

Commissioners approve asking voters to increase lodging tax rate

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Aug. 18, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved Resolution 2026-63, approving and authorizing a ballot question for the Nov. 3 general election for the purpose of proposing its increasing existing lodging tax by 4 percent.

According to the resolution, in the Nov. 1987 election, voters approved a 2 percent lodging tax rate, which has not been increased since its original approval.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez presented the resolution, explaining that the ballot measure will ask county voters to approve the 4 percent increase in lodging tax rate to a total rate of 6 percent.

The agenda explains that the 6 percent lodging tax rate would be applied “on the rental fee, price, or other consideration paid or charged for the leasing, rental, sale, or furnishing of a room or accommodation for a short-term period of less than thirty (30) consecutive days, with the additional revenues to be used for public infrastructure maintenance and improvements

■ See Lodging A6

Commissioners discuss alternative option for new administration building

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

A new option for Archuleta County’s permanent administration building was discussed during a work session held by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Toward the end of the work session, under items of mutual interest, Commissioner John Ranson brought up that the county has been talking for months about potential options in finding a permanent home for its future administration building.

“And so far we haven’t reached the

point where we’re moving ahead,” he said, explaining that one of the locations that has been considered would be a remodel.

Ranson then explained that the new option for the county is to purchase the office space located at 100 Country Center Drive, where the local business Camino Real Imports currently operates.

Ranson noted that the county would also be able to purchase three additional adjacent office spaces.

In March 2025, the county approved a \$2.5 million purchase agreement to buy a 5.5 acre parcel located

■ See Administration A12



Photo courtesy Steve Brownlee

It’s not uncommon to encounter local wildlife on the golf course, but last week’s visitor — a moose — is a little more rare. This moose was seen crossing the fifth fairway of the Pinon course about 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 14. It was also spotted elsewhere in the community. Colorado is home to more than 3,000 moose and Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds that, “like all wildlife, moose need their space. These animals move more quickly than most would think - up to 35 miles per hour - and must be given command and respect when observed in the wild.”

Guilty plea entered in 2025 fatal crash

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Aug. 13, Justin Levi McCelvey, 39, of New Braunfels, Texas, entered a guilty plea related to his involvement in a fatal 2025 crash that occurred south of Pagosa Springs.

The two-vehicle crash took place near milepost 18 on U.S. 84 on Feb. 15, 2025, and killed two — a 7-year-old and an adult — and left another adult with serious injuries.

Judge Justin Fay accepted the entry of plea on Aug. 13, with sentencing set for 9 a.m. on Oct. 1.

As part of the plea, McCelvey pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide, a class three felony, and vehicular assault, a class four felony.

The plea stipulates to a total of 12 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections, with 12 years for vehicular homicide set to be run concurrent to a sentence of six years for vehicular assault.

During the plea hearing, Fay outlined that vehicular homicide comes with a range of four to 12 years, while vehicular assault comes with a range of two to six years.

The plea agreement also states, “Defendant shall pay costs, fees, and restitution, if any, arising out of all counts alleged in the complaint and information, as amended, including any dismissed counts.”

McCelvey was also facing first-degree murder and alcohol-related charges.

The plea stipulates to a factual basis

■ See Fatal A14

Drought drives record bear activity, CPW urges Coloradans to secure food sources

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is urging Coloradans to be especially vigilant about securing trash and other food sources as drought conditions limit natural foods for black bears and drive a record number of bear reports across the state.

From Jan. 1 through Aug. 13, CPW received 6,129 reports of bear sightings and conflicts, compared with 3,115 during the same period in 2025. This year is on pace to have the highest number of bear reports since CPW implemented its statewide digital reporting system in 2019.

The increase comes as bears enter one of the most critical periods of their annual biological cycle. In late summer and fall, black bears enter hyperphagia, a natural phase when they can spend up to 20 hours a day searching for food as they build the fat reserves needed to survive the winter. That search is especially challeng-

ing this year. Low mountain snowpack, wildfires and drought have reduced the availability of natural foods such as berries, fruits, nuts, plants and grasses in parts of Colorado.

A lack of natural food can have consequences beyond an individual bear being hungry.

Adequate nutrition and fat reserves are important to reproduction and cub survival. Female black bears use delayed implantation — fertilized egg floats for months before attaching to the uterine wall so fetal growth occurs during winter hibernation — and reproductive success can be affected when a sow enters the den without sufficient body conditions. Poor nutrition can also affect a mother’s ability to support and nurse cubs, potentially reducing cub survival.

As natural foods become harder to find, bears may travel farther and take greater risks to eat the calories they need. That can bring them into

■ See Bear A14



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Archuleta School District middle schoolers presented “The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition” over four performances last week, singing and dancing while telling a tale of avoiding disaster.

Commissioner’s request to cover attorney fees removed

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During the most recent Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners’ (BoCC) meeting held on Tuesday, Aug. 18, the agenda item in regard to Commissioner Veronica Medina’s request for the county to

cover attorneys fees incurred in connection with a complaint filed with Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) Division of Real Estate was removed from consideration.

According to the meeting’s agenda, “This agenda item is to consider the request of Commissioner Veronica Medina for the payment of legal

fees incurred to respond to a complaint filed with the [DORA] Division of Real Estate Commission relating to actions taken by the Commissioner in the course and scope of her duties as a County Commissioner.”

The agenda also states, “The complaint has been dismissed by the Division of Real Estate which found

no real estate license law violation.”

For more information on the complaint and the Division of Real Estate Commission’s consideration and decision on the matter, see the article “Real estate commission dismisses complaint against county commissioner” published in the June 11 issue

■ See Fees A6

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PagosaSUN.com

Opinion



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8/13	85	50	0.02	NA	NA	NA
8/14	78	53	0.00	NA	NA	NA
8/15	80	53	0.00	NA	NA	NA
8/16	81	52	0.01	NA	NA	NA
8/17	83	44	0.00	NA	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

Keep wildlife wild

Living in the mountains is pretty spectacular.

The views of the mountains and the opportunities for outdoor recreation never get old, and we love that we're held up on our commute by elk crossing or standing in the road about as often as (if not more than) traffic.

We don't always appreciate it when elk bugling wakes us in the wee hours of the morning, but, at the same time, we recognize it's pretty special.

We like that we have to take the wildlife into account when thinking about what we plant because we know the area deer and other critters love a good salad bar.

We love that every so often we get a special treat when a moose makes its way to town.

The number of species we see and hear on a daily basis is likely more than some areas experience over a long period of time.

But, living in the mountains also comes with challenges we must rise to meet, like ensuring we're doing our part to learn about living with and keeping our wild neighbors — and ourselves — safe.

Take our moose friend that made its way to town over the last week, for example. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) ex-

plains on its website, "Moose have very few natural enemies in the wild and, as a result, do not fear humans as much as most other species. Moose tolerate humans longer and at closer distances. They are extremely curious and often will approach humans or houses. For these reasons, it is extremely important to understand moose behavior when living in or visiting the areas they inhabit.

"While moose encounters with people are quite common, moose cause few problems. However, moose can and will 'tree' people who have approached them too closely, kill or injure pets or livestock, and chase people or dogs away from territories they are defending. Caution and common sense go a long way in preventing problems with moose."

It also notes that dangerous conflicts between people and moose are increasing.

Also increasing are reports of conflicts with bears — wild neighbors we obviously deal with on a more regular basis, especially this time of year, when they're looking for an easy meal.

It doesn't take long for hungry bears to associate residential areas with food, but it can take a long time to overcome that.

In our own neighborhood, previous

residents seemingly followed the list of things we shouldn't do like a checklist, leaving pet food outside, leaving trash out unsecured and more, and it took years of diligence to not see bears on our street every week when trash day rolled around.

Others haven't been so lucky. Over the years, we've covered several instances of bears entering homes, getting on roofs seeking to enter chicken enclosures and more.

We're sure we can't avoid every single bear conflict, but we need to be aware and work to live alongside them without attracting them. These magnificent creatures don't deserve to pay the price for our lack of care and diligence — and you probably don't want to pay the increased consequences that now come with attracting bears.

We encourage everyone, whether they've seen a wild bear or not, to read this week's article "Drought drives record bear activity as CPW urges Coloradans to secure food sources" and put applicable tips into practice if we haven't already.

It is imperative that we each do our part to stay safe and help bears — and all of our wildlife — stay wild.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 20, 1926

Mrs. Susie Ford, one of the successful grade teachers in Pagosa Springs last year and previously, and who has been attending the summer session at the Fort Lewis school, will teach in the Ignacio school the coming term, being assigned the 5th and 6th grades. The Fort Lewis school closes today, after which Mrs. Ford and daughter, Miss Virginia, will visit in Pagosa before taking up their residence in Ignacio for the winter.

All Hoosiers and friends are requested to meet at the F.A. Byrne ranch for the Hoosier picnic on Saturday, August 29th. Come with full baskets and have a good time. Also, all are requested to bring their own plate, cup, knife, fork and spoon.

Edgar L. Hewitt and his party of twenty-four from the School of American Research at Santa Fe, N.M., registered at the Rest Room on Wednesday, being en route to Mesa Verde park. In the party was a Judy from Oxford, England, and "Chainina," the great Indian singer. She has been singing at the Fiesta at Santa Fe, and has sung all over the United States and part of Europe. The members of the party said they certainly appreciated a clean Rest Room.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 17, 1951

The Woman's Civic Club was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Clee Woods at their Double Quill ranch on the San Juan River on August 9. Mrs. Virginia La Varta was assistant hostess. Members and guests of the Club brought box lunches which were numbered and placed in a large basket. At lunch time those present each drew a number and ate the lunch corresponding to the number drawn. The hostess served coffee, punch, mints and potato chips in addition to the lunches. The entire meeting was held at Woods' outdoor picnic grounds.

