall, she explained she saw a “positive trend,” and the town is in a “good financial position.”

Council member Mat deGraaf suggested that he was happy to hear that the town had “a clean 2025 audit.”

Mayor Shari Pierce added, “It looks like we are doing pretty good, and we are, but we still have a lot of outstanding invoices for the Main Street project and ... things like that. We still need to be super careful with our budget for next year.”
derek@pagosasun.com

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2026 Archuleta County Fair Schedule

Fairgrounds on Highway 84 & 160



Early Fair Events — Open to the public

Saturday, July 25, 10 am	Horse Show	Rodeo Arena	8:00 pm	Pink Pony Race	
Saturday, July 25, 1 pm	Quilt Judging	Stith Room	8:30 pm — 11:30 pm	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Close	Extension Hall
Sunday, July 26, 10 am	Gymkhana	Rodeo Arena		Live Music/Dance — Tylor Brandon	Activity Tent

Fair Events — Thur., July 30-Sun., Aug. 2

Every Day of the Fair

9 am — 6 pm	Adventure Zone	Fairgrounds	8:30 am	Showmanship Clinic	Hughes Pavilion
9 am — 6 pm	Loco Toro Mechanical Bull	Fairgrounds	9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Open	Extension Building
9 am — 8 pm	Education and Informational Displays	Fairgrounds	9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9 am — 8 pm	Vendors/Food and Merchandise Booths	Vendor Row	9:00 am	Horseshoe Pitching	Horseshoe Pitch
9 am — 8 pm	Open Class Entries and Displays	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room	9:30 am	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
9 am — 9 pm	4-H Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion	9:00 am — 5:00 pm	Fire Department Trailer Open	Fairgrounds
10 am — 6 pm	Kids Game Open Play	Kids Game Tent	9:00 am — 5:00 pm	Step Back In Time	Old West Town
10 am — 8 pm	Various Entertainment and Shows	Activity Tent	10:00 am — 5:00 pm	Durango Wild West Entertainment	Old West Town
11 am — Midnight	Beer Garden	Activity Tent	10:00 am	Gomez Store — Historical Building Open	Fairgrounds
Evenings	Live Music	Activity Tent	10:00 am	Fire Department Extinguisher Demo	Hughes Pavilion
			10:15 am	Master Showmanship	Activity Tent
			10:30 am	Kids Blow-Up Costume Race	Activity Tent
			11:00 am	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
			11:30 am	Ranch Rodeo	Red Ryder Arena
			11:45 am	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
			12 noon	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
			12:00 — 2:00 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
			1:00 pm	Smokey the Bear	Education Tent
			1:15 pm	Pie Eating Contest	Activity Tent
			1:30 pm	75 Challenge	Activity Tent
			1:45 pm	Trivia Nail Driving Contest	Activity Tent
			2:00 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
			2:30 pm	Battle of the Badges	Activity Tent
			3:00 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
			3:00 pm	Fire Department Extinguisher Demo	Fairgrounds
			3:30 pm	Homemaker of the Year Award	Extension Building
			3:30 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
			3:30 pm	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
			4:00 pm-6:30 pm	Live Music — San Juan Mountain Boys	Activity Tent
			4:30 pm-6:30 pm	Chuckwagon Dinner	Activity Tent
			5:00 pm	Royalty Introductions and Crowning	
				Home Maker of the Year	
				Honorees	
				Conservationist of the Year	
			5:30 pm	JR Livestock Auction/ Registration	Hughes Pavilion
			6:30 pm	JR Livestock Auction	Hughes Pavilion
			8:00 pm	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Close	Extension Building
			8:30 pm — 11:30 pm	Live Music/Fair Dance — Bo DePena	Activity Tent

Thursday, July 31st - Fair Officially Opens

9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Opens	Extension Building			
9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion			
9:00 am	Goat Show	Hughes Pavilion			
9:00 am — 5:00 pm	Fire Department Trailer Open	Fairgrounds			
10:00 am — 4:00 pm	LPEA STEM Program	4-H Hall			
1:00 pm	Chicken Show	Hughes Pavilion			
1:30 pm	Kids Blow-Up Costume Race	Activity Tent			
2:30 pm	Three-Legged Race	Activity Tent			
3:00 pm	Public Health Presentation on Stage	Activity Tent			
3:30 pm	Trivia Nail Driving Competition	Activity Tent			
4:00 pm	OWLS Skills Presentation	Activity Tent			
5:00 pm	75 Challenge	Activity Tent			
5:00 pm	Swine Show	Hughes Pavilion			
5:15 pm — 6:15 pm	Line Dance Lessons with Benellen	Activity Tent			
6:00 pm	Cornhole Tournament	Activity Tent			
8:00 pm	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Closes	Extension Building			
11:00 pm	Fair Closes	Fairgrounds			

Friday, July 31st

9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Opens	Extension Building			
9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion			
9:00 am	Lamb Show	Hughes Pavilion			
1:00 pm	Pie Eating Contest	Activity Tent			
1:30 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town			
1:45 pm	Kids Blow-Up Costume Race	Activity Tent	8:00 am- 9:00 am	Kids’ Rodeo Check-In	Red Ryder Rodeo Arena
2:00 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent	9:00 am	Parent Master Showmanship	Hughes Pavilion
2:00 — 4:00 pm	Smokey the Bear	Education Tent	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Open	Extension Building
3:00 pm	75 Challenge	Activity Tent	9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
3:00 pm	Fire Department Extinguisher Demos	Fairgrounds	9:00 am-11:00 am	Pancake Breakfast	Activity Tent
3:15 pm	Trivia Nail Driving Competition	Activity Tent	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Live Music — Tim Sullivan	Activity Tent
3:30 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town	10:00 am	Kids’ Rodeo	Rodeo Arena
4:00 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent	12:30 pm	Medieval Armored Combat	Fairgrounds
5:00 pm — 7:00 pm	Horseshoe Pitch Practice	Horseshoe Pits	2:00 pm	Livestock Animals Released	Hughes Pavilion
5:15 pm	Spanish Fiesta Dance Demonstration	Activity Tent	2:00 pm	See 4-H Office for Schedule	
5:30 pm	BMX Show	Fairgrounds	2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Fair Closes until next year	Fairgrounds
5:45 pm — 6:45 pm	Line Dance Lessons with Beverly	Activity Tent	2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of Open Class Projects/Premiums Paid	Exhibit Building
6:00 pm	Beef Show	Hughes Pavilion		Release of 4-H Projects	Stith Room
7:00 pm	Open Rodeo	Rodeo Arena			
	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Event				

Saturday, August 1st

8:00 am- 9:00 am	Kids’ Rodeo	Red Ryder Rodeo Arena
9:00 am	Parent Master Showmanship	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Open	Extension Building
9:00 am-2:00 pm	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am-11:00 am	Pancake Breakfast	Activity Tent
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Live Music — Tim Sullivan	Activity Tent
10:00 am	Kids’ Rodeo	Rodeo Arena
12:30 pm	Medieval Armored Combat	Fairgrounds
2:00 pm	Livestock Animals Released	Hughes Pavilion
2:00 pm	See 4-H Office for Schedule	
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Fair Closes until next year	Fairgrounds
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of Open Class Projects/Premiums Paid	Exhibit Building
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of 4-H Projects	Stith Room

Sunday, August 2nd

8:00 am- 9:00 am	Kids’ Rodeo	Red Ryder Rodeo Arena
9:00 am	Parent Master Showmanship	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Open	Extension Building
9:00 am-2:00 pm	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am-11:00 am	Pancake Breakfast	Activity Tent
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Live Music — Tim Sullivan	Activity Tent
10:00 am	Kids’ Rodeo	Rodeo Arena
12:30 pm	Medieval Armored Combat	Fairgrounds
2:00 pm	Livestock Animals Released	Hughes Pavilion
2:00 pm	See 4-H Office for Schedule	
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Fair Closes until next year	Fairgrounds
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of Open Class Projects/Premiums Paid	Exhibit Building
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of 4-H Projects	Stith Room

Subject to change.



Luke David Wholf Baxstrom

In loving memory of Luke David Wholf Baxstrom.

July 15, 1993-July 12, 2026.

Luke David WholfBaxstrom, 32, passed away on July 12, 2026.

Born in Durango, Colo., on July 15, 1993, Luke was raised in the mountain community of Pagosa Springs. After pursuing his education in Denver, his heart led him back home to the place he knew and loved best.

Luke was a craftsman, artist, firefighter and paramedic whose life was defined by both creativity and service. Passionate about helping others in their most vulnerable moments, he served his community with care. Yet, his deepest lifelong passion was art. A painter and illustrator, Luke picked up a brush or pencil every single day of his life, leaving behind a world made richer and more colorful by his unique vision.

To know Luke was to know a bolt of energy like no other. Luke burned his candle at both ends, he loved hard, he lived fast, and he left us too soon, with only memories of his bright light. He was effortlessly charming, fiercely confident and wonderfully funny, with a mischievous wit that kept everyone around him smiling or yelling, or both.

Above all, Luke possessed a deeply caring heart, especially when it came to his family. His absolute greatest joy in life was being an uncle — he loved his nephews, Crosby and Sylvester, more than anyone else and found his happiest moments simply watching them play and grow.

Luke was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Frances Wholf, and his paternal grandparents, Jacqueline and Harold Baxstrom.

He is survived and deeply missed by his mother, Rebecca Wholf, of Pagosa Springs; his father, Kent Baxstrom (Lisa), of Mancos; his younger sister, Sable Wholf-Corley (Christian), of Pagosa Springs; his cherished nephews, Crosby and Sylvester; and his maternal grandfather, Richard Wholf, of La Jara. He also leaves behind aunts, uncles, cousins and a community of friends, colleagues and loved ones who will forever remember his spirit.

A memorial service celebrating Luke's life will be held on Aug. 8, 2026, at noon on Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs, Colo. All who knew and loved Luke are warmly invited to attend and honor his memory.

Essie Marie (Jackson) Kirk-White Face

Essie Marie (Jackson) Kirk-White Face, of Rapid City, S.D., formally of Pine Ridge, S.D., passed away Monday July 6, 2026, at the Monument Health Hospital in Rapid City, S.D.,

Colorado Court Committee seeks input on jury selection practices

Colorado Judicial Branch

The Colorado Jury Selection Working Group, which was created through HB26-1288, is seeking input regarding jury selection practices in Colorado.

The working group will examine issues related to (1) the amount of time provided to attorneys to question prospective jurors during voir dire, (2) the use of questionnaires in selecting jurors and (3) judicial rehabilitation of prospective jurors who have allegedly exhibited bias.

The working group wants to hear from attorneys, judges, litigants, individuals who have served on juries and other members of the public who wish to share ideas about how the state could improve its practices in these three areas.

Feedback can be submitted at a link provided on the Jury Selection Working Group's website: www.coloradojudicial.gov/jury-selection-working-group.

The working group is scheduled to meet at least through the end of 2026 with the goal of submitting proposals to the Colorado Supreme Court for possible changes to criminal and civil rules of procedure related to jury selection.

In addition to judges and court staff, the working group includes representatives from the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, the Office of State Public Defender, the

with her family by her bedside.

Essie was born Nov. 1, 1940, in Pagosa Springs, Colo., to parents William (Bill) and Allie Mae Jackson. Her childhood was spent on the family ranch located 5 miles south of Pagosa Springs. She graduated from Pagosa Springs High School and attended Colorado State University.

She married John W. Kirk, of Pringle, S.D., on Aug. 29, 1958. After working several ranches in Wyoming and Eastern Colorado, they eventually settled in Pine Ridge, S.D. From this union they had six children: Mary, John, Shawn, Brian, Erin and Kevin.

It was during this time that Essie became involved in the emergency medical services. She determined to create a formal ambulance service and spent the next 21 years as its director. An accomplishment that she was most proud of.

Essie married Bernard White Face on Sept. 22, 1980, and to this union were born two children, Rebecca and Megan.

Essie went on to work in the Red Cloud school system for 17 years as a teacher's aide. She often shared her greatest reward was working with the more challenging students one on one.

Although Essie felt her children were her greatest accomplishment, she enjoyed sewing, playing hymns on the piano, dancing the jitterbug and supporting her kids in all of their activities. She enjoyed watching a good basketball game.

Essie is preceded in death by her parents, William (Bill) and Allie Mae Jackson; brothers Bill, Thomas and John Jackson; and her sons, John W. Kirk and Kevin J. Kirk.

She is survived by son Brian (Jean) Kirk; daughters Mary Kirk, Shawn (Brett) Riggs, Erin (Jay) Selby, Becki (Jeremy) Dixon and Megan White Face; 10 grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Harold (Hal or Wally) Thomas Walter

Harold (Hal or Wally) Thomas Walter, age 76, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away unexpectedly at his family home on July 6, 2026. He was getting into his pickup truck, heading off to work, when he suddenly passed away — just three weeks before his 77th birthday.

Harold was born in Boulder, Colo., to Harold Thomas Walter Jr. and Lucille Lillian Hurlburt Walter. In 1959, the family, along with Harold's sisters, moved to Durango, Colo. Harold later graduated from Pagosa Springs High School before attending the University of Colorado in Boulder and Fort Lewis College in Durango. It was at Fort Lewis that he met his future wife, Sharon J. Ashcroft. They were married on June 13, 1970, in Pagosa Springs. At that time in Colorado, an 18-year-old



woman could apply for a marriage license on her own, but a man had to be at least 21 years old. Since Harold had not yet reached that milestone, his father accompanied him to the courthouse to allow the marriage. Sharon always enjoyed telling the story that she proudly walked into the courthouse as a grown woman while Harold had to bring his dad. Throughout their 56 years of marriage, family and friends never let Harold forget that he was "so young" when he got married.

Harold was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. His greatest joy in life was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Whether sharing stories, lending a helping hand, or simply enjoying each other's company, he treasured every moment with those he loved.

For nearly 60 years, Harold dedicated his life to the auto body repair business. Walter's Body Shop, the familiar yellow building across the highway from Pagosa Springs Elementary School, was much more than a business — it was a gathering place. The coffee pot was always on, the chessboard was always waiting and there was never a shortage of lively conversation.

Although naturally quiet, Harold couldn't wait to get to work each morning because he knew friends and customers would soon arrive. Together, they debated politics, the stock market, current events, the weather and, of course, what in the world was going on with the Denver Broncos. He loved spirited discussions, good-natured teasing and friendly banter that often lasted longer than the work itself.

His love of a good debate started early. Just a few months before Harold and Sharon were married, the young couple traveled across the Navajo Reservation to tell Sharon's parents they planned to marry. During the long drive, Harold and Sharon found themselves deep in debate. They spoke about life, about love, their future and, apparently of great importance, at the time, what river runs through Shiprock, N.M. Very quickly, Sharon's parents learned something about the young man who wanted to marry their daughter — he was thoughtful, opinionated and respectful. Those qualities stayed with him throughout his life and became part of the friendships he built over the decades. Harold believed that hard work mattered, meant something, and friendships were one of life's greatest blessings. He quietly served others when needed without seeking recognition and was always willing to help.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents, Harold "Walt" Walter and Lucille Walter. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; sons Jason Walter (Clancy) and Jamie Walter (Heather); also grandsons Dakota Walter (Grace), Burke Walter and grand-

daughter Morgan Walter. Harold has three sisters: Peggy Cotton (Darrel — brother-in-law and best friend), Beverly Walter and Janet McCaffrey, along with brother-in-law Mike Ashcroft (Jane Duncan) and his nieces and nephews.

Honoring Harold's request, no services will be provided.

More than anything, Harold will be remembered for his steady presence, quick wit, generous heart and unwavering love for his family. The conversations shared over coffee, the laughter around the chessboard, the countless friendships made in his shop and the memories created with those he loved will continue to live on in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

His legacy is one of kindness, integrity, hard work and a well-lived life.

It is comforting to know that Harold is laughing, joking, teasing and reunited with dear friends who previously departed: Carlos Trujillo, David Brinton and Bill Downey. There they are, seated around a chess board, just like old times.

Harold is greatly loved, and already deeply missed.



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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

A photo may be submitted, which will be cropped for publication. Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. If there is a holiday, the deadline will be earlier. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Robert Melton, AuD
Doctor of Audiology
Hearing & Tinnitus Care Specialist

Fire

■ Continued from front

warning was issued for the Pinon Hills subdivision, and a pre-evacuation order followed at 6:43 p.m. for County Road 337 and County Road 339.

That evening, the fire was estimated at 120 acres and the San Juan National Forest announced ground crews were on scene sizing up the fire and working to protect structures, utilizing dozer lines, engines and aerial support.

The agency stated in an update it is “taking aggressive actions to suppress this wildfire. Structure and resource protection, as well as firefighter and public safety are the main priorities for this incident.”

On Wednesday, San Juan Team 8 — the local type three incident management team, which traveled from the Ferris Fire in Dolores — took over management of the incident for the U.S. Forest Service.

“The fire exhibited extreme fire behavior and grew rapidly in just a few hours, but it received some moisture yesterday afternoon and into the evening that moderated fire behavior,” a Wednesday update from the incident management team states. “No structures have been impacted but the fire has burned within

1/4 mile of private property on the north flank.”

In the Wednesday update, the incident management team explains firefighters would continue to look for the best spots to access and build containment lines to protect structures in the County Road 335 area.

“Aerial resources will be on scene to slow the fire’s spread and moderate hot spots,” it states. “Deliberate efforts are being made to protect lives, property, and infrastructure, while ensuring firefighter safety.”

It adds multiple resources — including engines, dozers, hand crews and large air tankers are on scene — as well as an aerial supervision platform to provide oversight of the fire.

Additional resources were ordered, it states, though competition for resources is high nationwide due to high fire activity.

Additional Rio Blanco Fire updates will be posted at www.Pagosa-SUN.com as they become available.

Evacuation, pre-evacuation orders remain in place

As of midday Wednesday, the evacuation and pre-evacuation or-

ders remained in place.

Additionally, Valle Seco Road (NFSR 653) and all spur roads are closed to the public.

