



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 45, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

Rio Blanco Fire, evacuations continue into second week

By Randi Pierce and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

The Rio Blanco Fire burning 12 miles south of Pagosa Springs entered its second week on Tuesday after starting at about 3 p.m. on July 28. Evacuation orders related to the fire also entered their second week Tuesday.

As of Wednesday morning, Aug. 5, the fire was reported to be 1,246 acres

with 12 percent containment, with no structures reported to be damaged or lost and progress continuing on structure protection and containment lines.

“Hot and dry weather persisted on Tuesday, causing a significant uptick in fire behavior,” The Rio Blanco Fire Incident Management Team reported Wednesday. “Crews worked hard to hold the lines while the fire exhibited intense surface-level activity and fire

■ See Fire A7

Town workforce housing project moving ahead

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

Project 102, a Town of Pagosa Springs project to bring 102 workforce housing units onto the rental market, was officially changed to Project 64 on Aug. 4.

The project’s name change came about after the town had placed bids on three properties in a bankruptcy auction, but was the successful bidder on only one property, Village Pointe Condominiums.

On Aug. 4, Housing Coordinator Jeff Sams told the Pagosa Springs Town Council that while the building currently has only 32 condo units, these would be converted into 64 rental units.

He explained that the current 32 units each have a complete lock-off one-bedroom, one-bathroom unit that can be converted to separate units.

The new rental units would be aimed at what Sams called “middle

■ See Housing A8

Vehicle, trailer fire temporarily closes U.S. 160

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A vehicle and trailer fire on U.S. 160 on Wolf Creek Pass Tuesday, Aug. 4, sent one to the hospital and closed the highway for a period of time.

According to Colorado State Patrol Trooper Gabriel Moltre and Pagosa Fire Protection District (PPFD) Chief Robert Bertram, the call for the incident at mile marker 165 on U.S. 160 went out at about 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Bertram relayed that the incident

was a Suburban pulling a food trailer that was fully involved on the shoulder of the highway, adding it had pulled off on a wide shoulder and was “thankfully” in an area where crews didn’t have to worry about the fire getting into the trees.

Bertram explained the driver sustained some burns and was transported to the hospital.

He added there were also several dogs in the vehicle, with one dog unable to be saved.

U.S. 160 was closed to traffic after

■ See Vehicle A8

Town joins county in placing six-month moratorium on data centers

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

After the Pagosa Springs Town Council directed staff to draft a two-year moratorium on data centers within town limits on July 21, the council decided, on Aug. 4, to go with a six-month moratorium instead.

The time-frame change of the moratorium came after Planning Manager Owen O’Dell explained that the town’s “legal team” advised staff that “moratoriums are best at six-month intervals.”

The council could still achieve the two-year moratorium, if it so desired,

explained O’Dell, but it would require an extension every six months to achieve the two years as originally requested by the council.

In general, the council and staff decided that a moratorium of some length was appropriate to give the town time to define data centers within its Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) and to work out in the code if it wants to set regulations on data centers or even ban them outright.

Archuleta County has also approved a six-month moratorium on data centers.

■ See Data A8

Archuleta County Fair Livestock Auction



Stanton Tully, grand champion market beef



Madison DeClark, grand champion market swine



Jayden Carnley, grand champion market lamb



Nina Wood, grand champion market turkey



Amaya Linhardt, grand champion market chickens



Taylor Cole, grand champion market goat

Photos courtesy Lyndsay Bertram

4-H’ers and community members joined forces at the annual Livestock Auction last weekend at the Archuleta County Fair.

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Opinion



The Pagosa Springs SUN

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

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Moisture	Type	Depth	
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7/29	87	55	0.22	NA	NA	
7/30	89	54	0.00	NA	NA	
7/31	92	54	0.00	NA	NA	
8/1	89	55	0.00	NA	NA	
8/2	91	50	0.00	NA	NA	
8/3	91	51	0.00	NA	NA	

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OUR VIEW

Mixed emotions

Weeks like this, we're full of mixed emotions. We're nervous for what's next, we're sad for the conditions our area continues to face, but we're also thankful and grateful for so much.

We're now months into hot, dry weather. A high has evidently parked over us, bringing with it toastier temperatures than we'd like and little rain to speak of. Our river is seemingly running at a trickle and appears to be setting new record lows nearly every day now. It's sad to look at the river each day, and we can't help but wonder how bad it's going to get before it starts getting better.

We're doing our rain dances (but somewhat in moderation because we don't want flooding like we experienced not long ago).

We held our breath when a vehicle and trailer caught fire on Wolf Creek Pass Tuesday afternoon, hopeful this was not the time for it to burn. We were thankful when it was extinguished and we learned all the people involved were OK.

We're also now more than a week in on the Rio Blanco Fire and into some of our fellow community members being evacuated from their homes or being told to be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

We're more than a week into more and

more resources making their way to our neck of the woods to help preserve life, property and other values.

It's all a bit hard to stomach sometimes, especially after our community faced the Oak Fire a year ago.

We attended Tuesday evening's community meeting on the Rio Blanco Fire not knowing what to expect, but we walked away feeling pretty good on many fronts.

The turnout was better than we expected, with several there just offering support to those who are closer to harm's way. There were more smiles than tears. There were rounds of applause, and no anger openly expressed that we saw.

We were able to connect with several we know who are evacuated and make sure they're all still safely in alternate locations and doing well.

We heard several people make comments along the lines of thoughts we've had: Our differences fail to matter near as much when we're facing something together.

And, we left feeling hopeful about the progress the hundreds of firefighters and other personnel — both local and from elsewhere — are making on the fire.

It never ceases to amaze us the wealth of knowledge that exists in this area, and it's continually comforting to know we have some of the best fire managers and firefighters around. We know battling this fire — with this weather, this close to homes — is no easy feat, and we can't fathom the total of the years and years of knowledge these folks are pouring into this.

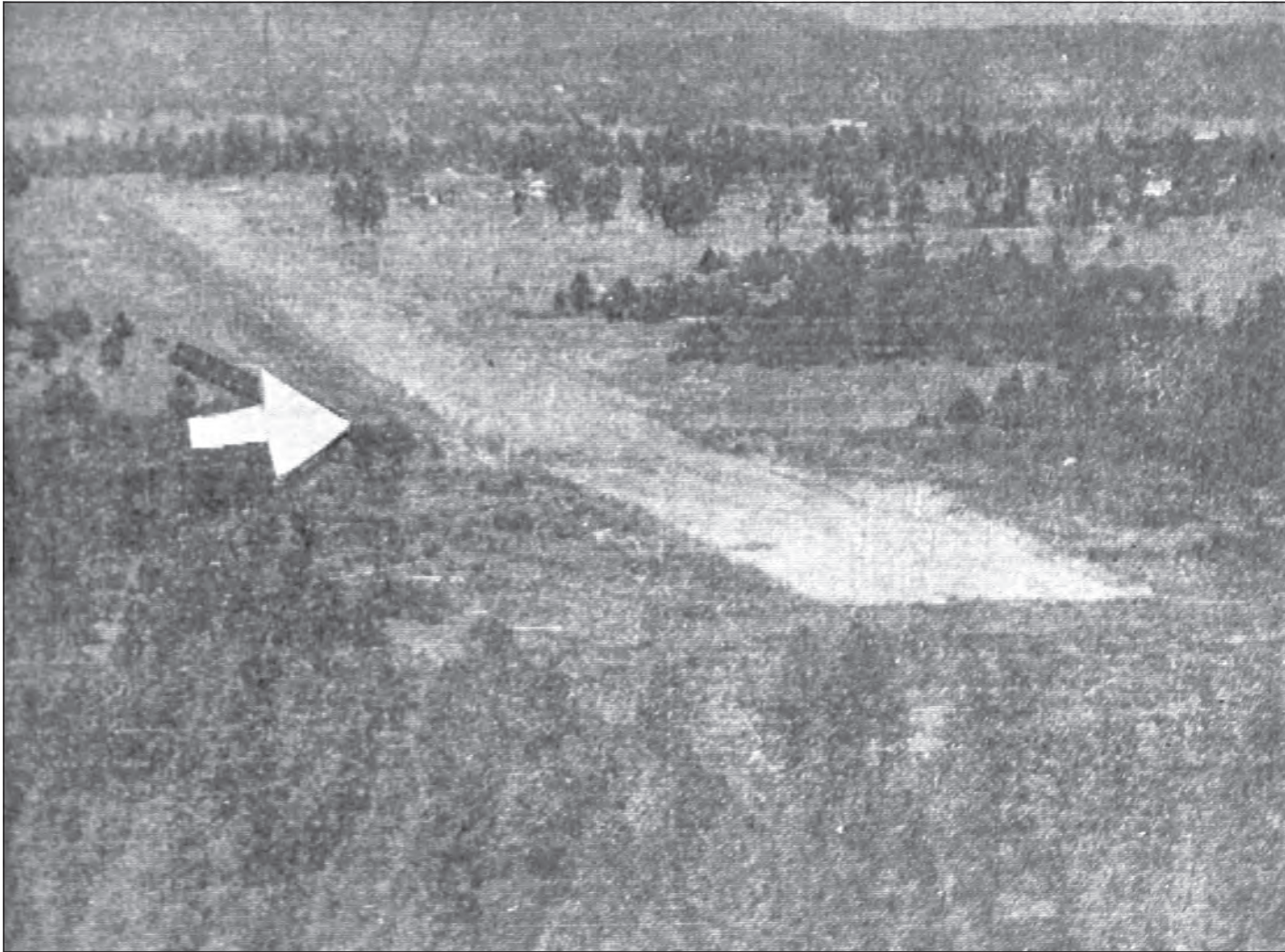
We're also continually amazed at how this community never fails to come together to support its own and the firefighters who are coming to our aid. Volunteers took their time to help a local restaurant fulfill the meal needs of firefighters, people have offered accommodations they have to those displaced, meals and services to those in need and the firefighters, and multiple efforts are seeking to help those affected and to bring community to the forefront.

As we said last week, it's all a testament to this community and a reason to celebrate.

But, keep up those rain dances. The Rio Blanco Fire isn't done. The critical fire weather isn't through with us yet. The drought remains. We're definitely not out of the woods.

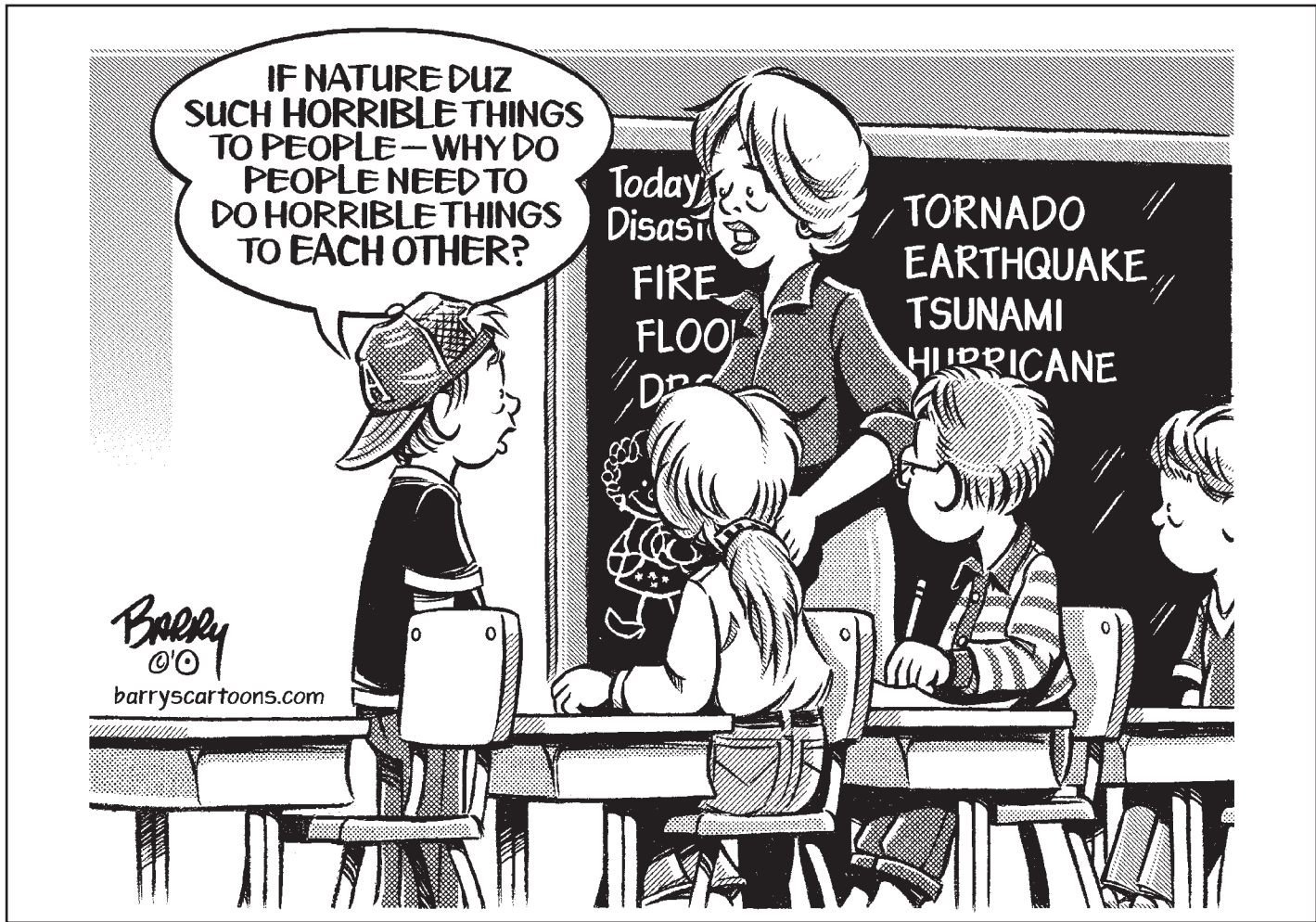
Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Aug. 13, 1970, Pagosa SUN — MORE ROOM — A longer runway is almost complete at Stevens Field but more funds are needed. Arrow at center of photo indicates the end of the old runway and it can be seen how much longer the new strip will be when completed. More dirt work is needed and then the new strip will be ready for surfacing.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 6, 1926

Today marks the 31st anniversary of the arrival in Pagosa Springs of Dr. Mary Fisher, and her countless (and we mean just that) friends are hoping that she may be spared to serve this community another thirty-one years.

The Women's Civic Club has recently purchased a set of International Encyclopedia, consisting of 26 volumes, for use at the public library. It will pay you to make use of these reference books.

The Democratic senatorial assembly will be held at Silverton tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 and will be attended by J.B. Patterson of Archuleta county.

The Democratic Representative assembly meets tomorrow evening at Creede, and J.B. Patterson of Pagosa Springs will be designated as Archuleta County's choice for the office.

The Republican county assembly met Monday evening in Pagosa Springs to select delegates to all outside assemblies — state, congressional, senatorial and representative. Fred Catchpole, J.T. Morgan, Chas. A. Day, L.H. Birch and P.C. Crowley were elected delegates, and the first named will be in attendance at the assemblies to represent Archuleta county.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 3, 1951

The current issue of the Red Ryder comic magazine contains a large photo of Mr. Fred Harman and Mr. Dave Hersch on the inside of the back cover with the following caption:

"My old friend, Dave Hersch, carries the flag as we start our Red Ryder Roundup rodeo parade out here in Pagosa Springs, Colo. Dave is using the same silver and horsehair bridle he used to ride up here from Santa Fe, N.M. over fifty years ago."

The Butler-Johnson Company has moved two large rigs, one rotary and one cable-tool into the Chromo region and spudded in two locations last week with the intention of a thorough testing of all the sands.

