



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 46, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

Commissioners hear about county road map issues, maintenance obligations

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Aug. 4, the board heard a presentation from Public Works Director Mike Torres covering the history of county adopted roads and maps, and what obligations the county does and does not have when it comes to maintaining certain roads.

“This is our findings that we have found throughout our investigation of what is really going on with the road systems,” Torres said, bringing up the terms “primary” and “secondary” road.

“Road and Bridge has struggled to keep up with regular maintenance,” Torres said, comparing the 1998 county adopted road map to the most recent adopted road map, which is from 2017.

He explained that the BoCC approved a resolution in 1998 that had the county take over maintenance of subdivision roads through the end of 2003.

Torres then provided a list of primary roads that were accepted by the county for maintenance in 2004.

“So, all of this stuff is dated from back then,” he said.

According to Torres’ presentation, the roads include multiple classifications which

are:

- Arterials: County Road (CR) 500 (Trujillo Road) and CR 600 (Piedra Road) — U.S. 160 to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) boundary.
- Collectors: Buttress Avenue — South Pagosa Boulevard to Cascade Avenue, Cascade Avenue, CR 119 (Light Plant Road), CR 335 (Lower Blanco Road), CR 359 (Coyote Park Road), CR 700 (Cat Creek Road) — U.S. 160 to Orange Court, Meadows Drive, Mission Drive, North Pagosa Boulevard, Park Avenue — North Pagosa Boulevard to Carlee Place, Pinon Causeway, South Pagosa Boulevard, Trails Boulevard — U.S. 160 to Ranger Park Drive and Vista Boulevard.
- Agricultural Access: CR 391 (Edith Road),

CR 542 (Montezuma Road), CR 551 (Juanita Road) and CR 700 (Cat Creek Road) — Orange Court to CR 500.

- Recreational Access: CR 113 (Fawn Gulch Road), CR 146 (Turkey Springs Road), CR 166 (First Fork Road), CR 200 (Snowball Road), CR 302 (Mill Creek Road), CR 326 (Blanco Basin Road), CR 382 (Upper Navajo Road) to USFS 731 (Price Lakes Road), CR 400 (Four Mile Road), CR 982 (entrance to Navajo State Park), CR 988 (entrance to Navajo State Park) — South of Colo. 151 and Eight Mile Mesa Road.

“As you’re aware, we receive numerous phone calls throughout the year in regard to road maintenance in subdivisions,” Torres stated, explaining that “for decades” subdivi-

sions dedicated roads to the public, “but the county never accepted most of the roads for maintenance.”

He explained that the BoCC’s formal policy approved in 2006 states that secondary roads receive no routine maintenance beyond one blading per year and snow plowing as needed.

Torres also explained that Highway Users Tax Funds (HUTFs) received from the state only cover about a tenth of what full maintenance of all roads would cost.

He went on to explain that the county updated its map in 2017, labeling secondary roads, “which means not county-maintained.”

■ See Roads A6

Rio Blanco
Fire nears full
containment

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Rio Blanco Fire, located 12 miles south of Pagosa Springs, was listed at 1,388 acres and 91 percent contained as of Tuesday, Aug. 11, with the next update from the incident management team expected today, Thursday, Aug. 13.

The fire was started by lightning at about 3 p.m. on July 28 and rapidly grew, prompting evacuation and pre-evacuation warnings.

At 4:10 p.m., the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office 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 roads 337 and 339.

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

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

The fire topped 1,000 acres on Aug. 1, when it was mapped at 1,009 acres.

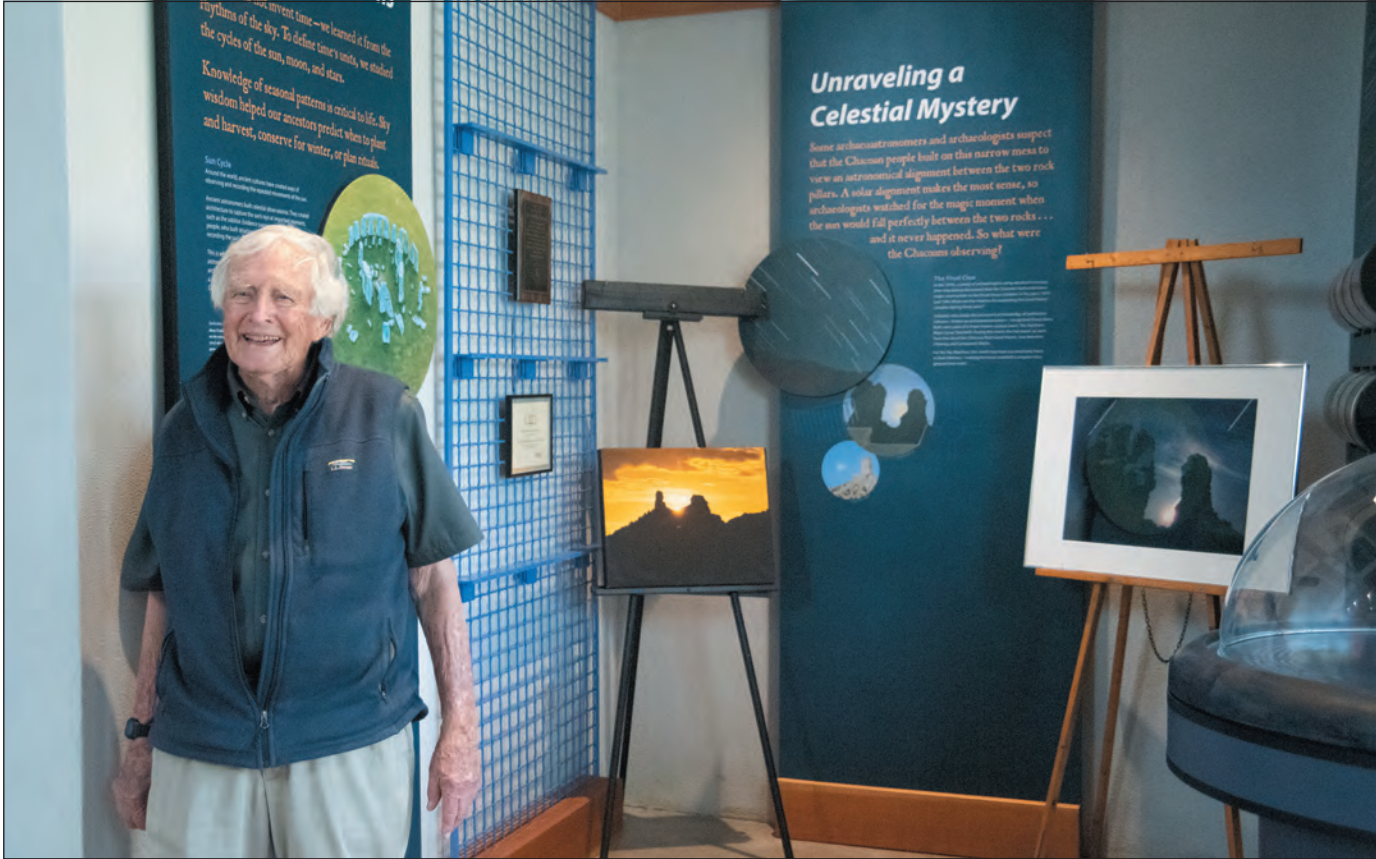
It reached its final mapped size of 1,388 acres on Aug. 5, when it also was reported to be 55 percent contained.

Pre-evacuation orders were lifted on Aug. 5 and 6, with the mandatory evacuation orders lifted the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 7, allowing residents along County Road 335 to return home after more than a week.

No structures were damaged or lost.

On Aug. 11, the fire was reported to be 91 percent contained with 154 people working on the fire.

■ See Fire A5



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Dr. J. McKim Malville, professor emeritus of astrophysical and planetary sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder, speaks at an Aug. 8 gathering honoring the 38th anniversary of Malville’s historic observation of the moon rising between Chimney Rock and Companion Rock during a major lunar standstill.

Chimney Rock honors Dr. J. McKim Malville
and a discovery written by the moon

By Ana L. Murray
Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

On Aug. 8, the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA), along with family, friends, volunteers and representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, gathered at Chimney Rock National Monument to recognize a man whose curiosity and re-

search helped reveal one of the site’s most fascinating connections to the night sky.

The gathering honored Dr. J. McKim Malville, professor emeritus of astrophysical and planetary sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder, and marked the 38th anniversary of his historic observation of the moon rising between Chimney Rock and Companion Rock during a

major lunar standstill.

CRIA board president Jill Sutton welcomed those gathered for the special occasion, which included members of Malville’s family, CRIA volunteers, U.S. Forest Service representatives and others who came together to celebrate his contributions to the understanding of

■ See Malville A5

Commissioners discuss
potential ballot language

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During an Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) work session on Tuesday, Aug. 11, County Manager Longinos Gonzalez presented multiple ballot language options relating to potentially increasing the county’s lodging tax, and identifying what those additional funds would be spent on.

Gonzalez explained that the BoCC has been discussing this matter for several months as an idea to help fund and support “local issues and projects.”

Gonzalez noted the county hosted multiple forums over the past few months, receiving feedback from constituents on if they would support raising the lodging tax rate and what areas they would like to see that money be spent on.

He indicated that the majority of the feedback received from those forums suggested that there is support to raise the lodging tax rate up to 6 percent.

Questions were later raised as to if

the county currently has a 1.9 percent lodging tax rate, or if it is currently set at 2 percent.

In previous meetings, the commissioners have stated that the lodging tax rate is 2 percent, and other times have stated it is 1.9 percent.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini indicated that Staff will look into the matter.

As for the certain areas in which the extra lodging tax funds would be used, Gonzalez explained that the feedback from community forums was “overwhelmingly” for it to be used on maintaining county roads, followed by public safety and then child care services.

“Those are the top three,” he said.

According to House Bill 1247, “Subject to local voter approval, the act increases the maximum allowed rate of a county lodging tax levied on the purchase price paid or charged to persons for rooms or accommodations from 2% to 6% and expands the allowed uses of lodging tax revenue to include:

■ See Commissioners A14



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Great Colorado Time Capsule makes a stop in Pagosa Springs on Monday, Aug. 10. The time capsule, created in recognition of Colorado’s 150th anniversary and America’s 250th anniversary, is collecting items that will give people in 2076 a snapshot of what life in Colorado was like in 2026. After traveling across the state, the time capsule will be installed at the Ranch Events Complex in Loveland and opened in 2076.

School district
approves putting
question on
November ballot

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta School District (ASD) will be going to the voters this fall with a ballot measure relating to funding school facilities, although exactly what that ballot measure will ask voters is still undetermined.

During its regular meeting held on Wednesday Aug. 5, the Board of Education (BoE) unanimously accepted an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Archuleta and Hinsdale counties for the 2026 election.

BoE member Amanda Schick was absent from the meeting.

Before voting on the matter, BoE president Bob Lynch clarified that by accepting the IGA the district is simply saying that it will go to the ballot this fall, and that the board was not approving specific ballot language at this time.

According to the meeting’s agenda, the IGA between the Archuleta County clerk and recorder and Hinsdale County is a statutory requirement for ASD to be able to participate in the coordinated mail ballot in November. If the IGA is not passed, the district would be solely responsible for running its own school board election.

Superintendent Rick Holt indicated the district has until Sept. 3 to approve the specific ballot language.

He explained that staff will continue to draft potential ballot language for the BoE to approve at its next regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sept. 2 in the Pagosa Springs Middle School library at 309 Lewis St.

BEST grant

Prior to voting on the IGA, the board heard an update from Holt in regard to the district’s Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant application.

■ See Ballot A7

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Opinion



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8/6	92	48	0.00	NA	NA	
8/7	92	49	0.00	NA	NA	
8/8	88	49	0.00	NA	NA	
8/9	91	52	0.00	NA	NA	
8/10	89	52	0.00	NA	NA	

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OUR VIEW

Ignorance isn't always bliss

There's no doubt about it — letting yourself be consumed 24/7 by news isn't good for your mental and emotional health.

But, on the other hand, ignorance isn't always bliss (call us biased).

That's especially true if you've been entrusted to be a community leader through election, appointment or being hired to help lead one of our several governmental organizations that helps to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our area and its inhabitants.

But, unfortunately, we continue to notice fairly regularly that some of our community's leaders are lacking when it comes to having an understanding about what's going on in our community and, in some instances, their own organization.

That's not acceptable.

We've recently (and fairly often) seen elected officials show up to meetings seeming to not having read the appropriate materials or, sometimes, it seems, even the agenda.

We've seen elected and appointed officials begin a discussion with good intentions and facts, only for it to devolve into conjecture, insults and ignorance over things like how another public entity is

paying for a project.

We've seen officials badmouth others without firm evidence or examples of what they're accusing them of.

Those actions don't allow us to have much faith or confidence that these officials are seeking to do what's best.

We absolutely don't think it's too much to ask for our officials to seek to be informed and have a basic understanding of what is happening in the community (and their own organization), how it will or is affecting their organization, how it could affect the community, etc.

We don't think it's too much to ask for officials to ask questions when they're unsure of facts instead of submitting conjecture and opinion as if they were fact.

We don't think it's too much to ask to expect our governmental entities to reach out to one another to help increase understanding.

If each organization focuses only on its own improvements, development and growth without concern for others, we increase the likelihood of unintended consequences that will create more problems that will then need to be solved. That's not how we can ensure we're changing, grow-

ing, developing and preserving aspects of our community appropriately.

It can, however, help ensure that relationships between entities fall apart and can make mistakes more likely.

If the Rio Blanco Fire and other natural disasters have shown us anything, it's that we're better together, and it's better when we're armed with facts about what we're facing, the risks and how it's affecting those we share this area with.

We thank those officials who spend time diligently preparing for meetings and staying apprised of what's going on in our community.

We thank those who have spoken up in meetings, stating they don't feel they have the information needed to make a sound decision and suggesting decisions wait until after more facts or viewpoints are available.

We thank those who understand they can lead better and more efficiently armed with information and a desire to do the best for their community.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the July 27, 1967, Pagosa SUN — ECHO DAM — The Echo Canyon Dam south of Pagosa Springs is nearing completion. This SUN photo shows the height of the dam from downstream. The earthmoving machinery on top of the dam gives an idea of how long the dam is in size comparison. The small stream in the foreground will be used to fill the dam when spring runoff takes place.

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 13, 1926

Chas. A. Day of Pagosa Springs was designated at Denver last week as the Republican candidate for representative for the counties of Hinsdale, Archuleta and Mineral to succeed himself. So far as we have been able to learn the Republicans have not as yet designated their candidate for the 18th Senatorial district.

Harry Mee, while cranking a truck Monday morning preparatory to going to the Duncan road camp, sustained a compound fracture of the right arm that will keep him from his work for some time.

Ben Francisco was an arrival on Saturday from Pueblo to try our waters for continued ill health.

Jay Catchpole, receiver of the First National Bank of Pagosa Springs, has taken possession of the Southwestern Colorado Lumber Company sawmill near Dyke under a chattel mortgage executed by the company in favor of the bank in January, 1925. The mill is now being offered for sale under said mortgage, as per notice elsewhere in these columns.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 10, 1951

The Town Board met in regular session on Monday night of this week for the transaction of routine business matters and the hearing of employee's reports.

Reports from the street department showed that over 20 blocks of the street and alley system had received gravel under the graveling program. This gravel was of heavy, river run size and is being laid as a base, preparatory to graveling with crushed gravel as soon as is practicable. The larger river run gravel makes a good base for the crushed gravel and will be pretty rough until such time as it is packed down.

The marshal's report showed a large number of speeders arrested the past month, along with usual police activities. Water department reports indicated that much work remains to be done on improving the system.

The Town Board also discussed regulations concerning the use of the town fire truck outside of the city limits and certain rules were agreed upon. These rules are to be given the fire chief limits without his consent. Persons in rural areas who desire assistance from the town truck will save time by contracting fire chief Dick DeVore before turning in an alarm.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 12, 1976

TV movies were in the Chromo area at the Harold and Ernie Schutz ranches last week filming Marlboro Country cigarette commercials. Professional riders were in most of the scenes but both Harold and Ernie Schutz were also in some of the filming.

County road crews are oiling the Snowball road and Eighth Street in town is also being repaired. The county has other oiling projects throughout the county and within a few years there should be several miles of oiled road on the county system.

Retail sales, services, and industry chalked up a whopping 84.2 per cent gain in the first quarter of 1976 over the same period in 1975. This increase was from a total of all sales in the first quarter of 1975 of \$1,868,000 to \$3,440,000 in the first quarter of 1976.

This is attributed to three things. The first was that San Juan Lumber Co. was operating when it had not been the year before, the winter tourist business was up, and there were several people employed on the Title X program.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 8, 2001

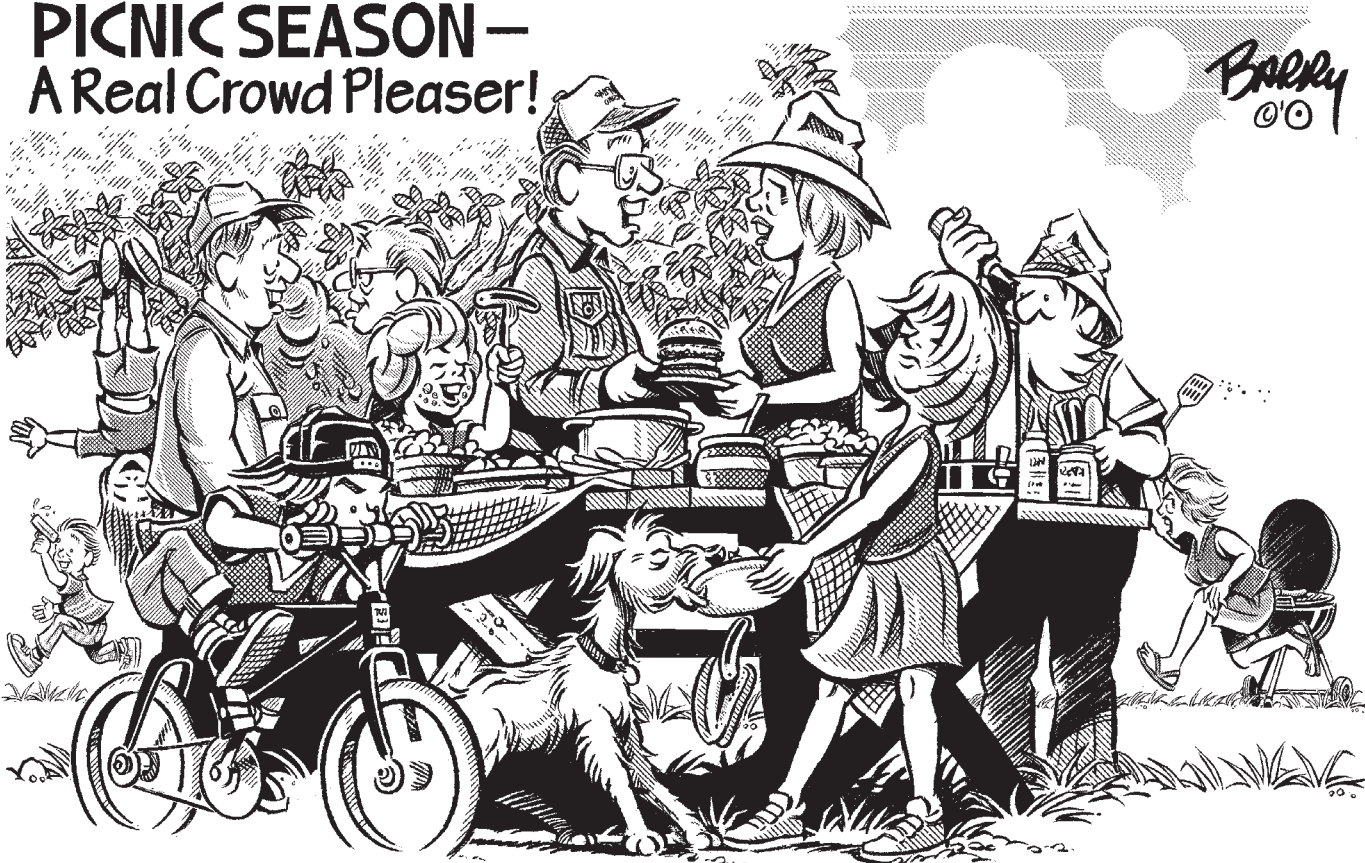
The Archuleta County Board of Commissioners is looking for a few good citizens, people who are concerned about roads in their areas, to serve on a planned, new Standing Road Committee.

"We want people from the Navajo, Blanco, Chromo, Arboles and other areas to be represented," said Commissioner Alden Ecker.

"We need a road plan for the future for Archuleta County," he said. "We must to a better job with the roads in the county and this committee is the place to start."

Ecker said the committee is to be charged with formally establishing road classifications, degree of maintenance desired for each classification, means of removing some areas from maintenance for two-to-three year periods to allow more action in more heavily traveled areas, and develop a long-range county road plan with both expansion and maintenance priorities.

PICNIC SEASON — A Real Crowd Pleaser!