Following the business meeting Mr. Woods entertained the Club with an intensely interesting talk on the making of a movie. His emphasis was placed on the movie, "The Battle of Apache Pass," which was recently filmed at Moab, Utah. Mr. Woods acted as technical advisor on the Indian customs, costumes, and dances used in this movie. He also worked with the cavalry used in this picture.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 19, 1976

Arthur Ashe, who was rated as the top tennis player in the world last year, spent several days vacationing at Pagosa last week. Mr. Ashe visited here about a year and a half ago and was so impressed by Pagosa that he returned for a vacation. He said that he may purchase a condominium at Pagosa as a vacation home. The tennis player did not use the tennis courts while here, but spent his time fishing, hiking, and relaxing. His ability on the tennis courts has drawn international acclaim and he is on the advisory board for the Pagosa Racquet Club.

40 area residents packed the meeting room last Wednesday evening to discuss the Piedra Wild and Scenic River study now in progress. The group included ranches, farmers, business people, timber industry employees, retired residents, and others. Great concern was expressed about the effect of "Wild and Scenic River" designation on the area economy, particularly timbering and the ranching operations along the river.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 16, 2001

What constitutes shoddy appearance of a home?

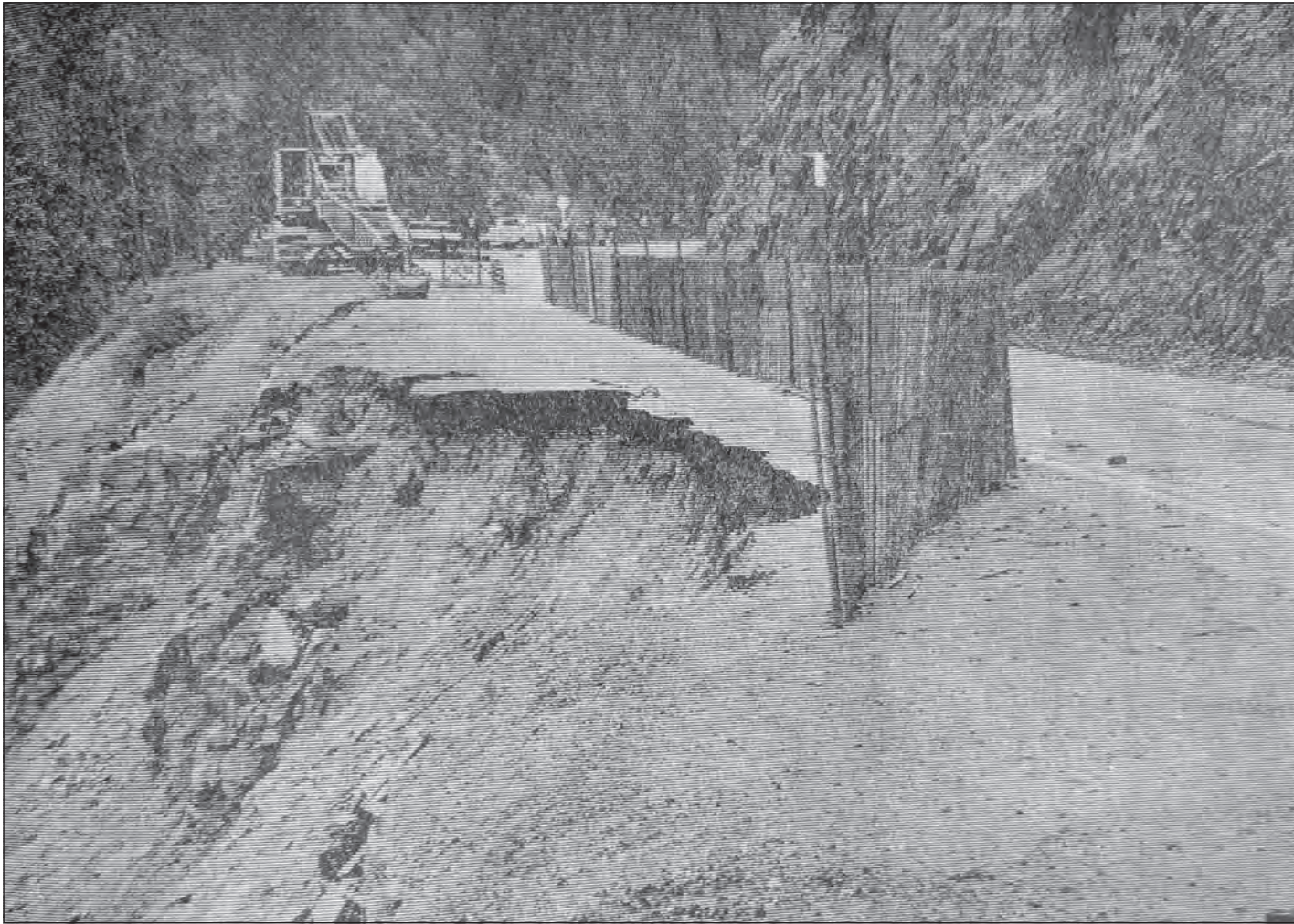
When can a property owners' organization demand correction of such appearance to meet community standards?

Those were some of the questions asked Thursday when Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association directors weighed a report from Walt Lukasik general manager, that there is little leeway in current codes to confront the problems.

"Our declarations," he told the board, "require a two-thirds vote by the board to demand maintenance on homes that appear below standard. But there is nothing in the codes which specifies what 'standard' is.

"We are getting a goodly number of properties which are visible neighborhood eyesores," he said, and asked the board for direction on how such blights can be corrected.

"I would like board members to tour the area with staff," he said, to see some of the homes we've had complaints about. The declarations have "board only" enforcement language, but I don't think we should have to call every board member about every structure in poor repair."



From the Sept. 11, 1969, Pagosa SUN — REPAIRS — This section of the Wolf Creek Pass highway just above Treasure Falls is now under repair. The entire area is to be replaced with a bin crib type support. It will be constructed large enough so that a planned three-lane highway through that section will have sufficient road bed.

Archuleta County Commissioners		
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Letters

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

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

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

County roads

Dear Editor:

I read the report in The Sun about Mike Torres’ presentation to the County Commissioners’ worksession regarding the history of maintaining the roads in the county, including the roads in Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association. He spent a lot of time investigating the history of those subdivisions and how Archuleta County ended up with the maintenance of them. It is up to the citizens of this county to decide how to fix the roads. Abandoning maintenance and improvement is not an option. That would result in degradation of property values and consequently loss of government revenue.

I should state that it is obvious that this will cost county residents money. The question is how much and which government entity will be responsible for it.

The logical solution, and therefore unlikely, is for the Town of Pagosa Springs to annex all developments contiguous with its present boundaries. The majority of the town’s funding comes from county residents who do not live in the town, but because of the gerrymandered boundary of the town, the rest of us are paying for town infrastructure and general fund. Out of a county population of 14,000, only 1700 people live in the town. In the 2026 town budget it was estimated that 78.5% of the General Fund would come from sales taxes, and 69.6% of the Capital Improvement Fund would come from sales taxes. The boundary of the town is arbitrary; created only to maximize income and reduce responsibility of paving roads, which the town is required to do by the EPA. (Evidently, citizens in the county are exempt from the damage of breathing particulates.)

Another non-starter would be to create a unified City and County of Archuleta, like Denver and Broomfield have done. This is a long process and would meet objections from entrenched interests in the town and county.

The third and most feasible solution is to create a Special District for road improvements and maintenance encompassing all of the developed area in and around the Town. This should include all present metro districts except gated communities and those separated from the town by undeveloped land. Indeed, in the statue for Special Districts, the general assembly has stated that “this article is to facilitate the elimination of the overlapping of services provided by local governments and the double taxation which may occur because of annexation or otherwise when all or part of the taxable property of an area lies within the boundaries of both a municipality and a special district.”

The county has the expertise to improve and maintain the roads. The problem is money. Given enough resources, the county could do it more efficiently and with less cost than individual subdivisions which would have to hire private contractors. We, as citizens, need more information on how much this will cost. Then we need to decide how many roads to pave or which roads to upgrade and whether to pay with property taxes, sales taxes, or both.

Lynn Frederick

Proposed subdivision

Dear Editor:

Another proposed subdivision along the US 160 corridor, Ponderosa Mountain, is moving through the Town of Pagosa Springs approval process. This is the third large-scale subdivision proposed in the last four years, joining Pagosa Views and Pagosa West, all of which have generated significant community concern.

The question is whether the Town has the infrastructure to support these developments. Recently, the Town approved a six-month moratorium on data centers while officials evaluate their impacts on the community. Although the stated concerns differ, many of the underlying issues are similar. Across the country, communities have raised concerns about development placing additional demands on utilities, water supplies, transportation systems, and public services.

If those concerns justify a pause on data center development, why should they not also justify a pause on large-scale subdivision development?

Residents have voiced concerns about increasing traffic on an already overburdened highway, limited water resources, aging sewer infrastructure, and strains on basic services (e.g., grocery shelf inventory, post office waits). Can Pagosa Springs, with its current infrastructure and resources, really support this subdivision in addition to the other proposed developments?

I understand the need for workforce housing. My long, professional career required living in and around resort communities throughout the West. Affordable workforce housing would have been a welcome and valuable option. The Town’s recent purchase of Village Pointe Condominiums for 64 workforce housing units is a good example of a practical solution. The site already has water, electric service, roads, and sewer connections in place, allowing housing opportunities without creating significant new infrastructure demands.