The two wells are located on the Babe Shahan and Dutch Crowley ranches. The rotary rig, now at better than 1500 feet, is on the Shahan place and the cable-tool rig working at about 600 feet is on the Crowley ranch.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 5, 1976

It will be excitement and entertainment, plus many fine exhibits at the Red Ryder Roundup grounds this weekend as the Archuleta County Fair goes into action. Much of the activity and many of the exhibits are centered around 4-H activities, but there are also many open class events. Saturday night is a big night with a barbecue, pageant, and public dance. The fat stock auction will be held Sunday afternoon.

The Town board approved the annexation of an area south of the city limits at its Monday meeting. The annexed property is that of the school recreation complex, the Pagosa Springs Sanitation District, and the site of Radio Station KPAG's transmitter tower. This is the largest annexation of property by the town in its history and increases its size by about one-fifth, but it does not bring in any new residents.

17 persons were certified as emergency medical technicians Monday night after they had completed an 81 hour course in the handling and treatment of emergency victims. There were two women in the group, the first certified women EMTs in this community.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 1, 2001

Archuleta County voters will likely get a chance this fall to say yea or nay on renewing a 2-percent sales tax last approved by voters in 1994.

By general agreement, the county commissioners decided to put renewal of the sales tax on the November ballot, couched in terms that describe it as a continuation of the status quo. The existing 2-percent tax is scheduled to expire Jan. 1, 2003.

As it exists now, the tax is levied on most retail sales in Archuleta County, including within Pagosa Springs, and divided evenly with the town. The 2-percent levy was first approved by voters in November 1988 and renewed in November 1994.

A veteran Pagosa Springs Junior High School mathematics teacher and wrestling coach has accepted a post on the administrative ladder.

David Hamilton was named July 25 to replace Kahle Charles as assistance principal and athletic director at Pagosa Springs High School.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce
The San Juan River flows on the east side of Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Aug. 1. Readings of the river’s flow through Pagosa Springs continue to sit below the previously recorded lows.

PAWSD makes clarifications to drought plan, discusses handling violations

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its July 30 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved revisions to the drought management plan clarifying irrigation hours and rules for irrigating with non-potable water.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis outlined the proposed revisions, beginning with clarifications to how the plan’s restrictions apply to non-potable water.

Lewis explained that the district had received comments that people who live adjacent to the lakes in uptown Pagosa Springs and use lake water to irrigate had been irrigating their lawns outside of the schedule imposed by the drought management plan.

She stated that she clarified in several places in the plan that the restrictions apply to both potable and non-potable water.

She added that she also corrected an inconsistency in the plan to ensure it consistently states that watering is allowed only between 9p.m. and 9 a.m. during the drought phases that apply time-based watering restrictions.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that the times would also need to be corrected in the warning letters that Lewis had drafted.

Lewis stated that she had caught and would correct this error.

PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor explained that the district’s raw water irrigation permit states that users will be subject to the same requirements and penalties as potable water users.

The board then discussed the details of the timing restrictions in the drought stages included in the plan and how they would impact timing.

Connor stated that the district is currently “looking good” in terms of water supply, with Lake Hatcher currently down 27.5 inches from full and only having dropped 0.5 inches

the week before and 0.75 inches the week of the meeting.

“The rains are definitely helping with the lake level, and the demand off the Hatcher area has dropped as well by about 150,000 gallons daily,” Connor said.

He then raised the issue of enforcement for noncompliance with

“The rains are definitely helping with the lake level, and the demand off the Hatcher area has dropped as well by about 150,000 gallons daily.”

PAWSD District Manager
Andrew Connor

the drought plan, indicating that the district has four different levels of enforcement, beginning with a written warning and escalating to a \$100 fine, a \$250 fine and a \$500 fine.

Connor asked if the board wanted to start implementing this scheme, which he stated would be challenging due to the need to have evidence to document violations.

He added that the district has not started noncompliance enforcement except for calling customers about violations, which have been well received so far.

Lewis commented that the board could make this a separate voting item from the revisions to the drought plan and that it would likely want to vote on starting enforcement.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer asked if PAWSD has been having issues with compliance aside from speaking with some customers.

“I don’t want to turn us into the police,” he said.

Connor stated that he has not had compliance issues.

The board then unanimously voted to accept the drought management plan revisions before returning to the enforcement issues.

PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey explained that the district has developed a set of worksheets to document noncompliance with the drought management plan, which would have to be implemented before the district begins fining customers.

Walsh commented that the district might want to consider adjustments to the scale of enforcement actions, potentially making them more severe in higher drought levels while keeping the initial enforcement action a “nudge.”

Connor stated that the initial enforcement action would always remain a conversation with the customer.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges commented that, since the restrictions are currently well received and calling customers has been successful, he personally believes that more financially punitive measures are not needed.

Boehmer commented that the board should potentially consider implementing more penalties if the district reaches drought stage three, but should not do so before then.

Ramsey stated that the main goal at this point was to make sure that the board and staff were aligned on the penalty system in case the district has to implement them, although he commented, “I don’t think anybody wants to go that route unless we really, really have to.”

Tautges questioned if the board should have a separate board meeting in upcoming weeks if conditions become more serious or if it should set a benchmark now for when enforcement would begin.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson commented that he supports Boehmer’s idea of initiating enforce-

ment if the district enters drought stage three.

Boehmer noted that the board has an upcoming meeting on Aug. 9.

Lewis stated that the staff could redistribute the violation letters Ramsey helped develop, incorporating recent revisions, alongside a plan for how infractions would be treated in different drought stages, like Walsh proposed, for the Aug. 9 meeting.

Walsh, Tautges and Boehmer indicated support for this idea.

Ramsey commented that he believes that there should always be a written warning for the first infraction at any drought stage since there would always be objections about how the customer was unaware of the rules.

Connor added that the first step is a phone call prior to a letter being sent out, which occurs after a compliance issue is documented.

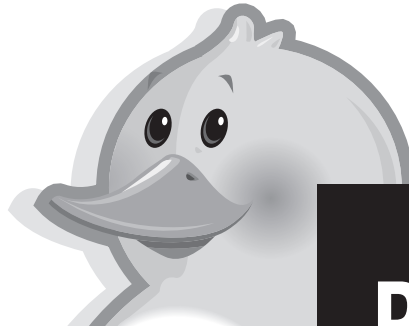
“I mean, the true way for this to work is your neighbors guilt you into it more than we fine you into compliance,” Ramsey said.

Connor commented that the district requires documentation and evidence beyond being told unauthorized watering is occurring to move forward.

“And we’ve had some meetings recently about the abuse our staff has taken, and we’ve had some discussions about that,” Boehmer said. “I just don’t know that we want to rush into this. It’s just gonna kind of put our staff in the hot seat when I don’t think we really need to right now. I don’t see it as beneficial.”

“Let’s revisit it in two weeks, then,” said Tautges.

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PAWSD approves response to assessor about drought restriction, ag users

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved a response to a letter from Archuleta County Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott concerning the impact of PAWSD’s drought restrictions on agricultural water users at its July 30 meeting.

Tully-Elliott’s letter, dated July 10, states that she is writing to the PAWSD board regarding concerns from members of the county’s agricultural community about how the district’s rate structure is applied to agricultural operations in the district.

She indicates that, in her understanding, these operations may not be currently recognized as businesses and thus may have to pay higher water rates when their usage exceeds 4,000 gallons due to the district’s current drought restrictions.

PAWSD is currently in stage two drought, and all residential water use above 4,000 gallons per month is billed at double the normal water rate.

“My purpose in writing is not to advocate for any particular rate schedule, but rather to provide clarification regarding the legal nature of

agricultural classification under Colorado law and the rigorous standards agricultural producers must satisfy to qualify for that classification,” Tully-Elliott’s letter states.

She explains that Colorado law defines a farm or ranch as a property operated primarily for the purpose of obtaining a monetary profit.

She indicates that the assessor’s office frequently and thoroughly reviews properties that hold an agricultural classification to determine that they meet this classification and to distinguish them from rural residential properties or hobby farms.

“Here in Archuleta County, our agricultural producers preserve thousands of acres of open space, support local food production, sustain livestock operations, maintain working landscapes, and contribute meaningfully to our local economy. Water is not merely a residential utility for these operations - it is an essential business input without which agricultural production cannot occur,” she states.

She clarifies that she does not believe that all properties with agricultural activities or livestock should be classified as businesses, only those that are classified as agricultural land and operate as a business by the

county assessor.

“While I fully recognize that the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District has independent authority to establish its own rate structure, I respectfully encourage the Board to consider whether Colorado’s statutory recognition of farms and ranches as profit-driven agricultural businesses should be reflected when evaluating water rate policies. Recognizing bona fide agricultural operations as business enterprises for purposes of water rates would acknowledge the legal framework established by the State of Colorado and the essential role agriculture continues to play within our community,” Tully-Elliott states.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis opened discussion of the issue at the PAWSD board meeting, explaining that staff prepared a proposed response to Tully-Elliott’s letter.

“I honestly don’t have any ownership in this,” Lewis said. “I just wanted to provide you with something that reflected what their request might look like in our current structures.”

She explained that the substantive portion of the response deals with the impacts of changing from a resident-
■ See Response A6



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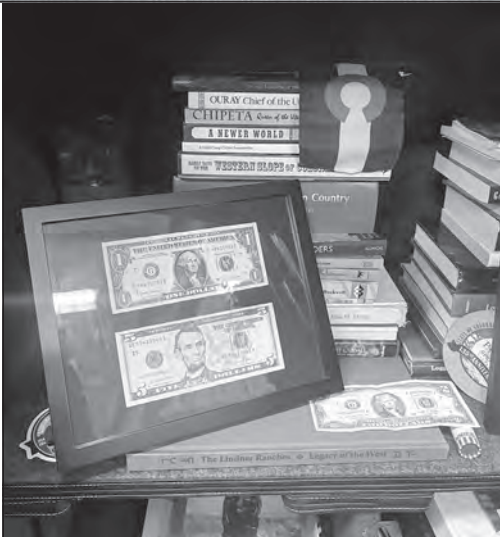


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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Community members and visitors attend the closing of the Pagosa Springs History Vault during a ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 1. The vault contains items and writings showcasing, among other things, the histories of the area and its inhabitants. Mayor and Pagosa Springs Main Street board member Shari Pierce was joined in sealing the vault by Amelia Everett, of Pagosa Springs, and Diego Garcia, of Albuquerque, N.M. — both 10. The youngsters were also invited back to help reopen the vault in 50 years.

40th annual ColorFest will feature balloons, food and music

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Each September, Pagosa Springs turns into a festival of color as hot air balloons rise over town and the community gathers for a weekend of food and music known as ColorFest. Organized by the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, ColorFest has become a signature fall event, drawing residents and visitors to celebrate the changing season and the town's vibrant business community. This year's ColorFest is scheduled for Sept. 18-20, with activities based in downtown Pagosa Springs and the uptown area. The three-day schedule includes

the Passport to Pagosa wine and food festival; the Bands, Brews and Barrels event; an evening balloon glow with Official A250/C150 Drone Show; and two morning hot air balloon mass ascensions. Festivities begin that Friday evening with Passport to Pagosa, a ticketed wine and food event featuring domestic and international wines paired with tastings from Pagosa Springs restaurants and food vendors. From 6 to 9 p.m., attendees visit tasting stations, sample dishes and cast votes in a People's Choice contest that recognizes local culinary talent. That Saturday, ColorFest shifts to an afternoon and evening format with Bands, Brews and Barrels from 4 to 8 p.m. The event offers live bands, beer and spirits tastings from

regional breweries and distilleries, and a People's Choice Brewer and Distiller contest. As dusk approaches, tethered hot air balloons illuminate the sky in a balloon glow along with a 500-count drone show, creating a visual focal point that will be one of the weekend's most photographed moments. The weekend's most recognizable scenes are the hot air balloon mass ascensions on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Balloons lift off around 8 a.m., launching south of The Springs Resort on Saturday and from the uptown area near Les Schwab on Sunday, offering different vantage points for spectators. Residents enjoy watching the balloons rise against a backdrop of fall foliage and mountain views.

ColorFest benefits Pagosa Springs, with increased visitation supporting lodging, dining, retail and local attractions throughout the weekend. The Chamber uses the festival to highlight restaurants, breweries, distilleries and other businesses, encouraging attendees to spend time in town before and after official events. The combination of community gathering, business promotion and the scenic setting reinforces Pagosa Springs' reputation as a welcoming destination for fall travel. Tickets for Passport to Pagosa on Friday and Bands, Brews and Barrels on Saturday are available now at pagosachamber.com, or call us at (970) 264-2360 and we will be happy to help get your tickets for this memorable event.

Response

■ Continued from A4
tial to commercial account. According to Lewis, this would likely result in an increase in equivalent units (EUs), which would involve paying more capital investment fees, as well as likely leading to a higher monthly rate for some users. "I think, in general, moving a residential account that uses a bit of treated water for irrigation purposes or other outside uses ... might actually cost more in the long run than just paying the drought tier multiplier while we're in stages one and two," she said. "That was what ended up being my conclusion and what I tried to convey in the letter." PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that the district's response should emphasize that customers are free to present proposed breakdowns of residential and commercial uses to PAWSD. However, he added that the district has a "fairly generous" residential water use policy for large homes and that, although this classification might cost somewhat more in drought years, establishing a commercial account could cost \$10,000 or more. "You could be costing yourself a whole lot of money," Walsh said, by pursuing a commercial account instead of taking advantage of PAWSD's "very generous" residential EU policy. The district is open to people making that reclassification if they wish to do so though, he added.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges commented that he knows people who use PAWSD water and have large gardens or horses, although he stated that some of these people also have water rights in irrigation ditches and use this water for their livestock or garden. "Like the letter says, feeding horses potable water or irrigating farmland with potable water is just not a good idea," Tautges said. "It's a waste of a real valuable resource, so I think all of these connection forms are gonna say

residential on them and if they want it to be something else, it needs to follow the rules of the district." Walsh commented that there are thousands of homes in the community that now operate as businesses, but "they insist on being taxed at a residential rate. So, I'm not open to them coming over and saying that 'We're businesses, but we should be exempt from the residential surcharge or the 4,000 gallon limits that residents get' unless you want to go and asked to be assessed with a commercial rate of taxation. ... I think we should treat them equally with every other business but not, maybe they don't appreciate how difficult other businesses have it, you know, with taxes and fees. ... I think we should always be open to folks who want their setup to be judged and divided between residents and commercial, but could be a very rare setup where that's worthwhile." Walsh commented that there are also a large number of "hoops" to obtaining a commercial classification. "If we start designating commercial as exempt, we're going to get more and more excuses for commercial," said PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer. "And we have a small amount of the water in the county that actually flows through the county, and I think we need to focus that on the ratepayers that we have that are existing based on how the residences were set up and keep it residential. And, if they wanna have horses, that's a choice — and I love horses, I've spent a lot of time riding horses, it's awesome — but having horses and cows and using domestic water for that, you gotta understand the costs and the risks, and it's now up to the rest of our ratepayers to kind of eat it over that." Walsh commented that the cost differential for water in drought stage two is likely to not be significant compared to the cost of purchasing an additional EU for a commercial operation.

Boehmer commented that the county contains large areas of rural farmland where cattle operations could be more successful than trying to water livestock with treated water within the PAWSD boundaries. "I appreciate what these people are trying to do, but I think it's dangerous for us to start accepting agricultural as commercial and then allowing them to get exemptions," he said. "I think it's a bad idea and we have to look out for our ratepayers, and the majority of our ratepayers are going to be negatively affected by this." Tautges asked Lewis if the board needed to make a decision on this item. Lewis replied that she would like a decision if the board wanted to respond and what content would be included in the response. Walsh commented that he would like an additional emphasis in the letter that PAWSD's offices are open for customers who want a business evaluation of the costs of residential versus commercial classification. Lewis proposed that this could be added to the end of the letter, with Walsh expressing approval. Walsh also complemented the professionalism of Tully-Elliott's letter compared to his expectation that she would "dump" complaints she is receiving on PAWSD.