The incident management team states the public should avoid the area north of the Valle Seco Road.

On Wednesday, Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux indicated the evacuations and pre-evacuations would likely stay in place until at least Thursday to allow fire managers to better understand what the northeast side of the fire is doing.

The intent, he noted, is to get everybody back as quickly as possible.

He added a checkpoint is in place at the evacuation site at County Road 335, with law enforcement accompanying people to their homes if they’ve forgotten medications or other needed items.

Le Roux noted not everyone chose to leave, but that the mandatory evacuation zone along the County Road 335 corridor includes 312 parcels that include 284 address points and 480 structures (including outbuildings).

Le Roux noted that, because not everyone chose to leave for the evacuation and the fire wasn’t threatening above-ground infrastructure, the

decision was made to leave the power on in the area.

Le Roux added the pre-evacuation zone includes 113 address points on 162 parcels and 283 total structures.

An evacuation shelter is in place at Pagosa Springs High School, with the fairgrounds available for livestock and the Pagosa Springs Humane Society available for smaller domestic animals.

Cloman Park temporarily closed

On Wednesday, Archuleta County announced Cloman Park is closed until further notice due to the fire.

Temporary flight restriction in place

A temporary flight restriction (TFR) has been implemented over the fire area. Private aircraft, including drones, are not allowed.

Call center

According to Le Roux, Upper San Juan Search and Rescue is operating an incident call center at (970) 508-9928.

The call center is currently active from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

randi@pagosasun.com

Restrictions

■ Continued from front

area.

For more on what is prohibited and allowed under Stage 1 restrictions, see www.PagosaSUN.com or check with each jurisdiction.

To report a suspected fire restriction violation or an active smoke plume, please call regional dispatch immediately at 911 or the non-emergency line at (970) 731-2160.

Bureau of Land Management

On July 22, it was announced that improved fire weather conditions and near containment on the Ferris Fire had prompted Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials to ease fire restrictions and reopen public lands within the Tres Rios Field Office.

Effective July 22, Stage 2 fire restrictions were lifted on BLM-administered public lands managed by the Tres Rios Field Office, including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Stage 1 fire restrictions will remain in effect through Dec. 31, 2026, or until rescinded.

Archuleta County

On Thursday, July 23, the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) announced it had, in collaboration with the Pagosa Fire Protection District, rescinded Stage 2 fire restrictions effective immediately.

The county remains under Stage 1 restrictions.

The ACSO urges everyone to download the WatchDuty App and sign up for Nixle Emergency Alerts to stay informed on local fire updates and active incidents.

For more information, visit the ACSO website at <https://sheriff.archuletacounty.gov/.../fire-updates-and.../>.

Town of Pagosa Springs

The following day, Friday, July 24, the Town of Pagosa Springs announced it had rescinded Stage 2 fire restrictions effective that day.

The town will remain under Stage 1 fire restrictions due to continued dry conditions and wildfire risk.

The restrictions were ordered by Town Manager David Harris pursuant to the town’s emergency authority and following consultation with the Pagosa Fire Protection District, the Archuleta County sheriff, and the Pagosa Springs chief of police, the

town stated.

San Juan National Forest

On Wednesday, July 29, the San Juan National Forest announced it would be rescinding Stage 2 fire restrictions effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, July 30, on all National Forest System lands.

Stage 1 fire restrictions will remain in place for Zone 1 (lower elevations identified as Zone 1 in the order map).

See Forest Order and maps for more details at <https://tinyurl.com/5n7xa779>.

Monsoonal moisture arrives, but drought remains

According to the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), areas in Archuleta County received from .91 inches to 3.15 inches of rain between July 15 and July 29.

Despite the recent rains, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) remains in stage two drought restrictions, and the area remains in severe drought.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100 percent of Archuleta County remained in severe drought as of July 21, with 1.90 percent of the county — the northeast corner — falling under extreme drought.

The week prior, 36.15 percent of the county fell under extreme drought.

In a Monday press release, District Engineer Justin Ramsey explains that water levels in Hatcher Lake are dropping very slowly due to the rains decreasing water use and evaporation.

He adds that levels in the San Juan

River have remained steady due to the recent rains.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey water monitoring gauge at the San Juan River in Pagosa Springs and the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, although the San Juan has remained at a very low but generally steady level, it did appear to hit record low levels several times over the last week.

According to the River Forecast Center, on July 24, the river hit about 19 cubic feet per second (cfs), below the 2002 low of 21. The following day, it hit about 17 cfs, below the 2002 low of 19 cfs.

On July 28 at 11:15 a.m., the river was recorded running at 15 cubic feet per second (cfs), 0.5 cfs above the previous record low set in 2002.

It appeared to hit another record low at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29, when it registered at 15.5 cfs — below the low of 15.7 cfs set in 2002.

The river has approached record lows several other times this season, but has not reached them.

However, despite these improvements, Ramsey states that the combination of the San Juan River’s flows and the level of Hatcher still place the district in drought stage two.

Stage two drought restrictions for PAWSD aim to reduce water consumption by 20 to 30 percent and include several restrictions.

Irrigation using potable or nonpotable water is only allowed between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. on alternating weekdays based on address number. Weekend watering is prohibited.

Edible and ornamental gardens may be hand watered using a hose or with drip irrigation.

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Basin Coop	Kelly Maestas — Edward Jones	Scott Strategic Investments
Bear Foot Garage Doors	Financial Advisor	Southwest Ag & 4 Corners
Bear Tooth Ranch	Kitzel and Derek Farrah	Trailers
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Afay Enterprises	Doug and Barbara Smith	Porter Mountain Homes
Alpine Components	Dr. Greg Schick, DVM	QIS Supply
American AgCredit	Drew Dashner	Quincy & Ashley Pickering
Archuleta County Farm Bureau	Echo IT Consulting	ReSport
Archuleta County Ironworks	Eddie’s Repair	Richard DeClark Construction
Authentic Solutions Consulting	Fitzgerald Ranch, LLC	RMC Trucking, LLC
Bank of Colorado	Flying B Ranch	Rolling Rock Enterprises
Basin Coop	Frontier Rodeo	Root Design & Root Works
Bauer Electric	Gigi’s Grande Getaways	Root House
Bear Tooth Ranch	Hair by Kandi	Rosemary and Jack Barrett
Bob & Livia Lynch	Inter-Mountain Propane	Rosie’s Pizza
Boot’s Cabin, LLC	Jim & Sandy Bramwell	Ryan & Falisha Plake
Brent Gottlieb	JK Leasing	Safari Club International- 4 Corners
Bridges Drywall	Katie Jo Lorenzen	Chapter
Builders First Source	Kirsten & Michael Derr	San Juan Redimix, LLC
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Canoncito Ranch, LLC	Lee Riley I Sell Pagosa	Shannon Sawdey
Charlotte Williams	Les Schwab Tire Center	Shellie Hogue with Mountain &
Chase Regester Memorial Fund	Linda Lattin	Meadow Real Estate
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Cold Springs Ice Co	Lynn Watchmann	Terry and Ronnie Urbanczyk
Cole’s Meat Processing	Lynne & Matt Bridges	Terry’s Ace
Colorado Dream Homes	M&M Construction	Tim & Tracie McRee
Crissy Lopez	Mancuso Family Foundation	Tim Brown and Stephanie Hill
Crossfire Aggregate Service	Marcie Lewis @ Galles Properties	Tin Cup Ranch
Custom Homes by Vernon Leslie	Martha Plake	Tom & Jan Carnley
Darren and Carmen Lewis	Mary Jo Coulehan	Traci & Glen Alan Phillips
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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney
U.S. Department of Agriculture representatives meet with staff and elected officials representing the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County and the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation at Yamaguchi Park on Tuesday, July 28. The group discussed a potential future downtown wastewater treatment facility, the proposed multipurpose pavilion and more during the visit.

School

■ Continued from front
reached 278 respondents who are considered to have a “likely voter profile.”

“We feel really good about this,” she said, noting the poll’s margin of error is at about 6 percent.

She also noted that respondents completed interviews either online or live on the phone.

Hahne explained that last year approximately 56 percent of respondents indicated they felt the school district spends its tax dollars wisely, and “that number is essentially exactly the same this year.”

She noted there was a “slight tick up” by respondents disagreeing, indicating that number was just outside of the margin of error.

“But, we do have a little bit of negativity here on this question,” she said.

Hahne explained that one of the first things tested was the ballot language, noting that it was written by working with legal counsel and primarily based on language used in other school districts around the state when going for a Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant.

“And we felt like this was a very conservative approach,” she said.

She explained that the language talks about increasing the district’s debt with a bullet point noting the construction of a new K-8 building in order to provide a safe and secure learning environment for students.

Hahne also explained that there was a third paragraph in the ballot language talking about how the district would go for a certain bond amount depending on if it is awarded a BEST grant, along with a “legalese” paragraph at the bottom.

Hahne stressed the importance of testing as close of an approximation of the exact wording expected to be used on the ballot as possible, noting that people will respond positively to the concept of something like supporting a new school; however, with certain language being used “it gets a little bit tougher for them to say yes” due to it being in “lawyer language, not common language.”

According to the poll results, 43 percent indicated they were in support of the ballot measure and 44 percent indicated they were against it, with 12 percent being undecided.

“Right now is a very difficult political environment,” Hahne said.

She explained that for attempts to pass tax measures for things that are new versus taking care of existing buildings, “we’re not seeing a lot of success across the state,” noting that is not limited to just school districts.

Hahne also explained that part of the poll gave respondents the opportunity to say in their own words why they would vote yes or no on the potential ballot measure.

According to Hahne’s presentation, the proposed potential ballot measure question asks, “SHALL ARCHULETA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50JT DEBT BE INCREASED BY UP TO \$76,000,000, WITH A REPAYMENT COST OF UP TO \$121,964,500, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING A NEW K-8 SCHOOL WHICH WILL PROVIDE A MORE SAFE, SECURE AND INVITING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

SUCH DEBT TO BE USED TO PROVIDE LOCAL MATCHING MONEY REQUIRED FOR THE DISTRICT TO RECEIVE A ‘BEST’ GRANT FROM THE STATE (THE GRANT IS NOT RE-

QUIRED TO BE REPAYED BUT IS CONTINGENT UPON THE DISTRICT’S ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE MATCHING AMOUNT); PROVIDED THAT NO BONDS WILL BE ISSUED UNLESS A ‘BEST’ GRANT IS RECEIVED; AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT REVENUE FROM IMPOSITION OF THE MILL LEVY MAY NOT EXCEED \$6,100,250 ANNUALLY; AND SUCH DEBT TO BE EVIDENCED BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS WHICH BEAR INTEREST, MATURE, ARE SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION, WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM OF NOT MORE THAN 5%, AND BE ISSUED AT SUCH TIME, AT SUCH PRICE (AT, ABOVE OR BELOW PAR) AND IN SUCH MANNER AND CONTAINING SUCH TERMS, NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS BALLOT ISSUE, AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY DETERMINE, AND SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE IMPOSED WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO RATE TO GENERATE AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT IN EACH YEAR TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF, PREMIUM IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH DEBT OR ANY REFUNDING DEBT, OR TO CREATE A RESERVE FOR THE SAME?”

Hahne explained that the open-ended responses were then categorized, stating, “really what it comes down to is that ‘yes voters’ feel and understand and know that the ... schools are old and that they’re in poor condition” and feel they need to be replaced.

She noted that the “yes voters” also responded with statements such as simply wanting to support kids, education, student safety and “just the broader benefits to the community.”

For “no voters,” Hahne explained that “really it comes down to taxes being too high,” which she noted was expressed in last year’s poll results as well.

“And it continues to be a major theme in our work this year as well,” she said, explaining, “When we test

measures like this, debt tends to be a major concern.”

Hahne then mentioned that a new theme emerged in this year’s responses about the opposition to the location chosen for the new K-8 building.

In January, the BoE chose to go with the Vista site uptown as the location for the potential new K-8 campus.

Hahne also explained that follow-up questions were then asked, with respondents receiving more information about what the personal financial impact would be based on home values.

She noted that cost would roughly be \$5.65 per \$100,000 of value per month.

“We do get a slight bump up in support,” she said, explaining that figures increased from 43 percent supporting the measure to 46 percent of respondents supporting the measure.

Hahne noted that there is also a “positive reaction” when giving

respondents a “plain-language explanation” about what the BEST grant would do in terms of providing funding for the project.

Hahne also noted that for measures like this across the state, she would feel better with a 55 percent “total yes” mark.

Hahne added that ASD’s initial poll results are “well below that 55 percent mark.”

She explained that statements tested relating to Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) and the BEST grant explanation in plain language were considered to be “compelling to voters.”

“Really, voters are telling us safety is the main motivator for voting ‘yes,’” she said.

Hahne also explained that a separate part of the survey gave respondents a potential number of investments ASD could do as part of the project plan.

“What we learn here is that items

■ See School A9



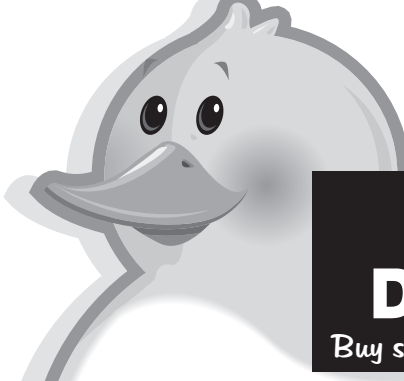
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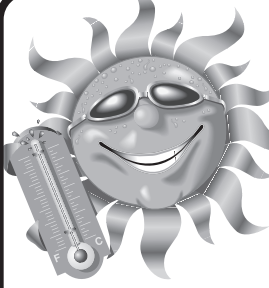
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Ballot

■ Continued from front

The waiver is also commonly known as “de-Brucing,” named after TABOR proponent and author Douglas Bruce.

As Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese explained to the board, the question is asking voters to continue something the district has always had.

In her presentation to the board prior to the vote on the ballot question, Bruzzese explained PSMC has grown strategically since 2008, with its growth outpacing inflation and population.

She also noted the district was formed to provide ambulance, hospital and medical services, and PSMC provides ambulance and EMS services at a loss of more than \$2 million per year currently.

Bruzzese then explained a little more about TABOR, informing the board that one of the main goals of TABOR is to limit growth of government to inflation and population growth.

Bruzzese also explained that PSMC is outside TABOR already.

According to her presentation, governmental entities are outside TABOR if they have voter approval of a waiver from TABOR or are entities like PSMC that are enterprises that receive less than 10 percent of revenues from governmental sources like taxes and Colorado Department

of Local Affairs grants.

“PSMC is not like other governmental entities that rely only on tax revenue,” the presentation states, adding, “Less than 10% of PSMC’s revenues are from taxes and governmental grants.”

It adds, “More than 90% of PSMC’s annual revenues are payment for services — like a business.”

Bruzzese also answered the question of why the district should worry about de-Brucing if it is already outside of TABOR, explaining it is about risk and grants.

Bruzzese explained the continued waiver would maintain the ability to receive government grants, explaining PSMC has received \$6,441,008 in matching grants toward ambulances and hospital facility improvements.

She added it would also minimize risk that “quality” funds from Medicare and Medicaid would be recharacterized as a grant, explaining the quality funds have not historically counted toward the 10 percent maximum of tax and grant revenue.

Bruzzese’s presentation indicates that, if not exempt from TABOR and if not an enterprise, PSMC’s sustainability would be at risk:

“• Strategic growth would be restricted even if necessary for sustainability or for community need.

“• Operational stability may be harmed as medical staff labor costs

and supplies often exceed inflation.

“• Financing capital-intensive operations of EMS/Ambulance and the hospital.”

Bruzzese also outlined the results of a survey of potential voters, explaining the majority of respondents had a favorable view of PSMC and confidence in PSMC’s handling of finances.

The presentation notes that, of those responding to the ballot question, twice as many stated they would vote yes versus no, though some were uncertain.

The presentation also indicates that communication about EMS and medical services resonated with voters, but that a high percentage of voters do not understand that PSMC and the USJHSD are the same.

Following Bruzzese’s presentation, the board voted unanimously to move forward with the ballot question.

The ballot question asks voters: “WITHOUT RAISING TAXES, SHALL THE UPPER SAN JUAN HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT (WHICH OPERATES PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER AND PROVIDES EMS/AMBULANCE SERVICES, HOSPITAL AND OUTPATIENT MEDICAL CARE TO THE COMMUNITY) BE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE TO COLLECT, RETAIN, AND SPEND ALL REVENUES OF THE DISTRICT

School

■ Continued from front

related to repairing and improving rise to the top,” she said, noting things like HVAC and roof repair at the high school “are really the ones that are the most important to voters.”

When asking questions to gauge respondents’ willingness to pay for certain things, Hahne stressed again that respondents were more supportive of maintaining and extending the life of existing buildings, and more hesitant to pay for something new.

She also explained that when adding potential investment items alongside the proposal for a new K-8 school, the majority of respondents indicated that it makes no difference in how they feel about the ballot measure.

“So, adding in these investments does not sweeten the proposal in any way,” she said.

Hahne added that open-ended responses from “no voters” concerned about property taxes and debt “were overwhelming.”

BoE member Butch Mackey asked if there was any indication on how the location of the proposed new K-8 building caused respondents to change their mind.

Hahne explained that she couldn’t answer that for sure due to the ballot language being different from last year’s poll and that specific question not being asked.

ASD Superintendent Rick Holt asked about how once specifics are narrowed down around these types of projects, such as choosing a specific

location, if there is generally always some sort of pushback.

Hahne commented that 100 percent of people are never going to be happy with these things, noting that there is generally some sort of pushback, “especially in a smaller community.”

In response to a question from BoE President Bob Lynch, Hahne explained that there’s no guarantee that every voter will see any additional information relating to the ballot measure, and that in the current state of communities, it is “difficult to cut through the noise” when it comes to informing the public.

Hahne was also joined by Lynea Hansen, who has worked on polls with the district previously.