The Town’s 2018 Comprehensive Plan was intended to guide development decisions such as these. However, comprehensive plans should be revisited regularly to ensure they still reflect community conditions and priorities. Since 2018, Pagosa Springs has experienced major changes, including COVID, growth in short-term rentals, wildfires, and ongoing drought concerns. I posit that these conditions have changed the community’s priorities and should trigger an update of the Comprehensive Plan.

I believe the Town owes it to both town and county residents to place a temporary moratorium on large subdivision development while it updates the Comprehensive Plan. Otherwise, decisions affecting Pagosa’s future will continue to be based on planning assumptions developed nearly a decade ago under very different circumstances.

Whether you agree or disagree, please consider attending the public hearing on August 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and making your opinion heard.

Karin Freeman

Editor’s note: After The SUN received this letter, the Town of Pagosa Springs confirmed the public hearing referenced above has been moved to Sept. 8 at the request of the applicant.

Socialism

Dear Editor:

In 2025, Donald Trump insisted that Intel Corp. issue stock to the United States in exchange for government grants to promote domestic manufacturing of computer chips. The United States government is now one of Intel’s largest shareholders.

Significant government ownership of industry is a hallmark of socialism. That’s right. Donald Trump is a socialist. (And earlier this week, he praised the leader of communist North Korea as he criticized another long-standing U.S. ally, South Korea.)

A true capitalist would reject gov-

ernment grants to private business altogether. No funding for Intel or SpaceX and no bailouts for big banks or bankruptcy rescues for the owners of failed casinos and real estate projects.

The recent “socialist” name-calling is a ruse to distract Americans from government support at the other end of the economic spectrum. When the government cuts Medicaid (which, in turn, threatens rural hospitals), farm programs, and food benefits, that’s good because social welfare programs are “SOCIALISM” – God forbid!

Don’t be fooled or distracted by labels. Next time some shouts “socialist,” ask them how they stand (and how they voted) on programs that benefit big corporations and wealthy political donors, on one hand, and on the other, programs like SNAP (food benefit), Medicaid, and Federal Emergency Management, funding for national parks, and tariffs that are crushing small farmers.

Candace Jones

Enshrining rights

Dear Editor:

My right to ski in Colorado ought to be enshrined in our state Constitution.

As a native with ancestors born and raised in the Centennial state, skiing is my family tradition, my heritage, and thus it is my God-given right to shred the slopes.

Of course, I’m joking. Skiing is in my blood, but never would I ever attempt to force my choice of outdoor sport into the mother of all laws, the state Constitution.

Unfortunately, a horde of predator-hunting-and-fur-trapping-obsessed folks are pushing for a potential ballot measure that would entitle them a “right” to hunt or trap in Colorado. Do they even know that hunting, trapping and of course fishing are already legal recreational sports in Colorado?

The millions of dollars they will undoubtedly raise should just go to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for current needs.

What a waste of time for everybody. Although ... it could set a really nice precedent for my right to pickleball.

Julie Marshall
Lafayette, Colo.

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Aug. 24-30

Work activity

- The 7th Street intersection closure will continue through mid-September as crews work to complete utility and safety upgrades. Please note that pedestrians and vehicles should utilize 5th and Lewis and 8th Streets as alternatives to cross U.S. 160.

- 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 3rd Street intersection: Crews have completed concrete paving work, and will reopen North 3rd Street as they prepare for asphalt paving operations to connect the new pour with the older sections of 3rd Street. Asphalt paving work will take place the week of Aug. 31.
- Work is scheduled to com-

mence at the Harman Park and Piedra Road intersection at U.S. 160 in mid-September. Please allow extra time to get through the work zone.

- Pedestrian safety: 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/us-160pagosasprings.
- Subscribe to project updates: subscription.cotrip.org.



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Crews continue exploratory work on the north side of the 7th Street intersection, identifying areas for storm-water utility upgrades.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



Meet the artists Preview the art at The Springs Resort, Thursday, Aug. 20 6pm

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less

- include the actual first and last name of the author

- include the author's address and daytime phone number

- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



Gene Doyle Johnson

Gene Doyle Johnson was born Dec. 17, 1931, in Farmersville, Texas. Sadly, Gene passed away Aug. 13, 2026.

Gene was the youngest of three children born to Jess T. and Cora Lee Johnson. He is survived by his wife, Claudia (Gather-coal); his children, Michael (Carla), Tracy (Richard), Curtis (Julie) and Dereck (Nicole); eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; four nieces; and his brother, Wayne.

Gene was an avid golfer, fisherman, and successful business owner in Durango, operating the Galloping Goose Gift Store for 25 years. He was a faithful member of the Church of the Latter-day Saints.

Gene will be laid to rest in Bay-



field, Colo., on Saturday, Aug. 29, at 11 a.m.

Edna Marie Hill Magnuson

Edna Marie Hill Magnuson, of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away peacefully on July 30, 2026, at the age of 103 and 7 months at Beehive Care Center in Pagosa Springs.

Edna was born at home on Dec. 28, 1922, near the small town of Allendale, Mo. She graduated from Grant City High School (Missouri) and the school of hard knocks. Surviving the hard times of the 1920s in the back country of Missouri, she grew up determined to make a good life for herself and family regardless of the challenges.

Married to John L. Magnuson in 1970, Edna and Johnny lived in Villisca, Iowa, and enjoyed their snow



bird travel adventures. After John's passing in 1993, Edna moved to Mesa, Ariz., full-time and continued to live an active life.

Edna was the final direct descendant of the Reas and Grace (Savacool) Hill family. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Ben Hill, LaCasta Hill Lindsay, Dorothea Hill Norris, Pat Hill, Don Hill, Bill Hill, Beulah Hill Hutchinson and Althea Hill Spillman.

She is survived by her children: Patsy Woodyard Ward (David Malcolm), Larry Woodyard (Janice, deceased), David Woodyard, and Elata Woodyard Van Horn (Stephen), Max Magnuson (Marge) and Janice Magnuson Freeze (deceased).

Edna had many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and shirt-tail relatives.

Edna was very talented in her diverse passions: artistry, gardening, handwork, playing pool, dancing and socializing with all her wonderful friends

Always creating, Edna will be remembered for her unwavering love for family, flowers, birds and making

beautiful things.

Her peaceful passing fully revealed her blooming love for the Lord.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in her honor to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Funeral Mass will be held at John Paul II Catholic Church in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, at 10 a.m.

A funeral service will be held at Wolfe-Billings Funeral Chapel, 201 E. 4th St., Villisca, Iowa, on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Burial will follow at Villisca Cemetery.

All family and friends are welcome.

Services

Isae Matlock

Isae Matlock's celebration of life service will be Aug. 29 at 2 p.m. at Pagosa Bible Church. You can watch on the church's website: pagosabilechurch.org.



■ Continued from A3

Proposed subdivision

Dear Editor:

No More Big Developments please!

September 8 there is yet another town of Pagosa Springs Planning

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County announces fall meeting schedule

By Sandy Artzberger

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County

The League of Women Voters of Archuleta County will not meet in August.

However, the fall 2026 meetings will occur Sept. 29, Oct. 26 and Nov. 17.

Future topics include the Forest

Commission meeting for the public being held on Hot Springs Blvd @5:30 p.m., plz show up or you can watch it and talk if you'd like to by Zoom also. Very easy, I did Zoom for Pagosa West huge housing Development being considered just past Walmart... This will be also, just up from the library on Puthill before Old Ace Hardware / Plumming Store

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.

This is a nonpartisan group open to both women and men. Please mark your calendars; we hope you will join us.

....26 yr residence at where I call "Heaven here on Earth.." Enough is Enough of big developments forever with these current water concerns and roads that we would need to evacuate from if ever a big fire happened.. trying to get on to Hwy 160 West or East could be a real challenge if at all possible... Valid Concern To me!

I'd like to voice one last thing.. I say no, I believe we are built to our capacity for many reasons I truly believe our small town living

will not be a small country town for Us or Visitors to safely enjoy if any Big Developments are approved. not just housing but also for the Data Center I understand that's being considered...

No More Please! Thank you!

.... Enough is Enough... We like our Heaven here on Earth!

Thank you,

Robin Nay

Editor's note: Both the town and county have implemented moratoriums on data centers.



Obituaries

Obituaries up to 500 words are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

e-mail: editor@pagosasun.com

Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Come see me at my Open House 41 Pueblo Ct.



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

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We are offering the Alpha Course on Sunday evenings starting September 13 from 6-7:30pm.

This is a nine week course that creates space where people can discuss life's biggest questions. The evening includes dessert, video teaching and conversation.

Some questions that will be discussed include:
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How does God guide us?

To register for this free course, go to pagosabilechurch.org



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Tri-County Head Start

Pagosa Springs Head Start: Now Enrolling, Now Hiring!



Big things are happening at our Pagosa Springs center! Pagosa Springs Head Start is now enrolling children ages 3 to 5 for free, high-quality preschool program. We are now offering part-week options - 2 or 3 school days a week and other flexible options.

If your family is looking for a safe, supportive, and enriching preschool experience, we'd love to connect with you!

Want to enroll your child? Drop in at 475 South 8th Street from Monday- Thursday, 8 AM-3 PM, or call 970-460-4376 or 970-828-5906, or visit www.tchs4c.org to get started.





Business

PAWSD board hears citizen concerns about Pagosa West

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard concerns from area resident Randall Davis about the proposed Pagosa West subdivision and its impact on local water supplies at its Aug. 13 meeting.

Prior to appearing at the meeting, Davis submitted an email outlining his concerns to the board.

In this email, he explains that the Colorado River Basin is experiencing historic drought conditions, which are also being felt locally.