He then moved to send Lewis' letter to Tully-Elliott with the addition of the verbiage he suggested. The board then unanimously voted to send the letter in accordance with Walsh's motion. josh@pagosasun.com

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown speaks to a full audience at Tuesday evening’s community meeting for the Rio Blanco Fire. The meeting included information from Archuleta County and several members of the Rio Blanco Fire Incident Management Team.

Fire

■ Continued from front

quent group torching. The fire has made its way to the plumbed control lines on Rainbow and Aspen roads and mop up has begun around homes.”

The team also reported that containment increased on the southern side of the fire.

“No structures have been damaged or lost as of the writing of this update and fire managers are feeling optimistic about the progress that is being made,” the team wrote Wednesday.”

It adds that, in the U.S. 84 corridor, “structure assessments and protection plans are complete and ready to implement, if necessary. Crews extended a hose lay from the end of the 008 into the Lower Blanco valley along the contingency line that was constructed over the past two days. Along the east and south perimeters, firefighters held the lines, preventing any fire growth in these directions. Frio Canyon presented a challenge yesterday, with the fire aggressively backing almost to the mouth of the canyon. A significant amount of smoke was produced by this heightened activity and both helicopters and air tankers supported firefighters on the ground to keep the fire’s intensity in check.”

The update indicates work continued on the west end of County Road 335.

“On the west end of CR 335, the homes have been scouted and protection plans developed,” it states. Water sources have been established and a cache of structure protection equipment is available if it needs to be deployed. Crews in this area are watching for spot fires thrown out of Frio Canyon into the valley below and will extinguish them. Aircraft were utilized to knock down flare-ups of group torching to limit spotting. A swing shift and a night shift will be assigned to the 335 corridor to keep watch and take action if needed.

On Wednesday, the incident man-

agement team explains, crews aimed to maintain staffing to hold the containment lines, to use firing operations in Frio Canyon to “bring the fire out of the mouth of the canyon, where they can engage it more safely, if weather and fuel conditions allow,” and to continue structure protection and mop-up efforts along the south side of County Road 335.

Additional Rio Blanco Fire updates will be posted at www.Pagosa-SUN.com as they become available from the incident management team.

Evacuation, most pre-evacuation orders remain in place

As of midday Wednesday, the majority of the evacuation and pre-evacuation orders remained in place.

Early that afternoon, the ACSO announced it, in coordination with the Rio Blanco Fire Incident Management Team and Archuleta County Emergency Management, had officially lifted the level 1 pre-evacuation order for Zone 3 (including county roads 337, 339 and the Pinon Hills subdivision, including residences from mile marker 12.8 along County Road 500), effective immediately.

“Firefighters have made notable progress on containment and perimeter lines, significantly reducing the immediate threat to homes and structures in the Zone 3 area,” the agency states in a press release.

The press release also notes that, while residents in Zone 3 are no longer under an active pre-evacuation warning, wildfire conditions remain dry in the surrounding San Juan National Forest.

“Residents are encouraged to stay vigilant and remain signed up for local emergency alerts,” it states.

It also notes to expect continued presence of emergency services, heavy machinery and fire crews operating on surrounding roadways, particularly along the County Road 500 and U.S. 84 corridors.

“Please yield to fire personnel and drive with caution,” it urges.

The mandatory evacuation orders or remaining pre-evacuation orders for adjacent areas (such as Lower Blanco/County Road 335) remained in effect.

An evacuation center 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.

Temporary closures, flight restriction

Multiple areas of the county are temporarily closed due to the fire effort.

On Monday, Colorado Parks and Wildlife announced that it has temporarily closed boating access at Echo Canyon Reservoir to allow aircraft to safely operate while scooping water to fight the ongoing Rio Blanco Fire.

Helicopter teams are actively dipping buckets into the reservoir when conditions allow for aerial support, according to the agency. To maximize the ability of fire personnel to utilize water from Echo Canyon Reservoir State Wildlife Area, CPW has closed the water to all vessels.

Hiking and shore fishing are still permitted at this time. CPW asks the public to respect the closures to prevent the entire property from needing to be closed.

“This administrative closure will assist the operations folks in being able to quickly and safely respond to this fire,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta. “We still want to provide an opportunity for the public to fish the lake from the shore, but it is important for the safety of air support that nobody be on the lake at this time. This includes not only motorized boats but also hand-launched vessels such as kayaks, canoes and paddleboards.

“We appreciate your cooperation in respecting the closure for your safety and for the safety of officers and fire first responders.”

The closure will remain in effect until conditions allow the reservoir to safely reopen. Visitors are asked to respect all closures and avoid traveling into active fire areas. Signs will be posted.

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

Archuleta County previously announced Cloman Park is closed until further notice due to the fire.

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

Call center

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.

Cause determined to be lightning

At about 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28,

the Rio Blanco Fire started, with the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) calling it a “rapidly growing wildfire” and issuing evacuation and pre-evacuation notices.

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 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.”

By midday Wednesday, July 29, the fire was estimated at 439 acres.

On July 30, the incident management team announced the Rio Blanco Fire was determined to be lightning-caused, likely a holdover from storms a day or two prior to its detection.

Over the days following, updates indicated personnel were facing near-record and record conditions.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the incident management team stated that, given the weather forecast heading into the week, it was possible that fuel conditions could start to break records for dryness, especially in the type of heavy dead and down timber present in the fire area.

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, incident managers announced a weather station in the district positioned at 9,300 feet broke temperature records at 87 degrees, with temperatures exceeding 95 degrees on the fireline.

Also on Tuesday, a community meeting on the fire was held, alerting the community to the current and forecasted conditions, and allowing residents to ask questions of the fire team.

Fire crews also spent time preparing for increasing winds, and conditions on the fire continued to be hot, dry and windy as of midday Wednesday.

Commissioners hear update

During an Aug. 4 work session, the ■ See Fire A8

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Correction

In the July 30 issue, The SUN inadvertently stated Upper San Juan Health Service District voters approved a mill levy of 3.884 mills and authorized the district to de-Bruce through Dec. 31, 2006, in a Nov. 6, 2011 election.

In fact, that election took place in 2001.

The SUN regrets the error.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Fire Protection District
Pagosa Fire Protection District personnel battle a fire in a vehicle and attached food trailer on Tuesday afternoon atop Wolf Creek Pass.

Housing

■ **Continued from front**
income” workforce housing, 60 to 120 percent of the area median income (AMI) level.

But, he explained, the rental rates of the units would ultimately be based on the cost of buying the building, \$4.9 million, and the renovation costs it will take to convert the condos into 64 rental units.

The town will be buying the condos from Wyndham Resorts, which it planned to liquidate through a bankruptcy auction process in which

the town was the successful bidder on the Village Pointe condos.

Sams and Town Manager David Harris have explained that the closing date on the property will be many months away, perhaps March 2027.

Sams noted that this is a “unique” opportunity for the town to get into the workforce housing business, rather than building from scratch, since most of the units are “move-in ready.”

“By repurposing existing housing, rather than building from the ground up, the town can bring quality work-

force housing online much more quickly and at a significantly lower cost than new construction,” he said.

Wyndham has been “good partners” in the process, and will continue to do upkeep on the building and the grounds until the town finalizes on the property and becomes the owner, he added.

On the uniqueness of the property, he also said that “we might have the only waterfront affordable housing units in the nation.”

He added, “These are quality units.”

Council member Brooks Lindner added, “When I toured them, I thought they were incredible.”

Council member Gary Williams also suggested that these units are unique in that renters will be able to “stand out on the balcony, overlooking the water, looking out at the mountains.”

He also mentioned that most of

the units would have a washer and dryer included.

Mayor Shari Pierce said that they are “fully furnished,” as well, and would attract teachers, police officers and firefighters.

“These will pay for themselves into the future,” she said.

“The goal was to provide affordable housing and have the project pay for itself through the rental income,” a statement on the matter states.

Sams noted the town will be advertising and posting its “talking points” on these units on its website.

Harris added that it’s “exciting,” and that it “looks like we are going to get these” condominiums.

Once the town closes in the upcoming months ahead, “with the interiors of the units in move in condition, we plan to start leasing and moving tenants in right away,” a town document states.

derek@pagosasun.com

Vehicle

■ **Continued from front**
the incident began, with Moltrier indicating in an email to The SUN the road was reopened to alternating traffic at 4:37 p.m. and was fully reopened at 5:18 p.m.

Bertram explained there were two

propane tanks that were venting and couldn’t be shut off, leading to the closure lasting longer.

Bertram explained the PFPD cleared the scene a little after 5 p.m., adding the fire was caused by a vehicle malfunction.

Fire

■ **Continued from A7**
Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners heard an update on the fire.

Presenting to the BoCC was San Juan National Forest District Ranger Josh Peck and San Juan Team 8 Incident Commander Trainee Cory Wilson.

Peck explained that from the moment the fire began it has been a “full-suppression” fire, noting challenges with the terrain of the area and the fire moving rapidly due to hot and dry weather conditions.

Peck stressed that one of the top priorities is protecting the lives of firefighters, the public and property in the area.

Wilson noted that about 231 residents and structures had been evacuated along County Road 335.

Wilson also noted that four Type 1 helicopters and two Type 2 helicopters had been assigned to the fire, and that “large airtankers are available on request.”

Wilson explained that the fire was first reported in the Valle Seco area on July 28. The fire grew to 120 acres by the first night.

At that point crews were reassigned from the Ferris Fire in Dolores, with a total of roughly 90 personnel assigned to the fire on July 29, with the fire growing to roughly 440 acres by the end of day.

“The fire continued to grow with hot and dry weather,” Wilson said, explaining that it grew to about 780 acres on July 30.

By July 31, the fire had increased up to about 1,000 acres with 250 personnel being assigned to the fire.

Wilson also explained that “we do not anticipate any change” in the next 48 to 72 hours in regard to the evacuation notice in place for County Road 335, noting the current fire behavior and operational plan.

Wilson also commented that communication and collaboration across all the agencies responding to the fire has been good with the ACSO and Emergency Management team assisting, along with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe responding and making resources available.

In response to a question from Commissioner John Ranson, Wilson indicated that all of the personnel assigned to the fire are being well taken care of in the community.

Sheriff Mike Le Roux commented that throughout the fire everyone has remained “injury free.”

Members of the public asked about plans for lifting evacuations and plans for controlling the progression of the fire.

Le Roux explained that the evacuation notice for County Road 335 will likely remain in place until it is safe to lift it for the entire area, rather than doing it in sections.

Wilson explained that the plan is to try to cut off the fire as soon as possible, likely in the Frio Canyon area.

He also explained more control lines are in place further west of Frio Canyon in the event the fire spreads past the canyon.

Commissioner Warren Brown commended the work of all the responding agencies, noting the amount of resources that have been brought in to fight one of the smaller acreage-sized fires currently happening in the state.

Commissioner Veronica Medina spoke later during the work session, also commending the community’s response.

“We always step up to the challenge when we see a natural disaster, whether it’s a flood or a fire, and our community always comes together and tries to help those trying to save our property,” she said.

Medina also spoke on the importance of assistance needed for those who have been evacuated, mentioning there are resources available through the American Red Cross of Western Colorado.

“Those are the ones who need our help and support,” she said.

Data

■ **Continued from front**
After the town council unanimously approved the first reading of the ordinance, placing the six-month moratorium, Mayor Shari Pierce said, “Thank you. I’m glad we are giving ourselves some time.”

O’Dell explained that the ordinance “is intended to allow staff to closely monitor data center development across the nation and specifically in the state of Colorado regarding technological advancements, especially as it pertains to human and ecological impact.”

Council member Brooks Lindner commented, “Moving forward, as elected officials, I think it’s important for us all to think about the questions that we ought to be asking about what is happening. Not just with data centers, but with this new immersion of the people who control data and their effect on our political system.”

He added, “We are in a new environment now, and it requires, from us, new ways of thinking about this and new questions.”

Council member Leonard Martinez said, “Policies have not yet been set out to take into account what’s happening with ... [this] new technology.”

He added, “We need to make sure that our policies are in place — federal, state and local — so that whenever there’s a new technology ... we are in a position to take advantage of it, and it doesn’t take advantage of us.”

During public comment, resident Bill Hudson expressed that “this technology is very dangerous.”

“It’s threatening our country and our democracy,” he said, adding that he is “glad the town is getting ahead of it.”

Currently, the town’s LUDC has no language defining or codifying data centers, prompting O’Dell to say at a previous meeting, “We don’t want to be caught on our heels” if a “big developer” were to come to town “throwing money around,” hoping to build a data center.

The LUDC needs to include language defining data centers to either implement smart zoning regulations or ban them outright, O’Dell explained.

“When an application is made for a type of use that is not specifically listed ... the Director shall make a determination as to the appropriate classification of a new or unlisted form of land use,” the LUDC states.

Currently, the most closely related use the LUDC defines “would be the use of a Warehouse, which is defined as: A structure containing an area available for the purpose of storing raw materials, goods, or property.”

While no developer has come to the town’s planning department wanting to build a data center, “we want to get ahead of the eight ball on this,” said Town Manager David Harris, at a previous meeting.

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Education



Photo courtesy Town of Pagosa Springs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) presents a \$1 million check for the new Build Pagosa regional workforce center slated to be built near Pagosa Springs High School on July 29. The grant was selected and authorized through the Congressional Directed Spending program and will go toward the construction costs with the new facility. Included in the photo are Sallie Clark, state director, Colorado Rural Development, USDA; Will Riddlehoover, executive director of Build Pagosa; Adam Hirshberg, board member of Build Pagosa; Nick Freelen, Public Works director, Town of Pagosa Springs; Maddie Bergon, council member for the town and construction project manager for Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County; Leah Ballard, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County; Darren Lewis, Parks and Recreation director for the town; Emily Lashbrooke, executive director of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation and board member for Build Pagosa; David Harris, town manager; Leonard Martinez, council member for the town; Irene Etsitty, Colorado Rural Development, USDA; and other staff members.

Youth voices: Healthy Archuleta's youth interns work on bridging the community together

Healthy Archuleta

This week, the Healthy Archuleta youth interns shifted their focus from hands-on service to understanding the importance of prevention.

Through conversations with local leaders and members of the Youth Prevention Coalition, the interns explored how prevention goes beyond avoiding risky behaviors; it is about building healthy environments, creating opportunities for young people and strengthening communities before challenges arise.

The Youth Prevention Coalition is a collaborative space where young people and adult community leaders come together with a shared purpose: creating meaningful, youth-driven change. Rather than making decisions for young people, the coalition values their voices, experiences and

ideas, recognizing that youth offer a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities within the community. By giving young people a seat at the table, the coalition works to identify gaps in resources, programs, and support systems while empowering youth to help shape solutions that will have a lasting impact.

In addition to learning about the coalition's mission, the interns have also been working on a Youth Community Leadership and Learning Circle (CLLC). The goal of the Youth CLLC is to create a dedicated space where young people can come together to plan events, discuss issues affecting their peers, and develop projects that positively impact Archuleta County.

The Youth CLLC will serve as a bridge between youth and the broader community, ensuring that young voices are heard, represented and in-

cluded in conversations that influence the future of the county. By encouraging collaboration, leadership and civic engagement, the Youth CLLC aims to empower the next generation to move beyond identifying problems and become active participants in creating meaningful solutions.

The first Youth Prevention Coalition meeting left the interns with more than just new ideas; it gave them a renewed sense of purpose. They walked away with the understanding that meaningful change begins by listening, asking questions and being willing to step forward.

As they continue to work on the Youth CLLC and serve their community, they are showing that leadership is not defined by age, but by a willingness to make a difference and create a bridge between the community and themselves.

The youth interns will be presenting their final internship capstones projects on Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The community is invited to listen to their presentation to learn about their recommendations for making Archuleta County a youth-centered community.

Please RSVP to fsfearchuleta@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the presentation; food will be available as part of the evening.

Learn more about the county-wide Youth Prevention Coalition at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/youth-prevention.html. We invite youth to join the CLLC for hands-on service, leadership development and internship updates. Discover how to get involved on our Youth Engagement page: www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/youth-engagement.html.