Letters

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

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

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

Cats and wildlife

I love cats—seriously, I think kittens and baby ducks are the cutest animals on the planet...would anyone disagree? But here's the thing: every single day I sit at my office desk in front of a window and watch my neighbors three cats go on killing sprees. All day long. Who knows what they're doing at night. They are out there hunting, catching and killing birds, bunnies and anything else they can get their paws on. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) cats are in the top 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species. Globally, domestic cats have driven 63 species to extinction. It is estimated that there are between 60 and 130 million cats in the U.S. and are significant predators of small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. According to the American Bird Conservancy cats kill 2.4 billion birds annually, and a study published in Nature estimates that 6.3–22.3 billion mammals are killed annually by cats and suggests they are “likely the single greatest source of anthropogenic mortality for US birds and mammals.” Cats don't just hunt for food, they hunt for fun. Even cats with full bellies will stalk, pounce and kill just because they are the ultimate ‘born killers.’ So, how do we keep our serial killer kitties from going Dexter on our wildlife? 1. Best choice - keep your cat indoors. There is evidence that indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. They are safer inside. Period. 2. If you can't keep your cat indoors be sure to keep a bell on them or a BirdBeSafe collar - this brightly colored collar alerts prey animals to the presence of the cat and gives them a chance to escape! 3. Feed your cat plenty of protein - although well fed cats will still hunt, at least their hunting will not be exacerbated with hunger. 4. Play with your cat! According to a study done by the University of Exeter, playing with your cat daily with a feather toy on a wand allows the cat to “play” hunt and will do less of it outside.

So, as our natural wildlife struggles for survival during these heat waves and lack of water, let's not add to the stress by letting our cats 'free range' and hunt them to death.

Christa Chagra

Unintended consequences

Dear Editor:

Sometimes good intentions cause unintended consequences. Our wonderful town has so many great programs designed to help our citizens. Unfortunately sometimes those programs blindly support a “victim” when in reality it's the “victim” that is responsible for the damage. When a non-profit financially incentivises criminal action, a new victim is often created. When dishonest people are able to claim whatever they want to an inept police force, and a judge who is blind to this abuse prosecutes good people with disregard for facts, injustice far outweighs what's right. After spending many nights in Archuleta county lockup, I know my story isn't unique. This county means well but is blinded by it's desire to do good, without vetting who they're standing up for. I love this small town, I want to continue raising my family here and supporting all these great organizations, but please know who your supporting.

David Christy

Midterm elections

Dear Editor:

The November 3, 2026 Midterm Elections are upon us. It is important that every Archuleta County voter participate. This is the only way we can express our concerns about our future. This is no time to not vote. Just because our gasoline, food, and medical expenses are outstripping our income and they will not release all the Epstein papers is no reason to not vote. Just because unemployment is down, inflation up, and we are stuck in a war that the President started and can't end, or that the Straits of Hormuz are now controlled by Iran, and that our Republication Congress has abandoned their duties allowing the President to do what every he wants to do. None are not valid reasons to abandon our rights. Helplessness or fear are not excuses for not voting. We can vote to end the corruption. We can vote to protect our Constitutional Rights. We can vote to help get the Epstein files released. This is no time to not stand up and vote.

Any Congressman with the President's endorsement is a sign that the Congressman has shown his willingness to blindly follow and promote the President's agenda. A Republication Congressional candidate must think he is sitting really sitting good with a million dollars or more in his campaign fund, running against a Democrat who does not accept Pac money and with less than a \$100,000 at the last reporting period. We can step up and end our ineffective representation by a Congressman who doesn't support us. I know we are going to be flooded with campaign propaganda about how the President and his minions are fighting for Rural America. We believe their actions don't match their rhetoric. Probably one of the sneakiest things they did in the 2025 “Big Beautiful Bill” was to severely cut healthcare benefits, and making the cuts effective December 31, 2026. This way, we will not understand the situation for our local medical services until 2027, and after the Midterm elections.

Part of our interest in writing to the Editor is so that our friends and neighbors know where we stand. More importantly, our children and grandchildren need to know we did not stand silently by. We are proud to live in Archuleta County, but we weep for a Republication Congress that will not protect us while we are drowning in their political cowardness. Thank God we can still express our opinions.

Bill and Lynda Fowler

Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Ukraine's current TPS (Temporary Protected Status) extension is set to expire on October 19, 2026 if no action is taken. This could be catastrophic for over 500,000 Ukrainian nationals in the United States who cannot return home, including approximately 240,000 Ukrainians who came here through the sponsored Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) parole program.

The office of U.S. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick is spearheading a letter urging the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend and redesignate Ukraine's Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

An extension of Ukraine's TPS is needed to prolong protection for over 100,000 Ukrainians with current and pending TPS, while a redesignation is needed to safeguard those who arrived here since the last TPS cutoff dates.

Without this protection, Ukrainians in the United States who are currently here on an authorized period of stay are at serious risk of becoming undocumented, losing their ability to work lawfully, and even being deported.

A TPS redesignation and extension for 18 months would offer these Ukrainians a vital lifeline. Moreover, it would give them a chance to live, work, and attend school here lawfully so they can provide for themselves and their families.

Colorado District 03 voters,

Please ask US Congressman Hurd to support this crucial and time-sensi-

tive initiative!

Neonila Martyniuk
Montrose, Colo.

County admin building options

Dear Editor:

About 10 months ago, I saw that the Camino Real Imports space (opposite end of the City Market complex) was being offered for lease by the building owner through their broker, both out of Denver. I'm a commercial broker, too. I realized that it might serve the county's needs after the fire displaced them from downtown into leasing the Wyndham building across from McDonalds. The owner had no interest in selling, but I stayed in touch regularly. I've been working in the background of this matter since this time.

Most of the county employees are packed in like sardines in the Wyndam building. This appears less desirable than the building all were forced to vacate. The county has the option of keeping things as is, a New Build of acquiring the Camino space.

An engineering firm was retained and noted that the counties' needs, current and future could be satisfied with 21,000 SF. They noted the cost of our Justice Center, some years back, 22,200 SF was \$22,900,000. Assume a New Build facility for the county is \$24 million. You'd likely have a 24 month design-build cycle, building thru 2 winters, so a move in the summer of 2028.

The Camino space can be acquired and fully built out for about \$6 million based on 3rd party info.

This is a 23,500 SF space that would allow the county the same footprint and new interior space options as a New Build. The only difference is the wrapper: in line Camino space vs a free standing building. The county would end up with the same options for both interiors. This was voted down at the August 4th meeting. With the New Build wrapper at \$18 million more, the choice for the county commissioners to go forward with the Camino purchase seems the prudent with our taxpayer dollars. They have another chance to vote on August 18th.

F. Scott Tonges

Editor's note: No vote regarding the county administration building was taken during the Aug. 4 meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners. County facilities were, however, discussed in executive session during that meeting.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Aug. 17-22

Work activity

- Overlook parking lot: Sidewalk work continues along U.S. 160 next to the overlook parking lot. Parking spaces will be closed in areas where work is taking place.
- North 7th Street: Crews are initiating storm water drain replacement and utility work. Pedestrians should use the alternative street crossing at 8th Street.
- South 7th Street: Work continues on water utility connection work with PAWSD followed by safety improvements. Residents should plan on 7th Street being closed for a month.
- North 3rd Street intersection: Work continues on the subgrade as crews prepare for paving operations. Pedestrians may access the north side of main street from the 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard crosswalk during the work period. This intersection is expected to open late August, pending weather delays.
- 100 and 200 blocks: Crews will continue paving

the south side of U.S. 160 from 3rd Street to the east.

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

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

WELL MAINTAINED CONCRETE HOME ON 3 PARK-LIKE ACRES



317 Yarrow Circle

\$1,590,000

This beautiful 4-bedroom 3 bath home has 4,172 sq ft of living space, very low utility costs and qualifies for discounted insurance premium rates due to being an all-concrete home. The home features just under 2,000 sq ft of attached garage space including an RV garage and garage parking on the lower walk-out basement level and is in a paved subdivision. The main level features two primary suites for convenience, a great gourmet kitchen with 3 ovens, prep sink, & custom granite counter tops right off the living/dining area, and laundry room. The lower level has two additional large bedrooms, one full bath, a theatre room with fireplace, second living area, large wet bar, space for an additional refrigerator, and also a wine room. The home is fully landscaped with mature trees, flower beds and drip irrigation system. Two large, covered decks with beautiful timber accents round out the exterior. Come take a look! MLS #835628



Ron Christensen
Managing Broker



Marlena Crandall
Associate Broker, Office Manager

Marlena Crandall
& Ron Christensen

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The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit your letter electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted to editor@pagosasun.com or via the form at www.PagosaSUN.com. Letters must not be in all capitals.

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- include the actual first and last name of the author
- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

AmeriCorps NCCC team arrives to help build with Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is excited to welcome a seven-member AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team to Pagosa Springs.

From Aug. 4 through Sept. 23, these young adults will work alongside Habitat's core volunteers, partner families and traveling Care-A-Vanners to help build the final four homes in Habitat's "15 Homes in 5 Years" campaign.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a national service program for young adults ages 18-24 who spend 10 months traveling throughout the country, serving communities through hands-on projects ranging from environmental conservation and infrastructure improvement to historic preservation. For these young volunteers, the experience is an opportunity to learn new skills, explore career paths, meet people from different communities and most importantly, make a tangible difference wherever they serve.

AmeriCorps NCCC team member Madeline Conway said, "Our team, Raven 2, just arrived in Pagosa Springs for our third project. We began the program in February of this year and completed training in Denver, Colo., before shipping off to the rural town of Roan Mountain, Tenn., for two months to do disaster recovery construction work, specifically repairing homes that had been damaged by Hurricane Helene. Then, in May, we flew to the opposite coast and conducted outdoor recreation area maintenance all over Northern California. This included clearing overgrown trails, campsites and boat launches. Through our first two projects we learned lifelong skills, and we are so excited to now be continuing our service term in Pagosa



Photo courtesy Madeline Bergon

From Aug. 4 through Sept. 23, a seven-member AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps crew will work alongside Habitat's core volunteers, partner families and traveling Care-A-Vanners to help build the final four homes in Habitat's "15 Homes in 5 Years" campaign.

Springs. Here, we will be working with Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County helping to construct homes. We also will be working with the town upkeeping some of Pagosa's parks and cemeteries. And, finally, we will be helping with some housekeeping and landscaping at the St. Patrick's church which is graciously housing us while we are here. We have already been welcomed so warmly, and we can't wait to get even more immersed in the community of this beautiful town."

We cannot thank our community

enough for the incredible support that makes Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County possible. On behalf of our homeowners, the businesses that employ them, and the children and families who depend on them, we are deeply grateful.

Every Habitat home is built through a true community effort: bringing together volunteers, skilled subcontractors, generous in-kind donations of products and services, and the hard work of our partner families. Habitat homeowners work

side by side with volunteers to build their homes, invest sweat equity in their community, and ultimately purchase their home with an affordable mortgage.

Together, we are building more than houses; we are building strength, stability and a stronger community. For Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County, their arrival brings an exciting boost of energy, helping turn hard work, teamwork and community support into safe, affordable homes for local families.

Medical center board approves funding for downtown EMS facility renovation

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its July 28 meeting, the board of directors of the Upper San Juan Health Service District — which operates as Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) — approved the use of up to \$700,000 of PSMC's appropriated reserves, if needed, to complete renovations and operationalize the district's east emergency medical services (EMS) building in the downtown.

The board also approved a transfer of \$566,000 from the PSMC Foundation to PSMC for the project.

"This is a big deal," board member Wayne Hooper said during discussion

on the matter.

The resolution outlines the history of the EMS use of the building, explaining that, in January 2024, the board approved the 2024-2025 Strategic Plan, "which includes a tactic to evaluate the need and viability of a second/alternative EMS station to serve the community."

Then, in November 2025, the San Juan Rangers conveyed its interest in the building and land located at 302 San Juan St. to PSMC.

At that same time, the board authorized PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb to negotiate and execute documents to address any rights of the Town of Pagosa Springs to allow PSMC to have uninterrupted right of use of the site as long as it is used for EMS services.

At the July 28 meeting, Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese noted that PSMC can continually use the building as long as it is being used for EMS.

In November 2025, the board also authorized the CEO and PSMC Foundation to fundraise to renovate the building for 24/7 use, with PSMC receiving \$566,000 in donations that could be used for the renovation.

The resolution also notes that PSMC applied for and was awarded at \$100,000 matching grant by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for the project.

The resolution further explains, "the PSMC Board approved the annual budget for 2026 before the PSMC had knowledge of the San Juan Rang-

ers' deed to PSMC and, therefore, seeks Board approval for the use of funds from PSMC's appropriated reserves to commence and complete the renovation of the EMS East Station."

The resolution outlines that the project's architect provided a preliminary cost estimate of \$1.2 million, which does not include contingency or the costs of furniture and furnishings, but that the actual costs of the renovation project will not be determined until the selected contractor, Nunn Construction, completes bids for subcontractors and materials.

"PSMC staff seek approval from the Board to proceed with the East EMS Station renovation project based upon the estimated budget, an estimated contingency of ten percent and an estimated amount for furniture and furnishings subject to a cap of \$700,000," the resolution states.

During a presentation earlier in the meeting, EMS Chief Jason Webb explained that he is hoping by the end of the year the renovation will be done and the facility will have crews in it, but recognized there may still be a few outstanding elements at that time.

randi@pagosasun.com

Services

Allen 'Al' Flaming

Please join us as we gather to remember and celebrate the life of Allen "Al" Flaming, who passed away on May 16, 2025.

The celebration of life will be on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 9 to 11 a.m. in Town Park in Pagosa Springs.

Family, friends, PAWSD and hunting family, and anyone who knew Al are welcome.

Come enjoy some light refreshments and spend a little time together remembering Al.



League of Women Voters of Archuleta County looks back on year of success

By Janice McIntyre

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County

On July 23, the League of Women Voters of Archuleta County (LWV) participated in a meeting reviewing a year of activities.

Initiated by the 2025 June Recruitment Reception and a fall welcome, the highlight was the July fundraiser film "Join or Die" on community involvement featuring tributes to local nonprofits.

Topics for the 2026 meetings included environmental safety and local issues as suggested by member survey. Meetings reviewed health care proposals, affordable housing,

water issues, wildfire preparation, election processes and student civics education. The LWV also co-sponsored the "Conversations" series that discussed ballot initiatives for November. The League would like to thank all speakers who shared their time and expertise.

There will be no meetings in August. Fall 2026 meetings will occur Sept. 29, Oct. 26 and Nov. 17. Future topics include the Forest Health Partnership, an updated review of the Archuleta ballot initiatives, the "Blue Book" and election preparations.

Meetings will be held at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., at 5:30 p.m. We hope you will join us.

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Month-to-month sales tax collections up for second time this year

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

According to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on Aug. 7, sales tax collections in Archuleta County for June were reported to be up 1.63 percent compared to figures from June 2025. Eaton's report notes that the 1.63 percent increase translates to a total of \$28,804 more received this June compared to June 2025. For this June, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,794,235.94 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax, with

\$896,214.94 going to the county and \$894,152.28 going to the town. January saw a decrease of 10.64 percent (\$149,587.01) in sales tax collections, while numbers for February reflected a 1.17 percent increase (\$16,020.75). March figures reflected a 1.01 percent decrease (\$15,560.32), while numbers for April reflected a 9.07 percent decrease (\$125,110.70). May figures also showed a decrease of .48 percent (\$6,553.63). According to data in Eaton's press release, the year-to-date comparison for January through June of this year shows a 2.51 percent decrease, or \$223,819.48 less received compared to figures from January through June

2025. Eaton's report notes that a total of \$8,680,701.02 in sales tax has been collected so far this year. Categories that were up in comparison to month-to-month comparison according to Eaton's data include:

- Construction by 8.42 percent, or \$2,761.02.
- Retail Trade by 6.3 percent, or \$58,315.09.
- Finance and Insurance by 3.4 percent, or \$82.62.
- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing by 7.32 percent, or \$2,984.10.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services by 43.43 percent,

or \$4,538.71.

- Accommodation and Food Services by 3.21 percent, or \$6,291.78.
- Categories that were down in the month-to-month comparison include:
- Manufacturing by 15.59 percent, or \$12,098.21.
- Information by 5.78 percent, or \$1,819.56.
- Accommodation and Food Services by 2.93 percent, or \$11,287.42.
- Other Services (except Public Administration) by 20.73 percent, or \$7,522.28.
- Miscellaneous by 3.22 percent, or \$7,149.80.

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Malville

■ Continued from front Chimney Rock. As part of the recognition, a commemorative bronze plaque honoring Malville and his work is now displayed in the Chimney Rock Visitor Center. Malville also donated something especially meaningful to the Visitor Center: a copy of the photograph he took on Aug. 8, 1988, capturing the moon rising between the two iconic pinnacles. The photograph provides a remarkable visual record of the observation that helped deepen our understanding of the relationship between Chimney Rock's architecture and the movements of the moon.

A discovery 38 years in the making

Malville's connection to Chimney Rock began with a question: Why was the Great House Pueblo constructed in such an extraordinary location? The Great House sits high above the Piedra River Valley on a narrow mesa in the shadow of Chimney Rock and Companion Rock. Researchers had long recognized the site's unusual characteristics, but Malville began exploring whether the placement of the Great House close to the pinnacles might have an astronomical connection. He first considered alignments involving the summer solstice and Venus. Eventually, his attention turned to the moon and the major lunar standstill, an astronomical cycle occurring approximately every

18.6 years, when the moon reaches the northernmost extreme of its rising position along the horizon. Malville discovered that the major lunar standstill periods in the late 11th century may have corresponded closely with construction activity at the Great House. That possibility led him back to Chimney Rock on Aug. 8, 1988, accompanied by four of his university students. After hours of anticipation, the moon began to rise between the pinnacles. Rising into the space between Chimney and Companion Rock, the moon provided a dramatic confirmation of the astronomical alignment Malville had been investigating. His photograph of that moment became the first known photograph documenting a major lunar standstill moonrise between the pinnacles. More significantly, Malville's research provided compelling evidence that the Ancestral Puebloans who built and used the Great House understood this lunar cycle and intentionally chose this remarkable location to observe the moon's movements between the pinnacles. For Malville and his students, the experience was extraordinary. They were witnessing a phenomenon that may have held profound significance for the Ancestral Puebloans more than a thousand years earlier.

Preserving a legacy

Saturday's gathering was more

than the presentation of a plaque. It brought together people whose connections to Chimney Rock span research, preservation, interpretation, volunteerism and family. Remarks by Ron Sutcliffe and Susan Yalom helped reflect on Malville's work and the importance of his contributions, while the presence of his family added a personal dimension to a story that has become an important part of Chimney Rock's modern history. Now, visitors to the Chimney Rock Visitor Center will be able to see both the plaque recognizing Malville and the photograph documenting that remarkable August morning in 1988. Together, they tell the story of scientific curiosity, careful observation and a landscape that continues to reveal connections between the earth and sky. For Chimney Rock, the story is particularly fitting. For centuries, the two pinnacles have stood above the Piedra River Valley while the sun, moon and stars moved across the sky. Malville's work helped modern observers look at that familiar landscape differently — and consider what those same movements may have meant to the people who came before us. Thirty-eight years after he stood on the mesa and watched the moon rise between the pinnacles, Malville returned to Chimney Rock to see that discovery recognized and preserved for generations of visitors yet to come.

Fire

■ Continued from front "Firefighters on the Rio Blanco Fire continue to make big strides on mopping up and containment, now at 91 percent, as focus has begun shifting more toward rehabilitation efforts," an Aug. 11 update from the incident management team states. "San Juan Team 8 transferred command of the fire to a Type 4 organization on Monday evening, with Incident Commander Jesse Jones continuing to lead the smaller organization." The update further explains, "Residual smoke from smoldering downed trees remains visible well within containment lines – and may continue for weeks – but does not pose a concern to firefighters." The day's update also notes that crews would be continuing suppres-

sion repair in the area. "Crews and heavy equipment will continue with suppression repair and land-rehabilitation efforts," the update states. "Embedded among the firefighters is a designated Initial Attack crew assigned to respond [quickly] to any new fire starts in the area that could further stretch firefighting resources. The issue is that vegetation in the area is so drought-stricken that any new ignitions can spread rapidly and be difficult to control. With afternoon thunderstorms bringing the potential for lightning strikes, wildfire danger remains extreme. On another front, the chipping of slash left from firefighting continues along the southern edge of the fire – an important piece of cleanup that helps return the burn area to a more natural condition."

Additional Rio Blanco Fire updates will be posted at www.PagosaSUN.com as they become available from the incident management team. **Echo Canyon Reservoir reopens to boating** On Aug. 3, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) announced that it had 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 were actively dipping buckets into the reservoir for aerial support, according to the agency and, to maximize the ability of fire personnel to utilize water from Echo Canyon Reservoir State Wildlife Area, ■ See Fire A7

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PAWSD receives clean 2025 audit

By **Josh Pike**
Staff Writer

At a July 30 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard the results of the district’s clean 2025 audit, performed by Ronnie Farmer of RFarmer LLC.

PAWSD Comptroller Jack Dossett introduced the audit, thanking Farmer for his time and his history with the district, which Dossett noted helped his work.

District Manager Andrew Connor also thanked Farmer for his assistance, noting that both he and Dossett are new this year.

Farmer commented that the audit went “very well” and that the transition in leadership went smoothly.

The auditor’s letter included in the audit indicates that the audit found that the financial statements fairly present the activities of the district and that it identified no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses.

In response to a question about the district’s transfers of funds from its general fund to its water and wastewater enterprise funds and the rules surrounding this from board chairman Gene Tautges, Farmer explained that the general fund’s main source of revenue is property taxes and that, when the district’s voters successfully passed a ballot measure to reapply Colorado Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) restrictions to the district in May 2016, there was a possibility that the property taxes collected would not be enough to maintain transfers from the general fund to the enterprise funds.

He explained that in 2025, the fund generated approximately \$250,000 in profit and that PAWSD transferred \$500,000 from it, resulting in a \$250,000 decrease in the fund balance.