"After investigating the Town of Pagosa Springs and PAWS's role in regards to the 100 acre development proposal east of the hospital it seems to me that you all are limiting your concerns to the developers following established codes and design requirements," he states. "I feel that it is critical to consider broader consequences of major development proposals as well."

He comments that he would like assurance from PAWSD that it is anticipating the possibility of having to deal with significant water restrictions on the San Juan River.

"I would hope you can consider downgrading the scope and impact of this development based on the ongoing needs and requirements of those who are already here," he states. "Developers know what to present to entice local decision makers into thinking their money-making ideas are what we really need."

At the meeting, Davis opened by expressing his concerns about conditions on the Colorado River system and that water shortages on the river would eventually impact the Pagosa area.

"I think it's dangerous to assume that there's always going to be plenty of water here because we're up close to the mountains of the San Juan," he said.

He reiterated the concerns that PAWSD and the Town of Pagosa Springs are only assessing the development from the perspective of their infrastructure requirements and not considering the impact of these developments on available water.

He added that the developers of Pagosa West are not local to the area and will likely leave as soon as they make a profit with the development.

"I would just rest a little more assured if you guys were keeping track of that and being able to, at some point, just realize that we're getting to the end of just relatively unchecked development in terms of not just land usage, but water availability and needs," Davis said.

He added that other governmental entities in the community are struggling with having enough revenue to sustain their operations.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges replied to Davis, explaining

that, because Pagosa West is located within PAWSD boundaries, it is owed one equivalent unit (EU) of water service.

However, he stated any request for more water than this, such as the 50 to 100 EUs that Pagosa West might seek, triggers a water modeling assessment which uses software to assess whether enough water is available with the district's existing water rights and plants for the new project if all the lots in district are being served.

This assessment also helps determine if the current infrastructure can provide the necessary flows to the development for needs like fire suppression, he indicated.

Tautges stated that, if the water model shows that the development would overtax PAWSD's water supply, the district might require that the developer obtain additional water rights for PAWSD's use before allowing it to enter the district.

He added that this would also apply to any infrastructure shortcomings identified by the model, which would have to be addressed at the developer's expense.

"Our goal has always, always been growth has to pay its way," Tautges said. "I feel personally that we're pretty conservative and take the obligation we have to all our customers, which includes all of us in this room, ... we have a promise and an obligation to, and I think we're pretty serious about protecting that."

He commented that Pagosa West would not be the last development added to the district, with changes like Aspen Springs being added to the district possibly occurring in the future.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson noted that there are "fabulous" water rights available in the community, such as rights associated with local ranches, that could be purchased by a developer to provide more water to PAWSD.

"So long as it keeps snowing in the high country," Davis said.

"Well, there's still water, right?" Hudson replied.

"Well, yeah, but the water rights don't do you much good if there's not water available," Davis countered.

"Well, if that happens, we're all in big [expletive]," Hudson said.

PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey clarified that PAWSD's water modeling does not consider water supply and only considers impacts on the district from its water plants to the development.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that controversy over the project is unfolding at several different venues, including the Town of Pagosa Springs' and Archuleta County's planning review processes.

"They came forward to us because they were getting preliminary approval because it was a very dramatically big plan," he said. "It's not our responsibility once the county and

the town and the planning boards approve a project to decide we don't personally like this project. I mean, boards can do that, and I don't think it's transparent and I don't think that's honest for a utility board to put their own preferences in and pick and choose amongst projects. That's for the community to do through the commissioners and the Town of Pagosa Springs."

He added that, to ensure the project is "responsible development," PAWSD generated a preliminary figure of the costs of the development that would be imposed by PAWSD and provided it to the developers.

"And we've not really heard from them since," he said.

Walsh commented that PAWSD does not provide tax rebates or other incentives to promote growth and that he believed much of Davis' argument needed to be made to the Town of Pagosa Springs or Archuleta County.

Davis replied that he started with the town and the town told him to discuss the issue with PAWSD.

Walsh explained that, over a 20-year build-out process, the number of EUs added by the development each year would be relatively low compared to the total number of EUs added by other construction in the community.

"How do we pick and choose and say, 'Well, the 120 lots that are developed here are good growth, but the eight units over here are the growth we prefer not to have even though it might have affordable housing, workforce housing, might have dense apartments that make efficient use of that water than say 120 single-family homes on a half acre,'" Walsh said.

Davis commented that he understood Walsh's point and had been struggling with finding a solution on how to manage growth.

"We just have to keep a mindful eye on what our resources are," Tautges said.

Walsh commented that PAWSD is potentially the "most dangerous board in the community" due to the potential that it could approve large projects like reservoirs and fund them by raising rates or sabotage growth with the approval of only three board members.

He added that boards like the Pagosa Springs Town Council or the Archuleta County commissioners are likely better venues for such discussions and decisions to occur.

Walsh also stated that water is potentially not the largest issue with growth since PAWSD is currently selling the same amount of water as in 1999 despite 30 percent growth due to increases in water use efficiency.

Davis commented that he was thinking that growth should be managed by a broader cooperation between various entities in the area.

Walsh added that PAWSD recently dramatically increased capital invest-

ment fees, which are paid by customers entering the district, to help support regularly required upgrades to its treatment plants.

He commented that this led to some people thinking that PAWSD is trying to prevent growth, but that

■ See Concerns A6

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Jeremiah Steed, MD

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Mark your calendars: 40th annual ColorFest set for Sept. 18-20

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Mark your calendars for Sept. 18-20: ColorFest is bringing a full week-end of fall color, community spirit, and high-flying fun to Yamaguchi Park and beyond.

Hosted by the Chamber, ColorFest is one of those special hometown traditions that gives everyone a reason to get outside, reconnect with friends, welcome visitors and celebrate the spectacular season that

makes Pagosa shine. With mountain views, crisp autumn air and golden aspens beginning to glow, it is the perfect setting for a weekend packed with fun.

From longtime locals to first-time visitors, ColorFest offers something to enjoy for every age. It is a chance to slow down, soak in the beauty of our community, support local businesses and make memories.

Things will kick off Sept. 18 with the Passport to Pagosa from 6 to 9 p.m. It will be an evening of exploring local businesses, delicious bites and

voting for your favorite restaurant in the People's Choice Contest.

Then come back Sept. 19 for Bands, Brews and Barrels from 4 to 8 p.m. Featuring live music, beer and spirits, and the chance to cast your vote in the People's Choice Brewer and Distiller Contest.

The highlight of the weekend is the hot air balloon launches on Sept. 19 and 20. The balloons will launch around 8 a.m. from downtown south of The Springs Resort on Sept. 19, and on Sept. 20 around 8 a.m. uptown across from Les Schwab. Balloon

launches are weather permitting.

And, for the first time, we will have the state drone show visiting ColorFest the evening of Sept. 19 after the balloon glow.

To buy tickets, you can go online at pagosachamber.com or call us at (970) 264-2360 and we will be happy to get you however many tickets you want for Passport that Friday or Bands, Brews and Barrels that Saturday.

Save the date, invite your friends and family, and get ready to celebrate the 40th Annual ColorFest.

Colorado minimum wage will increase to \$15.71 per hour in 2027

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)'s Division of Labor Standards and Statistics (DLSS) announced recently that Colorado's minimum wage will in-

crease to \$15.71 per hour in 2027, and \$12.69 for tipped workers.

The new wage of \$15.71 per hour is a 3.6 percent increase from the current minimum wage of \$15.16 and a 41.5 percent increase from the 2019 minimum wage of \$11.10.

Per the state's constitution, Colo-

rado's minimum wage is adjusted for inflation every year using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Colorado uses the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to measure inflation. The CPI-U tracks inflation based on the spending habits of almost all

urban consumers and is based on a sample that represents more than 90 percent of the U.S. population.

State and local minimum wages with tip credits are published at cdle.colorado.gov/dlss. The DLSS will update its website as localities with higher minimum wages announce 2027 rates.

Multiple equipment failures hinder operations at Trails fill station

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) water filling station on Trails Boulevard is currently experiencing operational issues due to repeated failures of the keypad system used to dispense water.

PAWSD IT, GIS, Asset and Meter Manager Kyle Tjelmeland explained in an interview that the district replaced the keypad at the fill station two to three weeks ago.

The previous keypad had been at the fill station for five or six years but was experiencing issues with the keys being sticky and numbers being difficult to enter, he stated.

These keypads are usually highly durable and are also in use at PAWSD's other two fill stations, Tjelmeland stated, where they are functioning well.

However, three days after the new keypad was installed, the screen connected to it where customers can see the information they are entering went dark. Tjelmeland explained that the keypad still worked, but that customers could not see what they were entering and thus could not easily get water unless they already knew the exact sequence of button presses to make.

Upon detecting this problem, he stated that PAWSD ordered a replacement for the replacement keypad from their vendor, Flowpoint Environmental Systems in Canada.

However, once this keypad arrived late last week, it also experienced the same issue over the weekend, Tjelmeland explained.

PAWSD is now working on ordering another replacement, which is being tested by the supplier for functionality prior to being shipped, he stated.

He added that the vendor recently has been experiencing similar issues with keypad systems delivered to other water utilities, which appear to be due to a manufacturing defect.

Tjelmeland commented that PAWSD hopes that the replacement keypad will arrive at the end of the week and can be replaced then.

PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor explained that the keypad system is sufficiently expensive that PAWSD cannot afford to purchase additional keypads to keep in inventory as backups, especially since the devices are usually reliable and rarely replaced.

He added that the district is also not able to secure the correct system more easily from another, nearer vendor than Canada-based Flowpoint.

"There's not much we can do," he said.

Until the new replacement is in-

stalled, he explained that the fill station is still operating, but the screen is not readable and staff have posted instructions at the station to help customers navigate the system and obtain water without being able to see the screen.