LIBRARY NEWS

Your generosity made this happen

By Barbara Brattin
SUN Columnist

As we finalize our signage that thanks our major donors, I am humbled and honored that so many people in our community stepped forward over the last 10 years to make such generous gifts to our capital campaign.

It's clear that you believe in the power of the public library to do good work.

As we open the doors to our newly imagined library spaces, I pledge to you all that we will care for the building you have provided to us, and we will work hard to live up to the ideals of the public library: free and open access to information, and shared spaces to keep you informed, keep you curious, and strengthen our community ties.

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 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.

You beat our summer reading challenge

In just two months of our Summer Reading Program, Read Wild!, we're proud to share that readers have surpassed our lofty goal of 250,000 minutes read.

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.

Let's keep going. Read Wild! is too much fun to stop at 250,000 minutes read. So, let's set a new reading goal for our community.

Can we read 350,000 minutes, Pagosa?

We know you can do it.

There's still time to participate. Read Wild! continues through Aug. 28. Visit pagosalibrary.org/summer and start earning rewards for reading.

Then, join us for an end-of-summer celebration on Aug. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the new Children's Garden.

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

As the beginning of another 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.

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

• Daniel Silva's "Ransom" features art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon as he searches for the mysterious missing wife of a British billionaire.

• Amateur sleuth Isabel Dalhousie is back in Alexander McCall Smith's "The Subtle Pleasures of Indiscretion."

• In "Getting Away with Murder" from Shari Lapena, Jill and Ted need to murder a wealthy relative to keep the expensive New York City brownstone they have come to adore.

New fiction

• "The Bone Thief" features Bureau of Indian Affairs archaeologist Syd Walker sent to tribal lands to evaluate what appears to be an ancient burial site, but links to a dark history of murders over land rights.

• Tracie Peterson delivers a new historical romance, "A Life So True," the second book in the Minneapolis Legacy series. Evelyn Turner is caught in a moral dilemma when she suspects her romantic interest's family's involvement in arson.

• Crime writers Harlan Coben, C.J. Box and Gregg Hurwitz join 10 of the best crime writers to deliver a collection of new stories in "Birds of Prey."

New in nonfiction

• "No Experience Necessary: Why Betting on Yourself in Your Twenties is the Best Decision You'll Ever Make" is from entrepreneur toy maker Ronnen Harary, who built a multimillion empire at a young age.

• "How to Sound Wine Smart" is a visual guide to discuss and taste wine like a pro from sommelier Maryse Chevreire.

• "Unleashed: How to Bring Out the Best in Your Dog." Fix any behavior humanely by following the advice of celebrity dog trainer Jaime Goodrich.



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SUN photos/Randi Pierce
Last weekend's 75th annual Archuleta County Fair featured something for everyone, including races and competitions, exotic animals, BMX stunts, Wild West entertainment, exhibits, livestock, rodeos and more.

Planning commission tables decision on proposed RV park on U.S. 84

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Planning Commission voted unanimously to table its decision on a proposed recreational vehicle (RV) park during its regular meeting held on July 23.

The proposal was made by property owner Kevin O'Brien, who applied for a board conditional use permit (BCUP) in order to operate a "small-scale agritourism campground" at his full-time residence and ranch located at 6116 U.S. 84, which is currently zoned as agricultural ranching under the county's adopted zoning map.

The proposal was presented by county planner Valerie Capone, explaining the proposal includes 20 RV sites to be developed in two phases.

According to the staff report attached in the meeting's agenda, each site would have potable water connected to the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) system. The development would also include a dog park, playground and other common areas for guests.

Planning commissioner Peter Vecvanags commented that the planning commission did not receive additional information that staff was presenting at the meeting.

Capone indicated that all materials were available on the county's website under planning commission meeting agenda.

Planning commission chair Matt Nobles stated, "We did not receive the material," explaining that staff was welcome to go through its presentation with the applicant being present, "but I think it's very unfair to the public."

A three-page staff report is attached in the meeting's agenda, but no additional presentations were included in the agenda documents.

"This was not posted online," Vecvanags added.

Capone went on to explain that each proposed RV site would be 45 feet by 75 feet, with its own fire ring and electricity hookup.

She also noted that a full design for a septic system had been submitted for the county to review.

Capone also noted that the property owners have received an access permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Capone indicated that developmental objectives like design compatibility and the impact on natural resources and wildlife in the area "have been adequately addressed."

She also indicated that all submittal requirements and review criteria for proposed BCUP have been met, and therefore staff recommends the approval of the Cerulean Skies Ranch RV Park, with the condition that the applicant shall obtain all applicable storm water permits or waivers from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

O'Brien then presented the project for his property, explaining that he and his wife have spent more than a year working with the county, neighbors and professional engineers "to ensure that the project meets or exceeds the development standards."

He explained that after taking a cross-country road trip, he and wife "were inspired by the families raising children alongside animals, caring for the land, welcoming guests and following regenerative principles" in Archuleta County.

He added that being close to New Mexico is important for being closer to family and that the San Juan Mountains were a sign that Pagosa Springs would be their home.

O'Brien commented that developing the agricultural side of his property and completing this permitting process would "allow us to pursue the full vision."

He acknowledged that ranching at more than 7,000 feet in elevation in Colorado "is a different challenge," explaining that he has sought out guidance from professional agencies in order to "try to put our best foot forward."

"Our vision is to create a home-stead-scale regenerative ranch that enriches the land and community by building healthy soil, raising healthy animals, nourishing our neighbors and hosting guests. We want to learn, connect and restore nature," O'Brien said.

He stressed that the BCUP is essential in being able to host guests at the ranch.

"These would not simply be places for travelers to park their RV overnight," he said, explaining they intend to offer experience ranch stays for people to learn how a small ranch operates.

He explained that the county's current land use regulations (LURs) have this proposal as an RV park "because there is not a specific agritourism campground use, and the wilderness lodging dude-ranch classification is applicable to cabins rather than RVs."

O'Brien clarified that the proposal is not to operate a "traditional"

RV park and is intentionally being limited to 20 spaces "because the campground is intended to support the ranch, rather than ranch being created to support the campground."

He also commented that this project strongly supports the county's community plan, which calls for the preservation of agricultural areas and open spaces, "while also recognizing tourism and outdoor recreation ... are important parts to the local economy."

He added, "Agritourism manages to support these conflicting goals."

In response to a question from planning commissioner Sandra Dillon, O'Brien indicated that the average length of stay at the property would likely be three to four nights.

"So, basically kind of a short-term rental basically," Dillon said.

Multiple public comments were given on the matter, with the initial commenter stating she owns property directly across from the proposed RV park.

The commenter explained that she is opposing the project as over the last few years landowners in the area have shown up and asked for land uses such as this to be denied, "as it is incompatible with rural community, and its impacts cannot be adequately mitigated."

She clarified that she is not opposed to ranching and farming practices on the land, but specifically opposed to the RV park.

She also noted that U.S. 84 is a main entrance into the Pagosa Springs community.

"Its land and working ranches, and agricultural heritage, are part of what makes our community fabulous and wanting to come and live there," she said, noting other concerns about elk migration patterns in the area of the proposed project.

She stated that increasing "development and urban sprawl" could fragment that habitat and interfere with established migration patterns.

The next commenter explained that he owns a regenerative agritourism based farm in the same area of the proposed project.

He stated that farmers and ranches struggle to make it on their own these days and that has been the birth of the agritourism industry, claiming that if the community wants to diversify beyond the hot springs, this is the way to do it.

"We are healing the lands," he said.

"The challenge I see are people with second homes," he added, stating that people not even living here are letting cattle graze and decimate

the soil. "Without building these business models we will never have small ranchers and farmers in our community."

The next commenter addressed the statement in regard to second homeowners, explaining that he is the ranch caretaker for the property referenced by the previous commenter, and that is his home.

He stated that he is not against agricultural uses of the land, but is opposed to the RV park.

The commenter also referenced a similar project that was proposed in the area last summer that would've featured multiple tiny homes, claiming that was denied because it would have been "spot zoning."

Another commenter stated he was an owner of an existing RV park in the county and asked why this proposed project does not include infrastructure required by the state for RV parks such as a bathhouse or other facilities compatible with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He added that the project is "creating an unbalanced system," asking the commission how the project could be approved without meeting certain state requirements.

Nobles then closed public comment while reiterating that the planning commission members did not receive the staff presentation beforehand.

"This is the first time that the commission has seen these slides. I have a big issue with that," he said.

Nobles then read from a letter he received from a constituent voicing concerns over the lack of information made publicly available in regard to the proposed project.

He then stated that he would entertain a motion to table the matter until additional necessary information is provided and the commission has adequate time to review the documents.

Planning commissioner Mont McAllister stated he had similar concerns and motioned to table the matter.

He also commented, "I think it's a great project," encouraging agritourism ventures, "but we need more information."

The motion was then seconded and unanimously approved by the commission.

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SPONSORED CONTENT



Photo courtesy of Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs combines advanced technology with personalized care to provide comfortable, family-friendly dental treatment for patients of all ages.

A gentler approach to treating cavities

By Allison Brown

A trip to the dentist can feel intimidating when a cavity needs to be filled. Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is helping make that experience more comfortable by offering a minimally invasive treatment option that, in some cases, eliminates the need for numbing injections.

Dr. Justin Nylund uses the Prep-Start Air Abrasion system for select patients with smaller cavities. Instead of relying on a traditional dental drill, the technology uses a fine stream of aluminum oxide powder and water to gently remove tooth decay.

For many eligible patients, that means no injection to numb the area and no loud drilling sounds, heat or vibration that can make dental visits stressful.

The technology is designed for smaller cavities on the tops and sides of teeth, allowing Dr. Nylund to remove decay while preserving as much healthy tooth structure as possible. Because the system is highly precise, it offers a more conservative approach to treatment than traditional drilling in appropriate cases.

Reducing discomfort can help patients feel more at ease during treatment and may ease anxiety about future dental visits. For children, avoiding needles and the traditional drill can make early experiences at the dentist more positive.

While the PrepStart system is not the right solution for every cavity, it provides another option that allows Black Diamond Dental to tailor treatment to each patient's

individual needs.

Patient comfort is a priority throughout the practice, where advanced technology is paired with personalized care to create a welcoming experience for families.

Whether it's a child's first filling or an adult's routine dental treatment, Black Diamond Dental strives to make every visit as comfortable and stress-free as possible.

To learn more about Black Diamond Dental and the services available, visit blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com.

Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.



Dr. Justin Nylund and staff

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I was referred to Black Diamond Dental by a retired dentist. This clinic has the best doctor and kindest assistants you'd ever hope to meet. I had an emergency toothache and Dr.Nylund was able to fit me in and get right to my issue. Do not hesitate to use this wonderful clinic!!!!

- 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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Outdoors

Cynthia Purcell retiring after 25 years of service

San Juan Conservation District

After 25 years of dedicated service, Cynthia Purcell is retiring as district manager of the San Juan Conservation District (SJCD) and as program support specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Since the SJCD encompasses Archuleta, and parts of Hinsdale and Mineral counties, Purcell was involved with many projects over her career.

Among her many accomplishments during her tenure, she helped lead numerous conservation initiatives, worked closely with local landowners and partners, and guided the district through significant changes.

Purcell was instrumental in initiating the Stollsteimer Creek Watershed Committee and Plan, developing a targeted conservation project with the NRCS at the Elk Park subdivision, and the rehabilitation of the Navajo River for improved fish habitat.

She also supported the agricultural community with the development of an updated inventory and assessment of the county's irrigation ditches, among many other initiatives.

Reflecting on her career and her legacy for future generations, Purcell wants young people to know that they too can make a lasting impact on the land with their future decisions.



Photo courtesy San Juan Conservation District

After 25 years of dedicated service, Cynthia Purcell is retiring as district manager of the San Juan Conservation District and as program support specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

With her retirement, she looks forward to doing things on her own schedule. Purcell has given our community a legacy of conservation stewardship and service.

\$7.04 million in grant funds available to reduce wildfire risk

Colorado State Forest Service

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is now accepting applications for the Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation (FRWRM) grant program.

Community groups, fire protection districts, tribes/tribal organizations, utilities and nonprofit organizations are just some of the groups eligible to apply for grants from the \$7.04 million funding pool.

"Once again, in 2026, Colorado is experiencing multiple wildfires that have destroyed homes and businesses, endangered community health and taken lives," said Colorado State Forester and CSFS Director Matt McCombs. "This season is one more solemn reminder that wildfire is a part of life in Colorado, which means

being wildfire ready must be part of the Colorado way of life."

McCombs continued, "The most effective time to reduce wildfire risk is before smoke is in the air. The

"The most effective time to reduce wildfire risk is before smoke is in the air."

Colorado State Forester and CSFS Director Matt McCombs

FRWRM grant program helps communities, fire protection districts, nonprofits and local partners orga-

nize, plan and implement the forest interventions and wildfire mitigation work today that protects Colorado lives, homes and businesses tomorrow."

The FRWRM grant program helps fund projects that strategically reduce wildfire risk to property, infrastructure and water supplies, and that promote forest health through scientifically based forestry practices and the utilization of woody material generated from project work.

The competitive grant program can fund fuels and forest health projects that reduce hazardous fuels and promote forest health. These grant funds can also be used for capacity-building projects that provide communities with the resources and staffing necessary to strengthen local capacity to develop, coordinate and

implement future fuels and forest health projects.

The projects can be on private, state, county or municipal forestlands.

There is a fund-matching component of the grant awards. The state can fund up to 50 or 75 percent of the cost of each awarded project; grant recipients are required to match at least 50 or 25 percent of the total project cost. This can be through cash or in-kind contributions, and the required matching amount depends on whether the project location falls within an area of "fewer economic resources" as identified in the Colorado Forest Atlas.

Applicants must coordinate proposed projects with relevant county officials to ensure consistency with county-level wildfire risk reduction planning.

Follow-up monitoring is a necessary component of this grant program to help demonstrate the relative efficacy of various treatments and the utility of grant resources. The CSFS will work with selected successful project applicants to conduct project monitoring and conduct site visits to assess effectiveness and completion of projects.

Additional preference will be given to projects that have some specific features:

- Substantially leverage additional financial resources.
- Complement local measures adopted by communities to reduce wildfire risk.
- Use the labor of an accredited Colorado youth or veterans corps organization.
- Include forest treatments that result in the direct protection of critical watersheds or infrastructure.

■ See Wildfire A13

SPONSORED CONTENT

Why hearing health deserves a place in preventive healthcare

By Robert Melton, Au.D., CH-TM
Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions

Hearing loss is one of the most common chronic health conditions affecting adults, yet it often develops so gradually that many people don't notice the effects. The good news is that hearing loss is highly treatable, especially when it is identified early.

Hearing healthcare is a team effort involving several professionals. Primary care providers often recognize hearing concerns and make referrals. Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions affecting the ear. Audiologists perform comprehensive hearing evaluations, diagnose hearing and balance disorders, assess tinnitus, and develop individualized treatment plans. This may include hearing aid recommendations, fitting and programming hearing technology, counseling, and follow-up care.

A common misconception is that nothing can be done for tinnitus. While there is no universal cure, several evidence-based treatment approaches can reduce its impact.

Hearing Instrument Specialists focus on hearing aid technology, including the selection, fitting, and adjustment of hearing aids for adults. In many practices, patients benefit from the combined expertise of both audiologists and Hearing Instrument Specialists.

Researchers have found that hearing health is closely connected to overall well-being. Untreated hearing loss has been associated with increased listening effort, social isolation, and a risk of cognitive decline.

Because hearing changes gradually, adults should begin thinking about hearing health before significant problems develop. Around age 50, consider a routine hearing



Photo courtesy of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions

Robert Melton, Au.D., CH-TM, is the owner and audiologist at Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions in Pagosa Springs. He specializes in adult hearing healthcare, tinnitus management, comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, and hearing technology.

screening. By age 60, a comprehensive hearing evaluation can establish a valuable baseline. Anyone experiencing tinnitus, dizziness, significant noise exposure, or a noticeable change in hearing should seek an evaluation sooner.

Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is located at 2343 Eagle Dr. They may be reached by phone at (970)444-2314.

Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN's sponsored content program called Spotlight.

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Photo courtesy Kate Alfred

Thingamajig Theatre Company actors competed in the fourth annual Bob Howard Memorial Pickleball Tournament on Aug. 4 to honor Howard, a longtime theater patron who died in October 2022. He was a lifelong pilot who was active in the Pagosa aviation community and also a member of the Gray Wolf Ski Club and Pagosa Springs Golf Club. The pickleball tournament was played on a court on the Howard driveway. Two-person teams were created by a random card drawing. The tournament director was Pagosa Springs resident Kate Alfred. The scorekeeper was actor-director Dennis Elkins. The winners were Koko Waller and Trevor Brown. Host Carole Howard is standing on the left in the photo. The actors are performing this summer in three Broadway musicals in rotation at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts: “Come From Away,” “Company” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Plant profile: the humble river willow

By Ethan Proud and Cindi Galabota
SUN Columnists

Riparian environments in Colorado would not function properly without the humble river willow amongst its ranks.

These small, spindly, bush-like willows are a far cry in appearance from their larger cousins like the weeping willow. Though, what they lack in physical stature is more than made up for by the benefits they provide to their ecosystems.

There are several species of willow native to Colorado, with varieties that grow at almost every elevation. Even mat-forming species of willow can be found above tree line.

Willow identification can be tricky, but some common species of willow found in our area are coyote, plane-leaf, mountain, and Scouler’s willow.

Willows in general can be identified from their slender reddish-brown stems and branches; narrow, elongated leaves; and catkins that develop early in spring. More specific ID will certainly require a more trained eye.

They prefer moist soil and full sun, hence their predominance in local wetlands, flood plains, and along stream banks and riverbanks.

They provide habitat for many birds and small critters, notably the endangered Southwest willow flycatcher, which has become endangered due to riparian habitat loss. Willows are a favorite of grazing wildlife species like deer, elk and moose. They help prevent streambank erosion and aid in absorbing flood water.

Their root systems can even act as a natural filter, improving water qual-

ity. Canopies of willow growing on streambanks provide shade, cooling stream water, while roots stabilize and create overhanging banks, providing habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.

In traditional cultures of the Western U.S., the willow was used in many aspects of daily life. Willow branches were used as building materials to make all sorts of items from baskets, looms, boats, snowshoes and arrows to willow-framed dwellings sheathed with cattails. The Ute used to concoct a green dye for coloring buckskin by soaking willow leaves in hot water and then boiling the mixture to concentrate the pigment. The bark of willow was used as a natural pain reliever and inflammation reducer. Aspirin itself is a derivative of salicylic acid — a compound found in Salicaceae family members. In all areas where willows grow natively, there is a long history of human use associated with these plants.

Despite the abundant goodwill these trees bring to their surroundings, too much willow can be problematic. Overpopulated thickets of willow can crowd out access to waterways for both recreating humans and water-seeking wildlife alike. They can form monocultures that shade out riparian undergrowth, reducing biodiversity. Willows can clog up irrigation ditches, reducing the amount of water available for use and providing habitat for unwanted animals in the ditches. Property owners along streams and rivers may find themselves constantly fighting back the willows from encroaching onto their land.

Controlling the willows can indeed be a challenge. Mechanical removal by pruning, brush-cutting or

masticating can be effective, but the willows regrow from the root systems quickly and consistently send up new shoots to continue their spread.

Logistically, getting heavy machinery in these wetland areas to remove willows can be a dangerous endeavor, and may cause unintended damage to stream banks and sensitive wetland environments.

A combination of mechanical removal and herbicide applications of an aquatic labeled herbicide (i.e. 2,4-D or Triclopyr) may be a more effective approach. Clearing an area of willow and spraying the regrowth with herbicide can be more effective than just doing one or the other method.

Regardless of your chosen control method, it will have to be done several times to see lasting results.

Keep in mind, however, the important role the willow plays in the ecosystem before clearing stands of them. Removing them will not only reduce wildlife habitat, but provide an opportunity for the invasive tree tamarisk, or salt cedar, to establish in its place.

Tamarisk is one of the biggest threats to riparian ecosystems in the Southwest U.S. Intentionally introduced for bank stabilization, tamarisk can change soil salinity to dangerously high levels, preventing native plants from growing. They also suck up a disproportionately large amount of water compared to native riparian plant life. They do still provide habitat; the southwest willow flycatcher has taken up residence in these trees due to displacement of willow, making control of tamarisk even more complex.

Archuleta County Weed and Pest is your local resource for managing

Grass seed available for landowners

San Juan Conservation District

The San Juan Conservation District is offering local landowners the opportunity to purchase a variety of seed mixtures for different conservation uses such as erosion control, weed suppression and grazing land improvement.

These mixtures have been specially

developed to provide a ground cover that requires very little watering.

Consider these mixes for establishing vegetation around newly constructed homes or for improving pasture condition.

A native grass mixture, dryland pasture mix, native wildflower mix and a wildlife mix are available. Erosion control blankets are also being

offered.

Orders are being taken until Oct. 1. The seed will be available to pick up on Nov. 3.

Need an order form? Please contact the San Juan Conservation District at (970) 731-3615 or stop by our office at 505A County Road 600.

Thanks for making conservation count.

Wildfire

■ Continued from A12

This year, the FRWRM grant program has transitioned to an online grant management platform that gives applicants and grant recipients a single place to track applications, manage awards and complete grant requirements. The new online system benefits applicants as well as CSFS staff by streamlining the application process, making it more accessible, efficient and user-friendly while improving transparency and communication throughout the life of each award.

Applications must be submitted through the new online grant management platform by 5 p.m. on Oct. 8. A technical advisory panel convened by the CSFS will review project applications and make funding

recommendations. Funding will be awarded on March 31, 2027.

Additional information about the FRWRM Grant Program is available at CSFS field offices and on the CSFS website: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/grants/forest-restoration-wildfire-risk-mitigation/>.

The CSFS provides professional forestry assistance, wildfire mitigation expertise, and outreach and

education to help landowners and communities achieve their forest management goals.

The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of Colorado State University’s Office of Engagement and Extension and provides staffing for the Division of Forestry within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. For more information, visit csfs.colostate.edu.

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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.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Photos courtesy Jeff Laydon

The 75th annual Archuleta County Fair, held July 30 through Aug. 2, featured a number of traditional events, including honoring community members, live music and dancing, and the ever-popular livestock auction.



Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs Medical Center

The Red Ryder rodeo grounds took on a pink flair for the annual Pink Rodeo, which pairs traditional rodeo competition and entertainment with fundraising for Pagosa Springs Medical Center's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders.

Public Notices

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 previous issued to Bob Gourley. 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 lost certificate unless a contrary claim is filed with the corporation prior to September 1, 2026. Point of contact is Vallissatie 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 situate 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 Recession 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 Submitted 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 THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 27th, 2026 AND SEPTEMBER 1st, 2026
Application for CERULEAN SKIES RANCH BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, for an RV Park at 6116 US Highway 84, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
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 hearings by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on August 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. and the Board of County Commissioners on September 1, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published August 6 and 13, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (312439)

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; Penie DeClark, Treasurer; and Directors Keith Jacobson, Wes Lewis, Ryan Montroy, Twyne Regester, Lisa Scott, Rochelle Shaham.
Published in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*
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)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Mark Henry Kircher
Case Number 2026 PR 30027
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before December 6, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.
Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published August 6, 13 and 20, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (312424)

STATE OF COLORADO, COUNTY OF ARCHULETA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
IN RE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SERVICE PLAN FOR COLORADO'S TIMBER RIDGE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, COUNTY OF ARCHULETA, STATE OF COLORADO
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has

been filed with the Administration Office, County of Archuleta, Colorado (the "County"), a First Amendment to the Service Plan (the "First Amendment") for the Colorado's Timber Ridge Metropolitan District (the "District"). The proposed amendment does not alter the District's boundaries and is intended to expand the authorized powers of the District to include additional services on behalf of the Colorado's Timber Ridge Homeowners Associations:
1. Enforcement of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs); and
2. Architectural and Improvement Review.
NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County will hold a public hearing at 1:30 p.m. or soon thereafter, on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, in the Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147 to review the First Amendment Service Plan for Colorado's Timber Ridge Metropolitan District and to form a basis for a resolution approving, disapproving or conditionally approving the First Amendment Service Plan for the District.
Any interested elector, property owner, resident, or other interested person may appear at the public hearing and be heard for or against the proposed First Amendment to the Service Plan. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners prior to the hearing in accordance with County procedures.
A copy of the proposed First Amendment to the Service Plan is posted at: <https://ctcmd.org> and is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Archuleta County Administration, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147.

BY ORDER OF THE ARCHULETA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Published In: Pagosa Sun
Published On: July 30, 2026, and August 6, 2026
Published July 30 and August 6, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311620)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
Service by Publication:
Case No. 26DR31
In re the Dissolution of Marriage of:
Jaime Michelle Gilles, Petitioner and
Andar Tyler Gilles, Respondent
Action for Dissolution of Marriage (divorce) RSP
TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENTS: A copy of the Petition and Summons may be obtained from the Clerk of this Court during regular business hours. Default judgment may be entered against Respondent, if Respondent fails to appear or file a response within thirty-five days after date of Publication.
District Court
Archuleta County Courthouse
109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published August 6, 13, 19, 27, and September 3, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (312333)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The notices you see on this page include important information from local governmental bodies and attorneys that may be of interest to you. These notices can include information about public hearings, property assessments and changes in assessment, assumed names, name changes, claims notices, public meeting dates and financial statements.

Legal advertising

Deadline: Friday noon*

Bring your legal advertisement or public notice to our offices at 457 Lewis Street, or email to legal@pagosasun.com

*Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks. Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories

7 p.m. • Aug. 24 • Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts



Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning



Photo courtesy Seeds of Learning

Seeds of Learning’s upcoming fundraiser, Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories, will help raise funds for the early care and education center. Online voting is open at vote.pagosavoice.org, where every vote is just \$1. Voters may cast as many votes as they’d like.

Live Performers

- Thursday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Open mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Jacques Grant, 6 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Saturday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Out on Work Release, 6 p.m.
East Side Market: Jonny Keys, 11 a.m.
- Sunday

Coyote Moon Lounge: The Neighbors, 5 p.m.
- Monday

Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday

Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

PagosaSUN.com

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)



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(970) 264-2100
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Physical: 457 Lewis Street
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One Lucky Duck is only \$10
1st place \$1500 • 2nd place \$750 • 3rd place \$500
Two Random Ducks \$125

Tickets available at Pope JP II Church office,
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You do not need to be present to win the Duck Race.
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Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories: Every vote helps build a brighter future for Pagosa's children

Seeds of Learning

As excitement continues to build for Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories, the talented hometown contestants are putting the finishing touches on performances they've spent months preparing. But while they'll be competing for the coveted People's Choice Award, every singer knows this competition is about something far greater than taking home a trophy.

Contestants Darcy DeGuise, An-nita and Wim Bens, Shellie Dolan, Leela Simpson, Stetson and Cia Adkisson, and Dawn Siggett are donating their time and talents because they believe every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

They understand that the children at Seeds of Learning Early Care and Education Center need the support of the entire community, and they're working hard to earn every vote while helping provide life-changing opportunities for Pagosa Springs' youngest learners.

Online voting is open at vote.pagosavoice.org, where every vote is just \$1. Voters may cast as many votes as they'd like, and can support one singer or several. Every vote counts toward the People's Choice Award while also helping Seeds of Learning continue its mission of providing exceptional early childhood education.

Every dollar raised through Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories helps provide tuition assistance for local families who otherwise

couldn't afford high-quality early childhood education. Those dollars also help ensure that children receive the strong educational foundation they need during the most critical years of development.

Research consistently shows that 85 to 90 percent of a child's brain

development occurs before the age of 5, making early childhood one of the most important investments a community can make.

Higher-quality preschool programs have larger impacts on children's development while children

■ See Future on next page

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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. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. 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 are locked.)

The educational part of our meeting beginning at 7 p.m. will last about 1.5 to two hours. A member will 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 will be giving a brief lesson from a book we call Astronomy 101. 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.

This is not an advanced astronomy presentation. Materials, many from the European Space Agency, were made to educate the public about discoveries. The James Webb team is big on education for everyone, so information is simple and easy to understand. Come to see how interesting and enjoyable it can be.

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.

Star party planned

We will try again on Aug. 12 to have a star party near Hatcher Lake.

Drive north on Piedra Road 4.7 miles from 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. It is a wonderful place. Coming at dusk is best. This is also peak time for the Perseid meteor shower, so we many be in for an extra wonderful experience.

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, 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 and, as said, 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 — it will increase your discussion time around the dinner table.

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

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to tour historic Gomez Store Aug. 8

By Keena Carstensen
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society (PPGS) will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, Aug. 8.

We will meet at 10 a.m. at the Archuleta County CSU Extension Of-

fice at 344 U.S. 84. We will be getting a guided tour of the historic Gomez Mercantile store. The historic building was moved from Pagosa Junction to the Archuleta County Fairgrounds.

There will be no regular business meeting this month.

The genealogical society meets on the first Saturday of each month

(this month's meeting was changed to accommodate the county fair). It hosts guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to genealogy and history, including the rich history of our area.

For more information, contact Keena Carstensen at keenaruntherace@gmail.com.

Future

■ continued from previous page are enrolled in the program and are more likely to create gains that are sustained after the child leaves preschool.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (or NAEYC) is the highest and most esteemed quality credentialing body for early childhood education. For 12 years, Seeds has held NAEYC accreditation, which less than 10 percent of preschools in the United States achieve.

In 2025, NAEYC added a higher level of quality recognition called Accreditation Plus. Seeds has achieved Accreditation Plus status for both years this program has been in place. The simple explanation of this status is that NAEYC recognizes us

as operating a top-tier, model level program-wide. Seeds of Learning is one of two preschools that holds this accreditation in Southwest Colorado.

Seeds of Learning's fundraiser, Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories, is much more than a singing competition. It is a celebration of hometown talent, unforgettable Nashville storytelling and a community coming together to invest in high-quality early education environments like Seeds of Learning,

who help build that foundation by nurturing curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of learning.

Whether you're cheering for a friend, family member or your favorite local performer, your vote has the power to make a lasting impact. Every dollar helps a child. Every vote encourages a hometown singer. Every contribution strengthens our community.

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Thingamajig Theatre Company entering final weeks of summer season

By Tim Moore

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Thingamajig Theatre Company's summer repertory season is entering its final weeks, with five performances scheduled between tonight and Tuesday at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The season continues through Aug. 29.

"Fiddler on the Roof" returns tonight, Thursday, Aug. 6, and again Friday, Aug. 7.

The musical follows Tevye, a Jewish milkman living in the small village of Anatevka, as he tries to preserve the traditions that have guided his family for generations. That becomes increasingly difficult as his daughters begin choosing their own husbands and the larger world presses in on the village.

Featuring "Tradition," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man," "To Life" and "Sunrise, Sunset," "Fiddler on the Roof" balances broad comedy and memorable music with a moving story about family, faith and change.

Stephen Sondheim's "Company" follows Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 8 and 9.

Bobby is single, turning 35 and surrounded by married friends who all have something to say about his life. Through a series of dinners, conversations and birthday celebrations, Bobby gets a close look at the rewards and compromises of marriage.

The score includes "Being Alive," "The Ladies Who Lunch" and "Getting Married Today," one of musical theater's fastest and funniest songs.

Next week on Tuesday, Aug. 11, Thingamajig will present a special performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" benefiting Aspen House.

One hundred percent of ticket sales will go toward construction of Aspen House's new residential home for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The evening will also bring members of the Aspen House community into the



Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

Sydney Hoel, as Bonnie, helps care for animals stranded aboard planes diverted to Newfoundland following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in Thingamajig Theatre Company's production of "Come From Away" (returning next week, Aug. 13).

production. Participants will appear alongside Thingamajig's professional company onstage and assist members of the team backstage.