“This is a beast of a ballot question,” Hansen said, explaining that she spoke with Holt about trying to get the measure short and concise, and “non-legalistic as possible.”

“This kind of breaks just about every one of those rules,” she added.

Hansen explained that one challenge with the ballot measure title is trying to explain the BEST grant.

Holt commented that people might get lost in the legal content, and that there is no “bumper sticker statement” to show how the BEST grant would essentially save the district 40 percent on the K-8 project.

Holt also commented on the status of BEST, noting that the program is “not going to last forever.”

Hahne also stressed that the poll from last year can’t truly be compared

to this year’s poll.

“The language last year was different,” she said.

Hahne added that the result from last year indicated that 51 percent of respondents would support the measure, explaining that the district did not go from 51 percent support to 43 percent support, but that, “you asked a different question.”

Hahne also mentioned that there are a lot of questions for the district to consider, like if the economy will get better by November or if the community will stand up a robust campaign.

“This is a really complex problem you’re trying to solve,” she said.

Lynch commented that the cost for the project will go up in the future, and that the BEST grant program may go away, suggesting that educating the public on the matter does make a difference.

Lynch also commented that this is a “winnable thing, not a lost cause.”

Other comments were made by the BoE about how the district may need to change its plans for its facilities based on ballot measure results, and the potential timeline of a new school either being three to five years out, or possibly longer and up to 10 years out.

Holt indicated that more information in regard to the possible ballot measure would be presented at the BoE’s next regular meeting scheduled for Aug. 4.

For more information on the BoE’s scheduled meetings, visit www.mypagosaschools.com.

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New law to affect minors driving e-bikes, e-motos

By Hunter Mathews

Colorado State Patrol

On Aug. 12, a new law will take effect that directly affects the growing trend of e-bikes and e-motos for kids. Many parents are buying these devices for many different reasons — whether for ease of transportation, entertainment, low cost compared to a vehicle, etc.

While the law fluctuates on where you can ride each type of e-device depending on your local municipality, the onus of your child’s safety falls on you as a parent. Take every precaution to protect your kids and to help teach them to ride responsibly.

If you opt to buy an e-motorcycle, the rider must have a valid driver’s

license with a motorcycle endorsement, a valid registration and proof of insurance. The minimum age for a motorcycle license in Colorado is 16. In addition, minors are required to wear a helmet.

The law is going into effect this August that impacts what you have to do so your teen can obtain that motorcycle endorsement.

Come Aug. 12, a minor (anyone under the age of 18) must now have written permission from a parent or guardian to obtain a motorcycle endorsement.

Previously, a minor just needed consent from anyone over the age of 21.

It is believed that requiring a parent or guardian’s permission will increase

the safety and education of your child and decrease the amount of traumatic incidents our youth are involved in.

As these devices become more and more popular and accessible, the number of crashes involving juveniles has increased.

To protect your children, educate yourself on your local municipality’s laws regarding these devices. Parents are the No. 1 influence on a child, so take advantage and keep your child safe.

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Business

Pagosa Springs Main Street seeks new advisory board member

By Kathleen McFadden
Pagosa Springs Main Street

After two years shaped largely by downtown construction, the Pagosa Springs Main Street Advisory Board is looking ahead and inviting one new community member to help shape the district's next chapter.

The board is expanding from 10 to 11 members and is seeking someone

who cares about downtown Pagosa Springs, values community service and wants to contribute to work that makes a visible difference.

Pagosa Springs Main Street is focused on the vitality, character and future of downtown. Its advisory board is made up of community volunteers who bring ideas, build partnerships and help move projects from conversation to action.

During downtown construction, much of the program's work has focused on supporting communication, connecting businesses and the public with information and resources, and keeping attention on downtown businesses and activities.

Through Cone Zone Care, business outreach, construction updates and access information, Main Street has worked alongside the town, businesses

and community partners during a challenging period for the district.

At the same time, the program has continued creating new ways for people to experience downtown and connect with the community. Recent efforts include launching the Main Street Art Walk, developing the community-created Color Pagosa's Past project, creating the Pagosa Springs History Vault that will be sealed Aug. 1, and recording more than 30 hours of community oral histories.

That work has earned recognition. Pagosa Springs Main Street achieved Main Street America accreditation in both 2024 and 2025. In October 2025, Colorado Main Street named Pagosa Springs the Main Street Community of the Year and recognized Main Street Coordinator Kathleen McFadden as the Colorado Main Street Manager of the Year. Cone Zone Care was also selected as a finalist for a Downtown Colorado Inc. Downtown Excellence Award.

"Downtown Pagosa is one of the things I love most about our community," said McFadden. "The river and mountains create an extraordinary setting, but it is our locally owned shops and restaurants and the people behind them that give downtown its heart and make it feel like home. As construction winds down, we are excited to turn more of our energy toward what comes next and invite someone new to help shape our future. We take the work seriously, but we laugh a lot, enjoy working together and believe that sense of fun is part of what makes us an effective board."

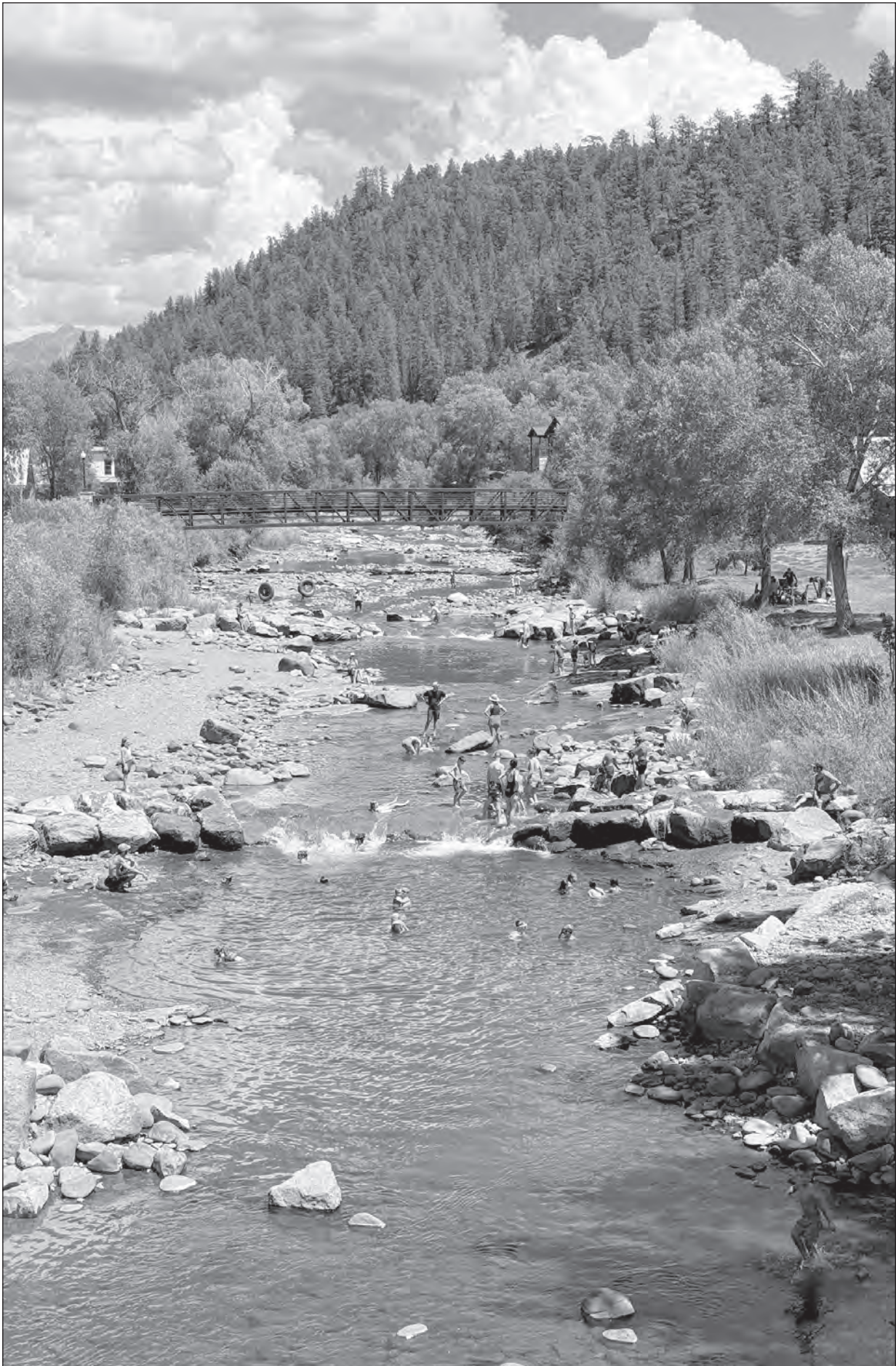
To strengthen downtown business representation, preference will be given to an applicant who owns, manages or works for a business in downtown Pagosa Springs. Other community members with a strong connection to downtown are also encouraged to apply. Previous board experience is not required.

This is a volunteer position, and members are appointed by the Pagosa Springs Town Council to two-year terms. The application includes additional information about meeting schedules, participation and board member expectations.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and selected applicants will be invited to interview. The application deadline is Aug. 16.

Learn more and apply at <https://forms.gle/LSCHS9JaGdGrYcTk9>.

For additional information, contact McFadden at (970) 264-3023 or Kat@PagosaSpringsCDC.org.



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Visitors and locals recreate in the low waters of the San Juan River on Tuesday, July 28. Tobi Rowher, owner of downtown river recreation shop Pagosa Outside, indicated that many of the customers visiting his shop have shifted from recreating in the river to seeking out reservoirs like Williams Reservoir or Navajo Reservoir. He added that his business is down overall, which he attributed to a combination of drought, construction in downtown Pagosa and the overall economic conditions. Jennifer Green, executive director for Visit Pagosa Springs, states in a communication to The SUN that she has also observed the low river levels causing shifts in the recreation activities visitors pursue, including reducing the popularity of waterfall hikes. She adds that the risk of wildfires is also impacting where people choose to visit. Out-of-market visitation data from Placer, which counts visitors that live at least 50 miles away and spent at least 150 minutes in the county, shows that visitation was down 11 percent in June, according to Green. She states that visitation in La Plata County; Chaffee County, which contains Salida and Buena Vista; Garfield County, which contains Glenwood Springs; and Routt County, which contains Steamboat Springs, was also down in June compared to last year. Visitation in Ouray County was up slightly, she adds. Placer data for July is not yet available, Green notes.



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We look forward to seeing you at our next Bioblitz!

Commissioners hear facilities feasibility study update

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, July 28, the board heard an update on the county's facilities feasibility study conducted by Performance Services.

In January, the BoCC approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Performance Services for a facilities feasibility study to be performed at no cost to the county.

For more information on that MOU, see the article "BoCC approves moving forward with facilities feasibility study" in the Jan. 22 issue of The SUN or online at www.PagosaSUN.com.

During the July 28 work session, Performance Service Business Development Manager Kate Sawyer and Project Development Leader Tim Weber presented their preliminary report, explaining that a final report will also be delivered, which the county could then make available to the public.

Sawyer also mentioned that they wanted to talk about funding and budget considerations.

"I think that's really the crux of what you guys needed from us," she said.

Sawyer also mentioned that her company does this work "at risk."

"We believe that public entities should have access, especially rural communities, to just as good of reporting and facilities ... and all of those things that you get in bigger cities," Sawyer said.

She then explained that her team took all of the spaces the county is currently using into consideration, along with research with different state entities such as the state demographer, "just to support you all in projections for what this project will look like."

Sawyer noted that her company uses a 20-year time frame as a guidepost for their work, explaining that 20 years is the standard for the "banking and the loan side of it."

"So, ultimately what we're trying to do is help put yourselves in a better position to get that funding locked in with no questions at the end," she added.

While commenting on the need for a plan to move forward with facility projects, Sawyer mentioned the focus "really was that piece of land on Cornerstone [Drive], by the Walmart"

In March 2025, the BoCC unanimously approved a property purchase agreement for an approximately 5.5 acre piece of land located at 2901 Cornerstone Drive for the purpose of constructing a new county administration building.

"But, obviously, that is just one solution for you guys," Sawyer added.

She noted that other options could be considered, as well.

"We'll continue to support you," she said.

Commissioner John Ranson asked if the county were to pursue a renovation option, if Performance Services would still be able to assist the county.

"Absolutely," Sawyer said, noting that ground-up new construction in Colorado right now is "almost an apples to apples comparison" to renovation projects.

Sawyer also mentioned that there are a number of unknowns when dealing with renovation projects.

"We love a ground-up, from a design-build perspective, because it really ... lowers the risk, if you will," she said.

Weber explained that "we're really early in the process," noting that the goal is to reduce "risk" as the project moves forward.

He also commented on the county's demographics, stating, "Archuleta County has obviously been experiencing a lot of population growth since 2010; you're projected to increase another 45 percent over the next 20 years."

He added, "So, there's definitely a need there."

He noted the county's existing facilities are undersized for that future growth.

"You're also decentralized at the moment," Weber said, noting some of the facilities are pretty far apart.

Weber also noted that safety and security are top concerns when looking at newer facilities, recalling the arson incident in 2025 at 449 San Juan Street.

Weber indicated that space wise, the county does need a little bit more space than it currently has, but, by consolidating offices, "we can be a little more efficient."

According to Weber's and Sawyer's presentation, the county currently has 18,897 square feet, but needs roughly 1,830 square feet of additional space projected over 20 years.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked how a potential 45 percent population growth would translate to staff increases.

Weber explained that each department is affected a little bit differently, noting that the development department is usually one that would need an increase in staffing.

Weber also spoke about nearby similar projects, specifically noting an administration building project in Garfield County.

"Scope wise, it's pretty consistent," he said.

According to the presentation, the project in Garfield County came in at roughly \$505 per square foot.

For reference, the presentation also notes the Archuleta County transportation building project came in at about \$802 per square foot, as did the justice center project.

Weber noted that the Garfield County project came in at a lower cost due to the site already being established, whereas Archuleta County's project would involve developing a new site.

He also explained the important consideration of the projects being done at different times, mentioning how construction never gets cheaper.

When talking about estimated budgets, Weber stated, "As a design builder, we like targets to hit because that is where we are most efficient and most helpful to you."

"A lot of times when we partner with counties and municipalities, we don't really know what that target is. So, that's the point of this conversation now, is to ... figure out what we know and what we don't know."

According to the presentation, the estimated budget takes into account a project size of 21,000 square feet at a cost of \$12.5 million to \$14.4 million, or \$595 to \$685 per square foot.

"Now, that cost range is based on a light, middle-of-the-road light commercial building," he said.

Weber added that there are a lot of unknowns at this time, and due to that the assumed cost of the project is at \$16 million to \$17 million, or roughly \$800 per square foot.

"The other major factor is time," he added.

Weber noted that the final unknown is the desired aesthetic of the building.

In response to a question from Ranson, Weber described these figures as "all inclusive," in that the numbers do include preliminary design and engineering costs.

In response to a question from Commissioner Veronica Medina, Weber indicated that the estimated budget numbers take things like building codes and fire-wise measures into consideration.

Sawyer also explained that her company would be able to assist in finding any state or federal grant opportunities to help with the project.

Sawyer then talked about next steps for the project, indicating that the BoCC will need to start discussing how the project will be funded.

"This will be a collaborative effort," Sawyer said, explaining that their grant writing and design team would provide necessary information to the

county to get funding.

She also explained that if it is determined that the estimated budget for the project at Cornerstone Drive is unreasonable, "we are still here."

"Our agreement with you is to deliver this report, but the relationship will continue on as long as you need our support," Sawyer said.

Sawyer commented that determining a timeline for the project will also heavily affect the project's budget.

She noted that "we may have skipped a step," suggesting the BoCC may decide to go with a different site for the project.

"That's a lot of good information," Ranson said, noting there have been discussions about the county possibly staying where it currently has facilities.

In response to a question from Ranson about other communities with decentralized facilities, Weber responded, "You are not alone ... we have run into this many times."

Commissioner Warren Brown expressed gratitude for the work done by Performance Services.

"I also appreciate your willingness to change direction if the [BoCC] decides to go with a current building that's there," he added.

Brown also expressed that his preference is to "do it once and do it right," noting that doing a new building may not be feasible.

"But, whatever it is, we do need to do something different than what we're doing," he said, explaining he feels the county is starting to spend bigger chunks of money quicker.

Medina noted that this was a request from the community for the county to figure out what this project would cost.

"We're not talking about a Taj Mahal. We are talking about a civic building to put all of the departments in one space so it's convenient for the public," she said.

Sawyer noted that the Cornerstone property is favorable due to flexibility that space provides, and the room for expansion in the future.

"It gives you a ton of flexibility," she said.

Sawyer indicated that a final report would be updated and sent out to the commissioners.

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Fiber cut leads to telecommunications outages

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The area experienced another telecommunications outage on Thursday, July 23, with the effects of a fiber cut in La Plata County stretching from Bayfield to the Pagosa Springs area.

During the outage, Archuleta County Broadband Services Management Office Technical Manager Eric Hittle indicated the outages occurred at about 10:30 a.m. on July 23 and were determined to be caused by a cut to a Lumen-owned line that stemmed from a mislocate on the line for the placement of a new electric pole.

According to the office, this fiber link handles most of the broadband services in Archuleta County, as well as cellular tower backhaul services.

Services were restored at about 8 p.m. that evening.

According to Hittle, Bayfield was partially affected, mostly its DSL and

some cell towers, while pretty much all of Archuleta County's and Pagosa Springs' services were affected.

"This included full internet outage of Lumen DSL, Zito Internet and phones, Lumen land line communications (outside of 911), Archuleta County Dispatch 911 services, all cellular towers for every cellular carrier," Hittle wrote in an email to The SUN. "Visionary was degraded, but still somewhat functional, since they have their microwave own backhaul, but it becomes instantly overloaded when it's exclusively used."