He stated that customers are successfully obtaining water from the station by following these directions, although "it takes a bit more careful paying attention to the keystrokes."

Connor added that PAWSD's other fill stations on Mill Creek Road and at the PAWSD administrative offices at 100 Lyn Ave. are also open and operating.

The list of PAWSD fill stations and their exact locations is available on the PAWSD website at www.pawsd.org/customer-care/fill-stations--hauling-water/.

"We're frustrated with this, too," Tjelmeland said. "We're trying our very best to make this work."

Concerns

■ **Continued from A5**

the raises were split evenly between increased rates for current customers and increasing capital investment fees with the goal of preventing larger increases in rates for customers.

Tautges commented that part of why development is occurring in the community is because it is more economical to do so here than in places like California.

Walsh added that he suggested talking with the county or town because their potential contributions of sales and property taxes to support developments are a key piece of development that is not responsible

or controlled.

"Hold us to this, but I think we're pretty fair," Walsh said.

"I'm glad to hear you say that you're keeping the people in mind when you're making decisions," Davis said, adding that this approach helped him in his time on the Archuleta School District Board of Education.

Tautges stated that Archuleta County is currently updating its comprehensive plan, which includes issues like future water supply, and that he felt that Davis should voice his concerns to the committee drafting this plan.

"I would say all of our efforts should be focused there," Tautges said.

Hudson added that this plan covers all unincorporated areas of the county and that the Town of Pagosa Springs has its own comprehensive plan for its jurisdiction.

He commented that the county is currently soliciting input on the strategic plan through a variety of venues.

Davis asked if the county's plan would incorporate PAWSD's input.

Hudson stated that the plan would include PAWSD's input on water.

Tautges added that it would also incorporate input from others, in-

cluding outdoor recreationalists and agriculture interests.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer commented that he would vote to support Pagosa West if it does not negatively affect existing PAWSD customers.

"But what is that going to take to make it not affect our customers?" he said. "I think it's going to take a lot. And if they're not willing to play ball, I'm not interested in giving them anything for free or even just taking their money without getting the proper upgrades that are necessary."

"Thank you so much," said Davis. josh@pagosasun.com

Lodging

■ **Continued from front**

of county roads, public safety services, and affordable childcare for the local workforce, thereby enhancing the quality of life for County residents, improving the visitor experience, and supporting the long-term economic vitality of Archuleta County."

Gonzalez then explained that after receiving feedback during an Aug. 11 work session held by the BoCC, the recommended title of the ballot

measure presented is "Lodging Tax Increase to Support County Roads, Public Safety, and Childcare."

The recommended ballot language indicates that the increase will generate an additional \$1,080,000 annually beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

The recommended ballot language presented by Gonzalez also states that 80 percent of the funds generated by the 4 percent increase would be dedicated to county road maintenance and improvements, 10 percent of those

funds would be dedicated to public safety and emergency dispatch, and the remaining 10 percent would be dedicated to child care for the local workforce.

Gonzalez also pointed out that the recommended ballot language includes language about the Town of Pagosa Springs having its own lodging tax rate, and that the county's 6 percent rate would not be applied to lodging establishments located within the town's boundaries.

"This is all based on the recommended changes as given by the commissioners at our last work session where this was discussed," Gonzalez said.

Prior to voting on the resolution, Commissioner John Ranson commended Gonzalez's work on the matter, noting the multiple public forums organized to receive public input.

The resolution was then unanimously approved by the BoCC. clayton@pagosasun.com

Fees

■ **Continued from front**

of The Pagosa SUN. It is also available online at www.pagosasun.com/stories/real-estate-commission-dismisses-complaint-against-county-commissioner,139935.

During the Aug. 18 BoCC meeting, Medina requested to make an adjustment to the meeting's agenda prior to approving the agenda.

Medina then motioned to remove Item B from the new business portion of the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner John Ranson.

Before voting to approve the amended agenda, Medina offered comments on her reason behind the request and the reasoning for asking the item to be removed from the meeting's agenda.

"I requested this item to be placed on the agenda because ... DORA found no violation and determined that I was acting in my official capacity as a county commissioner," Medina said. "Accordingly, I requested for the invoice to be paid to the attorney."

She went on to explain that the request to cover the attorney fees has brought on more allegations.

"I understand this request has resulted in additional allegations," she said.

Medina also spoke about hardships the community has faced while she's been in office.

"I have been vindicated, and our community has endured significant

hardship due to a Molotov cocktail thrown into a county building, recent flooding, fires, and now the continuing fire at Rio Blanco," she said.

Medina went on to express that the community should be focused on

supporting and uniting each other.

"Our focus should be on healing, supporting one another and remaining united, which is of the utmost importance. For this reason I have requested this item to be removed,"

she said.

The amended agenda was then unanimously approved with no further comments on the matter from the BoCC. clayton@pagosasun.com

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Jayden Carnley
Grand Champion Market Lamb
Professional Piping Systems



Taylor Cole
Grand Champion Market Goat
Riff Raff Brewing Company



Nina Wood
Grand Champion Market Turkey
The Springs Resort and Spa



Amaya Linhardt
Grand Champion Market Chickens
La Plata Electric Association



Stanton Tully
Reserve Champion Market Beef
Vicki & Len Liszewski, Tim & Linda Wightman, JK Leasing



Lily DeClark
Reserve Champion Market Swine
Tim & Linda Wightman, JK Leasing



William Ray
Reserve Champion Market Lamb
Kitzel & Derek Farrah, San Juan Veterinary Hospital Inc.



Lily DeClark
Reserve Champion Market Goat
Les Schwab Tire Center, Inter-Mountain Propane



Adelyn Hittle
Reserve Champion Market Turkey
City Market



Cora Linhardt
Reserve Champion Market Chickens
AG Ventures LLC



Bella Adkisson
1st place Market Beef - Show Class 2
Nu Wave Lending



Duke Ketchum
1st place Market Swine - Show Class 1
Basin Co-op



Aria Taylor
1st place Market Lamb - Show Class 2
Riff Raff Brewing



Corinna Galabota
1st place Market Goat - Show Class 2
Riff Raff Brewing



Cole Tator
1st place Market Hen - Show Class 1
Professional Piping Systems



Maheyla Witting
1st place Chicken - Pen of Three - Pullets - Show Class 1
Inter-Mountain Propane



Ashton Tully
1st place Market Beef - Show Class 4
Bank of Colorado



Jeb Ketchum
1st place Market Swine - Show Class 5
Strohecker Asphalt



Hadley Adkisson
1st place Market Lamb - Show Class 3
Scott Strategic Investments



Elijah Foss
1st place Market Goat - Show Class 3
Les Schwab Tire Center



Abel Wood
1st place Market Hen - Show Class 2
Adkisson Legacy Homes



Brynn Looper
1st place Chicken - Pen of Three - Pullets Show Class 2
Strohecker Asphalt



Dekklyn Fiorenza
2nd place Market Beef - Show Class 2
The Springs Resort and Spa



Adelyn Hittle
2nd place Market Swine - Show Class 1
Bank of Colorado



THANK YOU - 2026



Madisen Stretton
1st place Market Lamb - Show Class 4
Les Schwab Tire Center



Stanton Tully
1st place Market Goat - Show Class 5
*Southwest Ag &
Four Corners Trailers*



Cade Tator
1st place Tom - Show Class 1
Banded Peak Ranch Outfitters



Evie Herbias
2nd place Chicken - Pen Pullets -
Show Class 1
Inter-Mountain Propane



Wayde Sutherland
2nd place Market Beef - Show Class 3
The Springs Resort and Spa



Claire Adkisson
2nd place Market Swine - Show Class 2
*Southwest Ag &
Four Corners Trailers*



Kolten Candelaria
1st place Market Lamb - Show Class 5
La Plata Electric Association



Hannah Stretton
1st place Market Goat - Show Class 7
*Southwest Ag &
Four Corners Trailers*



Nora Forrest
1st place Market Tom - Show Class 2
*Len & Vicki Liszewski,
Tim & Linda Wightman*



Jenavieve Betts
2nd place Chicken - Pen of Three - Pullets -
Show Class 2
Terry & Ronnie Urbanczyk



Carlie Bridges
2nd place Market Beef - Show Class 4
Rosie's Pizzeria



Bella Adkisson
2nd place Market Swine - Show Class 3
551 Cycles



Chase Osborn
1st place Market Lamb - Show Class 8
Inter-Mountain Propane



Ashton Tully
1st place Market Goat - Show Class 8
Anstine



Michael Preuit
1st place Market Tom - Show Class 4
RMC Trucking LLC



Ayla Ibram
2nd place Chicken - Pen of Three -
Cockerels - Show Class 2
Terry & Ronnie Urbanczyk



Jeb Ketchum
3rd place Market Beef - Show Class 3
Bred & Fed Res. Champion
Lenda & Mike Green



Ridge Adkisson
2nd place Market Swine - Show Class 4
Banded Peak Ranch Outfitters



AnnaBeth Ray
2nd place Market Lamb - Show Class 4
Siebenmorgen



Wyatt Osborn
1st place Market Goat - Show Class 9
Terry & Ronnie Urbanczyk



Wyatt Osborn
1st place Market Tom - Show Class 5
Inter-Mountain Propane



Nicoletta Ibram
3rd place Chicken - Pen of Three - Cockerels
- Show Class 1
Elicia & Mike Bates



Duke Ketchum
2nd place Market Beef - Show Class 4
*Echo IT Consulting, Steward Right
Financial Planning*



Benjamin Stretton
2nd place Market Swine - Show Class 5
The Springs Resort and Spa