However, he noted that, since the money went to other funds in the organization and the general fund balance of \$1,435,905 at the end 2025 was still more than 30 percent of the \$1,097,746 in expenditures for the fund, this transfer was not problematic and could be repeated in 2026 if the district desires it.

He added that the problem of the district not having enough property tax collections to maintain transfers is currently not occurring and is unlikely to happen in the future once PAWSD’s construction projects are complete and the proper rate levels are set to sustain the enterprise funds.

Farmer commented that he feels like the \$500,000 transfer was potentially made because it was included in the district’s budget and that the district does not have to make this transfer if it does not need to, even if it is included in the budget.

He encouraged the board to read the management’s discussion and analysis section of the audit to gain a better understanding of management’s perspective of the district’s activities in 2025, although he stated that he would not review this section during the meeting.

Farmer explained that the water and wastewater funds together showed a \$2,485,392 profit, which included a significant amount of depreciation of assets.

“Very solid, very sustainable, very

well-managed funds,” he said, adding that these funds have been “very sound” for his entire time doing audits for the district and before.

Farmer stated that the monetary value of inventory items for PAWSD’s water enterprise fund has been consistently increasing for several years, reaching \$1,423,008 in 2025.

He commented that the district might want to examine why this inventory is continually growing and potentially sell off some of these items to increase its cash available, although he added that the fund is not cash poor at present.

Farmer stated that the operating income showed a loss for the water fund of \$196,231, a gain for the wastewater fund of \$155,520 and an overall loss of \$40,711.

However, he added that the water fund has depreciation expenses of \$2,412,536 and the wastewater fund has depreciation expenses of \$980,192, meaning that, when depreciation is added back, the water fund is generating a \$2,115,425 profit and the wastewater fund is generating at \$1,155,279 profit.

“Those are good numbers,” he said, adding that this pattern is consistent with prior years.

Tautges commented that the Snowball water treatment plant expansion project and the upgrades to the Vista wastewater treatment plan are almost done now and will be completed this year, adding that even though they are listed in the audit as 2026 projects, they are scheduled for completion in 2026, not to start.

Farmer commented that the cash flow statements for PAWSD’s operat-

ing activities do not reflect normal operations for the district due to the large capital projects it is undertaking.

He added that the district also received a significant amount of proceeds from debt that contributed to its cash flows and were used for capital projects.

Farmer then discussed the district’s long-term liabilities and debt service, which indicates that the district will have \$2,754,342 in debt service requirements over the next three years for its current loans.

He added that none of the district’s funds in 2025 were overspent compared to the budget, demonstrating a “good job of budgeting” for the district.

PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey stated that work on the Snowball plant is almost done and the district will not need to make any more payments to construction contractors for the project, while work on the Vista plant will likely continue for another two months.

Dossett noted that activity on these projects will still appear on the 2026 audit since it occurred after Jan. 1, 2026.

Tautges and PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer thanked Farmer for his work.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh asked if Farmer would be willing to work with the district going forward.

Farmer replied that he would be willing to do so and that he thought Dossett had a strong understanding of the debits and credits involved in the district’s finances.

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County to pursue FLAP grant for road improvements

By **Clayton Chaney**
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Aug. 4, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved a request from staff to source funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).

According to the meeting’s agenda, “This grant is to provide a better road service to property owners in the vicinity of proposed project [County Road] 500 when the road is eroding and effecting the stability of the bank around mile [13]. The other proposed project will consist of paving [County Road] 600 from the end of asphalt one mile to the top of Bennet Hill, and 1.9 miles of County Road 302.”

Earlier that day during a work session, the BoCC heard from Public Works Director Mike Torres, who explained that the FLAP grant pre-

sented itself in early 2025 and, at that time, the county had a project on County Road 500 “where we had seen significant erosion of the bank.”

Torres commented that every year in that area there is approximately a 5-foot to 10-foot section that “falls off into the river, especially with last year’s flooding.”

He explained that the county intended to go after the FLAP grant funding for the project, but that funding was pulled from the program and not available again until this year.

Torres explained that the FLAP “improves public transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands.”

He added, “The program supplements local and state transportation funding with an emphasis on access to high-use recreation areas, and federal lands that support local, regional economic activity.”

Torres mentioned that Archuleta

County is eligible for the program due to having County Road 302 (Mill Creek), County Road 600 (Piedra Road) and the slope failure area on County Road 500.

He also indicated that the Colorado FLAP grant may fund up to 100 percent of eligible costs, “with no local match” required.

Torres went on to explain that the program may have anywhere from \$32 million to \$64 million worth of funds available, and that for Archuleta County he is looking at paving one mile of County Road 600, from the current end of the asphalt up to the next cattle guard.

He noted the county is going to apply for \$2,289,001.95 for that project.

Torres then explained the project on County Road 302 would include paving approximately 1.9 miles from where the asphalt currently ends, at a cost of \$3,652,673.40.

He also noted that the cost for the slope repair on County Road 500 is at

\$2,499,580.80.

Torres indicated that the top priority would be to take care of the County Road 500 project, followed by paving on County Road 600 and then paving on County Road 302.

“If it comes down to that, but we are going to present all of [the projects],” he said.

Torres explained the request before the BoCC was to authorize staff to develop and submit one or more eligible applications.

“FLAP presents an opportunity to address high-cost country transportation needs associated with federal land access without mandatory local match,” Torres said.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented on the matter saying, “I think this is the way to go. We’re never going to be able to fund these things locally, and the only way we’re going to be able to get it done is through grant opportunities like this.”

clayton@pagosasun.com

Roads

■ Continued from front

“So, our current county map does not clearly distinguish the difference between all classifications as listed,” Torres added, indicating that is where the public’s confusion may lie.

Torres mentioned that all too often staff receives calls from the public stating the county has not been maintaining their road. Many of those roads were dedicated to the public decades ago, but were never accepted by the county for maintenance.

Torres noted that, as a courtesy, the county will occasionally grade roads that have not been accepted into the county’s road system, adding that providing that courtesy service does not create an obligation for the county to keep doing it.

“The county does not have the resources to keep every road in good condition,” Torres said.

He reiterated that roads classified as secondary do not get county maintenance, and also that secondary roads are public roads, not a county-maintained road.

Torres reviewed what each road system, primary and secondary, actually gets in terms of maintenance, noting that a primary road receives routine maintenance year-round, a capital improvement program, snow removal, signage, reconstruction to county road standards and HUTFs.

Secondary roads receive a minimum of one blading per year, snow plowing when necessary, no capital improvement program, no reconstruction to county road standards, no year-round service and no HUTFs unless located within a special district.

As for how county roads can get accepted in the county’s primary road system, Torres explained there is a formal discretionary process once a year in which the county considers petitions to accept roads into its maintenance system.

The deadline for petitions to be submitted is May 31, Torres indicat-

ed, also noting that through that process the “burden” is on the requesting party to document the existing nature of the road and provide a cost estimate and funding plan to bring the road up to county standards.

He also explained that the county engineer and director “weigh” economic impacts and the practicality before making a decision to accept the road for primary maintenance or not.

In response to a question from Commissioner Veronica Medina, Torres mentioned that during his three years of working for the county he has not received any formal petitions for roads to be accepted into the county’s maintenance system.

Torres responded to another question from Medina, stating that the

petition process is explained in the county’s standards, which are posted online, adding that “yes” the county informs people of the process, “but it is not clearly stated.

Commissioner John Ranson asked if the application of magnesium chloride is considered routine maintenance, to which Torres explained that service is considered a maintenance cost by the county.

“That is another topic,” Torres added, mentioning that could be addressed as the county moves along with reviewing its road map and maintenance system.

“This is just an informative conversation to bring you guys up to speed of where we’re at and what we think is going on,” he said.

Torres then provided a timeline of

significant events related to the history of the county’s road maps and maintenance systems.

He explained that the state first requested counties create maps displaying their arterial roads in 1953.

“To our knowledge, this map was not created,” he said, clarifying that staff has been unable to find a road map from that far back.

In 1998, the county began accepting subdivisions, explaining that Resolution 98-82 was approved by the BoCC, describing it as a five-year fix for 12 subdivisions throughout the county.

Once that resolution ended in 2004, the general consensus in the community that what the county was doing was not working, Torres

■ See Roads A8

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Ballot

■ Continued from front

He explained that the district’s BEST grant representative through the state has indicated the district had a “strong” application this year, even though it was not awarded funds.

Holt also explained that it was expressed to him by the state representative that the state will have “greater [certificate of participation, (COP)] access,” explaining that COPs are used to fund the most expensive and largest capital improvement projects through BEST.

“That bodes well for us,” Holt said, explaining the district had been considered a “COP-worthy” project.

He went on to explain that BEST awarded slightly more than \$70 million to communities that still have to pass their bond before receiving funds.

Holt mentioned that it is possible, but not likely, that if those communities are not able to raise their matching funds by approving their bonds, then those funds could become available to ASD.

“We will have needed to pass a bond ourselves if we’re going to capture those dollars,” Holt said.

Holt also explained that if the district asks voters to approve a bond, that impacts their matching amount with the BEST grant.

Each time the district goes to a bond election and it fails, BEST gives an additional 2 percent in matching, Holt explained, noting that is BEST’s way to incentivize districts to pass bonds.

Later in the meeting, Holt indicated that the district’s BEST grant application was ranked highly due to it being a new build project versus renovating an existing building.

“In the BEST world, they prefer a green-field build, if you have the land,” he said.

Current building conditions

During the meeting the BoE also heard from Chief Operations Officer Jason Taylor in regard to the district’s current facilities, recent projects and what the district will need to consider doing in terms of maintenance if it plans to keep students in the existing buildings for more than four or five years.

Taylor explained that the district received a report from RTA Architects which identified critical and important repairs needed at the elementary and middle school facilities.

He mentioned that staff performed a similar review identifying urgent needs prior to looking at RTA’s

review in order to make a comparison between the two.

Taylor mentioned that the district has been advised by the Pagosa Fire Protection District that if it plans to keep students in the elementary building for much longer, then the building’s fire system would need to be addressed.

Taylor also mentioned that when comparing the district’s in-house list to RTA’s list of urgent needs, “a number of those could be taken care of in the next five years.”

He noted that if the district is looking to pass a bond this fall, it could still be three to four more years before a new building is completed and open to students, and that if the district plans to go with a longer timeline before opening a new school, then some of these maintenance projects will need to be considered.

Taylor went on to mention that RTA’s projected cost to complete the “urgent and important needs” at the elementary school came out to around \$32.7 million, and roughly \$25.9 million for the middle school’s maintenance needs, totaling at approximately \$59 million.

Taylor commented that the district could get by with “less,” noting RTA’s estimate as sort of the “best-case scenario,” as that includes projects that would improve learning spaces.

Taylor then reviewed the in-house list generated by staff, noting that staff added a few things that were not included in RTA’s report, specifically noting the intercom systems in the buildings being outdated.

He explained that the numbers generated for projects needing to be completed at the elementary and middle school include projects that would need to be taken care of if the district plans to keep students in the buildings for another four or five years.

Taylor noted the projected cost to keep the elementary school running is roughly \$11.6 million, with the cost to maintain the middle school coming in at about \$5.7 million, totaling approximately \$17.4 million between the two campuses.

Taylor commented that those numbers represent the “limping-along scenario.”

He also explained that the cost could average out to roughly \$1.7 million per year over 10 years, noting that his budget request for capital improvements last year was \$375,000 and just over \$500,000 the year before.

Taylor commented that it is difficult for the district to give raises with

a tight budget, “and yet we’ll need to more than triple the amount of money for capital improvements.”

Asbestos

During his report, Taylor also spoke about asbestos in the elementary and middle school buildings, noting the district may have to spend around \$2 million to have the asbestos in those buildings abated.

He also noted the district could be looking at an additional \$1.2 million in asbestos abatement costs due to the “block fill” in the elementary school also testing positive for asbestos.

“If we want to renovate these buildings, the asbestos has to be abated,” Taylor said, explaining that the asbestos is not harmful as long as it is not disrupted and is hidden underneath other materials.

He explained that the middle school building has not received an initial asbestos report and that, depending on the results of that, the district could be facing even more additional costs for asbestos abatement.

Taylor commented that he was presenting the information relating to asbestos abatement costs to make sure the BoE is considering all items when deciding if it wants to renovate buildings and stay in them longer or move out and start building a new facility, “and asbestos is definitely a big piece of it.”

Holt commented that the district should also consider how an asbestos abatement project might affect students, noting that the district could incur extra costs by having to relocate students and rent portable classrooms.

Taylor mentioned a specific situation with two classrooms at the elementary school where the tile underneath the carpet has asbestos.

“Well, that carpet has now wore out,” he said, explaining the strategy is to simply lay another piece of carpet down to keep the asbestos covered up.

He also noted asbestos issues in the district’s “old bus barn,” where the ceiling has caved in, exposing asbestos.

“That absolutely needs to be abated,” he said, noting that the district still uses the building for storage.

Holt offered more comments on the projected costs shared by Taylor, noting that the in-house list with a lower cost would address issues that are “purely mechanical.”

“We still have kids in classrooms with no natural light,” Holt said, adding, “Those kinds of things do impact student outcomes.”

Holt also spoke about how he feels that the amount of time and money needed to properly renovate the existing buildings might be unrealistic.

“It feels to me ... that a long-term plan of massive repairs to the school would be unsustainable from an instructional standpoint,” he said, noting there would be constant disruptions to student learning.

Holt also cautioned about the unknowns that come along with major renovation projects, indicating that “it is nothing” like renovating a private residence.

He warned that thinking that spending a little money each year is going to let the district “stay on top of it” with buildings of this size is “unrealistic.”

Holt also addressed comments shared in the district’s poll conducted earlier this summer that suggested the district give teachers raises instead of spending money on a new facility.

“The irony of that statement is, if we don’t get the bond dollars, I will continue to have to use general fund dollars to make these repairs and that will limit the number of raises I can give teachers as the costs escalate to do the repairs,” he said.

Holt added that if the desire is to pay teachers more, “we should get into some new buildings that have much lower maintenance costs.”

When asked by the BoE what the annual maintenance budget for a new kindergarten through eighth-grade campus would be, Holt did not have a specific number, but stated that there would be “significant savings in annual maintenance costs.”

Other concerns brought up by the BoE included the projected life expectancy left with the middle school roof and compliance with the American Disabilities Act at the fifth- and sixth-grade middle school building.

Taylor also clarified that these projected costs did not include any projects at the high school or administration building.

“We need to be careful about just recklessly spending taxpayer money on things [if] we’re not going to be here four years from now,” he said, explaining that if the district knows it will be in these existing facilities for longer, “then there are some items we can no longer push down.”

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Fire

■ Continued from A5

CPW closed the water to all vessels.

The reservoir was reopened to full access the evening of Aug. 8.

According to CPW Southwest Region Public Information Officer John Livingston, approximately 450,000

gallons was taken from Echo Canyon Reservoir for the effort.

But, Livingston indicates, the lake hardly shows it, dropping maybe 6 to 8 inches.

Forest Service roads

remain closed

Additionally, as of Wednesday, Aug. 12, the U.S. Forest Service continued to state that Valle Seco Road (NFSR 653) and all spur roads are closed to the public.

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A better night’s sleep may start at San Juan Dental

Because snoring should not be a nightly event

By Eric Smith, DDS
San Juan Dental

For many people, snoring is treated as an annoyance — or something the rest of the family jokes about the next morning. However, loud snoring, gasping during sleep, morning headaches, difficulty concentrating and persistent daytime fatigue may be signs of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

OSA occurs when the airway repeatedly narrows or closes during sleep, interrupting normal breathing and causing recurring drops in oxygen.

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Helping people recognize and address sleep-disordered breathing has become a genuine passion of mine. Too many patients believe their only choices are to tolerate a CPAP machine or live with poor sleep. CPAP remains an excellent treatment, but some people struggle with mask discomfort, leakage, dryness, noise or claustrophobia.

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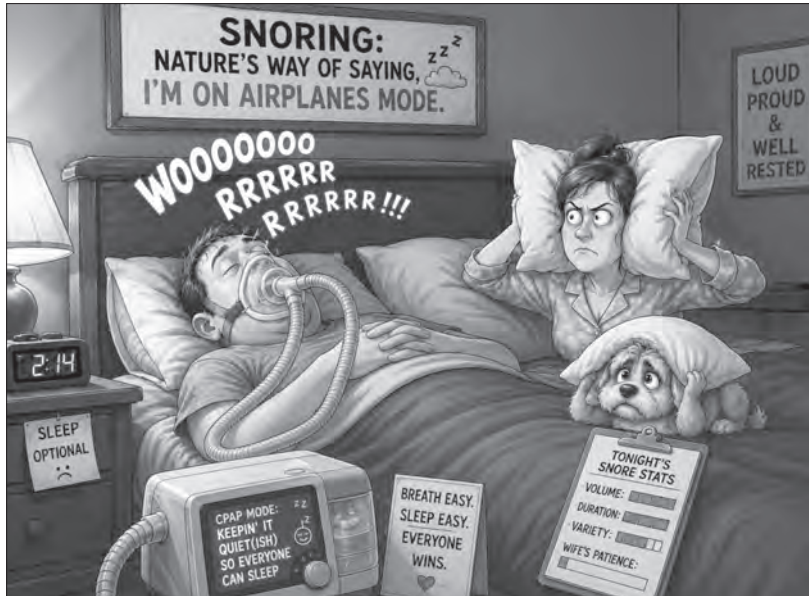


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tients, a custom oral appliance may offer another option.

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Roads

■ Continued from A6

He explained that, in 2005, county staff created a primary and secondary road map meeting nationwide standards.

Then, in 2006, the BoCC voted to end routine maintenance on secondary roads within the county, Torres explained.

The map was updated again in 2017, with roads being relabeled, “and the confusion begins,” Torres said, noting there was a heavy staff turnover rate in the county from 2006 to 2008.

He also mentioned that with the 1998 resolution the county agreed to accept certain roads from 12 different subdivisions, “but only temporarily, and only if it could afford to.”

After the five-year period defined in that resolution ended, the roads were “transferred” back to their respective subdivisions for maintenance, Torres explained.

He also explained that “arterial roads” in subdivisions were the only roads to be permanently maintained by the county, “specifically subject to the county’s financial ability to do such maintenance.”

He added, “So, if we didn’t have the money, they only got bare minimum.”

Torres offered a county comparison from 2003 and 2004, comparing the Archuleta County Road and Bridge Department to Summit County’s, which he noted would not be an accurate comparison today, but was suitable for that time period.

He mentioned that the budget was comparable between the two counties, but that Archuleta County was trying to maintain “more than three times the road mileage.”

According to Torres’ presentation, during that time period, Archuleta County had 474.5 miles of roads, compared to Summit County’s 142.5.

Torres’ presentation also mentioned “the money cannot reach every road” as he explained total HUTF funds received by the county for all primary and secondary roads account for less than 10 percent of revenue needed to maintain the entire road system.

According to Torres, in 2004 the county received roughly \$1.42 million in HUTFs, with the Road and Bridge annual budget set at 3.74 million and the total cost to reach “very good” status with road conditions listed at \$13.24 million.

Torres then offered a modern county comparison with Archuleta, Chaffee and Teller counties.

He noted that, today, Archuleta County has a population of about 14,500, a 15-employee Road and Bridge Department with a \$7.2 million budget and is responsible for about 482 miles of road.

Chaffee County has a population of about 20,300, an \$8.5 million Road and Bridge Department budget with 22 to 25 employees and is responsible for about 300 miles of road. Teller County has a population of about 26,000, a Road and Bridge Department budget of \$8.5 million with 26 employees and is responsible for about 554 miles of road.

Torres explained that his take-aways from those comparisons were that Archuleta County has the smallest budget and population, but has the largest system per capita and the widest funding gap.

“No comparison county is responsible for nearly 500 miles on a budget under \$7.5 million,” Torres said.

During his presentation, Torres also reviewed the costs associated with maintaining gravel roads compared to maintaining paved roads.

“Almost everything we maintain is

gravel,” Torres said, noting that as a separating factor between Archuleta County and Teller and Chaffee counties.

“Our system is overwhelmingly unpaved, and gravel is the expensive kind to keep up,” he said.

Torres noted the county maintains about 70 miles of paved road and about 412 miles of unpaved road.

Chaffee County has roughly 200 unpaved miles, and Teller County has about 390 unpaved miles.

“As we’ve witnessed, gravel degrades almost immediately,” Torres said, explaining how washboards, ruts and potholes can occur within days after a weather event, leading to drainage failure on the roads.

“Maintenance never stops,” he said, mentioning that gravel roads need grading as often as every two weeks, whereas paved roads need resurfacing every 10 to 20 years.

Torres also commented that gravel is usually washed away after storms and has to be replaced yearly on the same roads.

“Hauling and grading are slow, skilled work that wears equipment fast,” he added.

Given the cost to blade 1 mile of a dirt road is \$2,910, Torres explained that it would cost about \$1.2 million to blade all 412 miles of unpaved road in the county.

“I think there is a vast amount of confusion based upon varying interpretations of what a county road is and what a county-maintained road is.”

**Commissioner
Warren Brown**

He also mentioned that the cost to reconstruct 1 mile of a paved road runs about \$1.1 million, and the cost to convert a gravel road to a paved road is approximately \$1.3 million.

Torres offered more clarification on the resolution passed by the BoCC in 2006, explaining what voters “actually authorized” was “funding general Archuleta County government operations to include routine maintenance of all county roads.”