He adds, "Cleartworx in Bayfield and Pagosa was not affected by this outage as one of their Lumen circuits terminates at Bayfield, and then connects to their own separate fiber to Durango, so was unaffected by the cut that occurred beyond Bayfield, even though their other circuit was affected."

Hittle indicates Cleartworx not

being affected is an indication of the impact the area's redundant loop will have on services.

"This demonstrates the lessened impact of a cut once the new fiber line is ready for use later this year," he states. "Most of the ISPs will likely add that new link to their uplink paths so they can automatically route to one or the other, so as long as both fibers aren't cut at the same time (which is extremely unlikely) most people won't even notice. Both uplinks will have adequate capacity to handle all current and future traffic for quite some time. Hopefully cellular services will also take advantage of the new alternative backhaul."

During the outage, Hittle estimated that by September the rest of the redundant loop should be fully connected in the Durango area and the equipment to operate it should be installed.

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Tourism industry contributed \$29.2 billion to Colorado economy in 2025

State of Colorado

On Tuesday, July 28, Governor Polis and the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO), a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), announced that tourism contributed a record \$29.2 billion to the Colorado economy in 2025, despite ongoing headwinds.

Annual research compiled by Dean Runyan Associates and Longwoods International Travel USA shows that tourism continues to be an important economic driver across Colorado.

However, indicators from 2025 and early 2026 continue to suggest that increasing competition, uncertainty related to federal policy changes and weather-related challenges are contributing to slower growth of Colorado's tourism industry.

"Colorado is the best place to live, work, play and visit. Welcoming over 96 million visitors in 2025, Colorado's thriving tourism industry supports our local economies, fosters adventures, and provides every Coloradan and visitors to experience all that our great state has to offer. With our world-class outdoor recreation, our breathtaking landscapes, and exciting cities and towns, its no surprise Colorado was a destination for almost 100 million people last year,"

said Polis.

According to Dean Runyan Associates, the record \$29.2 billion in traveler spending represents a modest 2 percent increase over \$28.5 billion in 2024. Tourism also directly supported 187,860 jobs across the state that are dedicated to serving visitors. While this represents a decline of 0.6 percent, worker earnings rose 1.6 percent to \$10.5 billion.

Travel generated \$1.91 billion in state and local tax revenue, an increase of 1.9 percent over 2024. Additionally, according to Longwoods International Travel USA, visitation to Colorado increased by 1.4 percent, from 95.4 million visitors in 2024 to 96.8 million visitors in 2025.

"With over 96 million visitors, Colorado's tourism industry proved its resilience in 2025. These numbers demonstrate that Colorado remains a premier destination for travelers, and our focus remains on innovative strategies that enhance our unique visitor experience while ensuring this vital industry continues to drive economic mobility for residents across the state," said Eve Lieberman, executive director of OEDIT.

Competition for travelers and the associated traveler spending is increasing across the U.S. Colorado's 2 percent growth in visitor spending is consistent with peer states like California, which saw an increase

of 1.7 percent. However, U.S. travel spending grew by 4.2 percent in 2025, more than double Colorado's growth. Colorado's market share has also continued to decrease, dropping from a high of 2.3 percent in 2019 to 1.79 percent in 2025.

In addition to increasing competition, 2026 numbers indicate that communities across the state are seeing fluctuations in visitation related to weather-related challenges, including lower-than-average snowfall and the proximity of wildfires. Some communities, including mountain resort destinations, have experienced seasonal declines in visitation as high as nearly 40 percent due to these conditions.

"Colorado's tourism industry continues to be a powerful economic driver, contributing a record \$29.2 billion to our state's economy in 2025," said Timothy Wolfe, director of the CTO. "While the statewide numbers are encouraging, we also recognize that destinations across Colorado are experiencing different challenges — from increased competition to weather-related impacts. We remain committed to working alongside our partners to help communities adapt while continuing to inspire the world to explore Colorado responsibly and respectfully."

Other notable results from the Longwoods International and Dean

Runyan Associates studies included:

- Further analysis of the 2 percent increase in visitor spending shows that after accounting for inflation real growth increased approximately 1.7 percent. This indicates travelers purchased more goods and services and did not just pay higher prices.

- In 2025, every \$1 million in travel-related spending resulted in six jobs for the industry.

- The top travel markets for Colorado included Colorado, California, Texas, New York and Florida.

- Denver and the surrounding metropolitan area remained Colorado's largest travel economy at about \$14.2 billion, nearly half (48.5 percent) of all travel spending in the state.

- For 2025 overnight visitors, the average length of stay was 3.3 nights.

- The top activities and experiences for overnight visitors were outdoor and entertainment activities, followed by cultural and sporting activities.

- 22 percent of travel parties had a member that required accessibility services, notably above the U.S. norm of 17 percent.

To view the full reports for The Economic Impact of Travel in Colorado 2025 and Colorado 2025 Visitor Research, visit <https://oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-research>.

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HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Local people • Local reporting The Pagosa Springs SUN

Public Notices

Colorado Department of Revenue

The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Motor Vehicle Investigation Unit (MVIU) is alerting the public to a rise in the use of counterfeit identification.

Use of "gray market" papers to title or register a vehicle often results in felony forgery charges, permanent criminal records and potential impoundment of the vehicle.

MVIU investigators, who are specially trained in forensic document authentication, have seen an increase in fraudulent Colorado IDs, driver's licenses and proof-of-address documents.

"The use of counterfeit documents is a serious crime with life-altering consequences," MVIU Investigations

Chief Dana Chavez said. "What may seem like a shortcut to bypass a requirement can quickly escalate into a felony conviction."

Using forged documents creates a domino effect of legal and financial ruin. Beyond criminal prosecution, owners of vehicles with fraudulent paperwork could face:

- Loss of resale value: Legally selling or trading the vehicle becomes nearly impossible.

- Insurance claim denials: Insurance companies frequently refuse to pay out claims following an accident if the vehicle's documentation is found to be fraudulent.

- Potential vehicle impoundment: Law enforcement may impound vehicles connected to document fraud.

To help residents avoid unneces-

sary risks, the Colorado DMV provides safe, legal and streamlined pathways to acquire the identification required for vehicle registration.

These accessible systems ensure that obtaining legitimate identification and vehicle titles is secure and straightforward for all Coloradans.



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Demand has been filled with the Piedra Falls Ditch Company in accordance with CRS sections 7-42-114 to 7-42-117, to issue a replacement for a lost Certificate of Shares previously issued to Bob Gourelly. Piedra Falls Ditch Company will issue on or after September 1st, 2026, following the last publication of the notice by at least 30 days, a duplicate certificate to the registered owner, the registered owner's legal representative or assignee, or any lienholder named in the books of the corporation as a lienholder on the last certificate unless a contrary claim is filed with the corporation prior to September 1, 2026. Point of contact is Vallissatte Chavez 970-585-7553.

Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311624)

DISTRICT COURT,
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: (970) 264-8160

Plaintiff:
AVALON REAL ESTATE PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC v.

Defendants:
CHANNING M. WELLS; and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.

Case Number: 2026CV30034
Submitting Attorney:
Duke Eggleston, #24965
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 759-5380
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF AVALON REAL ESTATE PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS:
ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows: Lot 47, Pagosa Meadows Unit Four, according to the plat thereof filed June 4, 1973 as Reception No. 77867, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado, a/k/a Pagosa Meadows 4, Lot 47 PM 4 Sec. 33 Twn. 35 Rng 2W.

Respectfully Submitting this 20th day of July, 2026. Published in The Pagosa Sun
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
/s/ Duke Eggleston
Duke Eggleston, #24965
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 759-5380
Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311622)

FOR A PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON August 13, 2026 AND PRIOR TO FINAL ACTION, A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 18, 2026

An administrative REZONING of RURAL Section: 9 Township: 35 Range: 2W (3) Parcels 569909100037 (±50 ac), 569909100036 (±40 ac), 569909300161 (±29 ac) along Cloman Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO. The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR) with a proposed change to INDUSTRIAL (I).

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearings. The Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting will be held on August 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. and the Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held on August 18, 2026, at 1:30p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, 1:30pm Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published July 23 and 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (310788)

FOR A PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON August 13, 2026 AND PRIOR TO FINAL ACTION, A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 18, 2026

A MINOR SUBDIVISION of RURAL Section: 9 Township: 35 Range: 2W (3) Parcels 569909100037 (±50 ac), 569909100036 (±40 ac), 569909300161 (±29 ac) along Cloman Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO. The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR) with 50 +/- acres proposed to become one lot containing 46 acres and one lot containing 4 acres.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearings. The Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting will be held on August 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. and the Board of County Commissioners meeting will be held on August 18, 2026, at 1:30p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, 1:30pm Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published July 23 and 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (310789)

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT HEARING ON August 18, 2026

BRIAN WATTIER, representing 84 Ranch, has applied for a VARIANCE REQUEST for his WILDERNESS LODGING, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the Parcel of SEC 9, TWN 34, RNG 1W, at 6252A US Hwy 84 Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN- BCUP-24-189). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to

Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.org prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on August 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published July 23 and 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (310786)

FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER HEARING ON AUGUST 18TH, 2026

Applicant has applied for LPEA TRANSMISSION LINES, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, FINAL REVIEW, RURAL Sec: 26 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W 35-2W SEC 26 SE4SW4NE4; NE4NW4SE4; 26-35-2W. (PLN-26-028). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on \$XJXVW8, 2026, at 1:30pm in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published July 23 and 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (310787)

FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON AUGUST 13TH, 2026

Applicant has applied for LPEA TRANSMISSION LINES, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, FINAL REVIEW, RURAL Sec: 26 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W 35-2W SEC 26 SE4SW4NE4; NE4NW4SE4; 26-35-2W. (PLN-26-028). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on August 13, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published July 23 and July 30, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (310791)

Notice of Annual Meeting 2026
The annual meeting and election of Directors for Western Heritage Event Center, Inc. (WHEC), also the organizer and sponsor of the annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at the WHEC grounds, in the 4-H Hall, 344 Hwy 84, Pagosa Springs, CO.

Only registered members of record as of June 13, 2026 will be entitled to vote. Proxy votes must be in writing designating the person who is to cast the vote (who must also be a registered member of the corporation) and have the signature of member and date.

Proxies must be presented at the beginning of the annual meeting at registration. The maximum number of proxies any individual can represent is five. Current board members are: Diana Talbot, President; Bob Kavli, Vice President; Katelyn Bailey, Secretary; Penne DeClark, Treasurer; and Directors Keith Jacobson, Wes Lewis, Ryan Montroy, Twyne Regester, Lisa Scott, Rochelle Shahan.

Published in The Pagosa Springs SUN
Public Notices:
July 30, 2026
August 6, 2026
Published July 30 and August 6, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311621)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of ELIZABETH ALICE INGALLS, Deceased
Archuleta County Case Number 2026 PR 30025
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to:

- The personal representative identified below, or
- To the District Court of Archuleta County (contact information above).

ON OR BEFORE November 30, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred;
Personal Representative: Margaret Anne Beach
937 San Juan Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published July 30, August 6 and 13, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311606)

Request for Quote: Dairy
The Archuleta School District #50 JT is accepting quotes for a single company to provide district-wide dairy milk products for the school year 2026-27 that meet the Federal and State nutritional requirements.

Quotes will be accepted until 2:00 pm, Friday August 7, 2026, at the Archuleta School District #50 JT Administration Building, P.O. Box 1498, 309 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 with a copy also being emailed by that date and time to tstevens@pagosa.k12.co.us.

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The Archuleta School District #50 JT is accepting

Outdoors

CRIA Lecture Series to feature Jon Ghahate speaking on ‘The Pueblo Revolt: America’s First Revolution’

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) invites the public to an engaging and thought-provoking evening with presenter Jon Ghahate on Tuesday, Aug. 11, as he explores one of the most significant — and often overlooked — events in North American history: “The Pueblo Revolt: America’s First Revolution.”

The lecture will take place in the Community Methodist Church fellowship hall located at 434 Lewis St. The doors will open at 5:45 p.m. The lecture will begin at 6 p.m.

This compelling presentation examines the historic 1680 Pueblo Revolt, an organized uprising that occurred nearly a century before the American Revolution. In a re-

markable demonstration of unity and determination, Pueblo communities joined together to reclaim their autonomy and drive Spanish colonial forces from their ancestral homelands.

Ghahate will discuss how the revolt represented a powerful assertion of sovereignty and self-determination in response to the Spanish encomienda system and religious oppression. Although the conflict lasted less than a month, its lasting impact shaped Pueblo history by strengthening cultural identity, preserving language and traditions, and reinforcing the resilience of Pueblo people for generations to come.

Attendees will gain valuable historical insight while exploring a broader understanding of revolu-

tion, resistance and independence in North America through the enduring legacy of Pueblo communities.

The lecture is part of CRIA’s educational lecture series, which brings leading scholars and cultural experts to the community to share the rich history, archaeology, astronomy and cultural significance of the Four Corners region.

This event is free and open to the public. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about the fascinating history etched into the stone landscapes of the Southwest. The lecture will be offered both in person and via Zoom.

Community members who wish to attend virtually may do so at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5210476574?omn=83592279580>.

The lecture is free to attend. Dona-

tions are accepted in lieu of an admission fee. Food items or monetary donations for the church’s food pantry are greatly appreciated.

CRIA’s free Lecture Series offers the opportunity each year for the public and CRIA volunteers to enjoy a speaker whose topic typically relates to southwest archaeology, archaeoastronomy and/or Chacoan culture.

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

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

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Ever-present garden myths and county fair time

By Heather Houk and Cindi Galabota
SUN Columnists

As I write this month’s column, I am feeling pretty spicy. Not sure if you all know this or not, but in my daily work, I get a lot of calls and emails and walk-in questions about everything under the sun related to gardening, trees, plant diseases, lawn care and more — pretty much any topic you can think of that involves things that photosynthesize or the soil beneath.

So, when I hear that some of my favorite local gardeners are sharing gardening info that I would classify as a gardening myth, I get spicy. And to add to that feeling of spice, I was in a monthly meeting with my fellow horticulture experts that are also hearing things that sound an awful lot like information that was garnered through AI. Oh, so spicy.

That led me to my topic for this month: garden myths. I am super happy to play devil’s advocate here, and if any of you disagree with me or have an alternative perspective, please don’t hesitate to send me an email (but I expect you to cite your work). That said, I am only using sources from credible, peer-reviewed papers. I have more than a few thoughts about AI, but that’s for another day, or perhaps over margaritas.

The first myth: In recent weeks, I have had a few folks share with me that they are removing all their wood mulch from their garden beds because it leaches nitrogen away from the plants.

Y’all are just lucky that I have a limit on how long these columns are allowed to be, because I have so much to say about this. First things first. Using wood mulch (or any organic matter) to cover the soil around trees, flowers, shrubs, etc. is one of the best ways to limit the desiccating effects of solar exposure.

We live in a part of the world that rarely ranges from 10-60 percent

humidity, even during the monsoon seasons, and even then, I have seen it pouring rain and it is registering in the 70 percent range. If we were in Western Oregon, Louisiana or Florida, or any number of other places around the country, you can be certain of a hot, wet, very humid lifestyle. Having lived in four southern states in my younger days, I can attest to feeling like I was in a swamp most of the time.

In addition to our low humidity, we are all basking in the fact that our region has an average of 300 sunny days per year. In contrast, some of the south and northeastern states or Pacific Northwest can have up to 220 cloudy days and 180 days of precipitation in a given year.

The reason these tidbits are important to understand when I talk about mulching plants and the potential for locking up nitrogen because of said wood chips in this example is largely due to our overall climate. For wood chips or any plant matter to breakdown in a significant way, you have to have the right conditions. That includes water and, outside of our irrigation, you know that we don’t have much to spare.

Wood mulch that is not from fresh green tree residue is basically just carbon. When added to the surface of soil around plants and trees (never too close to the base, please), and we irrigate our plants, the mulch will help hold that moisture in the soil longer, provide a cooler soil temperature, and prevent loss of soil on a windy day.

No, wood mulch is not perfect, and, yes, if wood chips are buried in the soil there will begin a microbial process in which nutrients, including nitrogen, are breeding grounds for life and for a short time, months to a couple years if minimal water is present, the nitrogen will become used by the organisms to digest and breakdown the wood material. Now, that does not mean the same thing for the mulch bits that are on the soil surface. The contact zone

where soil and mulch meet are going to produce 5 mm or less in nutrient disruption.

One of the most fascinating research efforts that I have seen recently comes in the form of inoculation of wood chip mulch with specific mycorrhizae (fungi) strains that increase the water-holding capacity of the mulch and stimulate surrounding soils. Again, this is scientifically researched and tested repeatedly through a local expert right here in Durango.

The second myth: This one usually brings a smile to my face, but I do hear it several times each year. If I have a lot of pine trees, will the soil be more acidic? Or, can I acidify my soil too much if I use pine needles for mulch around my plants?

The answer is a resounding no. Pine needles are not very acidic by themselves, and when you remember that we don’t get much precipitation in our region (average 18-21 inches/year) it can take decades or more to break those needles down into soil organic matter. Besides, the reason the East Coast has acidic soil has nothing to do with evergreen forests. Rather, that is a process of the water cycle (of which they have a lot of water), chemical leaching of hydrogen and aluminum, incredibly old granitic bedrock, with a lot of plant decomposition and other organic matter. That’s all I have on that for now.

Heather Houk is the La Plata County Extension horticultural and agricultural specialist.

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by Colorado State University (CSU) Extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

gram and to report annually to the Colorado General Assembly on program costs and resource needs.

Starting Aug. 1, individuals seeking to purchase or transfer a specified semiautomatic firearm (SSF) must apply to the county sheriff’s office for an eligibility card and then successfully complete an in-person firearms safety course within five years of the transaction.

CPW held 18 in-person engagement events around the state, as well

as three online meetings to explain the changes, answer questions and gather feedback for implementing the new legislation.

For help with questions on navigating the Firearms Safety System application, email dnr_cpw_firearmsafety@state.co.us or call the Firearms Safety Program at (303) 291-7143.