Emma Carnley
2nd place Market Lamb - Show Class 5
Twisted Aspen Ranch



Haddie Trujillo
2nd place Market Goat - Show Class 2
Valissatie's Accounting



Colle Looper
2nd place Market Hen - Show Class 1
Professional Piping Systems



Katie Baker
3rd place Chicken - Pen of Three - Pullets
- Show Class 2
Base Camp Pagosa



Ethan Carnley
3rd place Market Beef - Show Class 5
Haydon Companies



Madisen Stretton
2nd place Market Swine - Show Class 6
The Springs Resort and Spa



Stetson Osborn
2nd place Market Lamb - Show Class 6
Inter-Mountain Propane



Charlie Haymaker
2nd place Market Goat - Show Class 5
*Southwest Ag &
Four Corners Trailers*



Shepherd Williams
2nd place Market Hen - Show Class 2
Adkisson Legacy Homes



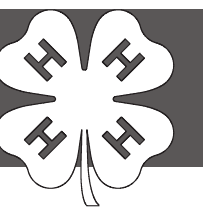
Jayden Carnley
4th place Market Beef - Show Class 2
Strohecker Asphalt



Hannah Stretton
3rd place Market Swine - Show Class 1
The Springs Resort and Spa



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Camryn Mees
3rd place Market Lamb - Show Class 2
The Springs Resort and Spa



Tyler Sottek
2nd place Market Goat - Show Class 6
*Inter-Mountain Propane,
Les Schwab Tire Center*



Benjamin Stretton
2nd place Market Tom - Show Class 2
RMC Trucking LLC



Daltin Hoover
4th place Market Beef - Show Class 3
Porter Mountain Homes



Avery Adkisson
3rd place Market Swine - Show Class 2
Basin Co-op



Livvy Stretton
2nd place Market Lamb - Show Class 3
Foot Prints Shoe Store



Carlie Bridges
2nd place Market Goat - Show Class 4
Jann C Pitcher Real Estate



Chase Osborn
2nd place Market Hen - Show Class 3
Healing Waters Resort & Spa



Colter Carnley
4th place Market Beef - Show Class 5
Claudia Rosenbaum



Bristol Jacobson
3rd place Market Swine - Show Class 3
*Scott Strategic Investments,
Alley House*



Jesse Ray
2nd place Market Lamb - Show Class 3
551 Cycles



Cade Tator
3rd place Market Goat - Show Class 2
Justin & Sandra Stone



Faith Lee
2nd place Market Tom - Show Class 3
Healing Waters Resort & Spa



Ana Romero Gallegos
5th place Market Beef - Class 2
NSCO LLC



Jori Wilson
3rd place Swine - Show Class 4
Patrick Donovan



Garrett Frie
5th place Market Lamb - Show Class 4
Inter-Mountain Propane



Mark Ray
3rd place Market Goat - Show Class 3
Claudia Rosenbaum



Everett Linhardt
2nd place Market Tom - Show Class 4
M&M Construction



William Ray
5th place Market Beef - Show Class 4
The Springs Resort and Spa



Ethan Carnley
3rd place Market Swine - Show Class 5
Basin Co-op



Lyla Frie
3rd place Market Lamb - Show Class 5
Alley House



Abigail Grimes
2nd place Market Goat - Show Class 6
Justin & Sandra Stone



Riley Sanders
6th place Market Tom - Show Class 6
Southwest River Engineering



Emma Carnley
5th place Market Beef - Show Class 5
*Adkisson Legacy Homes, Wilderjoy
LLC, High Country Power Systems*



Jesse Ray
3rd place Market Swine - Show Class 6
The Springs Resort and Spa



Klayton Candelaria
3rd place Market Lamb - Show Class 6
*Cabe's Collision,
Horse Power Ranch*



Trent Tator
7th place Market Goat - Show Class 6
Cole's Meat Processing



Trent Tator
3rd place Market Hen - Show Class 1
Cold Springs Ice Co.



Michael Espinosa
6th place Market Beef - Show Class 3
Flying B Ranch



Riley Sanders
4th place Market Swine - Show Class 2
Willow Brook Ranch



Sydney Plake
3rd place Market Lamb - Show Class 8
TFI, Inc.



Claire Adkisson
3rd place Market Goat - Show Class 7
Root Design



Elsy Wood
3rd place Market Hen - Show Class 2
Bear Tooth Ranch



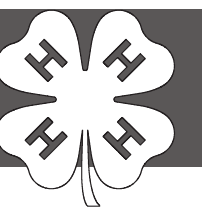
Tristan Espinosa
6th place Market Beef - Show Class 4
Flying B Ranch



Trian Stahr
4th place Market Swine - Show Class 3
Siebenmorgen



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Sophia Ellis
3rd place Market Goat - Show Class 8
Barbara Ellis



Morgan Cole
3rd place Market Hen - Show Class 3
Hair by Taylor Elliott



Colter Carnley
4th place Market Swine - Show Class 5
*Southwest Ag &
Four Corners Trailers*



Ana Romero Gallegos
3rd place Market Goat - Show Class 3
NSCO LLC



Brynn Looper
3rd place Market Tom - Show Class 2
Strohecker Asphalt



Corinna Galabota
5th place Market Swine - Show Class 3
*M&M Construction,
Seibel Farms*



Ayla Ibram
4th place Market Goat - Show Class 1
Banded Peak Ranch Outfitters



Jori Wilson
1st place Market Tom - Show Class 3
Bear Tooth Ranch



Veda Deitemeyer
5th place Market Swine - Show Class 4
Claudia Rosenbaum



Aleyia Delatore
4th place Market Goat - Show Class 2
High Country Power Systems



Noah Lee
3rd place Market Tom - Show Class 3
Banded Peak Ranch Outfitters



Ember Bertram
6th place Market Swine - Show Class 2
JLM Tire



Bianca Rogacki
2nd place Market Goat - Show Class 3
Ravenswood Gardens



Stetson Osborn
3rd place Market Tom - Class 4
*Inter-Mountain Propane,
The Springs Resort and Spa*



Livvy Stretton
6th place Swine - Show Class 4
RMC Trucking LLC



AnnaBeth Ray
4th place Market Goat - Show Class 5
Derek Farrah



Paige Bertram
3rd place Market Tom - Show Class 1
M&M Construction



Nicoletta Ibram
4th place Market Goat - Show Class 7
The Springs Resort and Spa



Merci Williams
4th place Market Hen - Show Class 3
Back Country Outfitters



Emmelia Dutton
4th place Market Goat - Show Class 8
The Springs Resort and Spa



Avery Adkisson
5th place Market Tom - Show Class 1
Adkisson Legacy Homes



4-H Livestock Auction Cake
Tim Brown and Stephanie Hill



Cole Tator
5th place Market Goat - Show Class 3
Cole's Meat Processing



Korban Lee
6th place Market Tom - Show Class 4
*Cole Springs Ice Co.,
Ravenswood Gardens*



Calyra Ellis
6th place Market Goat - Show Class 4
Riff Raff Brewing Company



Cora Linhardt
6th place Market Tom - Show Class 5
Banded Peak Ranch Outfitters



Abigail Foss
6th place Market Goat - Show Class 6
The Springs Resort and Spa



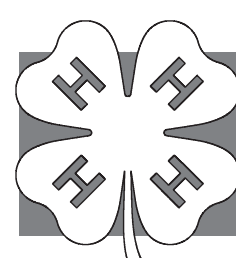
Winter Porter
6th place Market Tom - Show Class 6
M&M Construction

The Auction Cake was kindly donated by
Pagosa Baking Company
The proceeds from the cake auction benefit
the Livestock Program and local youth scholarships.



Thank you Bank of Colorado
for Sponsoring our Buyer's Reception Tent!
With your support, we are able to keep the tradition going!

Thank you Rosie's Pizzeria, Pagosa Liquor
and Riff Raff Brewing Company
for providing the food and beverages.



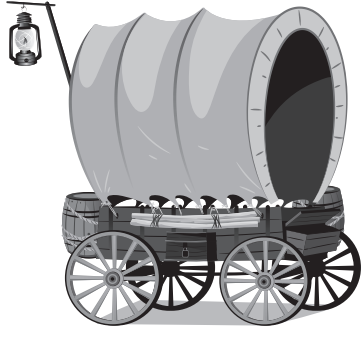
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YOU**

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LIVESTOCK RING STEWARDS <i>Beef — Madisen Stretton, Adelyn Hittle Lamb — Duke Ketchum, Stanton Tully Goat — Colter Carnley, Bella Adkisson Swine — Jenavieve Betts, Daltin Hoover Turkey — Madison DeClark, Mark Ray Chicken — Faith Lee, Stetson Osborn</i>	CSU EXTENSION STAFF <i>Cindi Galabota — Director Becky Jacobson — 4-H Coordinator Terry Schaaf — Administrative Assistant Garett Fond — PSHS FFA Advisor</i>	Horse Show Sponsors <i>Scott Strategic Investments Denise McCabe Diamond Hitch Katie Sharp Elk Trace B&B</i> Dog Show Sponsors <i>Scott Strategic Investments Authentic Solutions Consulting</i>		<i>Thank you to all of the 4-H members and their families who committed hours of their time to hang flyers, promote the dinner, sell tickets, set up, cook, serve and clean up for this traditional fair event. We would like to send out a very special thank you to Matty Warren and family for leading the way! There are numerous volunteers that make the dinner a success. Thank you to each and every one of you! Thank you Lee Riley — I Sell Pagosa for donating the moving truck! Thank you to Durango-Farmington Coca-Cola and Aztec Pepsi for donating our beverages. Thank you to our Chuckwagon Dinner Sponsors, Inter-Mountain Propane and Sysco! Thank you for helping us keep the tradition alive!</i>
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A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THESE PEOPLE WHO GAVE THEIR TIME OR A DONATION TO ENSURE THAT THE SHOW AND AUCTION HAPPENED