However, he further explained that “did not promise maintenance for every platted or dedicated street shown on a subdivision plat.”

Torres mentioned that in 2006 the county attorney advised staff that the initial road map requested by the state had never been created, and that staff researched right of way access for every public road in the county, sorting which roads meet the definition for “primary.”

“All others became secondary,” he said.

Torres indicated that the BoCC adopted the road map by a 2-1 vote in January 2006.

According to his presentation, “The Road & Bridge budget did not allow for reasonable maintenance of all County roads. Staff recommended a system the County could actually sustain.”

Torres mentioned that, during that time, the county concentrated limited resources “on the roads that matter most to county-wide travel.”

He clarified that in January 2006 the board formally ended routine maintenance of secondary roads, and staff was directed “to no longer maintain secondary roads except in emergency situations.”

Torres’ presentation notes, “This is the policy still in effect today — and the strongest legal foundation for the County’s position.”

He explained that in November 2006, the BoCC amended its policy again, with all secondary roads receiving a minimum of one blading per year, plowing as needed, no capital improvement program and no HUTF funding unless in a metro district.

Torres also reviewed what the county’s obligations currently are with maintaining roads, noting that the county is obligated to maintain primary roads year-round, maintain signage, safety and capital work on primary roads, provide emergency access on all public roads, and regulate rights of way.

He explained the county is not obligated to maintain secondary roads, plow secondary roads (except for emergencies), maintain subdivision roads never accepted by the county and maintain roads below standard or without adequate right of way.

Torres went on to mention there are various classifications of roads that he believes the county should be using with both the primary and secondary road system on the county’s road map.

“The map needs to reflect those classifications, in my opinion,” he said, indicating that would make things more clear for the public.

Torres also mentioned that the BoCC made changes in 2017 with Resolution 2017-19 that included things like allowing for variances for hardship, making parking on county roads illegal, stating that anyone who damages property in the county right of way must restore it to original condition or better, and clarifying that roads never accepted for county maintenance are the responsibility of residents, homeowners associations or special districts.

“To our knowledge this is not new policy,” Torres said, explaining that he is “not trying to change the county’s philosophy.”

“We are realigning practice with the standards, maps, and resolutions the County already adopted – decades ago,” Torres’ presentation states.

He concluded his presentation by explaining that he was asking the BoCC to affirm the county’s 2006 policy, communicate clearly, support district formation and “hold the line on acceptance” of new roads.

“It’s really up to you what we decide to do,” Torres said to the BoCC.

Ranson asked Torres if he was simply asking the board to affirm “what’s technically in place, or should be in place.”

Torres explained that he wanted to bring the board “up to speed” and wanted to “spark the conversation now.”

He added that the Road and Bridge Department is “constantly struggling with budget.”

“We need to really take a look at this moving forward and see what it is we can do,” Torres added.

Ranson recalled the comparison to Teller and Chaffee counties, asking if those departments have more asphalt and less gravel roads making it more “doable.”

“Yes,” Torres said, explaining that it is also because they follow somewhat of a secondary road maintenance system that provides minimal service to certain roads.

County Engineer Ethan Kegley joined Torres in the presentation and explained that Teller County had similar conversations nearly 20 years ago and that it took them almost four years to implement a clearly defined maintenance system, “and ever since then everybody’s kind of been on the

same page.”

Kegley also mentioned that the county would get calls about roads that are not in its maintenance system, but staff would go address them as a courtesy and do their best to maintain those roads.

“Although legally ... they don’t fall under the system that we discussed in 2006,” Kegley said.

He stressed that the department is not saying it doesn’t want to help people on secondary roads, “but we’re just following the documentation.”

Kegley also commented that “the community’s obviously growing,” claiming that people are buying properties “and they’re not being informed that they do not live on a county-maintained road.”

Ranson asked if most of these secondary roads are located with the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA), to which Torres responded, “A lot of the roads in the PLPOA are secondary roads.”

Torres explained that some of those secondary roads in PLPOA are also classified as “collectors.”

“I would like to create a new map that distinguishes those types of classifications and present that to the board for approval,” Torres said.

“I’d sure like to see it,” Ranson commented.

He then spoke about how he believes the county could be doing more to fund its own community.

“This is another reason that I’ve been complaining about giving money away to these different places that we’re giving money away, but we can’t even take care of our own people,” he said.

Ranson also mentioned the updated map won’t solve everything, “but we can sure do a better job, if we stop funding everybody else and start funding our county folks.”

Medina commended Torres’ work and the efficiency of the Road and Bridge Department since he began working for the county, noting that she would also like to have staff create a new map in order to provide a “good visual” of the situation for the public.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented, “I think there is a vast amount of confusion based upon varying interpretations of what a county road is and what a county-maintained road is.”

Brown also spoke about how the county responds to calls about roads that are not technically in its maintenance system as a courtesy, “and I think that has created an unrealistic expectation of continued service.”

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini mentioned that there are 11 “potential” metro districts in the county, indicating that nine of those have their own road maintenance system.

She commented that the two remaining have never chosen to form a metro district, noting that “PLPOA comes to mind.”

Ranson offered more comments, suggesting that the BoCC is “gonna have to search our souls that we’re gonna have the gumption to do something about it, because that’s gonna be a lot of work.”

He stated that it’s not fair to residents living in the “outlying areas that we’re not taking care of them like others in the community are being taken care of.”

Ranson suggested that the county has to find a way “to balance that out.”

Brown concluded the discussion by stating that the board would like to see staff create this new map to “try to provide some clarity to our community,” and identify what the county is required to do, what it can do and what it will do for its road maintenance system.

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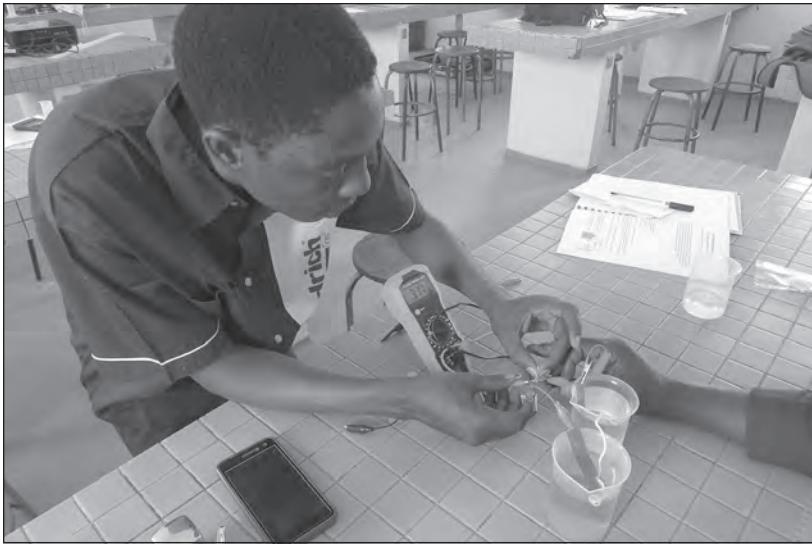


Photo courtesy David Smith

Teachers use copper sulfate and zinc sulfate half-cells to make a battery that illuminates an LED. These teachers have taught the theory of batteries, but have never built one. Photo from 2023 workshops in Niger.



Photo courtesy David Smith

Teachers are the direction of the magnetic field generated by a current in a wire. The lead teacher is demonstrating the right-hand rule. Understanding basic principles of electromagnetism is essential for building and repairing electric motors. Photo from 2023 workshops in Niger.

Pagosa Springs Rotary project will provide laboratory equipment and hands-on training to teachers from 23 West African high schools

By Terri House

Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Six boxes packed in Pagosa Springs will soon begin a journey to Togo, a narrow West African nation on the Gulf of Guinea, bordered by Ghana, Benin and Burkina Faso.

Inside the boxes are multimeters, magnets, lenses, pulleys, test tubes, electronic scales and thousands of other pieces that will be assembled into laboratory kits for 23 high schools.

There are also supplies that might seem more at home in a kitchen drawer, garage or classroom cabinet: rubber bands, string, graph paper, baking soda, table salt, vinegar, a flashlight, a compact disc and even a tin can filled with cement.

Together, the ordinary and specialized items will allow science teachers to demonstrate more than 50 chemistry, physics, biology and earth science experiments that most of their students have never had the opportunity to see.

The equipment is part of a \$58,064 Rotary Foundation Global Grant led by the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs and the Rotary Club of Dapaong, Togo.

Pagosa Springs Rotarian David Smith will spend nearly five weeks in Togo helping conduct three teacher-training workshops beginning Aug. 17. Approximately 70 science teachers from 23 high schools in the Savanes region of northern Togo are expected to participate.

The Savanes region, located near Togo's border with Burkina Faso, was selected because it is the country's least-developed region.

The project has taken nearly three years to reach this point.

Laboratory manuals have been written and revised. Materials have been purchased, sorted and repacked. More than 4,000 individual items are being organized into 46 science kits, two for each participating school.

Three of the six boxes will travel with Smith as checked baggage. Exactly how the remaining three boxes will reach Togo is still being determined.

Moving approximately 300 pounds of equipment across continents and through customs is one of the final logistical challenges in a project that has already required hundreds of decisions, countless emails and co-operation among Rotarians in several countries.

"Developing and executing these projects is similar to building a house," Smith said. "There are a thousand steps, each with its own challenges."

Beyond chalkboards and

memorization

Science instruction in many West African schools bears little resemblance to what students in the United States would recognize as a laboratory class.

Smith will have a clearer understanding of conditions in the participating schools after he arrives.

Based on information from the Rotary Club of Dapaong and his previous work in Senegal and Niger, however, he expects many classrooms to have little more than chalkboards and chalk.

Teachers commonly spend part of each class dictating information while students copy it into notebooks. Students memorize the material and work problems, sometimes at the blackboard, but most schools lack the equipment needed to perform or demonstrate laboratory experiments.

Laboratory manuals that correspond with the national science curriculum have also been unavailable.

Students may learn the theory behind electricity, magnetism, chemical reactions or the behavior of light without ever holding a multimeter, looking through a lens or watching an experiment confirm what they have been taught.

"Laboratory experiments have become an essential part of science education because they help students understand theory, develop skills they will need in future careers and think creatively," Smith said.

Each of the 23 schools will receive one physical science kit for chemistry and physics, and one kit for earth science and biology.

The physical science kits include materials for studying mechanics, electricity, electrochemistry, light, magnetic fields and chemical reactions.

Teachers will be able to demonstrate mechanical principles using pulleys, weights, rulers, an inclined plane, rubber bands and objects of equal mass.

The electronics materials include multimeters, power sources, wires, resistors, potentiometers, capacitors and several types of diodes.

Electrochemistry experiments will use carbon electrodes, copper and zinc strips, low-power LED lights and other materials. Light studies will incorporate a laser pointer, lenses, a semi-cylindrical tank, a flashlight, a screen and a compact disc.

The magnetic field supplies include a bar magnet, compass, iron filings, insulated wire, a neodymium magnet and an aluminum rod.

Chemistry materials include test tubes, beakers, transfer pipettes, graduated cylinders, pH paper, a pH meter and an electronic scale. Chemical supplies include baking



Photo courtesy David Smith

A teacher uses parts of a molecular model kit to illustrate the linear structure and two double bonds characteristic of a molecule of carbon dioxide. Such structural information will help these teachers to explain why carbon is a green-house gas. Photo from 2023 workshops in Niger.



Photo courtesy David Smith

A physics teacher demonstrates how a double convex lens can be used to enlarge or reduce an image. Students pursuing a career in optometry need to understand the focusing properties of lenses. Photo from 2023 workshops in Niger.

soda, salt, sodium hydroxide, copper sulfate, zinc sulfate, hydrochloric acid and vinegar.

General supplies range from graph paper and protractors to paper towels, screwdrivers and molecular model kits.

Many of the experiments were designed around materials that are durable, affordable and relatively easy to replace. That is important in schools where ordering a specialized replacement part may be difficult or impossible.

Each physical science kit will contain the materials needed to conduct 30 experiments. The earth science and biology kits will support another 21 experiments.

A few of the participating schools already have computer facilities. Schools without those resources will receive a computer, projector and video camera to support classroom instruction and demonstrations.

A three-step project

The project has been carried out in three stages.

The first was the development of laboratory manuals that match Togo's high school science curriculum.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs had already developed manuals for similar projects in Niger. Because the Togolese and Nigerien science curricula are similar, those manuals could be adapted rather than created entirely from scratch.

Science inspectors from Togo's Ministry of Education helped guide the revisions.

Separate manuals were developed for physical science, which includes chemistry and physics, and for SVT, the French abbreviation used for biology and earth science.

The second stage involved purchasing the materials needed for the experiments and organizing them into kits for each school.

Those first two stages are essentially complete.

The final stage begins Aug. 17 with three weeklong teacher-training workshops. Each workshop will provide 20 hours of instruction.

Physical science and earth science and biology workshops will be held at the same time at one of the participating high schools.

During the first week, four physical science teachers and four earth science and biology teachers will receive intensive training. Those eight teachers will then help train approximately 70 additional teachers during the following two weeks.

The train-the-trainer approach is intended to give the project a life far beyond the initial workshops.

The first eight teachers will remain in Togo after Smith and the other trainers leave. They will be able to as-

sist colleagues, resolve problems and train additional teachers in the future.

Smith will conduct the physical

■ See Rotary A10

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Rotary

■ Continued from A9

science workshops. A representative of Togo's Ministry of Education will lead the earth science and biology training.

Smith and Yobe Koumbouni, his Rotary counterpart in Dapaong, are responsible for organizing the workshops.

For Smith, working directly with the teachers will be the most meaningful part of the project.

"I know most of the teachers will use this program to improve their teaching," he said.

Reaching students for years to come

Approximately 2,300 students are currently enrolled in the 23 participating high schools, but the eventual number of students who benefit from the project could be much larger.

"We teach the teachers," Smith said. "Their contribution occurs year after year for as long as they are teaching. Furthermore, they will likely teach new teachers who will continue the process."

The Rotary Club of Dapaong will distribute a one-page questionnaire at the end of each workshop and again one year later.

The surveys will ask teachers how they are using the equipment and whether the training has improved science instruction.

Smith explained previous projects in Senegal showed that giving teachers practical training and the ability to conduct experiments increased student interest in science classes. Teachers also reported increased enrollment in science courses.

The immediate goal in Togo is to help students understand the connection between scientific theory and what happens in the physical world.

The larger goal is to strengthen education, critical thinking and economic opportunity.

Students hoping to become physicians, nurses, engineers, public health workers or other technical professionals need a solid foundation in science.

A shortage of technically trained workers is also frequently cited as a barrier to investment and economic development in Africa. Factories, infrastructure projects and other major investments are difficult to sustain without workers who are prepared to operate, maintain and improve them.

High-quality science education at the secondary level is one part of developing that workforce.

The program is intended to improve students' scientific skills and encourage more of them to pursue science-based careers.

Even students who choose other fields will benefit from learning how to evaluate evidence, solve problems and make decisions based on science, Smith noted.

The full economic effects will not appear immediately. Students must finish high school, continue into universities or technical programs and eventually enter the workforce.

Smith believes that long timeline does not make the investment any less important.

"Our optimism for success is built on a foundation of experience, fact and logic," he said.

More than a decade of work in West Africa

The Togo project grew from an international effort that began within the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs more than a decade ago.

The club's International Committee was formed around 2012, near the beginning of The Rotary Foundation's Global Grant program.

Committee members considered three primary factors when choosing where to focus their work: the level of poverty, safety, and opportunities to build greater understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

Senegal became the club's first target country.

Glenwood Springs Rotarian Peter Jeschofnig connected the committee with Judy Beggs, a Rotarian who had served in Senegal as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Beggs introduced the group to Khoudosse Cissa, a rural school superintendent, and members of the Rotary Club of St. Louis, Senegal.

Those relationships led to four Global Grants for science education in Senegal between 2014 and 2016.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs later participated in a \$59,578 project to strengthen secondary-level science education in Niger.

The current Togo project and another recently funded project in Niger continue that work. The newest Niger grant has a budget of \$103,980.

The club has also participated in international projects in Nicaragua and Argentina initiated by former Pagosa Springs Rotarian Marie Munday.

Working in French-speaking countries adds difficulty to every stage of the process. Grant applications, laboratory manuals and instructional materials must be written in French, and the teacher-training workshops are conducted in French.

Smith believes that challenge is also one reason the Pagosa Springs club's work is especially valuable.

Many Rotary clubs prefer to undertake projects in English-speaking countries. Fewer are prepared to develop technical materials and conduct training in French-speaking communities.

A partnership crossing continents

The Togo project began through a longstanding relationship between the Rotary Club of Quebec, Canada, and the Rotary Club of Dapaong.

The Rotary Clubs of Pagosa Springs and Dapaong share responsibility for managing the project. The Rotary Clubs of Quebec and West Lake Village, Calif., are also project partners.

Additional financial support came from Rotary clubs in Belgium and Taiwan.

The international partnership demonstrates one of Rotary's strengths: A club in a small Colorado community can work with partners across several continents to undertake a project that no single club could accomplish alone.

The \$58,064 grant also demonstrates how local contributions can be multiplied through The Rotary Foundation.

The project required \$19,428 in club-generated funding to secure a \$38,636 Foundation match.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs provided \$15,328 through its donor-

advised fund for international service projects.

Most of that money came from individual contributions to the fund. The Pagosa Springs club contributed \$1,500 from its budget toward the Togo project.

Securing the money was only one hurdle.

The project was delayed for approximately six months because the Togolese government would not allow the Rotary Club of Dapaong to open a bank account specifically for the grant.

The solution was to manage the project's funds through a local bank account in Pagosa Springs.

The team also had to create the laboratory manuals, identify and purchase thousands of pieces of equipment, assemble the kits, and determine how to transport them.

Customs remains another unknown.

Smith knows three boxes will travel with him. The project team is continuing to consider options for transporting the other three.

Lessons carried from one project to the next

Previous projects in Senegal and Niger have helped shape the Togo program.

Early teacher workshops were scheduled for three full days, with Rotary providing lunch. Smith explained the current model of four hours of training each day for five days has worked better.

Teachers can return home for lunch, which reduces costs and has improved participation.

Past projects also revealed that some rural classrooms do not have electricity.

For the Togo grant, Rotary and its host-country partners selected schools with electricity available in the classrooms.

Smith believes future projects should consider developing scaled-down laboratory manuals and experiment kits for smaller rural schools with very limited resources.

The earlier projects have also shown that the value of teacher training cannot be measured only by the number of people who attend a workshop.

One trained teacher may work with hundreds or thousands of students over the course of a career. That teacher may also mentor colleagues and train those who enter the profession later.

For now, the Togo project can be measured in 46 science kits, approximately 70 teachers, 23 schools and six tightly packed boxes waiting to leave Pagosa Springs.

"We invest in humanitarian aid because caring for all is an essential part of modern humanity," Smith said. "And because it benefits us."

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This note of appreciation is certified by Princess (Grizzly), Chair Bear, board of directors



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Playing in the dirt: Youth learn to restore watersheds

By Monica Nigon
Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

The San Juan Mountains Association (SJMA) has been engaged in youth watershed stewardship programming over the spring and summer, beginning with Pagosa Springs Middle School students contributing to the Pagosa Gateway Project.

The Pagosa Gateway Project, spearheaded by the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) and the Town of Pagosa Springs, worked to restore portions of the San Juan River by replanting and caging plants along riverbanks damaged by last year’s flood, ultimately assisting in erosion prevention, an improved boat launch, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, and creating a more resilient river for boaters, anglers and the community.

In June, SJMA East Region Program Coordinator Brooks Letchworth partnered with Audubon Rockies Community Naturalist Keith Bruno to launch a River Stewardship Camp for middle school students to learn fly-fishing, understand how to protect watersheds and place the final touches on the Gateway Project.

The programming also featured lessons in low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) from the San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership’s Monica Nigon. Other collaborators included Five Rivers Trout Unlimited, the Pagosa Community Initiative, Confluence Collective, Pagosa Outside and sponsorship from the Community Foundation of Southwest Colorado.

In July, several of these same partners worked together on SJMA’s Junior Naturalist Field Camp, where



Photo courtesy Brooks Letchworth

Junior Naturalists get hands-on to learn about river restoration on the banks of the San Juan River.

younger kids could experience first-hand how the ecological web supports our precious natural resources and the vital role played by a river’s riparian zone. The young river stewards learned how to fly-fish from Trout Unlimited volunteers, got to know the flora and fauna of Piedra Falls as well as principles of Leave No Trace, and modeled their own small-scale LTPBR structures on the banks

of the San Juan River.

For those interested in the Gateway Project, WEP is hosting a free film event on Aug. 19 premiering “Reviving Our River: The Pagosa Gateway Project,” a short documentary celebrating the significant river restoration effort completed on the Upper San Juan River through Pagosa Springs.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.,

the film begins promptly at 7 p.m., and attendees are invited to stay afterward for an interactive question-and-answer session with members of the Pagosa Gateway Project team, including the engineer, stream management specialists and WEP project committee members who helped bring the vision to life.

Reserve your tickets at pagosamovies.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

Community is real in Pagosa Springs

By Barbara Brattin
SUN Columnist

I’ve spent enough time with marketers to know that “community” is a buzz word to use often in your messaging to evoke a warm and fuzzy “togetherness” feeling.

When you use the term often enough, it starts to feel artificial, especially when you hear so many negative stories about the worst of human nature listening to or reading the news.

But these last few weeks, as we wrap up our construction of the new library, I have come to realize that the true meaning of community is alive and well in our small town.