More information about the Firearms Safety Program is available on CPW’s website.



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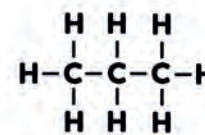
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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Duck Race and Picnic

11:30 a.m. • Aug. 8 • Yamaguchi Park



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Council

23rd annual Duck Race and Picnic slated for Aug. 8

By John DeMarco
Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Council

The ducks are ready to hit the water. The Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Council is having its 23rd annual Duck Race and Picnic at Yamaguchi Park on Aug. 8. Get ready to purchase some “ducks” for a chance to win the race and bring home some prize money. There are five opportunities to win, and all prizes are cash. First place prize is \$1,500, second place is \$750 and third place is \$500. There are also two randomly drawn ducks to win cash prizes of \$125 each. Tickets are only \$10. Buy some ducks and maybe you will win some bucks. The day will start in Yamaguchi Park at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8, with music by the Retro Cats; a food

court with burgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks; a beer garden; and games for both kids and adults. The ducks will hit the water and the race will begin at 3 p.m. You will not want to miss it, but you need not be present to win. Tickets are available at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church Office at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd; Silver Dollar Liquor; and at the park on Race Day. Come out for an exciting day of food, fun and fellowship, and get in on the action. Purchase tickets and your lucky duck just might add some extra cash to your wallet. All proceeds help the Knights of Columbus support the many nonprofits within our community, including the Aspen House, Aspire, Friends and Neighbors in Need, Habitat for Humanity, Rise Above Violence, and Vets for Vets.

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Max Miller, 6 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Variety Express, 8 p.m.
East Side Market: George Donsbach, 11 a.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: The Life Jackets, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: The Status Crowes, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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The PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) • ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

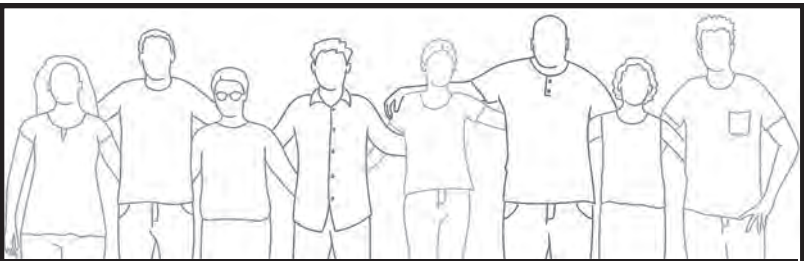


Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke
Publisher, Advertising, Circulation
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com
Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com
Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com
Classified Advertising/Front Office
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Matthew 14:16



23rd Annual Knights of Columbus Duck Race
Buy some ducks and win some bucks!

Aug. 8 • 11:30 a.m. • Yamaguchi Park
Food • Live Music • Games
DUCK RACE at 3 PM
One Lucky Duck is only \$10
1st place \$1500 • 2nd place \$750 • 3rd place \$500
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Tickets available at Pope JP II Church office, Silver Dollar Liquor Store & on race day at the picnic.
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'Into the vault: Preserving Pagosa Springs' past' set for Aug. 1

By Kathleen McFadden
Pagosa Springs Main Street

Pagosa Springs has never been just one story.

Its history reaches back long before the town was established, to the Indigenous peoples whose relationships with this land span generations. It includes the Ancestral Puebloan people connected to Chimney Rock, and the histories and living cultures of the Ute people, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Navajo Nation.

It is also a story of Hispanic settlement, exploration, homesteading, ranching, railroads, logging, mining, water, wildlife and generations of people who helped shape the community we know today.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, Pagosa Springs Main Street and the history museum invite the public to celebrate those stories during "Into the vault: Preserving Pagosa Springs' past" at the Pagosa Springs History Museum.

The free Colorado Day event will be held from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the museum, located at 96 Pagosa St.

The event marks an important milestone in the Pagosa Springs History Vault project, an initiative of the Main Street Heritage and Culture Committee in partnership with the Pagosa Springs History Museum.

Over the past several months, the committee and museum have assembled a collection of books, publications and family histories documenting Pagosa Springs and the surrounding region. The materials

will be placed inside a large fireproof vault, creating a protected historical collection for future generations.

The collection reveals the remarkable range of stories that make up the history of this area.

The collection includes archaeological studies and photographic interpretations of Chimney Rock,

histories of Indigenous peoples of the region and accounts of Hispanic settlement on the Ute frontier. Other books explore the complex encounters among Indigenous peoples, settlers, explorers, the military and the United States government.

The vault will also preserve stories

■ See Past on next page

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f Pagosa Springs Karaoke



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus Council
The ducks will hit the water at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8, for the 23rd annual duck race. The day’s picnic will kick off at 11:30 a.m.

Past

■ continued from previous page
of life on a Weminuche homestead, the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, ranching families in Archuleta and La Plata counties, sheepherders, trappers, mining camps, and communities throughout the San Juan Mountains.

There are books about the headwaters that flow from the San Juans, the wildlife that inhabits this landscape and even the enduring question of whether grizzly bears may still survive in Colorado.

Pagosa’s own history is strongly represented, as well. The collection includes “Pagosa Country: The First Fifty Years,” a brief history of Pagosa Springs, stories from the Blanco Basin and 13 volumes of “Remembrances” compiled by the San Juan Historical Society.

Those volumes preserve personal experiences, family histories and details of everyday life that may never appear in a traditional history book. Together, the collection shows that history is not found only in major events; it also lives in the memories, decisions, work and daily experiences of the people who shaped this place.

“The books, manuscripts and family stories that have been curated help us understand the story of our area,” said Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce, chair of the Main Street Heritage and Culture Committee. “It is imperative that we appreciate the history and culture that came before us, and work to preserve that.”

Some of the books are rare or out of print. Others may be readily available today, but could become difficult to locate or replace in the future. The history vault will provide a protected home for the collection while supporting the museum’s broader work of interpreting and sharing local history.

The goal is not simply to preserve books as objects. It is to preserve the knowledge they contain.

That knowledge can continue to inspire museum exhibits, research, oral histories, educational programs, articles and future community projects. Safeguarding the collection helps ensure that our stories can continue to be studied, interpreted and shared in new ways.

This work is also an important part of the mission of Pagosa Springs Main Street.

Main Street programs are often associated with downtown businesses, events and historic buildings. However, successful downtown revitalization also depends on understanding and protecting the identity of a place.

When people know the history behind a building, a street, a landscape or a long-standing tradition, those places become more meaningful. They are no longer simply part of the scenery. They become part of a shared community story.

The history vault is one of several projects being developed by the Pagosa Springs Main Street Heritage and Culture Committee as Colorado commemorates its 150th anniversary and the nation recognizes America’s 250th anniversary.

Through projects involving local publications, oral histories, historic sites and community storytelling, the committee is working to make Pagosa’s history more visible, engaging and accessible.

On Aug. 1, the community is invited to visit the museum, learn about the Pagosa Springs History Vault project and celebrate as this collection is closed in the vault for safekeeping.

It is an opportunity to recognize that local history matters and that preserving it is a responsibility shared by every generation.



75th Annual Archuleta County
Junior Livestock Sale

Saturday, August 1st
Livestock Auction

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Bank of Colorado	Jann C Pitcher Real Estate	Rodney Nelson
Base Camp Pagosa	Jet Transport	San Juan Veterinary Hospital
Basin Coop	Kelly Maestas — Edward Jones	Scott Strategic Investments
Bear Foot Garage Doors	Financial Advisor	Southwest Ag & 4 Corners
Bear Tooth Ranch	Kitzel and Derek Farrah	Trailers
Bryan Looper, Steward Right	Les Schwab Tire Center	Strohecker Asphalt
Financial	Lionheart Ranch	Terry & Ronnie Urbanczyk
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Authentic Solutions Consulting	Fitzgerald Ranch, LLC	RMC Trucking, LLC
Bank of Colorado	Flying B Ranch	Rolling Rock Enterprises
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Livestock Auction Information: We welcome old and new supporters of the Livestock Auction to support our 4-H kids and their hard work. To learn more about bidding or being an add-on buyer, call Becky Jacobson or Terry Schaaf at (970) 264-5931 or visit www.archuletacountyfair.com



2026 Archuleta County Fair Schedule

Fairgrounds on Highway 84 & 160

Early Fair Events — Open to the public

Saturday, July 25, 10 am	Horse Show	Rodeo Arena
Saturday, July 25, 1 pm	Quilt Judging	Stith Room
Sunday, July 26, 10 am	Gymkhana	Rodeo Arena

Fair Events — Thur., July 30-Sun., Aug. 2

Every Day of the Fair

9 am – 6 pm	Adventure Zone	Fairgrounds
9 am – 6 pm	Loco Toro Mechanical Bull	Fairgrounds
9 am – 8 pm	Education and Informational Displays	Fairgrounds
9 am – 8 pm	Vendors/Food and Merchandise Booths	Vendor Row
9 am – 8 pm	Open Class Entries and Displays	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room
9 am – 9 pm	4-H Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
10 am – 6 pm	Kids Game Open Play	Kids Game Tent
10 am – 8 pm	Various Entertainment and Shows	Activity Tent
11 am – Midnight	Beer Garden	Activity Tent
Evenings	Live Music	Activity Tent

Thursday, July 31st - Fair Officially Opens

9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Opens	Extension Building
9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Goat Show	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Fire Department Trailer Open	Fairgrounds
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	LPEA STEM Program	4-H Hall
1:00 pm	Chicken Show	Hughes Pavilion
1:30 pm	Kids Blow-Up Costume Race	Activity Tent
2:30 pm	Three-Legged Race	Activity Tent
3:00 pm	Public Health Presentation on Stage	Activity Tent
3:30 pm	Trivia Nail Driving Competition	Activity Tent
4:00 pm	OWLS Skills Presentation	Activity Tent
5:00 pm	75 Challenge	Activity Tent
6:00 pm	Swine Show	Hughes Pavilion
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Line Dance Lessons with Benellen	Activity Tent
6:00 pm	Cornhole Tournament	Activity Tent
8:00 pm	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Closes	Extension Building
11:00 pm	Fair Closes	Fairgrounds

Friday, July 31st

9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Opens	Extension Building
9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Lamb Show	Hughes Pavilion
1:00 pm	Pie Eating Contest	Activity Tent
1:30 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
1:45 pm	Kids Blow-Up Costume Race	Activity Tent
2:00 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Smokey the Bear	Education Tent
3:00 pm	75 Challenge	Activity Tent
3:00 pm	Fire Department Extinguisher Demos	Fairgrounds
3:15 pm	Trivia Nail Driving Competition	Activity Tent
3:30 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
4:00 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Horseshoe Pitch Practice	Horseshoe Pits
5:15 pm	Spanish Fiesta Dance Demonstration	Activity Tent
5:30 pm	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
5:45 pm – 6:45 pm	Line Dance Lessons with Beverly	Activity Tent
6:00 pm	Beef Show	Hughes Pavilion
7:00 pm	Open Rodeo	Rodeo Arena
	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Event	

8:00 pm
8:30 pm – 11:30 pm

Pink Pony Race
Exhibit Hall and Stith Room Close
Live Music/Dance – Tylor Brandon

Extension Hall
Activity Tent

Saturday, August 1st

8:30 am	Showmanship Clinic	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Open	Extension Building
9:00 am	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Horseshoe Pitching	Horseshoe Pitch
9:30 am	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Fire Department Trailer Open	Fairgrounds
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Step Back In Time	Old West Town
	Durango Wild West Entertainment	
10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Gomez Store — Historical Building Open	Old West Town
10:00 am	Fire Department Extinguisher Demo	Fairgrounds
10:00 am	Master Showmanship	Hughes Pavilion
10:15 am	Kids Blow-Up Costume Race	Activity Tent
10:30 am	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
11:00 am	Ranch Rodeo	Red Ryder Arena
11:30 am	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
11:45 am	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
12 noon	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Smokey the Bear	Education Tent
1:00 pm	Pie Eating Contest	Activity Tent
1:15 pm	75 Challenge	Activity Tent
1:30 pm	Trivia Nail Driving Contest	Activity Tent
1:45 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
2:00 pm	Battle of the Badges	Activity Tent
2:30 pm	Wildman Phil & his Exotic Animals	Activity Tent
3:00 pm	Fire Department Extinguisher Demo	Fairgrounds
3:00 pm	Homemaker of the Year Award	Extension Building
3:30 pm	Wild West Shoot Out	Old West Town
3:30 pm	BMX Show	Fairgrounds
4:00 pm-6:30 pm	Live Music – San Juan Mountain Boys	Activity Tent
4:30 pm-6:30 pm	Chuckwagon Dinner	Activity Tent
5:00 pm	Royalty Introductions and Crowning	
	Home Maker of the Year	
	Honorees	
	Conservationist of the Year	
5:30 pm	JR Livestock Auction/ Registration	Hughes Pavilion
6:30 pm	JR Livestock Auction	Hughes Pavilion
8:00 pm	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Close	Extension Building
8:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Live Music/Fair Dance – Bo DePena	Activity Tent

Sunday, August 2nd

8:00 am- 9:00 am	Kids' Rodeo Check-In	Red Ryder Rodeo Arena
9:00 am	Parent Master Showmanship	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am	Exhibit Hall & Stith Room Open	Extension Building
9:00 am-2:00 pm	Livestock Viewing	Hughes Pavilion
9:00 am-11:00 am	Pancake Breakfast	Activity Tent
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Live Music — Tim Sullivan	Activity Tent
10:00 am	Kids' Rodeo	Rodeo Arena
12:30 pm	Medieval Armored Combat	Fairgrounds
2:00 pm	Livestock Animals Released	Hughes Pavilion
	See 4-H Office for Schedule	
2:00 pm	Fair Closes until next year	Fairgrounds
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of Open Class Projects/Premiums Paid	Exhibit Building
2:00 pm-4:00 pm	Release of 4-H Projects	Stith Room

Subject to change.

Public Health Department to provide cool, comfortable place for families at Archuleta County Fair

By Ashley Wilson
Archuleta County Public Health Department

The Archuleta County Fair is filled with animals, exhibits, food, music and plenty of reasons for families to spend the day at the fairgrounds. This year, the Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is adding something especially helpful for some of the fair’s youngest visitors, and their mothers.

For the first time, breastfeeding mothers will have access to a private, temperature-controlled space where they can comfortably feed their babies during the fair.

The new breastfeeding room will be available throughout the Archuleta County Fair, taking place Thursday, July 30, through Sunday, Aug. 2.

August days at the fairgrounds can get hot, busy and noisy. While mothers have the right to breastfeed wherever they feel comfortable, sometimes a quiet, cool and secluded space can make feeding a baby much easier. The new room will offer mothers and babies a break from the heat and activity of the fair while providing privacy for those who prefer it.

The equipment used to create the breastfeeding room was purchased through grant funding and will not be limited to the county fair. ACPHD plans to offer the portable space at several community events throughout Archuleta County in the coming months.

This new resource is also an extension of the support already available through the department’s Women, Infants and Children program, better known as WIC.

Many people recognize WIC as a food assistance program, but its services go well beyond helping families purchase nutritious foods. WIC also provides nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and support, breast pumps when appropriate, and connections to other health and community resources.

ACPHD staff members who support the WIC program have received specialized breastfeeding education and can help new mothers with questions and concerns. Breastfeeding can be a wonderful experience, but it does not always feel simple — especially at first. Questions about feeding positions, milk supply, pumping, returning to work or helping a baby latch are all common. Having someone available to listen, offer information and help a

mother find the right support can make an enormous difference.

Breastfeeding provides fascinating benefits for both babies and mothers. Breast milk changes as a baby grows, helping meet the baby’s changing nutritional needs. It also contains antibodies that help babies build their immune systems and protect against illness.

Babies who are breastfed have lower risks of several health concerns, including ear infections, stomach illnesses, asthma and sudden infant death syndrome. Breastfeeding may also reduce a mother’s risk of breast and ovarian cancer, Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure.

Every family and every baby is different, and feeding decisions are personal. The goal of WIC is not to judge parents or tell them that there is only one acceptable way to feed their children. Rather, its purpose is to provide families with reliable information, practical resources and respectful support as they make the decisions that are best for them.

WIC serves pregnant women, mothers who recently had a baby, breastfeeding mothers, infants and children younger than 5 who meet program guidelines. Fathers, grandparents, foster parents and other caregivers may also apply for WIC benefits on behalf of an eligible child.

Community members are encouraged to stop by the ACPHD booth during the fair. Staff members will be available to say hello, answer questions and share information about WIC and the department’s many other services.

Those services include community health programs, support for residents who are uninsured or underinsured, health insurance navigation, tobacco cessation resources, food-safety services and public-health emergency preparedness. The department also has an on-site clinic offering various testing services, a women’s wellness program, and is open to the public Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Whether or not you currently need one of these programs, come meet the people providing them. They would be happy to meet you. Learning what is available now can help you, a family member, a neighbor or a friend later.

August is also national breastfeeding month, so the fair and our debut

of our breastfeeding tent will kick off the month and bring awareness and support around breastfeeding.

For the mothers bringing little ones to the fair, look for the new breastfeeding room near the ACPHD booth. Step inside, cool off and take the time you and your baby need. We are excited to bring this new resource to the fair — and to more Archuleta County events in the future.

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LPEA and 4CORE to host rebate and energy-saving office hours in Pagosa Springs

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and the Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE) are partnering to help community members learn about energy-saving opportunities, electrification projects and available rebates during free monthly Office Hours: Rebate and Energy Help Sessions.

The next drop-in event will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the LPEA Pagosa Springs Office at 603 S. 8th St.

Community members interested in improving energy efficiency, planning electrification projects or exploring ways to lower energy costs are encouraged to attend.

Energy experts from LPEA and

4CORE will be available to answer questions and provide personalized, one-on-one guidance on available rebate programs and energy-saving options.

Whether attendees are considering home upgrades, electric appliances, heating and cooling improvements, or simply want to better understand which rebates may apply to their project, experts will be on hand to help.