Jim Hawkins, Facilities Manager Michael Derr with Just Click Printing for donating time for our new banners Johanna Tully for announcing the Livestock Shows Darren Lewis & Mary Jo Coulehan for announcing the Livestock Auction Kips Grill, The Junction, Cattleman’s Cafe and Root House for providing meals for our Livestock Judges The Springs Resort for donating the lodging Healing Waters for donating the lodging Jim Bramwell for packer bids Western Heritage Committee, Hott Memorial Trust & Archuleta County	Archuleta County Commissioners: Veronica Medina, John Ranson & Warren Brown for their continued support of the Fair and 4-H program Archuleta County Building & Grounds crew for helping us with EVERY little thing Lyndsay Bertram our Livestock Photographer Cole’s Meats for coming out to assist buyers with cut sheets San Juan Veterinary Hospital and Kitzel Ferrah for our livestock health inspections Bank of Colorado for hosting our Buyer’s Reception Archuleta County Fair Royalty for serving the auction cake Brad Sumpter for setting up and maintaining the sound system	Elite for donating trash receptacles. Vernon Christie for his Firearm Expertise! Banded Peaks Ranch Outfitters for donating the .22 Henry Rifle! Jim Bramwell, Wes Lewis, Ryan Montroy, Bob Kavli, and Al Wylie for being our Auction spotters Our Auction Cashiers, Elsa White and Kelly Maestas All of our wonderful 4-H and FFA parents and kids who help throughout our Fair and Livestock Auction Echo IT for being there whenever we call And to ALL of those who we missed that helped out during the Fair and Livestock Auction, we THANK YOU!
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Thank you for joining us at the
2026 Archuleta County
Livestock Show & Auction.

We hope to see you next year!



Town to hold off on any ‘traffic calming’ changes to San Juan Alley

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Aug. 4, the Pagosa Springs Town Council engaged in a conversation with town staff about traffic and safety concerns on San Juan Alley, between South 8th Street and South 10th Street.

Brad Lattin was on hand at the meeting to inform the council about conversations that staff has had with residents around the alley.

He explained that staff presented nearby residents with three choices to address their traffic and safety concerns, including making the alley one-way westbound, installing a speed dip, or leaving the alley unchanged.

He added that staff distributed these choices using flyers to 22 residents around the alley seeking their feedback and input on the choices.

Out of the 22 flyers sent out, town staff received feedback from 11 residents, he noted.

An agenda document on the mat-

ter documented the following responses from residents: six said they wanted “no change,” three said they wanted to have a “speed dip” installed and two said they wanted to make the alley “one-way westbound.”

Lattin explained that this amounts to the majority of respondents, about 55 percent, wanting “no changes” in the alleyway.

“I don’t think we need to do a speed dip at this time,” he said.

Instead, he recommended redoing the resident survey and crafting a new policy after downtown road reconstruction has been completed, to gauge residents’ thoughts after the construction ends.

He also explained that he received feedback from the library and elementary school, and that “the feedback that I got is pretty much that everyone is wanting to leave it alone and to see what happens after the downtown construction is over.”

He recommended that the residents should “go out and get together and come up with a plan to bring

to us, so we don’t have to do all the little things to get back to where we are today.”

Council member Leonard Martinez also recommended that the residents get together after the construction ends to see what everyone wants for the alley to meet their concerns.

Lattin explained, “We’ve actually done [the survey] three times now. We did one in the winter time, last year ... one last spring and one right before we did this study.”

He added, “We did it while school was going because that’s when we get the most traffic through there.”

Council member Gary Williams stated that he thought that “contacting the local residents is a nice way to proceed.”

“I hope we can create this atmosphere within the town and in government, in particular, to be adaptive, and that is to ... try things and see if they work and we’re not locked in,” he said.

Town Manager David Harris ex-

plained that what the town is looking at is creating a policy that “would not lock us into a rigid protocol, but what we’re trying to lay out is how would a neighborhood make a request, and that’s the big key ... is getting information from a neighborhood.”

Williams added that the town should “come up with a system in which neighborhoods can be more integrative and more communicative among themselves.”

Mayor Shari Pierce said to Lattin, “So, it looks like, to me, that you are here to inform us that we’re not going to be doing anything currently, but we are going to work on a future policy.”

Lattin replied, “That is correct.”

During public comment, resident Eddie Archuleta expressed that he was upset that nothing would happen in the alley.

“They all told me this was a done deal ... and they were just waiting on the contractor to do it. You lied ... what a bunch of liars,” he said.

derek@pagosasun.com

Administration

■ Continued from front

at 2901 Cornerstone Drive for the purpose of building a new administration building that would house the majority of county employees and services.

During the work session, Ranson presented a comparison of the Cornerstone Drive property and the Country Center Drive property that projected a total investment cost of \$20.6 million for a new-build administration building on the Cornerstone Drive property. The comparison also indicated a total investment of \$6.6 million to remodel the Country Center Drive property.

Ranson further explained that the largest space is the main suite where Camino Real Imports currently operates, and the county could have the option to purchase that space, which is just over 15,500 square feet, for roughly \$2.2 million.

He noted that the three adjacent suites could be purchased for \$1.8 million and would provide more 8,000 square feet of additional space.

In July, the BoCC heard from a consultant group, Performance Services Inc., about the projected costs of a new administration building, as well as the space the county would need now and for expansions in the future.

According to that consultant group, the county needs roughly 22,000 square feet “for now and for future growth,” Ranson said.

He noted that the total square footage of all of the suites the county could purchase at the Country Center Drive property would be more than 23,000.

“So, obviously enough space for current,” he said.

Ranson also explained that some of the space would require a “build-out,” which he noted in his property comparison would cost roughly \$1.8 million.

Ranson also explained that local builders have discussed how the entrance to the building would be moved to North Pagosa Boulevard, noting the projected total investment of \$6.6 million includes purchasing the vacant parcel next to the building for \$500,000. “That would be for parking and potentially moving the entrance to the North Pagosa [Boulevard side],” Ranson said.

Ranson also noted that the parcel is roughly 4 acres and contains wetland areas.

He commented that his goal “is for us to really hone in on these different scenarios” and “move towards a decision.”

Ranson then explained that during his campaign he received support from constituents for stating that he would not vote in favor of \$20 million to \$25 million in certificates of participation (COPs) relating to the construction of a new administration building.

He clarified that he wasn’t necessarily opposing the idea of a newly built administration building, “but I did say I would not do a COP for that kind of money.”

He added, “Personally, I don’t believe that we can afford it.”

He went on to request the county get the public involved and possibly host forum-style meetings on the topic to get feedback on the Country Center Drive option.

“This deal can go away,” he added, explaining that it was first brought to the county in May and that the property owners “have been extremely patient.”

Ranson also commented more on the facilities study presented to the BoCC last month, noting that the projected costs for a newly built administration building at the Cornerstone Drive property would range anywhere from \$12 million to \$16 million.

“There’s no way,” he said, suggesting that it would actually be closer to \$25 million. “And again, that’s based

on people that actually know what they’re doing in the building community.”

Ranson also explained that the BoCC has considered two other options, with one being to “do nothing,” noting, “the county’s been good at that for years.”

The other option he explained was the possibility of adding on to the Wyndham building where some of the county’s current administration offices are located.

During the work session, Ranson presented a comparison of the Cornerstone Drive property and the Country Center Drive property that projected a total investment cost of \$20.6 million for a new-build administration building on the Cornerstone Drive property. The comparison also indicated a total investment of \$6.6 million to remodel the Country Center Drive property.

He noted that he believes all three commissioners are in agreement that adding on to the Wyndham building is not a viable option, “because there are some issues with that building already.”

Ranson mentioned that he’s “not pushing” for the Country Center Drive option, but asking to have a conversation about the matter to provide the property owner with a more clear answer on what the county wants to do.

“I just think this has so many benefits for us,” he said in regard to the Country Center Drive property, noting the county would receive income through the property as well by taking over the electric vehicle charging stations that are on the property.

Ranson also commented that “local builders” could do much of the remodel work, rather than a company from a distant metropolitan area.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commended Ranson’s due diligence on the matter, but brought up multiple concerns, mainly expressing how she feels the proposed building “is not the right spot for a county facility.”

Medina mentioned concerns about parking and traffic congestion in the area, also noting that things like moving expenditures and the total cost of combined utility bills across the county’s various current locations should all be considered in the total costs of Ranson’s proposal.

“That area is already so congested with traffic with just the businesses that are there,” she said, mentioning that businesses near the county’s current facility in the old Wyndham building have experienced hardships with the county moving its services to that location and generating lots of traffic in the area.

Medina also acknowledged that the extra traffic could also be a benefit to the nearby business with more people potentially visiting other stores while in the area.

Other concerns about removing office spaces for other businesses in the community to potentially use were brought up by Medina, as well.

She added that her main concerns

about the proposed building include the location and the potential unknowns, suggesting it may have issues similar to the old Wyndham building in terms of maintenance.

Ranson responded to Medina’s concerns, stating that he does not believe that parking would be an issue, specifically noting the vacant lot that would be purchased in order to expand parking areas.

He also commented that he believes it is an “A-plus” location, explaining that none of the residents he’s spoken with want the county to build a brand-new administration building at a higher price tag.

“The positives far out weigh the negatives,” Ranson said.

Commissioner Warren Brown also commended Ranson’s work on the matter, noting that “this is a way to think outside of the box.”