If you visit us on any given day, you will see volunteers in our gardens. These are not the type of people who do good works for the public recognition; in fact they probably don’t want their names in lights. So, I’ll stick with first names. There’s Wayne, a man passionate about good soil and pergolas, who is determined to expand our gardens the full perimeter of the new building, well beyond the planned west-side plaza. Even in the relentless heat, Wayne can be found moving rocks and hauling mulch.

Then there’s West, the king of compost, a self-described compost evangelist who’s building a three-section compost bin so all the remnants of our expanded gardens can transform into mulch the following year. He’s brought us rotting aspen logs to build the layers of our children’s grow troughs and schooled us on how to build soil that will grow beautiful gardens in this parched earth environment.

Ryan, an artist who transforms stone into works of art, will place one of his masterpiece fountains in the center of our new garden, a gift from his heart. He’s also helping us source a big rock to mount a sign that thanks all the major donors to our campaign.

I am not one to easily give praise to writers, but Diane amazed me with her one-page pitch to Colorado Garden Foundation to help fund our additional library green spaces. Her eloquent description of the stress on Pagosa during the floods, fires and road construction, and the gift more gardens would bring to us all is a winner.

While Taylor and I were out moving things around in the kids’ garden, a woman stopped and asked if her landscaping business could donate lots of plants for the new grow troughs. When we asked a local business if we could have a few bags of soil and compost, they cheerfully provided 12 bags of each. A local tree farmer, Mark, brought us a whole dump truck of good dirt. And wait till you see the park benches provided by Grace, the sculpture donated by Randall and Trish, the painting of Ruby Sisson’s ranch donated by Jim

and family, and the embroidered children’s piece from Jeanie.

Our local small businesses provided funds to make this the best Summer Reading Program ever (see a full list of sponsors in the library newsletter) and, boy, did we deliver.

Community? Yup, we’ve got it. How lucky are we to live where everyone pitches in and generously lends their time and talent to create what some towns only dream about — a nurturing place where we all thrive, a place we can truly call a community?

I’m so grateful to have landed in Pagosa. Thank you all for the opportunity to help create the most beautiful little library in America. Let the future begin.

You beat our summer reading challenge

In just two months of our Summer Reading Program, Read Wild!, you surpassed our lofty goal of 250,000 minutes read.

We’ve beat one record; let’s go for two.

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.

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.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

Summer is slipping away. Have you visited a Colorado state park this year? Colorado state parks require a paid pass to enter, but you can borrow one from the library for a few days at no cost to you.

Passes come with a backpack filled with nature guides, binoculars and fun activities. Reserve yours today.

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

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library’s online resources. No appointment is needed, but please bring your device’s charger and passwords with you.

New books collections brimming with interesting titles

For a full list of new titles and to reserve your copy, go to www.pagosalibrary.org and choose “Search the Catalog” at the top of the screen.

Don’t forget, if there is a waiting list for the book, it may be available now as an e-book or e-audiobook on CloudLibrary or Libby.

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

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

New in large print

- Western writer Robert Vaughan brings us a new story featuring railway developer Gabe Hansen as he meets obstacles from landholders and financiers in his quest to build a railroad from Albuquerque to the Pacific Ocean in “Iron Horse.”
- Historian Michael Auslin analyzes the Declaration of Independence and its significance to modern day in “National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America.”
- Pulitzer Prize winner Beverly Gage takes us on a guided tour of 13 places and 13 key moments that define America’s greatest successes and challenges in “This Land is Your Land: A Road Trip Through U.S. History.”

New fiction

- Steph Harper dreams of moving from the Oklahoma Cherokee Nation reservation of her upbringing to the moon as a NASA astronaut. How many relationships will she test to get there? “To the Moon and Back,” from author Eliana Ramage, is a Reese’s Book Club pick.
- “Everything to the Sea” is a debut novel from Alicia Upano and follows aspiring artist Jane, who leaves Hawaii and the love of her life after a devastating tsunami, only to reunite on another coast.
- “Beginning, Middle, End” from author Valeria Luiselli is set in Sicily and follows four generations of women, weaving myths, ancient philosophy and natural history.

New in nonfiction

- For those of you who were glued to the recent FIFA World Cup, we offer “How to Watch Soccer Like a Genius: What Architects, Stuntswomen, Paleoanthropologists, and Computer Scientists Reveal About the World’s Game” by Nick Greene, in which the evolution and meaning of soccer is explored.
- “Why We Fight: A Transformative Road Map to Healing Conflict in Any Relationship,” by relationship coach Kim Polander of social media fame, “provides a path to understanding why we experience repetitive arguments and contention in our intimate relationships, and how to

change that before it’s too late.”

- “A Death Doula’s Guide to a Meaningful End” by end-of-life doula Jane Callahan explores how our culture’s resistance to talking about death leads to preventable suffering and how we can do better.

See you at the library.

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Reminder: Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Remain in Effect

As wildfire risk continues, the Town of Pagosa Springs remains under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Open burning, most campfires, and fireworks remain prohibited, while recreational fires are allowed only in approved permanent fire structures in developed areas. Residents are encouraged to use extreme caution with all outdoor activities that could spark a fire.

Stay informed by signing up for Nixle emergency alerts (local.nixle.com/register), which provide timely notifications about fire restrictions, emergency incidents, road closures, and other important public safety information. You can also opt in to receive Town emergency text alerts by visiting the Town website..

Archuleta County Outpaces Statewide Tourism Growth in 2025

Colorado’s tourism industry generated a record \$29.2 billion in traveler spending in 2025, and Archuleta County had an especially strong year. The county exceeded Colorado’s year-over-year performance across all four economic-impact measures included in the state’s county tourism dashboard.

The results highlight the value of continued destination marketing. Tourism is about more than filling hotel rooms—visitors also support local restaurants, shops, attractions, events, recreational businesses, and services. Spending creates jobs, strengthens local businesses, and generates tax revenue that benefits the community.

Explore the research and county dashboard at oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-research.

Final ComFest Concert – August 21

Final ComFest Concert – August 21

Close out the ComFest season with The Williams Brothers Band on Thursday, August 21, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park. Enjoy free live music, food trucks and community fun while supporting Wings Early Childhood Center.

For more information on all of the above and more, visit pagosasprings.co.gov.

Upcoming Meetings & Holidays

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Joint Town-County Work session Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at 5 p.m. County Administration Building, 398 Lewis St.

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town Offices Closed - Labor Day Monday, September 7, 2026



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

Outdoors

Community invited to premiere of ‘Reviving Our River: The Pagosa Gateway Project’

Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) invites the community to a free special premiere of “Reviving Our River: The Pagosa Gateway Project,” a short documentary celebrating a significant river restoration effort completed on the Upper San Juan River through Pagosa Springs.

The premiere will be held on Aug. 19 at the Liberty Theatre. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., the film begins promptly at 7 p.m., and attendees are invited to stay afterward for an interactive question-and-answer session with members of the Pagosa Gateway Project team, including the engineer, stream management specialists, and WEP project committee members who helped bring the vision to life.

The film tells the remarkable story of the Pagosa Gateway Project, from years of planning and collaboration to construction, unexpected challenges and, ultimately, success. Through stunning aerial footage by filmmaker Christi Bode, interviews and behind-the-scenes perspectives, viewers will experience how an ambitious community vision became a reality.

The Pagosa Gateway Project restored approximately 2 miles of the San Juan River upstream of downtown Pagosa Springs, improving aquatic habitat, reducing erosion, increasing river resilience, enhancing recreation and helping protect properties from future flood damage.

The project was completed through an unprecedented collaboration among 18 private and public landowners, local organizations, engineers, contractors, funding partners, and

volunteers who shared a common goal of improving one of Pagosa’s greatest natural resources.

The project faced an extraordinary challenge during construction when historic floodwaters swept through the work area, reshaping the river channel and forcing the team to reevaluate completed work, redesign portions of the project and adapt to rapidly changing conditions. Rather than ending or postponing the effort, the setback demonstrated the resilience, creativity and commitment of the WEP project team. The film captures these dramatic moments while highlighting the science and teamwork required to restore a living river.

The documentary also introduces audiences to the WEP, the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that led the project.

Founded to implement priority watershed projects throughout the Upper San Juan River Basin, the WEP works to improve watershed health, strengthen agricultural water infrastructure and enhance river-related recreation.

As the first nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in Archuleta County dedicated exclusively to watershed project implementation, the WEP brings together landowners, agencies, nonprofits, local governments, businesses and community members to turn years of planning into on-the-ground action.

“Our rivers are the lifeblood of our communities,” said WEP Contractor Coordinator Danyelle Leentjes. “They provide drinking water, support agriculture, sustain fish and wildlife, fuel recreation and tourism, and help define the character of Southwest Colorado. As we face increasing pressures from drought, flooding, catastrophic

wildfires, aging infrastructure and the growing impacts of climate change, investing in watershed restoration is no longer optional — it is essential.”

Healthy watersheds provide cleaner water, reduce flood risks, improve drought resilience, support local economies and create healthier ecosystems for future generations. Restoration projects like the Pagosa Gateway Project demonstrate that communities can proactively address these challenges through collaboration rather than waiting until problems become crises.

The premiere is intended not only to celebrate the completion of an important community project, but also to inspire residents to learn more about the rivers and watersheds that sustain life throughout the Upper San Juan Basin.

Following the screening, audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the project team during a live panel discussion covering project design, construction, ecological benefits, lessons learned and future watershed restoration efforts planned throughout the region.

Seating is limited. Community members of all ages are encouraged to reserve their free seats on Liberty Theatre’s website and discover how local partnerships are helping restore rivers, protect water resources and strengthen the future of the Upper San Juan watershed.

For more information about the WEP and how you can support the Pagosa Springs-based organization, visit UpperSanJuanWEP.com. While grant funding is available for project work performed by the WEP, it does not cover the operating costs of the organization. The WEP relies heavily on donations.



Photos courtesy Christi Bode

A photo shows the restoration work performed after the October 2025 flooding on the Pagosa Gateway River Project compared to the same stretch during the flooding.

Wildfires and drought challenge wildlife across Colorado

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Drought and wildfires are creating challenges for wildlife and the habitats they depend on. As landscapes recover from fire and water sources are scarce, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is closely monitoring habitat conditions, as many wildlife species face increased stress to search for food, water and shelter.

Wildfires can rapidly alter ecosystems by removing vegetation that provides food and cover for wildlife.

While ecosystems are adapted to periodic fire and will recover over time, the initial impact of large wildfires may reduce habitat quality, displace animals and increase competition for limited resources. Species that are unable to relocate quickly or that rely on specialized habitats may be especially vulnerable this summer.

Drought compounds these challenges by reducing water availability, limiting plant growth, and affecting the insects, fish and other food sources that wildlife need to survive. Lower stream flows, shrinking wetlands and dry landscapes can impact a wide range of species from birds to mammals to amphibians and reptiles.

Limited moisture also reduces the annual growth of important shrubs used by bears, elk, moose, pronghorn and mule deer. Plant growth directly affects the food available to wild animals, and drought reduces the number of animals the habitat can support.

How you can help wildlife

Community members can help wildlife by respecting habitat and giving animals space, which helps build community support and responsible behavior towards wildlife.

- Give wildlife extra space and respect area closures.
- Do not feed wildlife; let them find natural food sources.
- Properly dispose of trash to deter wildlife from entering residential areas.
- Keep dogs on a leash, especially near wetlands and riparian areas.
- Report sick or stressed wildlife to a local CPW office.
- If you see a poaching incident,

report it to Operation Game Thief by emailing game.thief@state.co.us or calling (877) COLO-OGT.

- Volunteer for habitat improvement projects at state parks and state wildlife areas.

As smaller streams dry up, wildlife may walk along roads or gather around livestock tanks. Keep a safe distance, avoid feeding or approaching wild animals, and report problematic interactions to CPW-trained wildlife officers to help reduce conflicts and protect both wildlife and communities.

CPW is seeing a significant increase in bear activity this summer as bears migrate into neighborhoods and cities in search of human trash.

As of Aug. 7, CPW received 5,197 reports of bear sightings and incidents, an increase from 2,853 reports in 2025 over the same time period.

Wildlife officers are frequently called to help with bears because people have left trash outside, or bears have entered open garages and unlocked cars.

These calls can be prevented with extra diligence by humans to secure trash and strong-smelling items that can attract bears.

For more bear educational resources, visit bearwise.org.

“Summer wildfires and drought test every creature. Protecting their habitat today gives wildlife hope for future generations,” said CPW Habitat Conservation Supervisor Casey Cooley. “This summer in particular, we ask people to be mindful that wildlife are having to work harder to find food and water. The best thing we can do to support them is to keep them wild and not feed or disturb them. Feeding wildlife can increase the chances of human-wildlife conflicts or make them sick and dehydrated.”

Wildlife habitat improvement projects

CPW’s wildlife management decisions are grounded in the best available science and the expertise of agency biologists, researchers, veterinarians and wildlife managers. Staff collect and analyze data through population surveys, GPS-collar studies, genetic

sampling, disease surveillance, habitat assessments and long-term monitoring programs.

By adjusting hunting and fishing season structures and license quotas in areas affected by wildfire damage, closing boating ramps during extreme drought conditions, and establishing voluntary and mandatory fishing closures, CPW can partner with the public to sustain healthy habitats and wildlife populations.

Once wildfires pass through a landscape, CPW is on the ground helping restore land and habitat so wildlife can return to burned areas and thrive for future generations.

Below are examples of habitat conservation projects that CPW is actively working on to support wildlife resilience and biodiversity:

- Following the 2025-2035 State Wildlife Action Plan to protect and conserve native species.
- Managing a Native Seed Warehouse to plant native wildflowers and grasses.
- Following the Habitat Conservation and Connectivity Plan, which prioritizes projects like invasive weed control, forest/riparian restoration, prescribed fires and the construction of wildlife-friendly fencing and fish passage installations to support wildlife on the move.
- Providing Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program funding for landowners to protect important wildlife habitat.
- Funding a Cumulative Impacts Disturbance Index database to track the effects of past and present habitat loss due to human activity across the state.
- Building pollinator gardens at state parks.
- Restoring wetland habitat at state wildlife areas.

Even during difficult drought conditions, habitat improvement efforts, responsible recreation and public lands stewardship can help Colorado’s wildlife remain resilient.

For more information about wildlife conservation and living with wildlife, visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/living-wildlife>.

Riverwalk wetland tours to continue through August

By Jean Zirnhelt
Pagosa Wetland Partners

Sandwiched between the San Juan River and the Riverwalk that parallels it are the town-owned Conservation Wetlands, an important and diverse habitat that you may have over-looked.

Eighty percent of all wildlife species use wetland or riparian habitats during some part of their life. Water is the lifeblood of wetland areas and these habitats are always changing in

response to it.

Volunteers with Pagosa Wetland Partners would love to share with you their appreciation for and knowledge of this special habitat.

We invite you to take a free tour of discovery through the Riverwalk Wetlands Conservation Area with our trained naturalists. Learn about the resources and services this habitat provides and the forces at play that make them special.

Tours last approximately 1-1.5 hours.

The paved trail is wheel-chair accessible. Please bring water, sunglasses, a hat and your curiosity. Cameras and binoculars are a plus, but no pets, please.

Tours are offered through August on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m., weather dependent. Advance registration is not required.

Meet your guides at the Native Plants Garden on the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership site in Centennial Park.

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Volunteer training planned at Four Mile Ranch

By Keith Bruno
Audubon Rockies

Four Mile Ranch is a special spot where regional students connect with the landscape, develop an affinity for nature and build a sense of place in this beautiful location for years to come.

In some cases, their parents visited many years ago on their own field trips.

Though we're only able to host students in the fall for a single visit, it tends to be a formative classroom experience at the beginning of the school year. It's our intention that students walk away with a deeper connection and respect for the San Juan Mountains.

It is the commitment of volunteers that has made this program a success from its inception. Each year, volunteers lead groups of students through the forests and bottomlands at the ranch, collectively hosting more than

800 regional students.

We're in need of volunteers.

Can you spare a few days to make a difference in the life of a child? Join our team of volunteer educators in helping to foster an appreciation of the natural world in area youth.

An established program of ecology-focused lessons designed for elementary students, we provide field trips for regional schools and home-schooled groups.

Audubon Rockies and San Juan Mountains Association staff will provide a 3.5-day training. We'll meet in the Ross Aragon Community Center West Conference Room from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Aug. 24, for a program orientation and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day on-site at the Four Mile Ranch from Aug. 25-27 to learn the activities and trails.

Programs run from early September through mid-October. Contact keith.bruno@audubon.org for more information.



Photo courtesy Evan Barrientos

Audubon Rockies and San Juan Mountains Association staff will be holding volunteer educator training days this month for volunteers interested in helping with school programs at Four Mile Ranch this fall.

Colorado prepares for launch of water contribution program

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Tensions about water management are high on the Colorado River, even as water levels in reservoirs like Lake Mead drop to record lows and the west faces severe drought conditions.

The river, which helps supply water to seven U.S. states and two Mexican ones, has faced continuing issues with water shortages due to declines in water supplies amplified by climate change and ongoing growth in water demand.

On July 31, the federal Bureau of Reclamation released a final environmental impact statement which outlines a potential framework for management of the river between 2027 and 2036.

This framework would include mandatory water use cuts of up to a combined 3 million acre-feet per year for the lower basin states of California, Nevada and Arizona while seeking 200,000 acre feet in voluntary reductions from the upper basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The impact statement and the associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision-making process still leave an opportunity for the states on the Colorado River to reach their own agreement about future water use. However, this year, the negotiations to reach a new agreement for 2027 and beyond have been unsuccessful.

One sticking point has been disputes about whether all states should have to make mandatory reductions in water use, as desired by the lower basin states, or whether, as upper basin states have proposed, the upper basin should only have to make voluntary reductions.

The lower basin has consistently overshot its allotment of Colorado River water in the past, although these states are currently below their allotment, according to federal water accounting, while the upper basin has never used its full allotted amount.

In this context, Colorado is introducing a new near-term water contribution program designed to take advantage of federal funding to encourage voluntary, compensated reductions in Colorado River water use.

At a webinar on Aug. 6, Amy Ostdiek, section chief for the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) interstate, federal and water information section, explained that this program is one of several parallel activities that the state is undertaking alongside the ongoing NEPA process.

She explained that the Bureau of Reclamation has announced that \$100 million in funding will be available to support the upper basin states in establishing water contribution programs that will provide "water that but for these actions would not be there" to the Colorado River.

She noted that funding would likely support about two years of a program, based on previous project costs, and that, to participate and claim the funds, Colorado would need to act now to begin establishing a program.

Ostdiek stated that establishing such a program would honor commitments the state has made in negotiations to making voluntary water use reductions and would show that "Colorado is committed to being part of the solution."

The state would not start from scratch building this program, Ostdiek explained. Instead, the program would build on at least 15 years of work on water conservation programs and engagement with interested groups done by the state.

Although many of these discussions and associated pilot programs

took different approaches than the current program, they gave valuable lessons for the concept's current implementation, she relayed.

She highlighted the System Conservation Pilot Program, which ran from 2015 to 2018 and again between 2023 and 2024 and compensated water users for voluntarily reducing their water use to help build a supply of water to alleviate drought impacts, as particularly important to the current effort.

"This is where we really want to hear from you. What do you think really matters? What's more important? What are we missing?"

**Amy Ostdiek,
Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

The current effort would also build on previous studies on the feasibility of compensated reductions done by the CWCB, Ostdiek explained.

She noted that one consistent point of feedback from the System Conservation Pilot Program was that water users wanted a mechanism for users to get credit for water being contributed.

This led to discussions among the upper basin states about a mechanism to credit users and to account for the amount of water that could be contributed in each state, she added.

In turn, these discussions led to a memorandum of understanding between the states and the Bureau of Reclamation that provides a mechanism for the upper basin states to contribute water to conservation activities and to account for this contributed water.

She added that the memorandum does not include a mechanism for the states to get credit for this contributed water, although it is expected that such a provision will be added later.

"We have talked to a lot of people about these concepts," Ostdiek said. "There's been so much discussion across the state, for the last 15, 20 plus years, about these different concepts. We've gotten input from every corner of the state."

Throughout this work, several key themes have emerged, she explained. These include avoiding injuries to water rights holders, ensuring that participation from all sectors of water users and all relevant regions of state is incentivized, giving water users enough notice about opportunities to engage in the program and mitigating any secondary economic impacts to communities where a large number of users engage with the program.

She noted there is a strong desire to pursue projects with multiple benefits, such as projects that combine water conservation with environmental benefits.

There is also a strong desire for the state to get credit from water conservation measures it takes and for any program to benefit Colorado and other upper basin states, stated Ostdiek.

She noted that the current program is called a contribution program instead of a conservation program because the state wants to take it beyond simply following fields or

other agricultural water conservation measures to include all sectors of water users.

"So, we want to consider this very broadly," she said. "More broadly than perhaps conservation and conserved consumptive use has been contemplated in the past."

She noted that the baseline metric for the program across the upper basin is that water being contributed would not be available without participation in the program.

Although the program will likely extend for two years with the funding the Bureau of Reclamation is offering, Ostdiek suggested that the state is focused on the first year and will make adjustments for subsequent years based on analysis and consideration done during the first.

The CWCB will lead the new initiative, developing criteria and considering and approving projects, she explained, which will also make projects part of a state approved conservation program that will provide protection for historical consumptive use.

However, as Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) Director and State Engineer Jason Ullman explained, the DWR will be involved in reviewing projects for their potential to cause injury to other water users.

The DWR is in charge of administering water rights and managing the prior appropriations system across the state.