The event is free and open to the public, and no registration is required. Participants may drop in at any time during the session.

Office Hours are hosted monthly at various locations around the service territory, so keep any eye out on LPEA's website at lpea.coop/events/calendar.

Pagosa Panhellenic gathering to be held Aug. 11

By Lisa Scott

Special to The PREVIEW

The National Panhellenic Conference has 26 sorority groups as member organizations.

In 2006, the initial Pagosa Springs luncheon was held to celebrate and share in our collegiate sorority roots. The luncheon continued for 11 years and disbanded without volunteers to organize another event.

With Sherry Spears at the lead, the event has been reorganized. A gathering of sisters is planned for Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Alley House Grille. The event will feature hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. A \$10 donation at the event is requested to assist in covering the cost

of the appetizer and beverage service.

We look forward to welcoming the traditional attendees, as well as new faces, to this special event, so please help by spreading the word and finding the sorority sisters in your neighborhoods and friend circles.

The planning committee consists of Spears, Delta Delta Delta; Joni Rose, Kelly Maestas and Lisa Scott, Pi Beta Phi.

For planning and food preparation, please let us know you are attending or if you'd like to be on our contact list: Call or text Spears at (940) 887-9208 or sherrykayspears@sbcglobal.net.

This special event is greatly enjoyed by all and previous events attracted 20-30 collegiate sorority women. Join us.

WE'RE OPEN!

This mercantile store was originally opened in 1912 in the railroad town of Pagosa Junction.

It was relocated to the fairgrounds to preserve this unique piece of Archuleta County history.

Our family is opening the doors. We hope you'll stop by.



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Photo courtesy Guiseppe Margiotta

On July 24 and 25, a group of members from the Pagosa Springs Knights of Columbus worked on two Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County houses in the Chris Mountain area.

San Juan Stargazers to meet Aug. 6

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The next educational meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be on Thursday, Aug. 6, starting at 6 p.m. with our social hour and snacks. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

We meet at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. Use the side door off the parking lot into the kitchen and then into the fellowship hall. Just come in and take a seat. The main doors to the church remain locked.

The educational part of our meeting beginning at 7 p.m. lasts about 1.5 hours.

A suggestion made at our last meeting is to have shorter learning segments. And each month we will have a member present a lesson on a cellphone app that they use to study the night sky. We will get everyone on the app before they leave, so bring your phone and leave with a treasure.

We have used our wonderful calendars that we sell every year to make a learning tool. We call it our Astronomy 101. We will have a short lesson using the calendar photos. Then we will have our James Webb lesson. This month we will study the Pillars of Creation, which started with the Hubble Telescope. It is amazing to compare the differences between the photos taken by the two telescopes.

The Pillars is probably the most famous astronomy photo and is considered by Time Magazine to be among the 100 most famous photos of all time. You will enjoy learning interesting details about this fascinating site.

We end our meeting with time for discussion. It is said that when alien life is found it will change the world. These discussions help prepare us for such an experience, and it is an exciting way to end our program.

We also will be starting a recording method for everyone to keep track of the lessons they have experienced.

Star party planned for Aug. 12

We will try again on Aug. 12 to have a star party near Hatcher Lake. Drive North on Piedra Road 4.7 miles from U.S. 160. If you can see Hatcher Lake to your left you have gone too far, but you are very close. Try to watch your odometer because 4.7 miles is close to the road that goes left off Piedra. There is also a sign that says La Ventana.

If you can get there during daylight (it is a beautiful place to be) you will see a parking lot on a small road to the left off Piedra with a wooden lavatory and a big fishing pier. The road makes a big loop through the trees just south of the Hatcher dam.

For a star party we set up telescopes in the parking lot and then park on the road, which is on a hill, so we get no lights from cars on Piedra. Good luck finding it. It should be worth the effort. Coming at dusk is best.

Join the Stargazers

If you want to join the San Juan Stargazers you can do it at this meeting or you can check out our website, sanjuanstargazers.org, where we have information about astronomy, ■ See Stargazers on next page

PSMC General Surgery Community Presentation

Please join our PSMC Director of Surgical Services, Ashley Bridges, and new General Surgeon, Dr. Kate Gazenko, for a community meet and greet.



Kate Gazenko, MD

Meet & Greet

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Membership open for 100+ Women Who Care group

By Marcy Mitchell
Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

Make a meaningful impact on the nonprofits in Pagosa Springs by joining Pagosa Springs' 100+ Women Who Care group.

While building community with other women, your \$100 donation grants you membership for the year and potentially helps your favorite nonprofit earn thousands.

Members may nominate one nonprofit and vote at the giving event at Coyote Moon on Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you cannot attend, your \$100 donation will still go toward the award. Only in-person votes will count.

The top three nonprofits who receive the most nominations will be invited to give a pitch about their organization at the event on Oct. 30.

You must be a registered member to nominate and vote for nonprofits, but if you would simply like to donate to the cause, that is wonderful. The

link to register and donate is https://cfssc.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=3508.

Only one nomination and one vote per member will be accepted.

To be eligible, the nonprofit you nominate must be:

- A registered 501(c)(3) or fiscal project of a 501(c)(3).
- Operating in Archuleta County.
- Willing to participate in the funding event by providing a 10-minute pitch and five-minute Q-and-A.

First place will receive 70 percent of the pot and second and third place will receive 10 percent of the pot each. The Archuleta County Fund will receive 10 percent of the pot.

A link to the nomination form will be in the donation receipt, and the Community Foundation will email the nomination link in all member communications. You only need to submit your nomination once.

Because of our corporate sponsor, 100 percent of your donation goes to nonprofits serving Archuleta County.

For more information, visit

<https://swcommunityfoundation.org> or contact Rachel@swcommunityfoundation.org.



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Stargazers

■ continued from previous page
our local club and the Astronomical League, which is a large group of people from all over the U.S. that you automatically belong to when you join the Stargazers.

There are beautiful photos throughout the website.

We look forward to our meeting. Everyone is invited to come because

the James Webb Space Telescope was made for all people on Earth so we know what an exciting time we live in. You can come as a family, and I assure you it will increase your discussion time.

Come and get excited about life, James Webb discoveries and the entire amazing universe. We hope to see you there.



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Photo courtesy Donna Muir

Team Metamorphosis is ready to fly down the runway for its third year participating in the Runway for Rise fundraising event and helping survivors in our community. Pictured left to right are Meagan Zimpfer, Kim Buscaglia and Donna Muir.

Three decades of support: celebrating 30 years of Rise Above Violence

By Annie Gian
Rise Above Violence

This year marks 30 years of Rise Above Violence standing as a beacon of safety, hope and healing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in our community.

In a rural area like Archuleta County, isolation can be one of the greatest dangers facing victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. As the only victim advocacy and crisis support organization in Archuleta County and surrounding areas, Rise Above Violence fills a critical role

in helping to make sure no one has to navigate trauma alone. **Help at every stage of healing** Healing from interpersonal violence is rarely linear, and Rise Above **See Rise on next page**

Artist Reception



Peggy Judy

Oils

Thursday, August 6th
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Community United Methodist Church to begin new series: 'Direction: Following the Way'

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church will begin a new six-week sermon series this Sunday, Aug. 2, titled "Direction: Following the Way" — exploring what it means to walk faithfully when the road ahead is unclear.

The series, led by Pastor Ken Daniell, draws on the imagery of trails, wilderness and mountain journeys, natural language for a community surrounded by the San Juan Mountains, to ask the question at the heart of many people's lives: How do I take the next faithful step when I can't see the whole path?

"God rarely gives us the whole map," said Daniell. "But there is usually enough light for the next step. That's what this series is about, learning to trust the light you have rather than waiting for certainty you may never get."

The series will open Aug. 2 with a Communion Sunday exploring Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path," and continues through six weeks of sermons drawn from some of the most honest and searching passages in scripture: The Road to Emmaus. Elijah hiding in the wilderness. Joshua crossing the Jordan. Jesus saying I am the Way.

Along the way, the series will address real questions people carry, what to do when the trail disappears, how to choose a direction when every option feels uncertain, what courage actually looks like when you are not sure where you are going, and what it means to be fully present to the life and community right in front of you rather than always looking toward what comes next.

The series will run through Sept. 6, concluding on Labor Day weekend.

The Community United Methodist Church is a progressive, inclusive, and affirming congregation committed

to serving the Pagosa Springs community. All are welcome regardless of background, belief or history with church.

Services are held Sundays at 8:15 and 11 a.m. at 434 Lewis St. For more information, visit cumcps.org or call (970) 264-5508.

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Rise

■ continued from previous page

Violence designs its programs to meet survivors wherever they are on their healing journey.

Rise links survivors with essential, wrap-around resources including:

- Immediate safety planning and on-scene crisis response.
- Guidance through court systems and help filing protection orders.
- Counseling to help victims process trauma and rebuild emotional well-being.
- Emergency shelter, transitional support and housing assistance.

Educating youth to end the cycle

While supporting survivors in the present is vital, Rise recognizes that stopping domestic and sexual violence before it begins is key to creating lasting community change. Through its youth prevention education program, Rise equips local young people with the tools to build healthy relationships.

By teaching conflict resolution, boundary setting, and warning signs of teen dating violence, Rise actively fosters a culture of respect among Archuleta County youth aimed to dismantle cycles of violence for generations to come.

Supporting the mission: Runway for Rise

To keep these critical services free and accessible to every survivor in need, Rise relies heavily on community support and fundraising.

One of the biggest events of the year is Runway for Rise, which brings together local design teams, sponsors and community members for a high-energy fashion showcase featuring

creative, eco-conscious and thrifty couture.

This year's Runway for Rise will be held on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

As Rise steps into its next decade, community involvement is crucial, and you can help. One of the easiest ways to help is by attending the event and/or supporting participating teams. Teams are vying for community votes to help them win the coveted Prada Award. One vote equals \$1.

To help you know which teams are creating outfits for the Runway this year, we will be featuring one each week.

This week's featured team is Metamorphosis. Donna Muir, Kim Buscaglia and Meagan Zimpfer are no strangers to the runway as they return for their third season.

Team Metamorphosis says they "walk the Runway for Rise in honor of survivors and the incredible strength needed through every stage of life."

Rise is super excited to see what this team comes up with this year as they added, "Like a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, transformation is rarely easy, but it is beautiful. Together, we celebrate resilience, healing, hope, and the courage to rise above violence."

You can vote for Team Metamorphosis online between Aug. 10 and Oct. 3.

To learn more about Runway for Rise, supporting the event and teams, or to find out more about Rise Above Violence services, visit riseaboveviolence.org.

If you or someone you know needs support, Rise offers confidential help 24/7 at (970) 264-9075.

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PCI plans free Back-to-School Fair Aug. 22, seeks community donations to support students

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) is inviting families across Archuleta County to attend its free Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School commons.

The community event is designed to help students begin the school year prepared, confident and ready to succeed while also bringing neighbors together in support of local families.

The fair will provide free school supplies, complimentary haircuts from local volunteer stylists, hygiene products and additional support services for families.

Put on by the PCI Family Resource Center, organizers say the event is

intended to ease the financial strain that often comes with back-to-school shopping while creating a welcoming space where the community can connect and support one another.

Families attending the fair will also have the opportunity to meet local organizations offering information about education, health, youth programs and family services available throughout Archuleta County.

PCI states the goal is to connect families with helpful resources in one convenient location and make it easier for them to access the support they need.

“Our hope is that every family who attends leaves feeling supported and excited for the upcoming school year,” said PCI Family Services Director Steven Viola. “Going back to school should be an exciting time for children, and we want to help reduce

some of the stress families may experience by providing school essentials, free services and connections to valuable community resources.”

Planning for the fair is still underway, and additional activities, services and community partners are being added. PCI expressed gratitude for the support of local businesses, volunteers, organizations and community members helping make the event possible.

At the same time, PCI says school supply donations remain urgently needed. Community members are encouraged to donate items such as backpacks, notebooks, composition books, loose-leaf paper, pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers, crayons, highlighters, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, child-friendly scissors, rulers, index cards, folders, binders, sticky notes, calculators, pencil cases, lunch boxes, toiletries, disinfectant wipes and tissues.

Donations may be dropped off at the PCI office at 550B Hot Springs Blvd. Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. To make other arrangements for drop-off, call (970) 585-6461.

Families are encouraged to mark their calendars and join PCI on Aug. 22 for a day centered on student success, community support and a strong start to the school year.

For more information or to RSVP for specific services such as haircuts, contact Viola at (970) 585-6521 or familysupport@pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

Additional details on volunteer opportunities are available at www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

• Aug. 9, 11 a.m.: Annual Picnic Brunch Birthday Party at Xanadu. A potluck celebrating another year. For more information, contact (970) 510-0309.

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 become their “best self.” Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empower-

ment 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 pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.



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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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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hear sermon on ‘Radical Hospitality’

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship continues to explore acceptance as a theme this month, and hospitality seems a likely next step, but approaching it can bring its own challenges.

A tenant of many religious traditions, radical hospitality is a buzz phrase that has our attention in this ever-divided culture. How do we receive strangers, people who appear different from us in any way? This Sunday, Aug. 2, the fellowship’s morning service, beginning at 10:30 a.m., will explore this topic.

“Radical Hospitality” is the title of UU Rev. Marilyn Sewell’s sermon, who notes: “Robert Putnam, the Harvard political scientist who wrote ‘Bowling Alone,’ wanted to find out what happens when diverse groups of people live in the same area, as opposed to a homogeneous group of people living in an area. He found that when people are near people unlike themselves, they tend to ‘hunker down.’ Not only do they not interact as much with people who are different from themselves, but they don’t interact with their own group as much: they watch more TV, they have

fewer friends, they are less likely to work on community projects.”

So, what does this mean for us as a fellowship? We are committed to being a welcoming community. We say we believe in the “inherent worth and dignity of all.” Sewell writes, “And yet we are human beings, and we have the same challenges that all human beings have. We feel more comfortable when we’re with people we know.”

Come hear Sewell’s sermon, read by Joan Ward, service leader, and take part in the discussion as we deepen our understanding of living out the shared values centered in love.

We continue the month with the following:

- Aug 9: Going Deeper Sharing Circle, 10:30 a.m. This facilitated, small-group setting is where we invite sharing and deep listening practice.
- Aug 16: Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. “The Beauty of Diversity, Martine Colombey and Friends.” This service will focus on acceptance from the perspective of diversity and the beauty of it with all our relations.
- Aug 23: Action Sunday, 10:30 a.m. We take time to tap into our motto of “Make Friends, Grow Spirit, Do Good” to engage in actions to

learn and act for justice.

- Aug 30: Rest Sunday, a time for rest and renewal.

The PagosaUU.org website is a place you will find additional information about upcoming services and programs. We offer space for groups holding events at the UU Community Hub.

The Tara Pagosa Meditation Group is an ongoing group and continues to meet Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Zoom is available if you are unable to attend in person. Email Pagosa UU Fellowship to be added request to be added to the meditation email list. You will receive emails which include a short Dharma message, notifications about upcoming Dharma events or cancellations.

Qigong practice is held on Mondays at 1 p.m., and all are welcome for this gentle and grounding practice.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle meets the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

The fellowship is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We welcome all who are looking for a warm community of open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.



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Healthy Archuleta celebrates volunteers, announces opportunities

Healthy Archuleta

Laughter, warmth and the irresistible aroma of scrumptious food filled the room at our recent volunteer engagement event.

It was a heartening evening dedicated to honoring the incredible neighbors who give their time and energy to Pagosa Springs.

Between sharing delicious plates, attendees swapped meaningful stories of community service. The event was a vivid reminder of what makes our community so special—a shared commitment to taking care of one another.

Did you know that Pagosa Springs has numerous ways to get involved and give back? We often read about these needs in the paper, see them online or hear about them at local churches. If you’ve been looking for a way to roll up your sleeves, here are several wonderful opportunities to make a real difference right in our backyard.

Vista Lake Community Garden

Located near Vista Lake and the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association administrative office, this vibrant space features two distinct garden areas.

One garden is dedicated entirely to growing food for the charitable food system. The newer garden space includes a few beds dedicated to growing food for donation and a handful of young fruit trees needing tender love and care.

The Vista Lake Community Garden committee regularly seeks volunteers to work the soil. They also host free community events, including children’s outdoor activities and festive fall harvesting events.

Pagosa Springs Community Garden

Tucked peacefully along the San Juan Riverwalk, this charming garden provides free, seasonal raised beds for locals to grow vegetables, herbs, flowers and garlic.



The garden coordinator organizes watering, weeding, planting and harvesting schedules, along with hosting free community-wide gatherings.

Hydroponic growing

Hydroponic growing is increasing local access to fresh, practically year-round produce. Healthy Archuleta currently maintains several vertical growing towers dedicated to producing fresh lettuce, leafy greens, and herbs for the local charitable food system.

Under the guidance of Healthy Archuleta’s growing team member, volunteers assist with tower maintenance, planting, harvesting and cleaning.

The towers operate September through July, because greens do not like the heat. The towers take a break during the hottest part of the year.

Although we have just shut down the towers for this season, September will be here soon enough. Reach out to Healthy Archuleta if you are interested in this opportunity.

Family support

This summer and fall we have the opportunity to offer support to our families with young children. The Kids in the Mountain Education program (KIMGE) is a four-week hands-on garden education experience designed to learn, create, explore, eat and have fun in the garden.

Healthy Archuleta welcomes volunteers to join KIMGE to spend positive time outdoors learning practical skills and support neighbors with young families.

Health fair

Healthy Archuleta, along with our partners in the Rural Health Network, are thrilled to present the fourth annual Archuleta Health Fair and Expo.

The Health Fair, which will be held on Oct. 24 this year, brings together health care providers, local organizations, nonprofits, businesses and volunteers to help community members learn about and connect with services that support their health and

well-being.

In addition, the fair also offers low-cost labs, adult vaccinations, health care screening, primary care support and more.

Registration is now open. Reserve your spot early and watch for additional information about wellness labs and available screenings.