With the season ending Aug. 29, opportunities to see this year's three productions are becoming limited. Audiences hoping to catch a show, or return to see a favorite again, are encouraged to reserve their seats soon through the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

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Photo courtesy Doug Coombs

An Alaskan brown bear relaxes in Lake Clark National Park. On Aug. 12, Doug Coombs will present “Alaska: Bears and Beyond” to the Pagosa Springs Photography Club.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting to focus ‘Alaska: Bears and Beyond’

By Andy Butler
Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The August meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Our program this month is “Alaska: Bears and Beyond” presented by Doug Coombs.

This will be a hybrid meeting, also available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to members; others who wish to attend may request the link by email to abulter@mac.com. If attending in person, feel free to arrive any time after 6 p.m. to socialize. The presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Photography Club meetings are open to the public.

Coombs is a wildlife and landscape photographer based in Pagosa Springs. He and his wife, Miyuki, have traveled to Alaska several times since 2009 as regular tourists and as enthusiast photographers.

In his talk, Coombs will begin with some useful information for those who might also want to visit Alaska someday. He will illustrate the presentation with some of his best images from Alaska. These include many stunning photos of

Alaskan wildlife, especially coastal brown bears, as well as landscape images.

Join the club

One of the goals of the Photography Club is to provide a setting to learn how to improve your photography from fellow photographers. The club offers programs and outings designed to help photographers of all levels enhance their skills.

Membership is just \$25 a year (\$35 for families). You can download a membership form from our website (<https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/>) and send it in with your payment (the form has all the details), or you can bring it to a club meeting.

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DivorceCare program to begin Aug. 24

By Holly Shook
Centerpoint Church

Are you facing divorce or separation? Have you already divorced and are still grieving from the losses you have encountered? Then DivorceCare is here to help.

You will learn to understand the complexities and emotional struggles you are facing or have already experienced. DivorceCare is a nationally recognized program which can bring healing during this difficult time.

Our sessions include a video that gives you practical information from expert counselors and input from people just like you who have gone through the divorce process. The session ends with a group discussion,

and a workbook is provided to help you in your journey.

This program is nondenominational and features biblical principles and insight to aid you in recovery.

Everyone is welcome here. Whether you're separated or already divorced, in the middle of the process, or if you've been divorced for years and still have not healed or forgiven your ex-spouse. You will find healing and help in a safe and warm environment.

The program runs for 13 weeks and meets each Monday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m., beginning on Aug. 24, in the Centerpoint Church library.

You can register online at www.divorecare.org or join us at any class

during the 13-week session.

There is no cost for this program, and all materials are provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Jim and Holly Shook at (951) 733-1893. Or, email at jshookup@gmail.com. You may also contact the church at (970) 731-2205 or centerpointchurchpagosa@gmail.com.

GriefShare sessions will begin Aug. 29

By Holly Shook
Centerpoint Church

GriefShare is a network of thousands of small support groups meeting worldwide to provide a safe place for those experiencing the death of a loved one.

With GriefShare, you will learn how to walk through the journey of grief with others and learn together how to move from mourning to joy.

This is a 13-week program offering biblical concepts for healing from your grief. The support group meets weekly and provides a welcome environment for those grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, or other family member or friend.

Centerpoint Church is offering this program from Aug. 29 through Nov. 21. Session times are from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

There are three key elements that work together to assist you in the healing process: a video segment on grief-related topics from professionals as well as lay people, a discussion facilitated in a group setting and a personal handbook for you to use as you choose.

Regardless of how long it has been since your loved one passed, the grieving process is vital to healing.

Centerpoint Church is located at 2750 Cornerstone Drive. There is no cost, and all materials will be provided. For more information, contact Marie Rascoe, (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205, centerpointchurchpagosa@gmail.com.

You may also register and learn more about GriefShare by visiting www.griefshare.org. Click on "Find a Group" and follow the prompts or register in person at any of the sessions.

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- Lauren

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Photo courtesy Archuleta School District

“The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition” cast, crew, and production team are ready to dazzle audiences Aug. 13-15 in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Bikini Bottom coming to Pagosa Springs with Archuleta School District to present ‘The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition’

By Katrina Thomas
Archuleta School District

Get ready to dive underwater for a high-energy theatrical experience as Archuleta School District presents its dynamic summer junior musical, “The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.” Running from Aug. 13 through Aug. 15 in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium, this bright and upbeat production is set to save the world.

The fifth- through ninth-grade cast and crew includes 40 community students plus three high school interns led by directors Katrina Thomas and Malinda Burnett. The experienced production team is rounded out with Heather Rose on sets, costumes, and stage managing; Leo Baughman as tech director; and Anika Borders as choreographer.

Based on the beloved animated series created by Stephen Hillenburg, the story brings the vibrant undersea community of Bikini Bottom to life on stage. When a nearby volcano threatens to erupt and destroy their home, SpongeBob and his loyal friends must team up to face the crisis head-on.

Through determination and teamwork, an unexpected hero proves that optimism, friendship and community cooperation can truly save the day.

In addition to its heartwarming, relevant message, “The SpongeBob Musical” features an eclectic soundtrack written by an extraordinary lineup of legendary musical artists. Audiences will enjoy original songs by Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alex Ebert of Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips,

Lady A, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T’s, They Might Be Giants, T.I. along with songs by David Bowie, Tom Kenny, and Andy Paley.

“To all of you skeptics out there, I hear you,” noted Thomas. “The first time I went to see this musical, it was with great reluctance. Yet from start to finish, I couldn’t keep smiling. I was blown away by this delightful and surprisingly poignant show. I immediately put it high on the list to bring it to Pagosa with our amazing middle

school crew. This is the perfect year for it. The cast is phenomenal, the music and choreography is fabulous, and the story endearing. You won’t want to miss it.”

“The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition” will show in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 14, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 15, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and can be purchased at the door or online at our.show/PSMS.



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Frugal, fabulous and coming soon: Meet Runway for Rise's Team Bon Appetit

Rise Above Violence

Save the date: Runway for Rise, a frugal but fabulous fashion show, is just around the corner, and the excitement is building.

On Oct. 3, creative teams will take the runway to show off one-of-a-kind outfits made from local thrift store finds, elements from nature and this year's surprise materials: recycled cardboard and plastic. It will be an evening filled with imagination, style, laughter and community spirit all in support of an incredibly important cause.

This week, we are delighted to introduce Team Bon Appetit.

Team Bon Appetit is made up of Kathy Lemons, Marty Rose, Terrie Frahm and Sherry Phillips. Together, they share a deep commitment to supporting Rise Above Violence and its life-changing programs. Their team believes strongly in helping survivors rebuild their lives and move forward with hope, healing and strength.

For Team Bon Appetit, Rise Above Violence represents more than a program. It represents a path forward for survivors and a powerful force

■ See Rise on next page



Photo courtesy Sherry Phillips

Team Bon Appetit is ready to sashay down the runway at this year's Runway for Rise. Team members (left to right) Kathy Lemons, Marty Rose, Terrie Frahm and Sherry Phillips share a deep commitment to supporting Rise Above Violence and its life-changing programs.

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Community United Methodist Church to continue ‘Direction’ series with Emmaus road sermon

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church will continue its six-week sermon series, “Direction: Following the Way,” this Sunday, Aug. 9, with a message titled “The Road Beneath Your Feet,” drawn from the Gospel of Luke’s account of the road to Emmaus.

Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. at 434 Lewis St.

In the story, two disciples walk away from Jerusalem after the crucifixion, confused, grieving, headed home. A stranger falls into step beside them and begins asking questions. They walk and talk for miles. And they don’t recognize Jesus until

he breaks bread with them at the end of the road.

Pastor Ken Daniell says the story speaks directly to life in a mountain town like Pagosa Springs.

“There’s something that happens when people move here,” said Daniell. “The excitement of vacation wears off, and real life sets in: the mortgage, the job, the bills. People came for the adventure and end up working too hard to enjoy it. That’s the Emmaus road. Walking and walking and losing sight of who is walking right beside you.”

The sermon will also address the experience of people in life transition, retirees who have arrived in the valley and are asking what comes next, younger residents caught in

what some call the “Paradise Paradox,” and anyone trying to find their footing in a season that looks different than they expected.

“The recognition in the Emmaus story doesn’t happen on the road,” Daniell noted. “It happens when bread is broken. In the most ordinary moment. Which means the presence we are looking for is usually closer than we think; we just have our eyes pointed the wrong direction.”

The Community United Methodist Church is a progressive, inclusive, and affirming congregation committed to serving the Pagosa Springs community. All are welcome.

For more information, visit cumcps.org or call (970) 264-5508.

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to discuss acceptance

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship has access to professional ministry resources that supplement our individual congregation’s programs and offerings. The past service on radical hospitality sparked a thoughtful conversation, and we will spend this Sunday exploring more about acceptance of those who are not like us.

The Rev. Sunshine J. Wolfe, a lead in the work with the UU Association, states it this way: “As Unitarian Universalists we generally agree that it is the relationships between people that matter. We may not think, believe or feel alike. We will often disagree. We will celebrate and find different

meanings in the celebration. It is our difference that is magical and powerful and central — a merging of pluralism, generosity and love. At the end of the day, it is our relationships that we center — how we choose to be present and in relationship with one another that matters. In the current social and political climate — centering relationship is a revolutionary act.”

We meet and invite you to the second Sunday morning Going Deeper Sharing Circle at 10:30 a.m. This small-group gathering is a place of reflection and sharing as we practice deep listening and sharing from our hearts. This is an open, safe circle of deepening your own life’s journey.

Visit our website, PagosaUU.org.

org, where you will find information about upcoming services and programs. We offer space for ongoing programs and events at the UU Community Hub. Qigong practice is Monday afternoons at 1 p.m. and is open to all. The Wise and Wakeful Circle, hosted by Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, meets the second and fourth Saturdays. The Tara Meditation Group will be on a hiatus for the month of August and will resume in September.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good.”

Rise

■ continued from previous page

for change in our community. They believe Rise is a vital cause deserving of our heartfelt compassion, as well as our moral and financial support.

Join Team Bon Appetit in supporting Rise Above Violence and cheering them on as they bring their creativity, passion and community pride to the runway.

All funds raised through Runway for Rise are tax-deductible and support Rise Above Violence in its mission to support survivors and create lasting community change. Your support helps promote the belief that all people have the right to live free from violence.

Tickets go on sale Aug. 10, and they are expected to sell quickly, so don’t wait. Online voting for your favorite teams will also begin on Aug. 10, giving the community another exciting way to show support.

In addition to ticket sales and voting, Runway for Rise depends on the generosity of sponsors to help cover event expenses. Sponsorship support from businesses and individuals allows proceeds from ticket sales and

cash voting to go directly to Rise Above Violence programs. Runway sponsors receive valuable benefits, including marketing exposure and event tickets. Even more importantly, they become partners in the effort to end domestic violence alongside one of Pagosa’s oldest and most respected nonprofits.

In 2025, Rise Above Violence served 367 victims and answered nearly 800 hotline calls. These numbers reflect the ongoing need for support, compassion and community action.

If you would like to be included as a sponsor for this meaningful community evening, please contact Annie Gian at annie@riseaboveviolence.org for more information.

Mark Oct. 3 on your calendar, invite your friends, vote for your favorite team, buy your tickets early, and join us for a fabulous evening of fashion, fun and community impact. This is one event you won’t want to miss.

Visit www.riseaboveviolence.org to purchase tickets and learn more about the event.

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Managing Broker

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August Colorado Proud recipe of the month: Mayocoba Bean Salad with Peaches, Honey and Mint

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Nothing captures the magic of a Colorado summer quite like the arrival of sweet, juicy Palisade peaches.

This month, we are celebrating the peak of the season by pairing this iconic fruit with another staple of our state's agricultural heritage: creamy Colorado-grown Mayocoba beans.

Crafted by local recipe developer Colleen Ferreira for the Colorado Dry Bean Committee, this Mayocoba bean salad with peaches, honey and mint is a masterclass in contrasting textures and bright, sun-kissed flavors. The mild, buttery profile of the Mayocoba beans provides the perfect canvas for ripe peaches, savory crumbled feta and fresh garden mint. Drizzled with local Colorado wildflower honey and a splash of fresh lemon, it is a vibrant, nutrient-dense dish that shines as a standalone lunch or the ultimate side for your next backyard BBQ.

Grab a slice of crusty, toasted Colorado sourdough bread, pour yourself a refreshing local beverage (we have a fun local mocktail below), and dive into a true taste of the Rocky Mountain summer.

Mayocoba Bean Salad with Peaches, Honey and Mint

Shared by Colorado Dry Bean Committee

Yield: 2 servings

Prep time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

1-1/2 cups cooked Mayocoba beans (simmer beans in salted water)
2 Palisade peaches, skinned and sliced thin
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 cup loosely packed fresh mint, whole small leaves
Juice of half a lemon
Drizzle of olive oil and honey
Flaky sea salt

Directions

Place the Mayocoba beans, peaches, feta, and mint into a large bowl and toss together.

Squeeze lemon juice over the salad, followed by a drizzle of olive oil and a generous drizzle of honey.

Top salad with flaky sea salt and more mint and feta for garnish.

Enjoy as is, or on top of a slice of toasted buttered sourdough bread.

Pairing Perfection

Pairing a local wine with this side dish to round out your meal.

To complement the sweet, savory and herbaceous notes of the Mayocoba bean salad, you want a mocktail that mirrors its summer freshness without overpowering the delicate flavors of the beans and feta.

Try a refreshing mocktail recipe featuring Colorado Proud ingredients that perfectly bridges the salad's flavor profile: the Colorado Palisade Shrub and Sage Spritz.

This mocktail uses a quick "fridge shrub" (a sweetened vinegar syrup) to capture the essence of Colorado's famous Palisade peaches, balanced by earthy local sage and crisp sparkling water to cut through the creaminess of the salad's feta cheese.

Ingredients

For the Peach-Honey Shrub:

1 cup ripe Palisade peaches, chopped (substitute frozen Colorado peaches if out of season)

1/4 cup Colorado wildflower honey

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

For the mocktail assembly:

2-3 fresh Colorado-grown sage leaves (adds an earthy contrast to the mint in the salad)

1 ounce fresh lemon juice (matching the lemon acidity in the salad dressing)

4-5 ounce Rocky Mountain sparkling water

Ice

Instructions:

Make the Peach-Honey Shrub: In a small jar, muddle the chopped peaches with the honey and let it sit for about 10 minutes to draw out the juices. Stir in the apple cider vinegar. Let it steep in the fridge for at least an hour (or overnight), then strain out the solids. You'll be left with a bright, tangy, sweet peach syrup.

Muddle the herbs: Gently slap the sage leaves to release their oils and drop them in the bottom of a cocktail shaker or sturdy glass.

Shake/stir: Add 1.5 ounces of your homemade peach-honey shrub and the fresh lemon juice. Add ice and shake or stir vigorously until chilled.

Finish and serve: Strain the mix-

ture into a glass filled with fresh ice. Top with the Colorado sparkling water.

Garnish: Garnish with a fresh peach slice and a small sprig of mint (to visually and aromatically tie it directly back to the salad).

Visit ColoradoProud.com for more recipes.



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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

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

The center also offers educational classes and workshops.

About us

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

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

SPONSORED CONTENT



Photo courtesy of Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs combines advanced technology with personalized care to provide comfortable, family-friendly dental treatment for patients of all ages.

A gentler approach to treating cavities

By Allison Brown

A trip to the dentist can feel intimidating when a cavity needs to be filled. Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is helping make that experience more comfortable by offering a minimally invasive treatment option that, in some cases, eliminates the need for numbing injections. Dr. Justin Nylund uses the PrepStart Air Abrasion system for select patients with smaller cavities. Instead of relying on a traditional dental drill, the technology uses a fine stream of aluminum oxide powder and water to gently remove tooth decay. For many eligible patients, that means no injection to numb the area and no loud drilling sounds, heat or vibration that can make dental visits stressful.