Ullman noted that the DWR would also contribute to determining whether the water rights involved in a project are administrable and how water saved by non-use of the rights might provide habitat and other benefits in addition to supplementing river flows.

Ostdiek explained that the CWCB would be discussing and adopting criteria for the adoption of water conservation projects into the program.

The current proposed criteria, she noted, build on previous work with a goal of being flexible and allowing for participation while also addressing the concerns expressed during previous projects.

She added that the criteria include if a project would result in a reduction in water use and an associated credit for the upper basin states, if it operates within existing authorities, and if it utilizes federal funding, such as the \$100 million the Bureau of Reclamation is currently offering for the program.

Ostdiek noted that another priority is including opportunities for tribal participation in the program.

Projects would need to protect water rights and prevent injury to other rights, she pointed out, and would need to meet a minimum acreage threshold for agricultural projects. She added that projects supporting drought resilience would be favored.

How difficult a project would be to administer and if it is complying with ditch company bylaws or other local requirements would also be an approval criteria, stated Ostdiek.

Foreseeable community impacts, such as secondary economic impacts that might result from a particular project's participation in the program, would be another assessment criteria under the proposed scheme she noted.

Ensuring projects contribute to proportional engagement in the program across all sectors and incentivizing multiple benefit projects would be the final two criteria, she added.

She stated that the CWCB board discussed these draft criteria in July, but will finalize them in September at its board meeting with the goal of starting taking applications shortly afterward.

"This is where we really want to hear from you," said Ostdiek. "What do you think really matters? What's more important? What are we missing?"

She explained that comments on the criteria can be emailed to DNR_contributionprogram@state.co.us.

Ostdiek added that the CWCB would also be doing a range of other outreach activities about the program in the near future and that further information on the program is available at <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/contributionprogram>.

The development of this program is occurring alongside the other upper basin states.

"They're working through their own processes to get ready to roll this out," she said, "but we're also going to be coordinated to make sure that this program is working for and benefiting the upper division states. ... We really see this as doing our part to be part of the solution on the Colorado River." josh@pagosasun.com

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The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
July 13 — Assault in the third degree, Down and Out Road.
July 13 — Agency assist, Harman Park Drive.
July 13 — Sexual assault, Bastille Drive.
July 13 — Information only, Eagle's Loft Circle.
July 14 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.
July 15 — Warrant arrest, Buttercup Drive.
July 16 — Death, West Beucler Lane.
July 16 — Fraud, Pebble Circle.
July 17 — Information only, Sunrise Court.
July 17 — Information only, County Road 700.
July 18 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.
July 18 — Animal, Rincon Court.
July 18 — Assault, USFS 667.
July 19 — Information only, Fawn Gulch/U.S. 160.
July 19 — Information only, North 5th Street.
July 20 — Information only, Homestead Drive.
July 20 — Vicious dog with injury, South Pagosa Boulevard.
July 20 — Warrant arrest, Navajo Trail Drive.
July 21 — Trespass warning, Solomon Drive.
July 21 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.
July 21 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Dandelion Drive.
July 21 — Information only, Peak Court.
July 21 — Information only, Bastille Drive.
July 21 — Information only, Canyon Circle.
July 22 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, Dyke Boulevard.
July 23 — Third-degree criminal trespass, no location listed.
July 21 — Fraud by check-other method, no location listed.
July 23 — Warrant arrest, Great West Avenue.
July 23 — Failure to appear (bench warrants), Harman Park Drive.
July 24 — Agency assist, Grenadier Place.
July 24 — Third-degree assault-simple assault, domestic violence, Gun Barrel Road.
July 25 — Failure to appear (bench warrants), no location listed.
July 23 — Lost/found property, Eagle's Loft Circle.
July 25 — Vicious dog with injury to person, Canyon Circle.
July 26 — Information only, no location listed.
July 27 — Trespass warning, Kelsey Circle.
July 27 — Trespass warning, Bonanza Avenue.
July 28 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.
July 28 — County warrant, North Pagosa Boulevard.
July 28 — Driving under restraint alcohol/drug related offense, North Pagosa Boulevard.
July 28 — First-degree criminal trespass motor vehicle, first-degree criminal trespass, theft-\$50 to \$300 other (includes gas), Bastille Drive.
July 29 — Warrant arrest, Wit's End Place.
July 29 — Domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, Monument Avenue.
July 29 — Information only, Aspen Springs.
July 29 — Information only, Bastille Drive.
July 29 — Warrant arrest, Wit's End Place.
July 30 — Theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000-other (includes gas), Round Court.
July 30 — Vegetation management burning requirements-failure to notify, Buttercup Drive.
July 30 — Agency assist, Fosset Gulch.
Aug. 1 — Information only, County Road 600.
Aug. 2 — Indecent exposure-expose genitals, menacing-felony-aggravated-weapon, Doc Adams Road.
Aug. 3 — Information only, Badger Road.
Aug. 3 — Assault in the third degree, careless driving resulting in injury, littering, Orange Court.
Aug. 3 — Agency assist, San Juan Street.
Aug. 3 — Information only, Pinon Causeway.
Aug. 3 — Information only, South 9th Street.
Aug. 3 — Information only, Davis Cup Drive.
Aug. 4 — Dog at large, Fiesta Place.

Aug. 4 — Caretaker neglect, Beverly Court.
Aug. 4 — Theft M, Buttercup Drive.
Aug. 5 — Warrant arrest, South Pagosa Boulevard.
Aug. 5 — Search and rescue, Piedra Road.
Aug. 6 — Information only, County Road 628.
Aug. 6 — Information only, Forest Road 628.
Aug. 6 — Agency assist, Lewis Street.
Aug. 6 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, North Pagosa Boulevard.
Aug. 6 — Reckless driving, West U.S. 160.
Aug. 7 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.
Aug. 8 — Alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, DUI per se, drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, speeding mph over limit not listed, no location listed.
Aug. 8 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.
Aug. 9 — Information only, Mid-iron Avenue.
Aug. 9 — Drove vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, Permitted use of # plate/misuse plates Bonanza Avenue.
Aug. 9 — Warrant arrest, Bonanza Avenue.
Aug. 9 — Trespass warning, Bastille Drive.
Pagosa Springs Police Department
July 13 — Second-degree assault-aggravated-nonfamily-strangulation, assault in the third degree, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Legacy Drive.
July 13 — Information only, Trinity Lane.
July 13 — Throwing objects at vehicle, Lewis Street.
July 14 — Theft/intends to deprive person, Hot Springs Boulevard/San Juan Street.
July 15 — Indecent exposure, West U.S. 160.
July 15 — Assault in the third degree, trespass warning, North 5th Street/Hot Springs Boulevard.
July 15 — Obstructing highway/passageway, Hot Springs Boulevard.
July 16 — Theft, Country Center Drive.
July 17 — Lost/found property, Country Center Drive.
July 18 — Trespass warning, U.S. 84.
July 19 — Theft, East Pagosa Street.
July 19 — Disturbance, North 5th Street.
July 19 — Felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, disorderly conduct/fighting with another in public, possess/consume alcohol by person under 21 years old, careless driving, North 5th Street.
July 20 — Harbored vicious animals prohibited, Hermosa Street.
July 20 — Warrant arrest, Hermosa Street.
July 20 — Theft, Hot Springs Boulevard.
July 20 — Trespass warning, Country Center Drive.
July 21 — Warrant arrest, 14th Street.
July 21 — Traffic stop, U.S. 160.
Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
July 13 — Caitlin Stewart, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
July 13 — Jackson Whitley, speeding 5-9 mph over prima facie limit, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$126.
July 13 — Terri Thielst, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.
July 13 — Christi Ireland, speeding 5-9 mph over prima facie limit, owner operated vehicle without insurance, five points, fine and surcharge — \$341.
July 13 — Jody Allen, parked in identified reserve parking when not disabled, fine and surcharge — \$382.
July 14 — Justin Phillips, obscene conduct, fine — \$65.
July 14 — James Pacheco III, harassment, fine and costs — \$135.
July 20 — Jaime Naranjo, careless driving, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$202.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
July 15 — Jonathan Hughes, cruelty/animals-neglect/mistreat, eight hours community service, four weeks unsupervised probation, fines and costs — \$463.50.
July 15 — Jaiden M. Martinez, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.
July 15 — Jonathan Matthew Hughes, dog at large, fines and costs — \$132.
July 15 — Bailey Wessels-Halverson, dog at large, fines and costs — \$134.
July 15 — Noah Taylor Kempin, noise ordinance second offense, fines and costs — \$134.
July 15 — Michael James Coomes

Jr., driving under the influence-with prior conviction, 24 months probation, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 96 hours community service, 40 days electronic surveillance, fines and costs — \$3,172.50.
July 15 — Ash Sager Lebre, driving while ability impaired, 180 days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$932.
July 15 — Laura Ray, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.
July 15 — Carolyn Elizabeth Schorie, driving under the influence-with prior conviction, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 20 years probation, 20 days electronic surveillance, fines and costs — \$1,920.50.
July 15 — Steven Ross Parker, driving ability impaired-with prior conviction, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 20 days electronic surveillance, two years probation, fines and costs — \$2,563.50.
July 22 — Nathan Leo Hawley, careless driving, 16 hours community service, fines and costs — \$203.
July 22 — Alexander M. Calkin, careless driving resulting in injury, 24 hours community service, fines and costs — \$430.50.
July 22 — Sean Newberg, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.
July 23 — Levi Bennett, controlled substance-possession Schedule I/II/III/, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,051.50.
July 23 — Brandon L. Dombrowski, speeding too fast for conditions, fines and costs — \$169.50.
July 24 — Ostyn Raymond Blanchard, license plates-unlawful display, fines and costs — \$48.50.
July 24 — Tracy Alison King, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
July 24 — Sheldon M. Lewis, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
July 24 — Laqueta D. Johnson, registration-unregistered vehicle, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$277.50.
July 24 — Jacob P. Jackson, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
July 24 — Kevin P. Moore, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$314.50.
July 24 — Laura Ann Paquette, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
July 24 — Newly L. Packer, seat belt not used, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$227.50.
July 24 — Cory P. Adamson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.
July 24 — Xane D. Hill, spilling load on highway-not car, fines and costs — \$107.50.
July 24 — Isaiah E. Hayes, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
July 24 — Jacob Dylan Clark, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
July 24 — Ana Calivello, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.
July 24 — Timothy Alan Blase, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
July 24 — James E. Willingham, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.
July 24 — Travis Golden, harassment-telephone-threat/obscene, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,197.50.
July 24 — Brandon Mark Calhoun, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.
July 28 — Philip S. Stowell, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.
July 29 — Armando Jacob Garcia, disorderly conduct-fighting in public, 15 days jail, fines and costs — \$36.
July 31 — Nicholas Christian Ayers, controlled substance-Schedule I/II/III/, 60 days jail, fines and costs — \$1,146.50.
6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
July 24 — Russell Apodaca, weap-

on-possession by a previous offender, three years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$1,635.50.
July 24 — Russell Apodaca, arson 1-building, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$3,005.50.
July 24 — Russell Apodaca, burglary 2-occupied structure/commercial, two years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$3,005.50.
July 24 — Russell Apodaca, burglary 2-of building, three years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$1,635.50.

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

‘The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition’

Aug. 13-15 • Pagosa Springs High School auditorium



Photo courtesy Heather Rose

August 13, 2026



Photo courtesy Heather Rose

“The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition” cast members are ready to take this stage for four shows this weekend.

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Blondie Brunette Band, 7 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Retro Cats, 6 p.m.
East Side Market: Emily Tholberg and the Patio Panthers, 11 a.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Brad Good, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Santana Garcia, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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SUN

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Dynamic cast to present 'The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition' this weekend

By Katrina Thomas
Archuleta School District

As Archuleta School District will bring Bikini Bottom to life at the Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium today through Saturday, a standout lineup of young performers is set to command the stage in "The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition."

Leading the charge underwater is Finlay Moore as the eternal optimist SpongeBob SquarePants, alongside Sam Roukema as his loyal best friend Patrick Star and Addy Hart as the genius scientist Sandy Cheeks. Facing down the impending volcanic crisis, the trio brings dynamic energy and heart to the story's core message of friendship and community.

The iconic dynamics of Bikini Bottom are further brought to life by Kit Henson as the scheming Sheldon Plankton, Lyla Frie as his robot wife Karen Plankton, Colter Rose as the endlessly cynical Squidward Q. Tentacles, Rafe Halterman as the money-minded Mr. Krabs and Merick Halterman as his vocally-gifted teenage daughter Pearl Krabs.

Adding key dramatic flare and comedic timing throughout the production are featured supporting leads Tia Henson as the French Narrator, Bea Iverson as the Mayor of Bikini Bottom, Kaden Karas as news anchor Perch Perkins, Damien Turk as Old Man Jenkins, Gabby Padilla as Larry the Lobster and Wynnne Buchner as Mrs. Puff.

Behind the leads, a vital part of this show's success is a talented, hardworking ensemble. In a production that truly requires a deep cast to

fill out the colorful underwater world, the ensemble steps into multiple roles to deliver the high-energy song and dance numbers featured in the production.

The ensemble will feature a Broadway tap in "I'm Not a Loser," hip hop in "When the Going Gets Tough," creative glow choreography in "Not a Simple Sponge" and "Hero is My Middle Name," hilarious energy in "Super Sea

Star Savior," and even roll onto the stage on skates, scooters and skateboards in "Bikini Bottom Boogie."

Our incredible ensemble members include Brooke Anderson, Kaci Moeller, Kinley Hart, Darla Renner, Riley Sanders, Simone Haas, Nora Cram, Ella Osmera, Kiara Patel, Emmie Cram, Paizley Clark, Kayla VanAusdall, Brooklyn Richey, Maggie

■ See Musical on next page

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Pagosa Springs Karaoke



Photo courtesy Heather Rose

Four-legged Squidward and his Anemones will dazzle audiences with their tap number “I’m Not a Loser” during four performances of “The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition.”

Musical

■ continued from previous page
Witt, Linden Wagle, Charley Foster, Kiley Braun, Lucy Lyons, Mabel Lyons, Winter Porter and Xander White.

Backstage, the production’s student tech crew members Kayleen Gonzalez, Naomi Guterrez, Noah Lee and Nova Wilson have been hard at work on the show’s very complicated costuming, prop and

set needs. Rounding out the show’s production team are high school interns Avonlea Thomas, Lillian Jones and Avery White.

“Our students have poured their hearts into every rehearsal, and we can’t wait for the community to see their hard work pay off,” commented director Katrina Thomas. “These students are going to knock your

socks off.”
“The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition” is showing 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 adult and \$5 student and can be purchased at the door or online at our.show/PSMS.

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Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers to host 'A Night Under the Stars'

By Dena Laterza
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers are hosting a free public event Friday, Aug. 14, at 9 p.m. in Yamaguchi Park. The event is named "A Night Under the Stars."

There will be a constellation tour followed by a telescope viewing.

Meet near the restroom, dress in layers and bring a red flashlight, if you have one.

August is a great time to stargaze, with the Milky Way visible crossing the entire sky from north to south. Sagittarius and Scorpius are rising, which reveal many beautiful deep-sky objects near our galactic center including star clusters and nebulae.

Come out and enjoy the night sky. There may be a few clouds, but if there's no rain, they won't interfere too much. The clouds often clear off after dark. Clear skies and we'll see you on the sidewalk.

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow
Logan Pitts as Bob in Thingamajig Theatre Company's "Come From Away." The musical returns to the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Thursday, Aug. 13, and Friday, Aug. 14, as Thingamajig's 2026 summer repertory season enters its final two weeks. "Come From Away," "Company" and "Fiddler on the Roof" continue in rotation through Aug. 29.

Final weeks begin for Thingamajig's summer repertory season

By Tim Moore
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Thingamajig Theatre Company's 2026 summer repertory season is entering its final stretch at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, with just over two weeks remaining before "Come From Away," "Company" and "Fiddler on the Roof" take their final bows on Saturday, Aug. 29.

All three productions return to the stage this week. "Come From Away" plays tonight, Thursday, Aug. 13, and again Friday, Aug. 14. "Company" returns Saturday, Aug. 15, followed by "Fiddler on the Roof" on Sunday, Aug. 16. For anyone who has spent the summer intending to catch one of the productions — or still has one left to complete the season — the remaining opportunities are beginning to disappear quickly.

"Come From Away" tells the true story of what happened when 38 planes carrying thousands of passengers were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland, following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Residents of the small community suddenly found themselves housing, feeding and caring for strangers from around the world. What emerges from those extraordinary days is less a story about the attack itself than about what ordinary people are capable of doing for one another when circumstances demand it.

On Saturday, the stage changes completely for Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's "Company." Centered on the perpetually single Bobby and the married couples who make up his closest circle of friends, the musical takes a funny, sophisticated and sometimes painfully recognizable look at relationships, loneliness, marriage and commitment. More than 50 years

after its Broadway debut, the questions "Company" asks about sharing a life with another person remain remarkably current.

"Fiddler on the Roof" returns Sunday with the story of Tevye, Golde and their daughters in the village of Anatevka. As their daughters begin making choices that challenge generations of tradition, the family finds itself confronting changes both inside and outside their home. With songs including "Tradition," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man," "To Life" and "Sunrise, Sunset," the musical moves easily between broad comedy and an intimate story about parents, children, family and change.

Earlier this week, Tuesday's performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" served as a benefit for Aspen House, with 100 percent of ticket sales from the evening going toward the organization's effort to create a permanent residential home in Pagosa Springs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The partnership was a particularly fitting one for a musical so rooted in questions of family, community and caring for the people around us.

The three productions will continue rotating at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts for only two more weeks. Thingamajig's summer repertory season concludes on Aug. 29 and, once the season closes, all three productions close with it.

If there is a show you have been meaning to see, now is the time to look at the calendar. Summer in Pagosa has a way of disappearing faster than any of us expect.

Tickets and the complete remaining performance schedule are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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Chimney Rock Interpretive Association and Pagosa Springs Community Band partnering for special community fundraiser

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) and the Pagosa Springs Community Band are joining together for a unique evening celebrating history, music and community during a special fundraising event on Saturday, Aug. 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Tennyson Sculpture Garden gazebo.

The evening will begin with an engaging presentation by local author and historian Sue Fischer entitled “Surprises, Mysteries and Oddities at Chimney Rock.”

Fischer will share fascinating stories and insights into the many intriguing aspects of Chimney Rock National Monument, offering attendees a deeper appreciation for one of Southwest Colorado’s most significant archaeological treasures.

Following a brief intermission, guests may enjoy refreshments before the Pagosa Springs Community

Band presents performances by its brass trio, brass quintet and newly formed woodwind ensemble. The concert will feature a selection of well-loved musical favorites, including two pieces chosen to honor the spirit of Chimney Rock — “In the Hall of the Mountain King” and “Cloud Dances.”

“This event brings together two organizations dedicated to enriching our community through education, culture and the arts,” stated organizers. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to learn something new, enjoy exceptional local talent, and support two nonprofits that work year-round to preserve and celebrate our community’s heritage.”

Admission to the event is free, but donations are strongly encouraged as this collaborative evening serves as a fundraiser benefiting both CRIA and the Pagosa Springs Community Band. Proceeds will help support educational programming, perfor-

mances and community outreach offered by both organizations.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, as seating is not provided in the sculpture garden.

Community members and visitors alike are invited to spend a memorable summer evening surrounded by history, music and friends while supporting two organizations that make lasting contributions to the Pagosa Springs community.

For more information about Chimney Rock National Monument and upcoming programs, visit www.ChimneyRockCO.org.

CRIA and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument. CRIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer association and receives no funding from the U.S. government.

PCI gears up for free back-to-school fair, calls for school supply donations

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) is inviting Archuleta County families to its free Back-to-School Fair on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School commons, and the organization is asking the community to help stock the event with school supply donations.

The fair, hosted by the PCI Family Resource Center, will provide free school supplies, complimentary haircuts from local volunteer stylists, hygiene products and other support services aimed at helping students start the school year prepared and confident.

Families will also be able to connect with local organizations offering information on education, health, youth programs and family services.

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

PCI states planning is still underway and more activities, services and community partners may be added.

The organization is also seeking donations of new school supplies to help meet local needs. Requested items include backpacks, notebooks, composition books, loose-leaf pa-

per, pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers, crayons, highlighters, erasers, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, child-friendly scissors, rulers, index cards, folders, binders, sticky notes, calculators, pencil cases, lunch boxes, toiletries, disinfectant wipes and tissues.

Donations may be dropped off at the PCI office, 550B Hot Springs Blvd., Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For alternate drop-off arrangements, call (970) 585-6461.

Families interested in attending are encouraged to mark their calendars for Aug. 22.

Spaces for haircuts are filling up fast and an RSVP is highly recommended. Please reach out to Viola at (970) 585-6521 or familysupport@pagosacommunityinitiative.org to get your haircut appointment time.

School supplies will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, and no advance signup is required. Families also do not need to sign up in advance to visit the community partners providing resources and services at the event.

Information about volunteer opportunities is available at pagosa-communityinitiative.org.

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Photo courtesy Pat Love

Coming back for their fourth year, the Recycled Rotarians team members of Renee Vanover, Elise Mariner, Pat Love and Frazer Barr are ready to showcase another amazing recycled outfit at this year’s Runway for Rise fundraiser.

Service before self: Meet Runway for Rise’s Recycled Rotarians

Rise Above Violence

The Recycled Rotarians are back for their fourth year at the Runway for Rise, a Recycled Fashion Gala.