Become a vendor: organizations, health care providers, nonprofits, businesses and community programs are invited to share resources and services with attendees.

Sponsors help make affordable health services, education and community connections possible for local residents. Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses, organizations and individuals.

Whether you have volunteered in the past or you are new to the health fair, we would love your support in offering this amazing resource to our community. There are diverse volunteer opportunities. Our sign-up will be posted soon; please check back for the sign-up link.

Ready to join the team?

While you’re out enjoying the great outdoors in Pagosa Springs, consider spending a few hours supporting your community getting your hands dirty in a community garden, learning about hydroponics or helping out at a community event.

To learn more about how you can support your community, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org to fill out our quick volunteer interest form or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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Healthy Archuleta envisions community food hub rooted in food, connection and opportunity

Healthy Archuleta

Imagine a place where local growers can share their harvests; food entrepreneurs can develop their businesses; young people can build skills and relationships; and neighbors can gather around food, ideas and opportunity. The Community Food Hub is more than a building; it is a community-driven vision for a stronger, more connected Archuleta County.

That vision gained momentum at the April Food Summit. Through interactive stations, speakers and community conversations, participants explored how the food hub could support local food production, expand economic opportunity, strengthen food access and create a welcoming place for people to connect. One participant captured the community-centered purpose of the project simply: "How the food hub is for the community by the community."

The summit also underscored the project's potential to support growers, producers and local businesses.

As one participant noted, "Locally sourced food exists in Archuleta. A place needs to be built to bring producers & farmers together!"

Another reflected on "how invaluable the food hub will be to the workforce & current producers & food business in general."

The food hub can help make entrepreneurship and workforce pathways more accessible through shared facilities, hands-on learning and opportunities to develop food, agriculture and hospitality skills. In the words of one summit participant, "The food hub will make food entrepreneurship & other careers be within reach for others."

For young people, the food hub also has the potential to become a meaningful "third space"—a place beyond home and school to learn, lead, build relationships and contribute to community life.

Healthy Archuleta youth interns shared this vision for the food hub: "After so long of searching for a place of true belonging, connection, and community, we believe the Archuleta Food Hub can finally be a place where all generations, backgrounds, and traditions come together, a sanctuary where everyone truly belongs."

The vision includes gardens, food-production activities, educational programs and community events. In a rural resort mountain community that welcomes longtime residents,

part-time residents, visitors, and people just passing through, the food hub can be a gathering place that helps people feel connected while modeling sustainable practices and celebrating the people who make Archuleta County distinctive.

As one participant wrote, "Community is critical, Food Hub/Hall will be awesome & much needed."

Another observed, "I feel like incredible growth in the community is happening thanks to projects such as this!"

As planning continues, the food hub remains an opportunity to create something both practical and aspirational: a place of belonging, local opportunity and connection that helps Archuleta County thrive for generations to come.

To learn more about the Community Food Hub project and stay engaged, visit foodcoalition4archuleta.org/community-food-hub.html or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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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 canyon wren.

In North America, wrens occupy habitats as diverse as northern boreal forests, deserts of the southwest, and marshlands. The family name for this group of small brown birds, Troglodytidae, translates to “cave dweller” in Greek, a reference to the tendency of wrens to forage in dark places and crevices. This descriptor is especially fitting for the canyon wren.

Named for the places where it is found, the canyon wren is a resident bird of dry, rocky canyons in western North America and Mexico. In this steep, often inaccessible environment, crevices and crannies in the rocks provide places to rest, forage and nest. With short, strong legs; a long hind toe; and long, sharp toenails, the agile canyon wren is able to cling to and scale sheer rock surfaces.

Canyon wrens are not known to drink water and are at home in very dry environments. They eat mostly insects and spiders, which they hunt among the rocks. A long, slender bill and flattened skull are adaptations which allow them to probe for food in tight crevices. Flattening the body against the rock, spreading the legs and extending the neck allows them to reach even deeper.

If there is one thing that wrens excel at, it is singing. Canyon wrens sing a sweet descending cascade of whistles, often while perched on an exposed boulder. Both sexes sing, sometimes in duet. Hearing their song is your clue to start scanning the canyon walls for this small, active bird disappearing in and out of sight among the rocks.

These wrens are sparrow-sized and rusty brown with a white throat and chest. The tail and wings are barred with black. Within their range, they stay year-round. Pairs remain together throughout the year and fiercely defend a breeding territory of one to four acres. Young may remain with their parents for several weeks or longer before dispersing into their own territories.

Although they are not reported often or in large numbers, these elusive birds have been seen at all times of year in our area.

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

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High cholesterol is primarily a dietary issue, not a drug issue.

Contrary to pharmaceutical advertising, the cure for high cholesterol, apparently, is not found in a pill. Part of the cure may be found in your faucet. Today’s excerpt explains.

Although demonized by advertisers, cholesterol plays an important role in regulating metabolic functions and maintaining cellular balance. Both HDL and LDL cholesterol are necessary for good cellular and circulatory health.

Problems arise when the ratio of HDL to LDL becomes unbalanced as a consequence of

physical inactivity and unbalanced nutrition. When cells become dehydrated, the cell walls thicken to preserve fluid balance. In the process, cholesterol production is increased, and more cholesterol is released into the circulatory system.

Hydration is vital to good circulatory health. Inadequate water consumption decreases blood volume, impacting arterial pressure. When extra cholesterol is released into a depleted bloodstream, it settles on arterial walls rather than being flushed through the body. Arterial cholesterol buildup eventually hardens into plaque, robbing arteries of their natural elasticity and compromising blood flow and oxygen delivery to the cells. Too much cholesterol on the cell walls can completely block arteries, leading to heart attack or stroke. Water also plays an important role in digestive health, facilitating the passage of food and waste through the system.

Your liver produces LDL cholesterol, often labeled the “bad” cholesterol, to produce bile acids to aid digestion. In a healthy body, after performing its role in bile production, LDL is rounded up and returned to the liver for future use. However, inadequate hydration, coupled with low-fiber, chemical-laden processed food, causes a digestive backup, prompting the liver to produce more cholesterol in an attempt to break down undigested food. The LDL then enters the circulatory system and builds up on arterial walls.

Source:” Does Chronic Dehydration Cause High Cholesterol?” By Michelle Matte. <http://www.livestrong.com>

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

“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.” Jeremiah 17:14

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



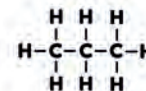
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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, July 30

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.

Archuleta County Fair. 9 a.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. For a daily schedule and more information, visit www.archuleta-countyfair.com.

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.

Mountain Light Music Festival: Festival Trombone Choir. 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre. For more information and tickets, visit www.mountainlightmusicfestival.com.

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).

Friday, July 31

A Tour of Two Trails. 7:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monu-

ment. 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.

Archuleta County Fair. 9 a.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. For a daily schedule and more information, visit www.archuleta-countyfair.com.

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.

Mountain Light Music Festival: Music in the Meadow. 6 p.m., Mountain Light Lodge. For more information and tickets, visit www.mountainlightmusicfestival.com.

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

Saturday, Aug. 1

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.

Archuleta County Fair. 9 a.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. For a daily schedule and more information, visit www.archuleta-countyfair.com.

Colorado 150 Celebration and Closing of History Vault: ‘Into See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Like some cheddar
- 6 Auction actions
- 10 Self-satisfied
- 14 Seesaw, essentially
- 15 Scoundrel
- 16 Bread for gyros
- 17 Crop up
- 18 Writes in the margin
- 20 Small amount
- 22 Parsley, e.g.
- 23 Producing, as electricity
- 25 Mistake maker
- 28 ____ of burden
- 31 Salon jobs
- 32 AWOL soldier
- 34 Infamous Amin
- 35 Citadel student
- 37 "So ____ heard"
- 38 Accompanied
- 41 Pizza topping
- 44 Related maternally
- 45 Sliding stocks
- 47 Whodunit staple
- 49 Earhart, for one
- 51 Made sense
- 55 With fervor
- 57 Guard dog's warning
- 58 "Yes ____?"
- 59 Prefix with call or cop
- 60 Broadcast sound
- 61 Expansive
- 62 Privy to
- 63 Bakery supply

DOWN

- 1 Loud door sound
- 2 Day saver
- 3 Passionate
- 4 Calls it quits
- 5 Lead up to

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
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49	50							51				52	53	54
55							56			57				
58					59					60				
61					62					63				

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- 6 Faultfinder
- 7 Suffix with "invent"
- 8 Blue denim fabric
- 9 Mink's kin
- 10 Special wrench
- 11 Pain-lessening
- 12 Western tribe
- 13 Long cut
- 19 Cultural group
- 21 World Heritage Site org.
- 24 Forest denizen
- 25 Salt solution
- 26 "Put a ____ it" (hush)
- 27 Certain Protestants
- 29 Dissolve
- 30 Head lock?
- 33 Unexcitable
- 36 News anchor Cooper
- 39 Gorged oneself

- 40 Brought about
- 42 Actress Lohan
- 43 Babe in the woods
- 46 Coloring stick
- 48 Muslim beauty
- 49 Russia's Sea of ____

- 50 Aloe ____
- 52 Bit of baby talk
- 53 "Battle Cry" novelist
- 54 Scheme
- 56 Wall St. action

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

the vault: Preserving Pagosa Springs' past. 10 a.m., Pagosa Springs History Museum, 96 Pagosa St. A short celebration will be held recognizing the 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood and the closing of the history vault to preserve the collected memories.

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.

Boats-themed LEGO Build. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Bring your own LEGOs or use the library's. This month's focus is on boats.

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

Sunday, Aug. 2

Archuleta County Fair. 9 a.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. For a daily schedule and more information, visit www.archuleta-countyfair.com.

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).

Monday, Aug. 3

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 5:45 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program offers a unique two-hour tour of the archaeological sites with a special emphasis on the view of the sun rising atop the mesa. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Plant Walk. 9 a.m., Wolf Creek Pass. Join certified herbalist Lake McCullough for a fun and educational ramble through the forest, and discover edible and medicinal native plants. There is a 15-person maximum. Reserve a space at

(970) 398-0923.

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, Aug. 4

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Tween Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. Snacks will be provided. August'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 ex-

plores 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,

■ See Calendar on next page

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- Morganne

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- Christy

Dr. Nylund's group that helped me through a tough time with an infected tooth comes highly recommended. The staff was stellar in accommodating me in a difficult time. I would be pleased to allow the doctor to work his expertise in my mouth. A great addition to help us here in Pagosa

- Lauren

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 7 p.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

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.

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.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Uncle’s Bar and Social Club.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Adult DIY: Paracord Pet Collars. 1:30-2:45 p.m., Sisson Library. The library will supply the paracord, buckles and fun. Please bring the circumference of your pet’s neck.

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 ‘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).

Thursday, Aug. 6

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. Mem-

bers provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

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.

Tween Windowsill Herb Garden. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Plant some herbs at the library to take home. Decorate your flower pot, add soil, choose the seeds you want to plant, create a sign so you know what’s going and take it home to watch it grow.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by an educational presentation at 7 p.m.

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).

Friday, Aug. 7

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.

Kindness Rocks. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop it at any time to paint a message of kindness on a rock to leave in our children’s garden.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This

■ **See Calendar on next page**

HUD Publisher's Notice



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

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

SUDOKU

	3	5		6	4	7		9
9		1		3	5		6	
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	4		7					3
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Level: Beginner

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.
Children's Garden Nature Scavenger Hunt. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For 3- to 5-year-olds with caregivers. Explore the new children's garden. Look for the flora and fauna that we have within the garden and some hidden surprises.

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).

Saturday, Aug. 8

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of

the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Puzzle Palooza. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Put together some puzzles and have some family fun.

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

Flute Music at Twilight Program. 6 p.m., Chimney Rock National

Monument. This program begins with a guided, short walk through a mesa village followed by live Native American flute music accompanied by a deepening night sky to reveal celestial bodies. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

Sunday, Aug. 9

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 'Company.' 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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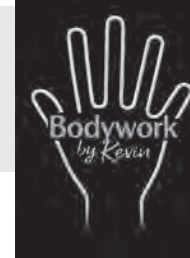


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Local boy takes a wife

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Kaela, elegant as a city sunrise, said yes to Slade, our grandson, the country boy with dust on his boots and devotion in his heart. One day she came a knockin’ at his heart’s door and he knew she was the one.

A great love story met resistance before it reached the altar. A hometown country boy from Pagosa was not part of her city family’s plan. “My daughter will not be married in a barn, in some smelly, little, unheard-of, backwoods town.”

The day before the wedding, they allowed me to pray over them. Then God bent low and spoke His blessing into two hearts in love. He uttered words the stars themselves could only whisper, words no human ear could fully unravel. He placed His hand upon their hearts and lifted away the cruel and hurtful words that brought tears to youthful cheeks for six months. What had wounded them was healed. What had burdened them was made light. Peace came like a holy sunrise.

The celebration began, a gathering no one would ever forget. Family members flew in from New York and convened, staying at Pagosa’s finest. Friends came from Arizona, glad to escape the desert heat, and joined the wedding rehearsal and festivities at the restaurant, where the music of the mountains seemed to sing. California and Colorado families drove into our little mountain town to witness the joining of two lives into one.

A barn had been generously loaned for the night by a loving family, with tender hearts toward the Wylies. Their casita became a dressing room for the wedding party. And it was as though God’s unseen host of angels came alongside the Wylies. Broom in hand, they swept every trace of barnyard dust off the large woodchip floor. A working barn that housed live animals was transformed into a castle for a princess.

A few friends labored alongside until four o’clock Saturday evening, just one hour before the guests arrived, preparing a celebration only the Lord could have fashioned through loving hands. The barn became a Hallmark movie set. Kaela’s affection for old 78RPM vinyl records set the tone and even the walls echoed the love of framed vinyl hanging in glee. One hundred twenty black records, gathered from local antique stores, served as charger plates and place mats, giving every table a touch of vintage charm on gold floor-length tablecloths, mint green and beige fabric stretched across the long center with baby’s breath peeking out from greenery.

A photo room tucked among hay bales in one of the horse stalls turned into a whimsical corner, filled with antique hats, bolos, funny glasses and old suitcases for family portraits. Those posed and playful pictures will

Artist’s Lane

The vows were sincere, deep in grace and full of love. Bride and groom promised each other they would never again find themselves alone.

become Christmas cards and live on as treasures for years to come.

Flower baskets concealed water faucets. Even the lit portable toilet, complete with a flushing toilet, disappeared behind a black curtain. An old red pickup truck parked in a corner served as a background for camera shots.

Al Wylie strung lights across the ceiling and set up enough amps to carry the band through the night. Not a single detail was overlooked.

A local restaurant served a delightful meal. A wedding cake was scrumptious with chocolate fudge and white frosting. Even the hidden pigs and horses did not make a sound for fear of breaking the silence of love that had come to their home.

Six months earlier the bride-to-be had agreed to a barn wedding, though she had her own vision of grandeur. She wanted elegant formality — long dresses, suits and ties. I told her then that Pagosa Springs was a place of Wranglers, blue jeans, ponytails and unshaven faces. People might show up in denim and cowboy boots, though our local cowboys know how to clean up for a western barn dance wearing their best shirt. Still, she stood her ground, “Not for my wedding. I want formal.”

And formal it was. Al and I were provided with proper attire by our daughter, who brought suit coats, long dresses and everything we needed to try on in the privacy of our

■ See Lane on next page

ON THE FARM WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AGRICULTURE
- AUTOMATIC
- CANAL
- CHANNELS
- CONSERVATION
- CROPS
- DISTRIBUTION
- DRIP
- EFFICIENCY
- FARMING
- FLOW
- HYDRATION
- MOISTURE
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Stretching your retirement income without sacrificing quality of life

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Living on a fixed retirement income can be challenging as the cost of groceries, utilities, housing and health care continue to rise.

The good news is that small changes in daily spending can make a meaningful difference over time. Creating a monthly budget, planning meals before shopping, taking advantage of senior discounts and reviewing recurring expenses such as insurance, phone and streaming services can help reduce unneces-

Senior News

sary costs.

Seniors should also make sure they are receiving all the benefits they qualify for, including property tax exemptions, prescription assistance programs, energy assistance and nutrition services available through

local organizations.

Just as important as managing expenses is staying connected to community resources that can help stretch retirement dollars even further.

The Archuleta Senior Center offers nutritious, affordable meals; wellness activities; educational programs; and opportunities to socialize, all of which can improve quality of life while helping reduce everyday expenses.

For homebound seniors, Meals on Wheels provide healthy meals delivered directly to the home, promoting both nutrition and independence.

If you are finding it difficult to

■ See Senior next page

Lane

■ continued from previous page

home. We selected that which suited the occasion beautifully. I told the family we better get some pictures. This family has never looked so good.

The local women wore long dresses, while the Arizona girls came in sweet short dresses with western boots ready to dance with their cowboys. Everyone added their own charm to the evening.

Then the moment came. The bride, radiant in a sleek, strapless wedding dress with a split skirt that revealed one long, tanned leg and white heels, walked down the carpeted runway on her father's arm to greet the sparkle in our grandson's eyes. They stood in front of an arched garden trellis framing Square Top Mountain in the background.

The vows were sincere, deep in grace and full of love. Bride and groom promised each other they would never again find themselves alone. I do not doubt for one moment that this union will stand the test of time. They were not merely married that day; they were sealed in devotion, held together by something stronger than sentiment, and more lasting than circumstance.

I sat on the edge of the dance floor in my walker seat, swaying gently to the music and watching the young people dance. The music moved through the barn and through my heart. My Sweet Al kept his promise. Our youngest daughter took her daddy onto the dance floor and danced with him.

The western band, the Pocket Aces from Arizona, played 45 minutes beyond their scheduled time. The guests refused to quit dancing. Every song brought more people to the dance floor.

Johnny Lee, the country singer who recorded "Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places," said, "You know how good a band is if the people are dancing." The dance floor was never empty the whole night.