The technology is designed for smaller cavities on the tops and sides of teeth, allowing Dr. Nylund to remove decay while preserving as much healthy tooth structure as possible. Because the system is highly precise, it offers a more conservative approach to treatment than traditional drilling in appropriate cases. Reducing discomfort can help patients feel more at ease during treatment and may ease anxiety about future dental visits. For children, avoiding needles and the traditional drill can make early experiences at the dentist more positive. While the PrepStart system is not the right solution for every cavity, it provides another option that allows Black Diamond Dental to tailor treatment to each patient's

individual needs. Patient comfort is a priority throughout the practice, where advanced technology is paired with personalized care to create a welcoming experience for families. Whether it's a child's first filling or an adult's routine dental treatment, Black Diamond Dental strives to make every visit as comfortable and stress-free as possible. To learn more about Black Diamond Dental and the services available, visit blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com. *Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.*

2026 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo slated for Oct. 24

Healthy Archuleta

The fourth annual Archuleta Health Fair and Expo is just around the corner, It's happening on Oct. 24 from 7 a.m. to noon at Pagosa Springs High School. Brought to our community by the Archuleta Rural Health Network, this event focuses on education, empowerment and community support. The health fair is a community-wide event designed to promote wellness and provide valuable health

information to residents. The event will continue to offer low-cost wellness labs and connect community members to primary preventative care, which is crucial for those with limited access to health resources in our community. You can expect a packed morning filled with learning opportunities and connections for everyone's health and well-being. The health fair will offer a great lineup of health care agencies, community-based organizations, functional and integrative

health providers, medical screening services, insurance and service providers, and more. The event will feature lab services, health care providers ready to chat, a delicious farm-to-table breakfast, a keynote speaker and interactive exhibits. To learn more about the 2026 Health Fair and Expo, please visit the Healthy Archuleta website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo. ■ See Health on next page

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Wildfire on the Lower Blanco

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Wildfire raced through the canyon as if its pants were on fire, roaring toward my daughter's house at the base of the canyon. It gathered trees, debris, and ultimately more than 1,000 acres burned in area. The fire did not sleep. At night, red hot embers glowed against the black sky like a second, terrible daylight.

Numerous firefighters gathered at my daughter's home and a temporary line of defense to hold the fire back from it and the other houses was built. Day after day, they battled tirelessly, digging a trench across the valley to save homes. Still, the fire taunted them, creeping toward their property.

For our family, Tuesday, July 28, at 3:28 p.m., life changed for us. My son-in-law was working in the barn when he smelled smoke. He looked up, saw the raging fire in the distance, and called 911. Dispatch had already been aware of the blaze at approximately 3 p.m.

At 3:45 p.m., his wife called me. "There's a fire on the Blanco. I'm coming to get you. Grab a few things. They are evacuating everyone in the Lower Blanco."

"Grab a few things." I looked around the house in a panic, praying as I moved from room to room. What was important? Everything felt important, and yet nothing did. I pulled out my pink bag and stuffed a couple of changes of clothes for Sweet Al and me, our important papers in a blue notebook and our medicine. Was there anything else? I couldn't think of a thing.

Prayer works. I lifted up the name of Jesus, and God answered through a loud roll of thunder, a sharp crack and a heavy sack of hailstones that seemed to tip over and fell on the Blanco. The answer brought resolve to me. The fire obeyed, though it still fought for the last word.

When my daughter came to pick Sweet Al and me up, she arrived with 10 potted plants in the back of her car. Earlier, she had stopped to buy flowers because she couldn't pass up a great deal at the store. We were all in the middle of something when the fire started. I had been working on my next "Artist's Lane" article and monthly newsletter, both of which still needed to be finished and critiqued.

I looked at my desk computer and thought, too much work to take. Oh me, next time, it will be the first thing I pack. I left behind everything I do: book files, Facebook, emails. At the time, it didn't seem that important until later, when

Artist's Lane

I needed it.

I later learned there are five Ps to rescue when you must evacuate in a panic: papers, pictures, pills, pets, and people. I got a few things right. I remember one morning in our writers' group when our friend, Gary, arrived with an emergency go bag. He dropped the 50-pound bag onto the table and said, "Everyone needs one of these for an emergency." We half believed him. He was serious. Did we heed his warning? No. But, his words rang in my ears.

As the days passed, we listened closely to the reports. The wind first pushed the fire north, then shifted south and west. We hoped we might go home on Friday. Then Thursday came, and the wind turned again. Everyone's property was back in danger.

Yet, in the midst of it all, many things came to light. Foremost were the friendships. Before we were even out of our driveway, 40 texts had come from friends offering help, places to stay and anything we might need to our family of six. Friends were all praying. More messages kept appearing on my daughter's phone. In that moment, I was reminded how blessed we are to live in this town. It's the people we can't leave behind.

So many have reached out to help. Restaurants have been generous. Motels and hotels have given rooms for the price of the cleaning, or a third of the cost. Pagosa Springs High School opened its doors for people, serving food, and the Humane Society stepped in to help with the animals. The bakery ladies from the Blanco called a time together for the Blanco residents, to encourage and give their support to each other.

I enjoyed reading Kathleen McFadden's article in the July 30 issue: "Into the vault: Preserving Pagosa Springs' past." She writes that "Pagosa Springs has never been just one story." In her article, she named many people who were a part of Pagosa. She refers to the first 50 years of stories, and stories from the Blanco Basin.

The Rio Blanco Fire is another story to add to the vault and preserve the history of Pagosa Springs.

Final brushstroke: Almost anything can be replaced, but not the people of Pagosa. A big thank you for everyone

who gave of themselves to keep us safe. We will never forget the people who came with their whole hearts to help our family on the Blanco.

Send comments to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Health

■ continued from previous page
html. Here you can register for the event (including labs) and learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities. Register today to join us at this important community

event.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email to fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Ben Bailey

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the violet-green swallow.

With rapid, shallow wingbeats interspersed with long glides, violet-green swallows patrol our summer skies in search of insects. They forage low over water and fields or high in the sky to feed on a variety of winged insects including flies, bees, beetles, moths and winged ants. Swooping and twittering, they can fly at speeds up to 28 mph.

The violet-green is very similar in appearance and habits to the related tree swallow. Both show a white belly in flight, but violet-greens display white patches on either side of the rump and white cheeks. Sunlight illuminates the metallic green back and iridescent purple rump for which this swallow is named. When not in flight, groups will line up on power lines and dead tree limbs to preen and sunbathe as a means to control parasites.

Across the western United States, violet-green swallows breed in open deciduous and evergreen forests in elevations from sea level to above 11,000 feet. They are secondary cavity nesters that depend on using old woodpecker holes or other natural cavities for nest sites. They are gregarious all year, often like to nest in small groups, and will use nest boxes. One pair was documented helping western bluebirds raise their nestlings and then moving into the nestbox after the bluebirds left.

Across much of North America and Europe, aerial insectivores like this swallow are experiencing population declines from neonicotinoids, climate change and pollution, which kill insects. In the fall of 2020, violet-green swallows were counted among the thousands of migrating songbirds that died in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and Arizona. Many of these birds were severely emaciated without the fat stores required to survive migratory journeys.

Smoke from wildfires in California which caused birds to migrate early or change their paths to detour around it was thought to be a contributing factor to this massive die-off. Birds are even more sensitive than us to pollutants in the air and can suffer damage to lung tissue from the dangerous levels of fine particulate matter and hazardous chemicals in wildfire smoke.

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



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* Rated below average according to the Colorado Office of Judicial Performance Evaluation



Photo courtesy Lisa Scott

2006 was the initial gathering of Panhellenic women. So many friends, fondly thought about. This event was revived in 2023, and 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 appetizers and a cash bar. A \$10 donation at the event is requested to assist in covering the cost. For planning and food preparation, please let us know you are attending or to be added to our contact list: Call or text Sherry Spears at (940) 887-9208 or sherrykayspears@sbcglobal.net.

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

Preview Calendar

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

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. Members 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.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

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 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

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Sultan's ladies
- 6 Sitting on
- 10 Budget rival
- 14 Amazon assistant
- 15 Elisabeth of "On the Verge"
- 16 Word with ditch or minute (hyph.)
- 17 Bounded
- 18 Cadbury bar
- 20 Jerry Lewis tradition for 44 years
- 22 Creator of Boo and Atticus
- 23 ____-chat
- 24 Having teeth
- 25 Lessener
- 28 First-place finisher
- 29 Spy's device
- 30 W-2 information
- 32 Most Saudis
- 35 Tennis legend Bjorn
- 37 Gardener's spread
- 39 Missile housing
- 40 Watchful ones
- 42 City on the Ruhr
- 44 Work on a tan
- 45 Billie with ten Grammys
- 47 Breaks one's back
- 49 Campus dining area
- 51 Pitchfork part
- 52 Sports venues
- 53 Wryly funny
- 57 Person of no importance
- 59 Fit to be tied
- 60 Pantry invaders
- 61 Just makes, with "out"
- 62 Continental coins
- 63 Insurance claim
- 64 Nuisance
- 65 Flower features

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DOWN

- 1 March leader's command
- 2 Sheltered, in a way
- 3 Authentic
- 4 Anticipate
- 5 Lillard or Modine
- 6 Knotted neck-wear
- 7 Larger-life link
- 8 "Days of ____ Lives"
- 9 Showy bird's mate
- 10 Sirens, say
- 11 Seaport of Chile
- 12 Archipelago part
- 13 Squirrel away
- 19 Food from heaven
- 21 Dr. ____ Baker of "Little House..."
- 24 Spinal parts
- 25 Priest in Paris
- 26 Harbor bobber
- 27 Covenants
- 28 Born in Cardiff, e.g.

- 31 "You'll never ____!"
- 33 Picture problem
- 34 Male heirs
- 36 Severity
- 38 Prefix with centric
- 41 Dane's "Grey's Anatomy" role
- 43 Female goats
- 46 Part of the foot
- 48 Lebanese capital
- 49 Panama, e.g.
- 50 Home of the Black Bears
- 51 Secret rendezvous
- 53 Suffix with social
- 54 Give a hoot
- 55 Proton's place
- 56 More or ____
- 58 Presidential nickname

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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 Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m., Archuleta County CSU Extension office. The group will be taking a guided tour of the historic Gomez Mercantile.

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 pagosa-center.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 pagosa-center.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, Aug. 10

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.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

Tuesday, Aug. 11

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top

■ See Calendar on next page

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HEALTHY SELF

PROPER HYDRATION CAN LOWER BLOOD SUGAR ESPECIALLY IN DIABETICS

Water is indispensable to life and health, and scientists are finding more aspects of life and health that are water dependent.

Today's excerpt provides yet another reason to remain hydrated.

When the body is dehydrated, vasopressin levels rise, prompting the kidneys to hold onto water.

At the same time, the hormone pushes the liver to produce blood sugar, which over time may strain the ability to produce or respond to insulin.

One of the largest studies to look at the consequences was published last year in Diabetes Care, a publication of the American Diabetes Association. French scientists tracked more than 3,000 healthy men and women ages 30 to 65 for nearly a decade. All had normal blood sugar levels at the start of the research.

After nine years, about 800 had developed Type 2 diabetes or high blood sugar. But those who consumed the most water, 17 to 34 ounces a day, had a risk roughly 30 percent lower than that of those who drank the least.

The researchers controlled for the subjects' intake of other liquids that could have affected the results, mainly sugary and alcoholic drinks, as well as exercise, weight and other factors affecting health. The researchers did not look at eating habits, something future studies may take into account.

Source: "Really? The Claim: Drinking Water Can Help Lower the Risk of Diabetes." By Anahad O'Connor. <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com>

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

"...His waters will be sure." Isaiah 33:16, last part

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SPONSORED CONTENT

Why hearing health deserves a place in preventive healthcare

By Robert Melton, Au.D., CH-TM
Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions

Hearing loss is one of the most common chronic health conditions affecting adults, yet it often develops so gradually that many people don't notice the effects. The good news is that hearing loss is highly treatable, especially when it is identified early.

Hearing healthcare is a team effort involving several professionals. Primary care providers often recognize hearing concerns and make referrals. Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions affecting the ear. Audiologists perform comprehensive hearing evaluations, diagnose hearing and balance disorders, assess tinnitus, and develop individualized treatment plans. This may include hearing aid recommendations, fitting and programming hearing technology, counseling, and follow-up care.

A common misconception is that nothing can be done for tinnitus. While there is no universal cure, several evidence-based treatment approaches can reduce its impact.

Hearing Instrument Specialists focus on hearing aid technology, including the selection, fitting, and adjustment of hearing aids for adults. In many practices, patients benefit from the combined expertise of both audiologists and Hearing Instrument Specialists.

Researchers have found that hearing health is closely connected to overall well-being. Untreated hearing loss has been associated with increased listening effort, social isolation, and a risk of cognitive decline.

Because hearing changes gradually, adults should begin thinking about hearing health before significant problems develop. Around age 50, consider a routine hearing



Photo courtesy of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions

Robert Melton, Au.D., CH-TM, is the owner and audiologist at Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions in Pagosa Springs. He specializes in adult hearing healthcare, tinnitus management, comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, and hearing technology.

screening. By age 60, a comprehensive hearing evaluation can establish a valuable baseline. Anyone experiencing tinnitus, dizziness, significant noise exposure, or a noticeable change in hearing should seek an evaluation sooner.

Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is located at 2343 Eagle Dr. They may be reached by phone at (970)444-2314.

Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN's sponsored content program called Spotlight.

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
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.

Rebate and Energy Savings Office Hours. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., La Plata Electric Association, 603 S. 8th St. Representatives from LPEA and the Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency will be available to help community members learn

about opportunities and rebates. Drop in anytime during the session.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to discuss "Good Dirt" by Charmaine Wilkerson. Books are available to check out from the library.

Teen 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.

Pagosa Panhellenic Gathering.

4-5:30 p.m., Alley House Grille. Women affiliated with a collegiate sorority are invited to attend a gathering of sisters. For more information or reservations, call or text Sherry Spears at (940) 887-9208 or sherrykayspears@sbcglobal.net.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids.

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Lecture: Jon Ghahate. 6-7:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Jon Ghahate will discuss "The Pueblo Revolt: America's First Revolution."

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 7 p.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

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

Wednesday, Aug. 12

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For all ages. Take a moment to visit with certified therapy dog Mia.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Legal Clinic. 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via 20-minute phone appointments. Registration opens Aug. 1 and space is limited. Registration is required. Call (970) 264-2209.

A Tour of Two Trails. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion

along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Arrive any time after 6 p.m.

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

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

Thursday, Aug. 13

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.

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.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

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.

Archuleta School District Presents 'The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students) are available at the door or online at <https://our.show/PSMS>.

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).

Friday, Aug. 14

A Tour of Two Trails. 7:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For ages 0-2. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime and connect with fellow caregivers. Call (970)

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264-2209 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Archuleta School District Presents ‘The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.’ 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students) are available at the door or online at <https://our.show/PSMS>.

Archuleta School District Presents ‘The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students) are available at the door or online at <https://our.show/PSMS>.

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).

A Night Under the Stars at Yamaguchi Park. 9-10:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers for a laser-guided constellation tour followed by a telescope viewing. Bring a red light flashlight or headlamp if you have one. Meet near the restroom. Dress in layers. Arrive on time to allow your eyes to adjust to the darkness.

Saturday, Aug. 15

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m., Centennial Park. Meet at the native plants garden next to the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnerships domes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray and water. Tours last one to two hours and are handicapped accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and

tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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.

Archuleta School District Presents ‘The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.’ 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students) are available at the door or online at <https://our.show/PSMS>.

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).

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

Sunday, Aug. 16

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 ‘Fiddler on the Roof.’ 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. 17

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 6 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program offers a unique two-hour tour of the archaeological sites with a special emphasis on the view of the sun rising atop the mesa. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven’t attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn

about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Senior Conversations. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

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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

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

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!