Last year, this creative crew fashioned an incredible ensemble from wine corks and soda can tabs and took home the coveted Catwalk Creative Award, voted on by the audience for the best use of the required recycled materials. It was a true crowd favorite.

But their commitment to Runway for Rise is about more than creating an unforgettable outfit. It reflects something at the heart of both Rotary and Rise Above Violence: the power of volunteers to make a difference in our community.

In a small community like Pagosa Springs, volunteers step up to provide support that simply could not happen without them. At Rise Above Violence, volunteers help answer the crisis hotline, provide support and advocacy, assist with community outreach and awareness, and help make events like Runway for Rise possible. In 2025 alone, Rise volun-

teers contributed more than 3,000 hours in advocacy, awareness and fundraising.

For the Recycled Rotarians, service is at the heart of what they do. As they put it, “Service Above Self” is the Rotarian philosophy. Their continued support of Runway for Rise for all four years is a wonderful example of that spirit in action. We can’t wait to see what they’ve dreamed up this year.

Join us at Runway for Rise on Oct. 3 and vote for the Recycled Rotarians.

Inspired by the Recycled Rotarians? You can make a difference, too. Rise Above Violence is always looking for volunteers who are willing to lend their time, skills and heart to supporting survivors in our community. Our next volunteer training is Aug. 22. To learn more or get involved, contact Miles at miles@riseaboveviolence.org.

Whether you’re on the runway or answering the hotline, volunteers help our community rise. Find out more about Runway for Rise and all the incredible teams by visiting www.riseaboveviolence.org.

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Healthy Archuleta announces gardening education and upcoming September workshops

Healthy Archuleta

Gardening in Pagosa Springs comes with its own unique set of rewards and challenges.

With a short growing season of approximately 90 days, local gardeners frequently find themselves monitoring weather, managing wildlife and navigating water access. However, despite these hurdles, growing fresh food in Archuleta County is fully achievable and deeply rewarding.

Through dedicated community education, Healthy Archuleta is empowering local residents with the skills, confidence and hands-on experience needed to cultivate vibrant, productive gardens.

The benefits of gardening education in Archuleta County

Healthy Archuleta's gardening programs focus on practical, hands-on learning designed specifically for our local high-altitude environment.

Participants gain foundational knowledge on crucial gardening mechanics, including: soil health and preparation, how to choose the appropriate plant varieties, when to plant, and overcoming the unique challenges of the mountain garden.

Beyond the harvest itself, gardening offers profound personal and community benefits.

Being outdoors in the fresh air provides physical exercise, a healthy dose of vitamin D and a natural boost to mental health.

In light of rising grocery costs, growing accessible, staple crops like potatoes, onions and leafy greens can lighten the strain on home budgets.

Above all, gardening serves as a powerful social bridge, connecting neighbors, fostering friendships and strengthening community resilience.

September in the Garden education workshops

To build on these principles and help gardeners make the most of the late season, Healthy Archuleta is offering an upcoming September in the Garden Education Workshop Series.

Whether you are looking to extend your autumn harvest, learn late-season garden maintenance or prepare your beds for next spring, this three-part series offers ideal hands-on practice in a supportive setting.

The workshops will take place in the Vista Community Gardens, showcasing improvements made possible through a 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant. Archuleta is one of 750 grantees selected. The grant is supporting improvements to the Vista Lake Community Garden designed to increase accessibility, comfort and participation for older adults and residents of all ages.

Planned enhancements include upgrades that make the garden more age-friendly and welcoming, while creating opportunities for community members to engage in gardening, physical activity, social connection and lifelong learning.

These three sessions offer an opportunity to gather outdoors, learn directly in a community garden space and share experiences with fellow local growers.

The sessions will take place on Wednesdays — Sept. 9, 16 and 23 — from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Vista Lake Community Production Garden.

Spots for the gardening classes are limited to ensure every participant receives personalized, hands-on instruction. Interested community members are encouraged to register early.

To register, visit Healthy Archule-

ta's Events and Happenings webpage, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/events--happenings.html.

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

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Regenerative Youth of 84 Ranch

The award-winning film "The Biggest Little Farm" is coming to the big screen in Pagosa Springs for one night only.

If you've ever dreamed of trading the rat race for the land, you need to see this one. "The Biggest Little Farm" — an official selection at Sundance and Telluride — follows John and Molly Chester as they leave the city for 234 acres of bone-dry dirt and spend seven years bringing it back to life: rich soil, orchards, animals, a whole living ecosystem. It's beautiful, honest and genuinely inspiring.

We're bringing it to the historic Liberty Theatre as a benefit for the Regenerative Youth of 84 Ranch — our 501(c)(3) teaching Pagosa kids how to grow real food and heal the land. One hundred percent of every

ticket goes to them. This is the film that lit the spark for our ranch, and we'd love to share it with our community.

It will show on Tuesday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The theater is located at 418 Pagosa St.

Tickets are \$12, with only 132 seats available.

Tickets are available at <https://givebutter.com/liberty-theater-biggest-little-farm-qnvux0>.

For more details, visit www.84ranch.us/pages/biggest-little-farm-screening.

Come be inspired — and help grow the next generation of regenerative farmers right here in our valley.

Shop the SUN classifieds.



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For more information:

Community Center • 970-264-4152



Photos courtesy Jeff Laydon
Community members fellowship at a gathering bringing together those who had been evacuated due to the Rio Blanco Fire with other members of the community seeking to support them on Sunday, Aug. 9.



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

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*thanks our local businesses, ranches, and individuals
for financial contributions, for services provided and
for ongoing support in continuing the timeless tradition
of the 75th Archuleta County Fair.*

*Once again, the community united for a
fun and informative, event-filled weekend!*



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Rugby's Rescue
Sarah Kirschstein
Scott Hoenes
Scott Simmons, Simmons Land CO, LLC
Scott Strategic Investments
Seeds of Learning
Shane Burris/Burris & Son's Rodeo
SOS Drain Opening
Southwest Ag
Stacy Sorrells
Sun Glass Pagosa
Sundown Outfitters/Ash & Trish Tully
TBK Bank
Terry's Ace
The Durango Herald
The Pagosa Springs Sun
The Springs Resort
The Tile & Carpet Store
Town of Pagosa Springs
Tracey Widger
Troy & Loretta Ross/Troy Ross Construction
Uncles Bar & Social Club/Shane Lucero
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Wednesday Bouquet
Wes Lewis
Whitley Buckers
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Recognition also extended to:

Archuleta County Building & Grounds
Archuleta County Commissioners
Archuleta County Finance Department
Archuleta County IT Department
Archuleta County Public Health Dept.
Archuleta County Road & Bridge
Archuleta County Sheriff's
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San Juan Conservation District
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Spanish Fiesta Organization
Super Volunteer Cherie Ford
Super Volunteer Kent Jennings
Super Volunteer Sandra Bramwell
Super Volunteer Sharon Jennings
Western Heritage Event Center Committee

*See you next
year for our
76th fair!*



Photo courtesy Archuleta Seniors Inc.
Tickets are on sale now for Archuleta Seniors Inc.'s second annual Masquerade Ball, set for Sept. 26 at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. invites community to Masquerade Ball

Archuleta Seniors Inc.

On Sept. 26, the Ross Aragon Community Center will be transformed for an evening of music, dining, dancing, and community spirit as Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) hosts its second annual Masquerade Ball.

More than an elegant evening out, this event is ASI's most important fundraiser, helping sustain programs that older adults in Archuleta County depend on every day.

ASI's mission is simple but powerful: "To serve our community by empowering individuals who are 60 and better and their families to promote independence and advance community resilience."

Funds raised during the Masquerade Ball directly support programs that help older adults remain healthy, connected and independent.

Among the organization's best-known services is Meals on Wheels, which provides nutritious meals and regular wellness checks to seniors who may otherwise be isolated.

Donations also support caregiver resources, wellness programs, educational opportunities, Monday-through-Friday in-dining and take-out meals, and social activities that strengthen connectivity and social interactions.

Why your support matters

Providing nutritious meals to our senior community comes at a cost — \$12-\$13 per meal. Yet for those 60 and over, we ask for only a \$6 suggested donation, and no one is ever turned away because they cannot pay.

In reality, the average contribution we receive is just \$3.50 per meal, leav-

ing an \$8.50 funding gap. Additionally, all of our wellness programs and activities are free of charge.

That gap is where your generosity makes a profound difference.

Since most of our programs are federally funded, community support is more important than ever. Your generosity helps bridge the gap and ensures these essential services remain available to our neighbors.

An evening that gives back

Guests attending the Masquerade Ball will enjoy dinner, live music by SoulFire, dancing, cash bars, a silent auction for adventurous getaways, a wine pull, photo opportunities and a lively costume contest.

Whether you arrive in an elaborate Venetian-inspired costume or simply wear a festive mask, the evening promises fun while supporting an important cause.

Tickets are now available to purchase at www.psseniors.org. Or, call our office at (970) 264-2167.

Our seniors built the community we enjoy today. The Masquerade Ball is an opportunity for all of us to give back and ensure they continue to receive the support they deserve. We hope everyone will join us for a wonderful evening — or consider making a donation if they cannot attend.

How else you can help: Please consider making a onetime gift or becoming a monthly sustaining donor. Together, we can ensure every elder in Archuleta County receives the care, nourishment and connection they deserve. Make a tax-deductible donation at www.psseniors.org.

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George Norwood, MD

PSMC is proud to announce that George Norwood, MD is joining the Primary Care clinic team and is accepting appointments.

Healthy Archuleta to offer 10-week child-parent relationship therapy program this fall

Healthy Archuleta

Parenting young children can bring big feelings, power struggles and stress at home.

Healthy Archuleta is offering support to local families navigating these challenges by offering a child-parent relationship therapy (CPRT) series this fall. The 10-week program is aimed at strengthening connection, trust and confidence between parents and their children.

This will be Healthy Archuleta's second time hosting this amazing resource to our community. Given the positive feedback of the past participants, we are excited to offer the program again with hopes more caregivers can benefit from this supportive experience.

The program will be available in two languages (English and Spanish) to support access across the community. Both sessions are facilitated by a licensed mental health provider, with the English-language sessions facilitated in person. The Spanish-language sessions will join the facilitator via Zoom. Both sessions will take place at Pagosa Springs Middle School with dinner and child care provided.

What is CPRT?

Designed for parents and caregivers of young children ages 3 to 10, CPRT is a supportive program that uses play, a child's natural language, to strengthen the parent-child relationship. Led by a trained therapist in a small, supportive and nonjudgmental group setting, caregivers learn practical skills and receive

coaching, encouragement and feedback throughout the course.

CPRT is structured to assist caregivers who may be feeling overwhelmed, stressed, disconnected or unsure of what to try next. The program helps better understand their child's feelings, build stronger connection and trust, respond to challenging behavior with confidence, reduce personal stress and overwhelm, and shift focus toward connection rather than punishment or perfection.

Unlike traditional approaches, CPRT focuses on strengthening the parent-child connection rather than trying to change the child. As the parent-child bond grows stronger, challenging behaviors often become easier to understand and manage.

To make the program practical and realistic for daily life, parents practice new play-based skills during one dedicated 30-minute play session each week with their own child.

How to get involved

Healthy Archuleta is currently gathering interest to confirm that enough local families are available before finalizing the program setup, which requires coordinating facilitators, space, child care, meals and language access.

The fall program is scheduled for Thursdays, Sept. 10 through Nov. 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Pagosa Springs Middle School. There is no cost to attend, and dinner and child care are provided.

Completing the CPRT Interest Form does not commit a family to

participating, but early responses help make the program possible for the community. To complete the interest form, please visit our website and click on the CPRT button on the top of the page: www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org.



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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

- Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m.: SpiritFire Lionsgate Women's Celebration at Neon Mallard with Shayla Azriel and Lisa Saunders. For more information, contact (970) 510-0309.
 - Aug. 28, 6 p.m.: Friday Full Moon Drumming Circle at Xanadu. For more information, contact (970) 510-0309.
 - Sept. 12 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Medicine Wheel Circle and Ceremony Teachings with Shayla White Eagle McClure at SpiritFire at Xanadu. Learn the sacred circle of the medicine wheel and the blessings. A \$50 donation will be collected. For more information, contact (970) 510-0309.
- The center also offers educational classes and workshops.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Liv-

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

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self." Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity.

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

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

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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The SpiritFire Inspirational Liv-

Community United Methodist Church to address mental health and community care Sunday

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church will continue its “Direction: Following the Way” sermon series this Sunday, Aug. 16, with a message titled “When the Trail Disappears,” drawn from the story of Elijah in the wilderness in 1 Kings 19. Services are at 8:15 and 11 a.m. at 434 Lewis St.

The sermon addresses mental health, isolation and the particular pressures facing mountain communities — including the documented pattern of mental health struggle in valleys like ours.

Pastor Ken Daniell will draw on the biblical story of Elijah — a man of deep faith who reached a point of complete exhaustion and despair — and on the community response efforts described in reporting on mountain town mental health challenges.

“The church has too often stayed silent on mental health,” said Daniell. “But this is not a distant problem. It is our community. And scripture is not silent on it — Elijah’s story is

right there in the text, honest and unvarnished.”

The sermon will also share mental health resources available locally and nationally, including the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the Archuleta County Public Health Department and information about upcoming Mental Health First Aid training that the Community United Methodist Church is working to bring to the community this fall.

“We are not counselors,” Daniell noted. “But, we can notice. We can ask. We can stay. We can know the resources and be ready to share them. That is what community means.”

The Community United Methodist Church is a progressive, inclusive and affirming congregation committed to serving the full Pagosa Springs community. All are welcome regardless of background, belief or history with church.

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

If you or someone you know is struggling, please call or text 988 — the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline — available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to discuss ‘Beauty of Diversity’

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship continues its theme of acceptance by looking at it from the “Beauty of Diversity,” the title of this Sunday’s lay-led homily.

We will hear from different people, three very different perspectives, to weave a tapestry of stories to celebrate diversity and the beauty that can come when we open to acceptance of all our relations.

Martine Colombey will share her understanding diversity from experiencing life in different countries. Born in France, growing up in Canada, to living in the U.S., Colombey will draw on her experiences and share her belief that acceptance is a key component to finding peace within.

Although her formal education ended at high school, she worked as an office manager and supervisor in upper management alongside highly educated professionals. She attributes the acceptance by her co-workers a large part of a successful professional career.

Colombey is a member and serves on the fellowship’s steering committee. I’ve heard her say her motto is, “let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

Adding to the stories are two young adults, Layla McRae and Reece Werby, both of whom have a deep knowing and articulate way of sharing their fresh wisdom. We are fortunate to hear from these two young people as part of this service, and know we will learn and be inspired by their message.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship meets at 10:30 a.m. for our worship services the first and third Sundays, and round out the month with small group circles the second and fourth Sundays, also at 10:30 a.m.

We celebrate diversity and work toward building beloved community within a spiritual setting. We begin with open minds and loving hearts, informing our helping hands to do the work of justice in the world.

Our website, PagosaUU.org, is a place for information about upcoming services and programs. The UU Community Hub offers opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.

The Tara Meditation Group, held most Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., is on hiatus for the month of August. Email the fellowship to be added to the list and receive information and notices about upcoming meditation practice. Qigong practice is held at 1 p.m. on Monday afternoons, while the Wise and Wakeful Circle meets the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

You can find us at the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak.



Shop Pagosa Springs first.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Wrangler's rope
- 6 Normal beginning?
- 10 Spew forth
- 14 Poe's middle name
- 15 Grandson of Adam
- 16 Pot starter
- 17 Monthly bank mailings
- 19 Familiar with
- 20 Kachina doll carver
- 21 Withdrawal to a safe place
- 23 Proverbial waste-maker
- 25 Neighbor of Uganda
- 26 Straw hat
- 28 Teakettle emission
- 30 Blue whales have big ones
- 32 Sorority letter
- 36 Small drink
- 37 Big plot of land
- 39 50 Cent piece?
- 40 "Flowers for Algernon" author Daniel
- 42 Mistaken
- 44 Carnival attractions
- 46 Kitchen whistler
- 47 Pre-euro Portuguese money
- 50 Close-knit group
- 51 Collaborator
- 54 SOS responder
- 57 Quite often
- 58 Kitchen surface
- 60 Yard tool
- 61 Baxter or Bancroft
- 62 Historic Tuscan city
- 63 Historic Scott
- 64 Arabian and Caspian
- 65 Brings home

DOWN

- 1 Eyelid fringe
- 2 Voice below soprano
- 3 Foolishly giddy
- 4 Fill to excess
- 5 Start for step or stop
- 6 Annoyance
- 7 Writer Quindlen
- 8 Drilling grp.
- 9 Guarantee
- 10 Siddhartha ____: the Buddha
- 11 Remove fasteners
- 12 Ceded a seat
- 13 Cosmetic dye
- 18 Like grams and liters
- 22 Roused from sleep
- 24 Save for later
- 26 Luxuriate
- 27 Sheriff Taylor's son
- 28 Prophets
- 29 Russian emperor

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

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- 31 Locust or larch
- 33 Sit-in participant
- 34 Reiser or Rudd
- 35 Cathedral recess
- 38 Racing vehicle
- 41 Blew, as a volcano
- 43 Tuscany, once
- 45 Biblical seamstress
- 47 Digital greeting
- 48 Kind of panel
- 49 "You Send Me" singer Sam
- 50 Road markers
- 52 Blue-ribbon
- 53 Sushi selection
- 55 Mass. neighbor
- 56 Transcript stats
- 59 Opposite of WNW

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Fire recovery information available

By Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnist

On Tuesday, July 28, at approximately 3:11 p.m., the Rio Blanco Fire was first reported to emergency personnel in Archuleta County. The fire quickly posed a significant imminent threat to the area, and County Road 335 was put under mandatory evacuation. The areas of county roads 337 and 339 and Pinion Hills were placed on pre-evacuation notice. It was a scary time for many of us in our small, rural community.

As of Monday, according to Watch Duty, the Rio Blanco Fire sits at approximately 1,388 acres and is 79 percent contained.

All of us at Colorado State University (CSU) Extension here in Archuleta County, like so many across our community, are incredibly grateful for the job well done by all the emergency management personnel, both local and from around the nation, who put their lives in danger to protect us and our wildlands. And we are thankful that the mandatory evacuation order was lifted on Friday, Aug. 7.

Recovery from wildfire can be challenging, and dangers may remain in and around homes and structures that are near the fire.

CSU Extension provides trusted information and resources to support our community during recovery from the Rio Blanco Fire and other emergencies and natural disasters. We're here to help you take informed steps toward stability and resilience. Below are resources to help inform and guide you in your recovery efforts.

Perhaps one of the most useful resources is the Archuleta County After the Disaster Guidebook. This handbook provides a comprehensive toolkit of practical guidance,

Extension Viewpoints

resources and tools to help individuals, families and landowners navigate recovery after a disaster — especially wildfire — and rebuild safely and effectively. You may find the guidebook at <https://extension.colostate.edu/archuleta/resources/>.

Wildfires destroy plant cover and the litter layer that normally slow water runoff and hold soil in place. Without this protection, heavy rain can cause rapid soil loss. CSU Extension's peer-reviewed fact sheet "Soil Erosion Control After Wildfire" outlines practical actions landowners can take to reduce soil erosion. This fact sheet can be found at <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/soil-erosion-control-after-wildfire/>.

Our colleagues at North Dakota State University offer this resource to help you get your kitchen back in order upon returning home. Visit <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/ag-hub/disinfecting-dishes-cookware-and-utensils> to learn more.

Watch Duty is a free, nonprofit app that provides real-time alerts and maps for both wildfires and floods, using verified human reporting to keep users informed and safe. Among other things, the information includes evacuation orders and shelter information for both people and animals. We highly recommend residents of Archuleta County download and use this app to stay informed. Visit www.watchduty.org/ to learn more and download the app.

Archuleta County Extension is

your information source, working alongside our community to help address local needs, share knowledge and co-create solutions to help our community thrive. We are part of a nationwide system that uses the latest research to help residents learn more about gardening, sus-

■ See Viewpoints on page 17

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- Wolf Creek Ski Team
- Humane Society
- Pagosa Veterans

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-Morganne

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

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs gathering to focus on HU

By Laurah Brock Young
Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Have you ever reached out to the universe for love and answers? Need help with stress or fear?

There is a sacred sound, an ancient mantra that can manifest God's love and help in your life. It is called HU, a universal love song to God. HU offers balance, wisdom and connection with your higher self. It brings alignment with your true purpose and highest good.

During this event, you will have the opportunity to experience some of the many benefits of singing HU:

- Inner peace and calm.
- Divine love.
- Expanded awareness.
- Spiritual self-discovery and growth.
- Healing of the heart.

We will sing/chant HU for about 15 minutes, followed by a spiritual conversation with others of like heart.

Life is a spiritual experience. Please join us on Sunday, Aug. 16, at 1 p.m. for a Sound of Soul experience called "Your Inner Spiritual Life - Sing HU to Discover Your True Potential."

Drop in. We meet at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

This free event is sponsored by Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

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

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

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

23RD ANNUAL DUCK RACE AND PICNIC

Scene ... helping the Knights of Columbus raise funds to support community nonprofits at the 23rd annual Duck Race and Picnic at Yamaguchi Park on Saturday, Aug. 8. The event featured live music, food, games and, of course, the duck race.

Photos courtesy Gene Tautges



Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Jeffrey Reichel

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

We think of these birds as a sign of spring, but, in fact, American robins live near us year-round. Its scientific name may be *Turdus migratorius*, but the robin is a resident bird in most of the United States.