This band was clearly making its mark in the country music world, but

that night they felt something even sweeter — the love of the people. They saw the care Al and Allison gave throughout the evening making sure their son and daughter-in-law had the wedding of a lifetime. Before the night ended, the bandleader announced that the Wylie family would always have a standing invitation and backstage passes to any and all of their concerts.

Final brushstroke: This is a union blessed by God. Love will sustain them. The Wylie family has embraced Kaela as their own, and she will always be loved. After all, heaven has set its seal upon their hearts.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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*We look forward to seeing
you at our next Bioblitz!*

Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
make ends meet, don't hesitate to reach out to the Senior Center to learn more about available programs and community resources. A little planning and knowing where to turn for help can go a long way toward making retirement both financially secure and enjoyable.

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. Salmansohn 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. 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.

■ See Senior next page



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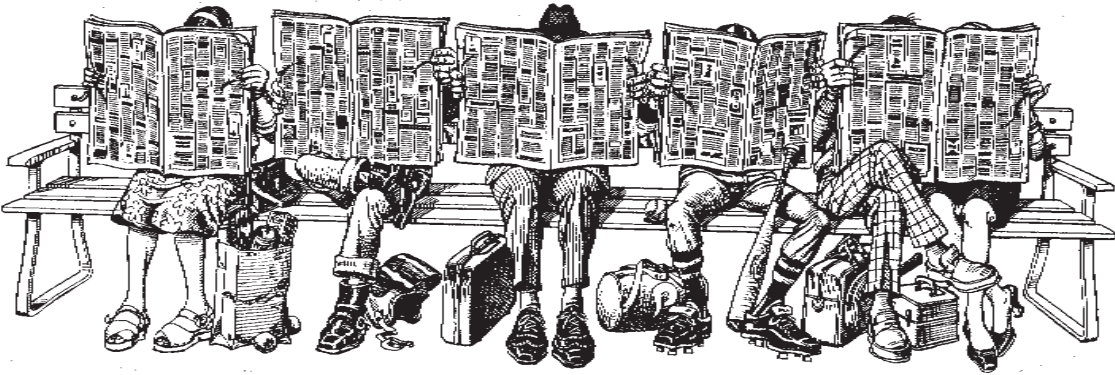
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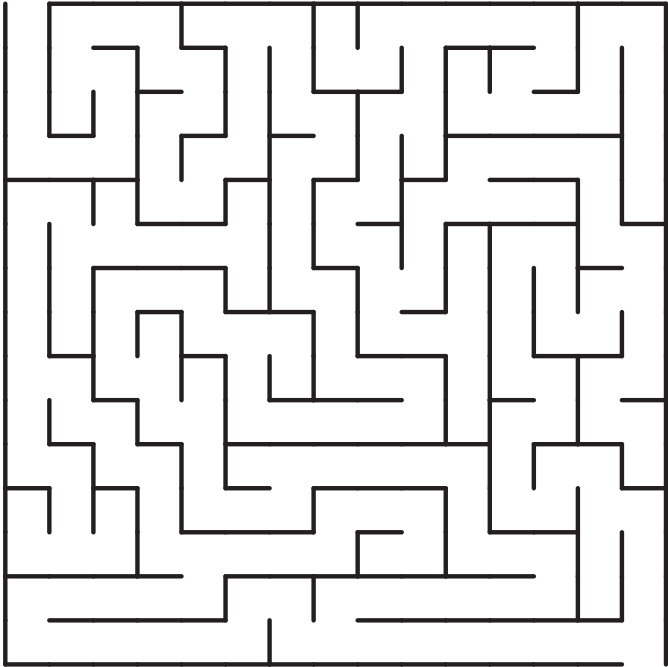
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THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1775: The U.S. Army Medical Department is founded.

1921: Researchers at the University of Toronto prove that the hormone insulin regulates blood sugar.

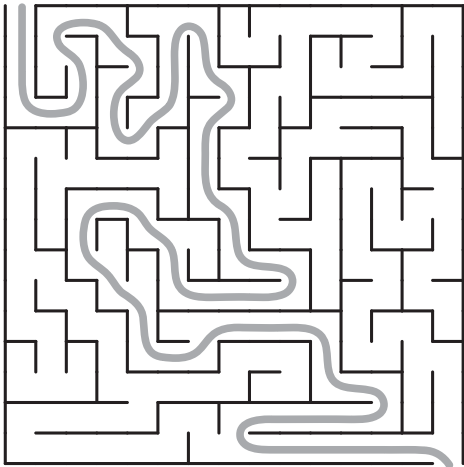
1964: The total number of U.S. forces in Vietnam rises to 21,000.

People FACT:



American workers tend not to use all of these each year.

Answer: Vacation days



NEW WORD

RESPITE

a short period of rest or relief from something unpleasant

How they say that in...

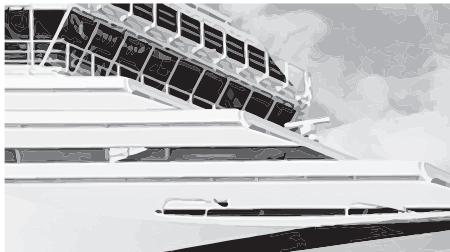
- English: Vacation
- Spanish: Vacaciones
- Italian: Vacanza
- French: Vacances
- German: Urlaub

Did You KNOW?

Vacations are highly effective at reducing stress and preventing burnout. They can lead to positive emotions.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cruise ship

Get ready for a giant party to celebrate you

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

It's been a long, hard year and at long last we are entering into the final weeks of our 12-month construction project.

Through all the phases, all the inconvenience, makeshift spaces, gravel parking lots, limited computers and periodic closures, you have been the most patient, supportive community we could ever have imagined.

So, we're throwing a party to celebrate you.

Please join us Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to tour the finished library. We have a lineup of activities to mark the occasion right plus activities to deliver loads of fun for all ages.

Come in the morning to witness a tribal blessing of our new library and stay for Storytime with Smokey the Bear. Make a commemorative bookmark, watch a juggling show, get your face painted and go home with a balloon animal. We'll launch our new makerspace, try out the new teen room and hear music from local bands.

The whole community is invited. We hope to see you there.

Read Wild! summer program breaking records

As the second month of summer reading wraps up, we're proud to share that readers have already logged more than 237,000 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. It's great to see so many people excited about reading.

It's not too late to join. Visit pagosalibrary.org/summer to sign up and get started today.

Our next outing is scheduled for Aug. 5 at Wolfwood Refuge, where we will receive a guided tour and learn about and interact with wolfdogs and wolves. Meet at the library at 8:30 a.m. and we'll caravan together. There is no fee to enter.

We recommend bringing a lunch.

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

As the beginning of another

Library News

school year looms on the horizon, you might be thinking about your own small child's first day of kindergarten. Will she be prepared?

The library has a free, fun program to give your child the head start she needs.

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 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.

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.

As part of our opening day celebration, participants will receive a tree stake and choose the tree they wish to name.

Thanks for helping us create a beautiful new outdoor space in our community.

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

• Chicklit author Colleen Hoover returns with a new book, "Regretting You." A mother and her teenage daughter struggle to cope with family secrets unearthed after a tragic accident.

• Lisa Jewell is back with a new psychological thriller, "It Could Have Been Her." A woman returns a lost dog to a house from her past, uncovering dark secrets connected to a missing teenager.

• Father-daughter writing team Douglas and Aletheia Preston collaborate on "Paradox." Agent Cash and Sheriff Colcord investigate ritualistic murders in Colorado while resurrected Neanderthals lurk in the

mountains.

New fiction

• "Start at the End" by Emma Gray is described as a "compelling, complex, emotionally charged story about love, loss, grief, what-ifs, theft, fear and survivor's guilt."

• Durango author Scott Graham continues his National Parks Mystery Series with "Great Sand Dunes Massacre." Archaeologist Chuck Bender witnesses a mysterious death while conducting a survey at Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park.

• Father-Daughter duo James and Susan Patterson team up with "The Mother-Daughter Book Club." Five college friends who've spent years discussing books together online get together for an emotional reunion and a night of secrets.

New in nonfiction

• "Care of the Soul" author Thomas Moore returns with a new spiritual manifesto, "Cure at Walden Pond: A Guide to Recovering Our Humanity." The ingredients? Slow down, find spiritual renewal, and reconnect with nature and community.

• Celebrity financial guru Dave Ramsey provides advice based on a long and successful career in "Build a Business You Love: Mastering the 5 Stages of Business."

• Political activist Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers in the 1970s that exposed the military's decision making during the Vietnam War. "Truth and Consequences: Reflections on Catastrophe, Civil Resistance, and Hope" is a posthumous collection of his unpublished writings relevant to our current state of affairs.

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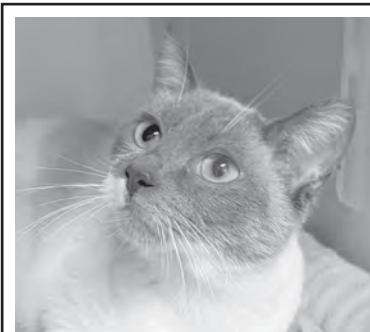
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PAGOSAAA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: 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.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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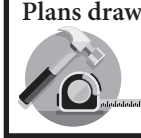
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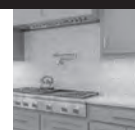
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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CLEANERS WANTED for busy local business, weekends needed. Competitive pay DOE, starting ASAP. Call or text, (720)560-2273.

CT'S AUTOMOTIVE — Hiring Mechanics. If you value integrity, continuous learning (paid training), and professionalism, come in or apply online at ctsautomotiveco.com/careers.

ELI STEPHENS LANDSCAPING LLC is looking for hardworking, motivated people to join our team. (970)946-0268, elistephenslandscapingllc.com.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

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.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

NOW HIRING — JOIN THE ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE TEAM. We are looking for passionate, hardworking folks to join our team. Now hiring for front of the house and back of the house positions. If you take pride in providing exceptional hospitality and enjoy working in a fast-paced, team-orientated environment, we'd love to meet you. APPLY IN PERSON TUESDAY -THURSDAY 2:00P.M. to 3:00P.M. — Please enter through the back kitchen door and ask for a manager to apply.

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Classifieds

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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.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

AUTOS

YARD SALES

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



CASHIER - Starting at \$18/hr DOE, 40 hr/week

Apply in person. Applications available on www.terrysace.com

Weekends and holidays required. Benefits include discounts, paid time off, sick pay, profit sharing and more!

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525 Navajo Trail Dr., PS, CO 81147

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\$26.00–\$29.00/hr DOE
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\$250 at hire • \$250 after 6 months

Full-time, year-round position.
Must possess a valid CDL,
safe driving record,
and strong work ethic.

Apply today at
250 Industrial Circle,
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All About You Day Spa is hiring
for the following positions,
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- Esthetician
- Nail Tech



Email introduction and resume to:
office@allaboutyoupagosa.com

For more details, see:
allaboutyoupagosa.com/now-hiring
Located near City Market

NOW OPEN!

NOW HIRING:Part -time restaurant staff at Keyah Grande. Beyond the Gates at The Keyah Grande Guest House is seeking dependable and friendly team members to join our restaurant staff. Part-time position available Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday mornings. Duties include guest service, maintaining a clean and welcoming environment, assisting with restaurant operations, and providing an exceptional dining experience. Pay: \$14.42 /hour plus tips. To apply, please send your resume to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association is looking for a high-energy, community-minded Recreation Program Coordinator to help bring our adult and youth programs to life. If you love working with people, enjoy creating fun and meaningful activities, and want to make a real impact in our community, this role is for you. This full-time position is hands-on and fast-paced—planning and running daily activities, organizing special events, and supporting the development, supervision, marketing, and promotion of programs for residents of all ages. We're looking for someone who brings creativity, enthusiasm, and a passion for building a vibrant recreation experience. Starting pay is \$24 per hour, and the position includes full benefits. For the right candidate, part-time employment may also be considered. Drop off your resume at: PLPOA Recreation Center, 45 Eagles Loft Circle. Or email your resume to: ryan@plpoa.com.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

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 RMPT 117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste T or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com.

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.

SEEKING PART -TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

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JEEP COLLECTOR
American General
1972 Vietnam Era Jeep
Comes with "NOS", Hood, Top, Seat Cushions, Gas Tank, Licensed.
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89 FORD XLT 4X4, blown cam, for sale. 460 motor for sale. Best offer. (970)880-2598.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales. 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? It's time to get stocked up. Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine mix. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

DRY, SEASONED DOUGLAS FIR and aspen for sale. Ryan Whitlow (970)585-4578.

FIREWOOD DELIVERED, Doug Fir/pine mix, \$250 per cord, \$1400 for 6 cords. Call Kathie (303)358-6218.

FIREWOOD. Tired of not getting a full cord? 4'x4'x8", \$265 full cord, pine and fir mix. Very dry, split last year, 14 cords available. Delivery extra. Just off Piedra and 160. (970)398-1928.

PAGOSA'S BEST FIREWOOD. Pine, split. Picked up \$220, delivered \$250. (970)317-3837.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

UTILITY TRAILER with wooden box on top, 8'x4'x2" high. \$250. (334)707-7963.

PETS

3 FEMALE PUPPIES. 8 weeks old. Beautiful Pomski /St. Bernards need a loving home. \$300. Vaccines and worming included. Kim, (970)946-0082.

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.



DISABLED VETERAN FUNDRAISER. Yard /garage /household item sale. 55+ years of collecting "stuff." Free stuff to vintage items. Send a blank email to pagosaspringsyard-sale@gmail.com for a complete list of items and location information.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND BAR for rent or lease. The Colorado Garden Company. Great for wine /cheese /beer /tapas. Great space in garden nursery. Ice cream trailer for rent in addition. Text (970)398-0518.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AVAILABLE. Liberty Theatre building. Main Street access, parking, AC, fiber Internet, Eastern Range and river views, keyless entry. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

LARGE COMMERCIAL -INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PRIME LOCATION in Pagosa Springs in the City Market plaza area. Newly renovated 200 ft. office space. Includes bathroom, electric, trash, water, sewer. \$700 /month. (970)426-5787.

RETAIL SPACE AVAILABLE in prime downtown location, main street frontage. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

TWO ADJOINING OFFICES DOWNTOWN Upstairs. Rent one or both. \$350 per month per office. Includes utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1 Garage "Tree-house." Views. Nice landlady. No drugs or smoking. Available September 1. \$2000. plus utilities. Text /call Linda (928)202-6300.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH DUPLEX, recently renovated. Fenced yard, 1 car garage, \$2,300 per month. Call (970)946-1745.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH for lease. Enjoy stunning creek, canyon, pasture, and mountain views, including V-Rock and the San Juan Mountains. Situated on a private 35-acre retreat bordering National Forest, this property offers a private lake for paddleboarding, direct access to hiking and outdoor recreation, horse pasture potential, pet -friendly living (with approval), barn and storage use, and a large garage/RV garage with space for up to 5–6 vehicles, RVs, or trailers. Perfect for an outdoor lifestyle in a quiet, retreat-like setting. \$3,500–\$6,500/month depending on included amenities and storage needs. Text (970)398-0518.

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.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL, New build 7th Street—one and two bedrooms available. Walking distance to hot springs and shops and restaurants in old downtown. (720)470-2653.

FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2 CAR GARAGE TOWNHOME. \$2800 PER MONTH. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available 8/1/26.

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.

FURNISHED HOME ON LAKE FOREST. Available from August 17th through April 30, 2027. Pets allowed with \$25 per month pet rent. \$3,500 per month. 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. \$1525. 2 bedroom, \$1450. 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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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 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.

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.

SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT in downtown with beautiful views. Rent \$1252. Large floor plan, affordable living through tax credit program. Income and eligibility requirements apply. hickoryridge@pagosa-creek.com.

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 9/1/26. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

COMMERCIAL

OWN IT. Live, work, play. 17 cabins, 33 RV spaces, 10 single level rooms motel, 4 apartments, leased 1200 square feet retail building, 4.29 acres. City sewer, 2 wells. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

OPEN HOUSES

OPEN HOUSE. Saturday, August 1st, from 10a.m. -2p.m. 182 Pineview Drive. No HOA. On 8+ acres. Anita Bowles, Sherpa Real Estate, (512)214-7923.

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HOMES FOR SALE

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2 BR CABIN the in woods on 1.2 acres, updated kitchen, stainless steel appliances, new septic and cistern. \$259,900. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

558 S 7TH, Near Seeds of Learning, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, full basement. \$350,000. Joe Lister, Jr., (970)946-5019.

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 BR 2BA HOME 1680 sq. ft., all newer appliances, nice wood and metal accents, close to shopping. \$275,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

CABIN OPTIONS. Bedroom, bath, electric, water and septic systems, RV barn, \$174,900. Bedroom, bath, off-grid, septic and water systems, \$149,900. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

NEAR NAVAJO LAKE, 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on 2.2 acres on quiet street, central water, lots of updates, \$355,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

ARBOLES 2 ACRES with approved septic and well. \$100,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

EXCEPTIONAL DOWNTOWN BUILDING LOTS and development potential. River, huge divide views, location. Nothing like it. Call (970)398-9136, or builder7@fastmail.com.

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS: 3.63 wooded acres, city water (Monterosa) (\$200s). 1/4 acre backs golf course (Caddy) (\$40s). RV mountain views parcels: 1.43 acres, (Alcazar) \$51,950, 2.5 acres (Waynes) \$29,995, 1 acre (Rockpoint) \$32,400, 1 acre, barn (Hurt) \$55,000. Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

SELLER FINANCE! 1/4 acre, city water / sewer, electric: (Paradise), (Lake) \$30s, (Paradise) \$40s. Sandlewood \$19,995. Off grid 2.37 acres \$49,995. On grid 2 acres \$54,995. Interested in selling land or home? Call Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA CONVENIENCE. SOUTH FORK, COLORADO: Invest now. Available water, sewer, electric, views, on paved roads: 1/3 acre golf course lot (Green-side) \$40s, 2.28 acres, mountain views (Vista de Verde) (\$100s). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

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All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.



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August 1

Celebrating 150 Years of Statehood 1876-2026

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