Why annual wellness visits matter for older adults

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

As we age, staying proactive about our health becomes more important than ever.

An annual wellness visit gives seniors the opportunity to meet with their health care provider to review their overall health, discuss medications, identify risk factors, and develop a personalized plan to maintain or improve their well-being.

These visits can help detect health concerns early, before they become more serious or difficult to treat. Annual wellness visits also provide time to discuss preventive screenings, recommended vaccinations, nutrition, physical activity, memory concerns, and ways to reduce the risk of falls and chronic disease.

Many people mistakenly believe they should only see health care provider when they are sick, but preventive care is one of the best investments in long-term health.

Bringing a current list of medications, questions about health concerns, and information about any recent changes in physical and mental health can make the visit even more productive.

Seniors who stay engaged in their health care are more likely to remain independent, enjoy a higher quality of life and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.

Scheduling an annual wellness visit each year is a simple step that can make a lasting difference in maintaining good health and living life to the fullest.

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 class now twice a week

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday and Thursday 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

Senior News

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.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Fridays, Aug. 7 and 21, at 1:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and

■ See Senior on page 23



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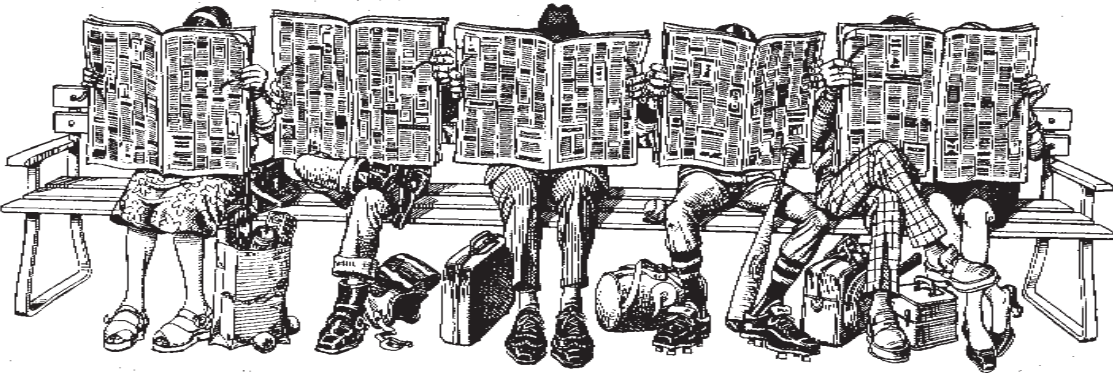
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Senior

■ continued from page 21

snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive a notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox's Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Aug. 6 — Black bean burger with lettuce, onion and tomato; sweet potato chips; garden

salad; fruit; chocolate cake; and milk.

Friday, Aug. 7 — Beef Frito pie, green beans, cornbread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Monday, Aug. 10 — Spaghetti squash with Italian sausage marinara, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 11 — Baked cod with mango salsa, quinoa rice pilaf, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 12 — French dip sandwich on hoagie, cheesy cauliflower, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 13 — Green chili chicken casserole, Mexican corn, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Aug. 14 — Spinach and mushroom quiche, broccoli and cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

Board vacancies

The Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

Support the Senior Center

Starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025,

those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our web-

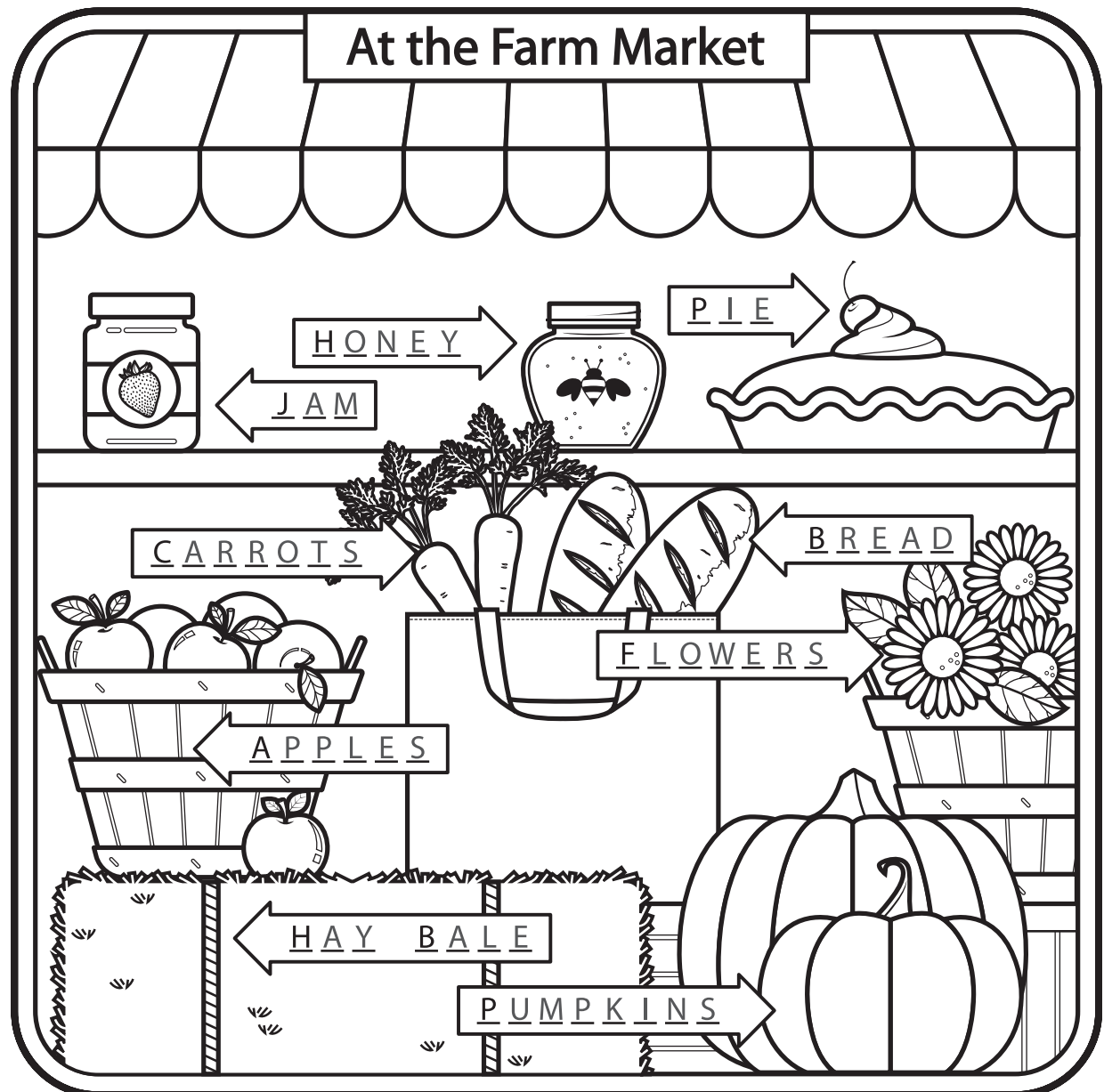
site: www.psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

DMV2GO: Returning to Archuleta County for Driver's License Services. Archuleta County — The Colorado Department of Revenue (CDOR) Division of Motor Vehicles' DMV2GO services will return to Archuleta County, **by appointment only**, on August 25 and 26, 2026. DMV2GO's services include: first time Colorado driver's licenses, out-of-state transfers, renewals for driver's licenses, permits and identification cards; issuing new licenses, permits, and IDs; motor vehicle records; along with reinstatements and Colorado Roads and Community Safety Act Services. Appointments are available both days, 11a.m. to 4p.m., in fifteen (15) minute intervals. Please visit archuletacounty.gov to book via the Sign-Up Genius link. Appointments for seniors, veterans, and the disabled are available before 11a.m. and can be made by calling the County Administration Office at (970)264-8309. For a list of state required documents visit <https://dmv.colorado.gov/> documents to have ready for your appointment. 2026 DMV2GO services will be held in the Archuleta County Department of Human Services Conference Room — 550 Hot Springs Blvd. Suite A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. DMV2GO does not offer driver testing. If a driving test is needed, you must have this done before the scheduled appointment.

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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HELP WANTED. Person to do chores inside and outside of house. We can work around your schedule. Would like someone with some experience, but not necessary. Have no problem being shown how to do things. We have references of previous workers. Call Lee Anne at 505-860-6951.

IMMEDIATE OPENING — Full -Time Maintenance and Grounds Technician. Healing Waters Resort & Spa is seeking a dependable, self -motivated individual to join our Maintenance team. This hands -on position includes general maintenance, groundskeeping, and an early -morning pool cleaning rotation. Evening and weekend availability is required. Experience with tools is a plus, but we're happy to train someone with a strong work ethic and willingness to learn. Apply in person at 140 Hot Springs Blvd., or email resume to: sales@pshotsprings.com. Subject: Maintenance.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

Now Hiring.

Archuleta County is hiring for multiple positions.

Benefits package, paid time off, 401K match.

Apply today.

970-264-8379 • archuletacounty.org

Apply Now

Individually strong, collectively mighty. Join us and become a part of the bigger picture.

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!

CASHIER - Starting at \$18/hr DOE, 40 hr/week

Weekends and holidays required. Benefits include discounts, paid time off, sick pay, profit sharing and more!

Terry's ACE HARDWARE
525 Navajo Trail Dr., PS, CO 81147

Apply in person. Applications available on www.terrysace.com

JOIN THE STACY SCAPES TEAM. Stacy Scapes is hiring dependable, hardworking team members in Pagosa Springs. If you enjoy working outdoors and take pride in quality work, we'd love to hear from you. We provide landscape installation, lawn care, maintenance, planting, seasonal work, and property care. We offer steady work, opportunities for advancement, and a supportive team environment. Apply today. (970)946-0405, info@thecoloradogardencompany.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.

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.

PINE VALLEY RENTAL, an equipment rental yard, is seeking a shop /yard hand. Duties include, but are not limited to, helping customers load and unload equipment; servicing and maintaining equipment; and performing daily maintenance, such as pressure -washing machines, cleaning air filters, changing oil when needed, greasing equipment, and ensuring everything is in good working order. Call (970)731-4410 ask for Carissa or email resume to carissamcpeak@pinevalleyrental.com.

SEEKING PART -TIME HELP. For landscaping, experience helpful. Must have valid drivers license and transportation. Contact Eric. (970)946-2061.

AUTOS

PRICE REDUCED

JEEP COLLECTOR

American General
1972 Vietnam Era Jeep
Comes with "NOS", Hood, Top, Seat Cushions, Gas Tank, Licensed.
\$12,000
(850) 585-5718

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. 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

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

AKC LAB PUPPIES for sale. 3 yellow males, \$1200 each. (970)749-4288.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

21' AEROLITE RV. Updates and title needed. \$999. (970)507-0132.

YARD SALES

2678 HWY 84, across from Holiday Acres. Toys, clothing, tires, furniture, free bunk beds and more. 8a.m. -4p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

77 FISHER COURT GARAGE SALE. Aug. 7 and 8. Household items, games, furniture, tools, outdoor activity equipment. Way too much stuff to list here. Come check it out. Something for everyone.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE. 2nd Annual Timber Ridge Yard Sale. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 — 8a.m. -12p.m. 31 Shooting Star Dr. Great bargains, multiple sellers, treasures for everyone.

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.

GARAGE SALE. Furniture, queen bed, night stands, wall unit shelves, couch and some small stuff. 135 Teal Circle. Friday, 8a.m.-noon. Saturday, 8a.m., reduced prices until liquidated.

(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.

YARD SALES

HUGE ESTATE SALE in Chama, NM. August 6-9 from 9a.m.-3p.m. Come on over to 15916 Hwy. 64 in Chama. Unique furniture, Southwest items, Kachina dolls, vintage collectibles, sailboat, So many tools. Go to www.nesestatesales.com for photos.

MASSIVELY GIANT LIVING ESTATE SALE for Tari Woods. Two packed -full houses and detached 3 -car garage. High -end boutique clothing, decorative, household, kitchen, patio set, Softtub hot tub, sporting goods, push mower, snowblower, catering, commercial stove and refrigerator, chest freezer, Christmas, tools, camping and outdoor, furniture, yard art. Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8, 8a.m. sharp. 223 and 239 Driftwood. Highway 160 West, right on North Pagosa, right on Lighthouse, right on Driftwood. Rain or shine. AEHPOF2.0.

PAINTER'S YARD SALE and domestic stuff. One day only, Saturday, August 15, 8a.m. 24 Nutria Pl. Ladders, sprayers, brushes. Presale at (719)480-4467.

TOOLS, JOB BOX, used lawn mower, miscellaneous. 375 West Golf, 8a.m. to 5p.m., Saturday, August 8.

YARD SALE, (970)317-1071. — Lots of collectibles, low priced. Everything priced to sell. Netting material camping tent, cook top — propane burners — and some freebies. 335 Rob Snow Road. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 8a.m. to 3p.m. Most everything under \$5. Trampoline and lots more.

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.

RETAIL SPACE AVAILABLE in prime downtown location, main street frontage. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

SMALL WAREHOUSE SPACE NEAR TOWN. 250 sq. ft. with electricity provided. \$100 per month. Michael Branch, (970)769-2036.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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, 1 Garage "Tree-house." Views. Nice landlady. No drugs or smoking. Available September 1. \$2000. plus utilities. Text /call Linda (928)202-6300.

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.

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 fire-place 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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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. For more details call Lee, (970)946-3856, or John, (303)881-1407.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH unit in downtown. Fireplace, small patio, community area with picnic table. All utilities included except internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up and snow removal). All appliances included. 2 parking spaces. Background check and credit report required. Pets upon approval, no smoking. \$2100 per month. Available July 15. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 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.

TRINITY APARTMENTS. Unit available. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath, \$1500 per month. Includes 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 UPPER LEVEL CONDO on the golf course. Loft bedroom. 1 and 1/2 bathrooms. Pet approved. \$2000 /month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

HOMES FOR SALE

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.

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.

IN TOWN across the street from Seeds of Learning. 538 S. 7th , 3 bedroom , 2 bath, 2 car garage. \$350,000. 970-946-5019.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying or Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

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.

OPEN HOUSES

Come see me at my
OPEN HOUSE
41 Pueblo Ct.



Open House every Fri. & Sat.
in Aug., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Brand New Custom handcrafted Home. Sitting on Private cul-de-sac. 2000 Sq. Ft. Main level primary suite. Upper level primary suite. All custom tile work with many extra features. A must see!! \$992,000.

Debbie Loewen
Employing Broker
debbie@ownpagosa.com
448 Pagosa Street
(970) 946-3480



MULTI-PROPERTY OPEN HOUSE Thursday, 8/6, 2-5p.m.. **SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES IN PLPOA UNDER \$500K.** Stop by 62 W. Golf Pl. or 168 Dayspring Pl. for list of properties. Presented by Sherpa, Galles and more. Refreshments provided.

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.

EXCEPTIONAL DOWNTOWN BUILDING LOTS and development potential. River, huge divide views, location. Nothing like it. Call (970)398-9136, or builder7@fastmail.com.

FOUR DOWNTOWN PRIME BUILDING LOTS. Mountain and river views for those looking to build an exceptional home or building spec. Starting at \$375K. Realtors welcome. builder7@fastmail.com. (970)398-9136.

THANK YOU
FOR READING
THE
PAGOSA SUN

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

PagosaSUN.com



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.

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INTER-MOUNTAIN PROPANE FUELING HOMES, RANCHES, AND BUSINESSES ACROSS ARCHULETA COUNTY
AND PARTS OF LA PLATA COUNTY - BAYFIELD, DURANGO, IGNACIO, OXFORD, VALLECITO -
CALL TO SEE IF WE ARE IN YOUR AREA



MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8 AM - 5 PM



AVAILABLE ANYTIME AFTER HOURS AS WELL!

CALL OUR OFFICE! **970-264-1301**
intermountainpropane.com

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