Rather than migrate, here these common birds change habitat types with the seasons. They are more visible in our yards in spring, showing up when the ground is wet to hunt earthworms. Watch a robin on the lawn and you will see it run a few steps, and then stop abruptly with head cocked, listening. Experiments have demonstrated that the robin locates a worm by hearing it underground. They also eat insects and snails, which they locate by sight.

When worms and insects are less available, we find robins in wooded areas looking for fruits and berries, including those of chokecherries, hawthorns, dogwoods, sumacs and junipers. The robin's diet varies not only with the season, but also with the time of day. Later in the day they are likely feeding on fruits and berries, but in the morning they live by the proverb that "the early bird gets the worm." Well before sunrise the robin may begin to sing its musical song, and it is also often the last song heard as night falls.

The American robin is so familiar that it is often the first bird that children learn to identify. Its size is used as a comparison to talk about the appearance of other birds. Its reddish breast, dark back, white arcs around the eyes and yellow bill make it easily identifiable.

By all appearances, there is nothing that an American robin likes better than taking a bath. Bathing helps birds cool down during heat waves like we have been experiencing. Unable to sweat, some birds pant with mouths open as a means of evaporative heat loss and need to replace the water lost by drinking. Birds like herons, nightjars and turkeys practice gular fluttering, rapid open mouth breathing with quick vibrations of the moist throat membranes as a way to transfer heat.

You can help birds and the other critters that visit your living space by providing the cool, clean water they need to survive.

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

Viewpoints

■ continued from page 15

tainable living, healthy eating, youth development, fraud prevention and much more. Our job is to bring these resources directly to you.

If you would like any of the above

resources emailed to you, or if you are looking for other resources, please email Cindi Galabota, county director and community development specialist, at cindi.galabota@colostate.edu.





Trinity Anglican Church

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." — C.S. Lewis

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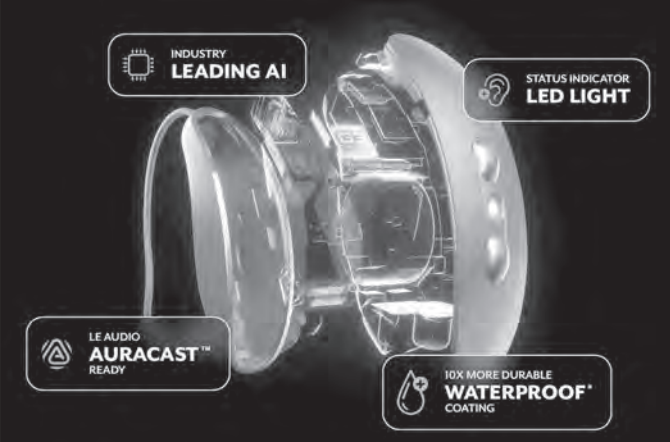
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SPONSORED CONTENT

A better night’s sleep may start at San Juan Dental

Because snoring should not be a nightly event

By Eric Smith, DDS
San Juan Dental

For many people, snoring is treated as an annoyance — or something the rest of the family jokes about the next morning. However, loud snoring, gasping during sleep, morning headaches, difficulty concentrating and persistent daytime fatigue may be signs of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

OSA occurs when the airway repeatedly narrows or closes during sleep, interrupting normal breathing and causing recurring drops in oxygen.

Untreated OSA has been associated with high blood pressure, abnormal heart rhythms such as atrial fibrillation, heart attack, heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, stroke, type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, depression, memory and concentration problems and an increased risk of driving or workplace accidents caused by daytime sleepiness.

Here at higher elevation, nighttime oxygen changes may be even more significant.

Helping people recognize and address sleep-disordered breathing has become a genuine passion of mine. Too many patients believe their only choices are to tolerate a CPAP machine or live with poor sleep. CPAP remains an excellent treatment, but some people struggle with mask discomfort, leakage, dryness, noise or claustrophobia.

For appropriately selected patients, a custom oral appliance may

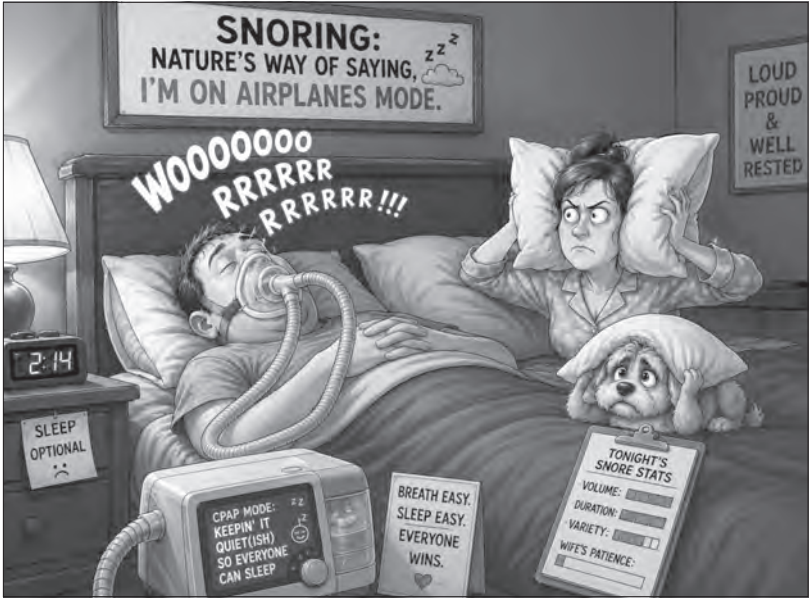


Photo courtesy of San Juan Dental

San Juan Dental helps patients explore comfortable, personalized treatment options — including custom oral appliances — for a better night’s rest.

offer another option.

These comfortable, professionally fitted devices support the lower jaw in a forward position, helping keep the airway open during sleep. Treatment should begin with evaluation and diagnosis, often in cooperation with a physician or sleep specialist.

At San Juan Dental, we are trained to recognize signs of sleep-disordered breathing and help patients explore appropriate treatment options. Our goal is to help our neighbors breathe more comfortably, sleep more deeply and wake up feeling refreshed.

Your spouse may have recognized

the problem long before you did. If snoring, exhaustion or CPAP frustration is keeping your household awake, call San Juan Dental at 970-264-9436 — before someone officially moves into the guest room.

San Juan Dental is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN’s sponsored content program called Spotlight.



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MLS #835628



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Managing Broker



Marlena Crandall
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Tip of the spear, piercing through resistance

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

I like to think of myself as a dinner bell for the spiritually hungry — one who speaks revelation from heaven in words that brings clarity to hard-to-understand truth. I've spent my whole life searching the scriptures. Yet, in love and care for others, I have found myself at the tip of the spear — speaking truth, piercing the skin and sometimes drawing blood, being the bad guy in the room.

When my children and grandchildren call and ask for prayer, I tell them I'll pray. But I also ask whether they want the truth. "I don't know whether you are ready to hear something you do not want to hear."

But if they are hungry enough, desperate enough, that truth becomes the tip of the spear — going deep, piercing through resistance and bringing what is hidden into the light. When they receive it, there is a strange relief from opening that festering wound so healing can begin.

This is often the way of mothers and grandmothers. We see our children in danger and we speak up. I have finally learned to stop apologizing when truth is involved. I seem to live at the front edge of difficult, even dangerous, insight — trying to be understood, because it is necessary for spiritual growth.

"... If any among you strays from the

Artist's Lane

truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:20, NASB).

I've taken that risky step and broken through the barrier. I know truth can damage a relationship and make things uncomfortable, but if I know the truth in love, I'm being kind. I may pray for months for the right moment, waiting until I have peace in my heart that I'm doing what is right.

The phrase "tip of the spear" sounds harsh. It began in 1941 as a military metaphor for the frontline units making first contact with the enemy and breaking through the adversary's first line of defense. For 85 years, the units of the 2nd Marine Division functioned as the tip of the spear, giving courage to those who come after them.

Recently, I watched a video on YouTube called "The Incredible Story Behind Christian Film Director Alex Kendrick." At the end, he said that our legacy is in front of us.

A new concept for me, his words resonated. I had always thought of legacy as something handed down from

the past — an ancestor, a predecessor, a life already lived. But if our legacy is in front of us, then our true legacy is the enduring impact of how we are living now. Not today, but one day, my children and grandchildren will thank me for making their lives fuller.

Over the years, my granddaughter has signed different art projects with words such as, "To my grandma, who is my inspiration." I was simply living my life, never realizing I was handing her a legacy to follow. What I have given her is who I am.

And who I am is that tip of the spear.

As a follower of Jesus, there are times when He presses me hard to speak the truth. Many times, I did not want to upset the situation. But if we hide the truth from the children we are meant to guard, we do them a disservice. We worry about the consequences of truth more than we worry about opening their eyes. Sometimes it hurts. Sometimes it draws blood. Maybe it means we love them too much to let them be destroyed by the enemy of their own soul.

Final brushstroke: Our legacy is in front of us. One day, Jesus will drink from his inheritance in our children. "Yet He himself will drink from his inheritance as from a flowing brook; refreshed by love he will stand victorious!" (Psalm 110:7, TPT).

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Risk Factors:

Untreated hearing loss has been associated with an increased risk of cognitive decline, social isolation, depression, and falls.

Addressing hearing loss early helps keep you connected to conversations, supports brain health, and promotes long-term quality of life.



970.444.2314

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

Protect yourself: Financial fraud prevention tips

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Financial scams targeting older adults continue to increase, making it more important than ever for seniors to stay informed and cautious.

Scammers often pose as government agencies, banks, Medicare representatives, grandchildren in need of help or even trusted businesses to steal personal information or money.

Never provide your Social Security number, banking information, Medicare number or passwords over the phone unless you initiated the call and know who you are speaking with.

Be skeptical of anyone who pressures you to act immediately, requests payment with gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency, or promises prizes or investments that sound too good to be true. Taking a few moments to verify a request can prevent costly mistakes.

If you receive a suspicious phone call, email, text message or unexpected visitor, don't hesitate to hang up, delete the message or close the door.

Discuss questionable requests with a trusted family member, friend or financial institution before taking any action. Regularly review your bank and credit card statements for unauthorized transactions and consider placing fraud alerts on your accounts if needed.

The Archuleta Senior Center encourages seniors to stay informed by attending educational presentations on fraud prevention and to report suspected scams to local law enforcement or the appropriate authorities.

By staying alert and asking questions, seniors can greatly reduce their risk of becoming victims of financial fraud and protect the savings they have worked so hard to earn.

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 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 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.

■ See Senior on next page

HUD
Publisher's Notice

EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Senior

■ continued from previous page Tai chi

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

Tai chi is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Friday, Aug. 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 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’ Gopickup 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. 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.

Monday, Aug. 17 — Fried chicken with country gravy, carrots, mashed potatoes, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 18 — Beef fajitas with tortillas, guacamole, salsa, sour cream, pinto beans, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 19 — Pork tenderloin with blackberry sauce, baked potatoes, lima beans, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 20 — Tortilla lime crusted tilapia, rice pilaf, broccoli, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Aug. 21 - Moroccan stew, pita chips, spinach artichoke dip, 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 en-

rolling 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.

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TOWN OF

PAGOSA SPRINGS

View

August 2026

Reminder: Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Remain in Effect

As wildfire risk continues, the Town of Pagosa Springs remains under Stage 1 Fire Restrictions. Open burning, most campfires, and fireworks remain prohibited, while recreational fires are allowed only in approved permanent fire structures in developed areas. Residents are encouraged to use extreme caution with all outdoor activities that could spark a fire.

Stay informed by signing up for Nixle emergency alerts (local.nixle.com/register), which provide timely notifications about fire restrictions, emergency incidents, road closures, and other important public safety information. You can also opt in to receive Town emergency text alerts by visiting the Town website..

Archuleta County Outpaces Statewide Tourism Growth in 2025

Colorado’s tourism industry generated a record \$29.2 billion in traveler spending in 2025, and Archuleta County had an especially strong year. The county exceeded Colorado’s year-over-year performance across all four economic-impact measures included in the state’s county tourism dashboard.

The results highlight the value of continued destination marketing. Tourism is about more than filling hotel rooms- visitors also support local restaurants, shops, attractions, events, recreational businesses, and services. Spending creates jobs, strengthens local businesses, and generates tax revenue that benefits the community.

Explore the research and county dashboard at oedit.colorado.gov/tourism-research.

Final ComFest Concert – August 21

Final ComFest Concert – August 21

Close out the ComFest season with The Williams Brothers Band on Thursday, August 21, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park. Enjoy free live music, food trucks and community fun while supporting Wings Early Childhood Center.

For more information on all of the above and more, visit pagosasprings.co.gov.

Upcoming Meetings & Holidays

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Joint Town-County Work session Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at 5 p.m. County Administration Building, 398 Lewis St.

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town Offices Closed - Labor Day Monday, September 7, 2026



pagosasprings.co.gov

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

WELLNESS

WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- BALANCED
- BREATHE
- CARE
- CLEANSE
- ENERGY
- FITNESS
- GRATITUDE
- HARMONY
- HEALING
- HOLISTIC
- HYDRATION
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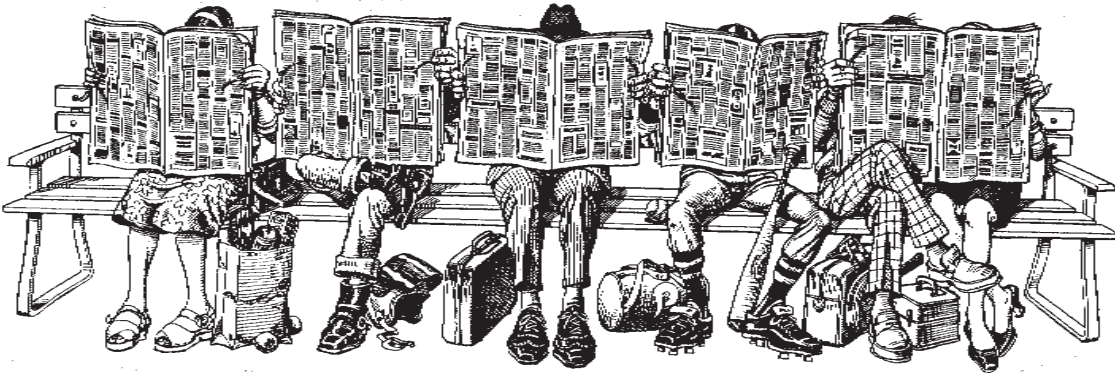
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Preview Calendar

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

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) 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. ■ See Calendar on next page



WATER INTAKE MAY HELP WITH ALLERGIES

Allergies have caused many people to dread the spring, or pets, or... With allergies having many causes, one possible solution may await our trial- water. A good inner-rinse can do wonders to rid the body of the irritating allergens. See today's excerpt for more details.

Spring has sprung and so has the official start of the allergy season. It is quite common for patients to come to my office during allergy season thinking they have a tooth infection emanating from a toothache in the upper back teeth. In fact, these seasonal allergies can create sinus pain in the upper teeth and gums because they touch the maxillary sinuses.

Increased pollen in the air inevitably brings a variety of symptoms such as sinus congestion and pressure, sneezing, sniffing, coughing, as well as itchy and watery eyes. Sinus congestion can also produce swollen gums, headache, fatigue, and cause swelling of the face and gums. Here are my top tips for dealing with pesky pollen:

It all starts with nutrition. Seasonal allergies put your immune system on alert, stressing your body and increasing the need for nutritional support. Remember the A-list: Alkalizing, Anti-inflammatory, and Antioxidant-rich.

Eat green leafy veggies and juices, lots of berries (especially blueberries), fresh fruits and vegetables. At the same time, avoid foods that produce mucus such as sugar, dairy, and wheat. Supplements such as grapeseed extract, quercetin, and vitamin C are also effective in reducing allergy symptoms.

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. Seasonal allergies are brutal on the body's ability to stay hydrated. Drink lots of water to flush your system and support the elimination of the foreign irritants in your system. Hydrating also thins out mucus and supports sinus drainage. Sinus congestion also leads to dry mouth and the decrease in the presence of protective saliva. This can lead to an increased risk of tooth decay and gum disease. Avoid beverages that contain alcohol or caffeine as they are dehydrating. The goal is to drink 8 (6-8 oz) glasses of water per day.

Source: "Top Tips to Smile Through Spring Allergy Season!" By Gerald P. Curatola. <http://www.doctoroz.com>

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

"...and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:11 last part

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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 pagosa-center.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
■ **See Calendar on next page**



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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.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

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 of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn

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

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

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

Tween Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson

Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. Snacks will be provided. August's book is "Call of the Wild" by Jack London. Copies are available to keep.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages

Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour ex-

plores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets,

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Preview Calendar

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‘The Biggest Little Farm’ Screening. 6 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 418 Pagosa St. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available at <https://givebutter.com/liberty-theater-biggest-little-farm-qnvux0>. Proceeds benefit Regenerative Youth of 84 Ranch.

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

Wednesday, Aug. 19

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

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

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

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

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

Unearth a Story: Cave Paintings. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-10. Discover the purposes and historical significance of ancient cave paintings and then create your own artwork.

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 High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

‘Our River: The Pagosa Gateway Project’ Documentary Premiere. 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Following the film, there will be a Q-and-A session with the Pagosa Gateway project team. Presented by the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership.

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).

Thursday, Aug. 20

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.

‘Volcanics of the San Juans: A Ramble to Rock Lake’ Geology Hike. 9 a.m. The hike is free, but sign-up is required at SJMA.org.

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

■ See Calendar on next page



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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 Secret Snacks. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 11-13. See if you really know your favorite treats. Join for tasty treats and a few laughs as you try a few different secret snacks. Get them all right for a small prize.

Pagosa Springs Studio Tour Artist Reception. 6 p.m., The Springs Resort. Enjoy live music, meet the artists and preview the art. For more information, visit www.studio-tourpagosa.com.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Come From Away.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for

the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Aug. 21

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.

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Studio Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Enjoy a self-guided tour

of local artists' studios. For more information, visit www.studiotour-pagosa.com.

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

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

Early Explorers: Fishing. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5 with caregivers. Explore the world of fishing in a safe and age-appropriate environment. Get ready to make crafts, read some stories, move around, play in the sensory bin and more. Dress for mess.

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

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).

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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.

PAGOSA AA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: ID 858-319-763 password 754-234. For information call Kathi (970)946-1482, Ranza (970)903-3849 or (970)731-9774 or central office (888)333-9649.

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.).

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

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KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

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Pagosa Springs is hiring a 40 hour per week Probation Officer. This position offers the opportunity to serve our community while supporting public safety and promoting rehabilitation. For complete job description, application instructions please see https://coloradodjudicial.recruitmentplatform.com/details.html?jobId=10312&jobTitle=Probation%20Officer%20.
ALPINE PORTABLE TOILETS is hiring a full-time service tech to service portable restrooms. Great pay, no experience necessary. Stop by our office at 208 N. 14th Street or call David, (970)946-3692.**FIREWOOD
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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.

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PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

PART -TIME BARTENDER. Keyah Grande Guest House, Part -time, Friday –Sunday position. Experience preferred. Must be reliable, friendly, and customer focused. \$16.72 /hour plus tips. Apply at theguesthouse@keyahgrande.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.

SEASONAL EVENING CLEANERSeasonal evening cleaner for meat processing room at The Buck Stops Here. Must be reliable, job starts in September. Please call Kevin at (970)903-4481 if interested.

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SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

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DE WALT 735 2 speed planer, like new —\$600. (970)731-6878 or (970)946-7218.
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FIREWOOD DELIVERED. Doug fir /pine mix \$250 per cord, \$1400 for 6 cords. Call Kathie, (303)358-6218.

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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.

YARD SALES
ESTATE SALE. Furniture, beds, dressers, kitchen, outdoor patio sets, grill, AC unit, wool rugs, clothing, dryer. Saturday, August 15, 8a.m. sharp. Rain or shine. 17 N. Debonaire Ct. AEHPOS2.0.
ESTATE SALE. Furniture, knickknacks, makeup, miscellaneous home goods, sewing, newer Apple computers, tractor. 224 Rainbow Drive off Hwy. 160. Thursday, 1p.m. to close. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 9a.m. to close.
MOVING SALE- FRIDAY /SATURDAY, August 14 /15, 9a.m. -1p.m. 77 Golden Pond Place. Furniture indoor /outdoor, housewares, Large houseplants, flowers, collectibles, clothing, HORSE saddles, halters, etc. No early birds.

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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 22 AND 29. 54 Simmons Place. 8a.m. -3p.m.

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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.

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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 ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT. Kitchen /living room combo. Washer /dryer. Close to Riverwalk. \$1,200 including utilities. (970)398-9136, builder7@fastmail.com.

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 OR UNFURNISHED 3 bedroom, 3 bath home across from Lake Pagosa. \$2650 /month. Available now. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com.

LOCATED IN DESIRABLE PAGOSA LAKES subdivision, 3 bedroom, 1 bath in fourplex, 5 minute walk to lake, spacious 1200 sq. ft. newly updated with vinyl plank flooring and freshly painted throughout. Washer and dryer included. No pets allowed. \$1525. For more details call Lee, (970)946-3856, or John, (303)881-1407.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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

NEWER 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2 car garage house fully furnished. Located in the Pagosa Lakes area on quiet street, convenient to services. All utilities paid except TV and Internet. \$2,800 per month. Call (970)903-9896 for Candace.

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 2.5 bath condo on Lake Pagosa. One year lease required. Available around October 1st. \$1800 /month. Currently occupied. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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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.

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2 BR CABIN the in woods on 1.2 acres, updated kitchen, stainless steel appliances, new septic and cistern. \$259,900. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

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