Brown also commented that he’s not a “hard no” on the proposed building, but that he feels it might be “too premature,” suggesting the county does not have the “final numbers” for the proposal.

Brown referenced the facilities study received last month, which indicated a new administration building could be built on the Cornerstone Drive property for approximately \$12.5 million to \$16.8 million.

“Which was kind of a game changer for me,” he said, explaining that did not think the community could or should take on the project given the initial projection of \$25 million for that project.

“But, I also do not believe that the final number is exactly accurate on the proposed building,” Brown said in regard to the Country Center Drive property.

He also mentioned that some things are still causing him to “lean” toward a new build, noting maintenance costs the county has endured on its buildings in recent years.

“What’s really important is the long-range vision,” he said, referencing the county’s square footage needs.

Brown also commented that construction prices are only going to go up as time goes on and that the county has already purchased the Cornerstone Drive property for the purpose of being able to expand and accommodate future needs with its administration building.

“Because, when that day comes, we undoubtedly as a community would be paying far more than what we’re paying today,” he said.

Brown questioned if a traffic study would be performed for the Country Center Drive property, “because there will be a significant traffic impact there.”

Brown cautioned about the county entering into a business owner association, suggesting the group has historically been unorganized, while also noting the Town of Pagosa Springs has a master plan and that the county may want to consider how this proposal would fit into that.

Brown also commented that the county has gained and lost momentum over the past year or so in relation to its administration building project.

“To the extent possible, we have included and listened to the public input,” Brown said, explaining he had spoken to people in favor of a new administration building.

He clarified that those conversations took place before Ranson’s proposal.

Brown also mentioned that he

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The Pagosa Springs SUN
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didn’t think there was a “time cap” on the new proposal, indicating that he believes a new build would put the county in a “stronger proposition” for future expansion.

Brown noted that he’s “not married” to the idea of a new-build project, but requested more information to consider the proposed remodel option at the Country Center Drive property.

Before concluding the discussion on the matter, Ranson responded to concerns about room for future expansion, stating that “this [remodel] option does have that.”

Ranson also indicated that commissioner-elect Randy Betts is in support of the Country Center Drive option.

Ranson explained that Betts expressed to him that there is the possibility of “going up” and creating a second story for additional space in the future.

Ranson also encouraged the commissioners to talk to local architects, because “there’s no way it’s gonna be \$12 million” for a new administration building.

clayton@pagosasun.com

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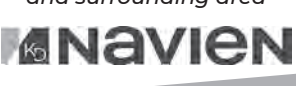
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Pagosa Veterans

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- Lauren

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Education

School district considering updated attendance policy

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) will be considering an updated absentee policy for approval at its next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Pagosa Springs Middle School library at 309 Lewis St.

The board considered the first reading of the updated policy at its regular meeting held on Aug. 5. The board did not take action on the first reading of the updated policy, but recommended changes for it to be brought back for a second reading.

During the Aug. 5 meeting, Superintendent Rick Holt explained that “the policy has been problematic in the past” with it differentiating between excused versus unexcused absences.

Holt commented that would it make sense to have excused and unexcused absences, “however, families are wise to what’s considered an excused absence,” adding that “those excused absences do stack up.”

He mentioned that the district has seen kids missing “a significant portion of school,” indicating the district does not have the tools nor the policy in place to address those situations in a formal way.

Holt explained that he was proposing the district move away from things like counting excused absences to a percentage-based system for student attendance.

“Part of this came through what we see with chronic absenteeism,” he said, noting that once a student falls below the 90 percent attendance rate, “the state is concerned.”

He also mentioned that the middle school and high school campuses count attendance fractionally, meaning that if a student misses one period for the day, that absence still counts toward the student’s overall attendance rate.

Holt mentioned that in the case of a student missing the first period regularly, the “attendance percentage

is actually reflected in that.”

Holt also noted that the district plans to inform families of the policy through newsletters.

“We’re gonna start by informing everyone of what the ground rules are,” he added.

He mentioned that in mid-October the district will begin contacting families that have already dipped below the 90 percent mark.

Holt also explained that the policy would have enough flexibility to account for situations like injuries or illness where a student is expected to return to class without needing to have a support plan put in place.

“So, giving us the flexibility to individualize our approach,” he said, mentioning that with it being a percentage-based attendance system if a student dips below the 90 percent mark and returns to attending as normal, “it may come right back up.”

Holt went on to explain that the policy also provides another reference mark for when students fall below 85 percent attendance.

Holt commented that a 90 percent attendance rate is essentially missing one day of school every 10 days, or two weeks, adding that “seems rather generous actually that you would miss 10 percent of the learning opportunity.”

He explained that for students who fall below the 85 percent mark, there are strategies to put in place “that we know work.”

Those strategies include things like developing a family support plan and working with transportation needs, Holt mentioned.

He also mentioned that for families that do engage with the district about improving attendance rates, “we would like to continue with our current practice” which involves contacting the municipal court and having conversations about truancy with parents “who aren’t engaging in public education like they’re required by law.”

Holt noted that those cases would be referred to the municipal court if attendance percentage rates continue

to decline, but that there would be a different process for students who live outside of the district.

“Also, because our out-of-district attendees may not be referred to a municipal court if you live outside our school district, but you attend school here, municipal court isn’t going to manage those families,” Holt explained.

He also explained that those students would be withdrawn from the school, stating that he “feel[s] its a privilege to attend the Archuleta School District if you’re outside of the attendance area, and if you are unwilling or unable to meet our minimal attendance expectation,” then the student would be withdrawn from the school.

Holt noted the district had students withdrawn last year after 20 unexcused absences occurred.

He also mentioned that the 85 percent attendance mark is “well below” the district’s average rate of about 92 percent.

Holt also explained that the proposed updated policy would clarify some things about being “habitual truant,” giving the district another tool when dealing with families that “fall off the radar.”

He noted that being habitually truant means having four or more days a month, or up to 10 times a year, where there is no explanation for the absence.

Holt also explained that the district attempts to engage with families to prevent students from being habitually truant.

“We believe that this revised attendance and absence policy will give us one more tool to help increase our attendance rates,” Holt said. “It does drastically increase the expectation.”

BoE member David Iverson asked that some clarification be put into the policy in regard to how attendance can be counted fractionally at the middle school and high school levels.

“One nice thing about percentages is you can fix it,” Holt commented.

In response to a question from BoE member Tim Taylor, Holt explained

that historically assistant principals have contacted parents with absence issues, but that an attendance coordinator would be dedicated to be the “first line of informing” parents.

Holt noted that if a situation becomes more complicated, principals and administrators would be brought in as necessary.

Holt also commented that the district’s approach to its attendance policy includes informing families at the start of every school year what exactly is outlined in such policy.

“If you’re gonna hold somebody accountable for something, you should have great clarity on what that is and why,” he said.

In response to another question from Taylor, Holt explained that the BoE does have the freedom to set a different percentage in the policy, but that after looking at the district’s attendance data, he felt like the 85 percent mark gives families enough “wiggle room” while still holding people accountable.

Holt also noted that “as always with policies,” it is written to have for pre-approval for absences for things such illnesses and family trips.

“We can exclude those days,” he said.

He further explained that the district would still have excused and unexcused absences, with unexcused absences being tracked and counted toward truancy, or being habitually truant.

“And these are just unexplained days,” Holt commented, adding that, “The reality is even excused days detract from the learning.”

In response to a question from Iverson, Holt explained that excused absence days would count toward the student’s attendance percentage, but that it gives the principal flexibility to approach certain situations.

Holt also explained that absences for sporting events would not be counted as an unexcused nor an excused absence, but would be noted as an “out-of-school activity.”

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Local student attends Yale Young Global Scholars program

By Aubrey Ledford
Special to The SUN

Aubrey Ledford, a rising junior at Pagosa Springs High School, attended Yale Young Global Scholars this summer — an academic enrichment program that brings in students from more than 150 countries.

In July, Ledford spent two weeks at Yale University’s campus, where she completed the Politics of Law and Economics session.

Her studies included attending college-level seminars, lectures taught by Ivy League professors, and working on a capstone project revolving around artificial intelligence and digital governance.

She earned her certificate of completion on Aug. 11, signifying her outstanding performance on her capstone project.

“This program allowed me to question everything I thought I knew, and it turns out that I have so much



Photo courtesy Aubrey Ledford

Aubrey Ledford (second from left) is pictured at Yale University during her free time with Liv from West Virginia (left), Vanessa from Texas (center), Elly from France (second from right) and Valentina from Brazil (right).

more to learn,” she said.

Ledford would love to see other Pagosa Springs high schoolers branch out and apply for Yale Young Global Scholars, because not only does it

allow you to study at one of the most renowned universities in the world, but it also allows you to connect with hundreds of other brilliant minds from various places.

Safe2Tell report highlights July interventions

Colorado Attorney General’s Office

As Colorado students return to school, Safe2Tell’s final monthly report for the 2025-2026 reporting year highlights how July reports led to mental health interventions, addressed student harassment and connected Colorado students with support when it was needed most.

The program received 591 reports during the month, bringing the school-year total to 29,302 reports.

Key findings from the July 2026 Safe2Tell report include:

- The most frequently reported concerns were mental health (19.1 percent), school safety (13.5 percent), abuse and exploitation (13.2 percent), and bullying (8.3 percent).

Reports in the Other category accounted for 20 percent of submissions, which primarily involved individuals seeking information about how to use Safe2Tell or access program services, an expected trend as communities prepare for the upcoming school year.

False reports remained historically low at 1.8 percent.

“As we close the 2025-2026 reporting year, July’s report reflects the continued trust Colorado communities place in Safe2Tell, even during summer break,” said Attorney General Phil Weiser. “Throughout the year, thousands of reports helped schools, law enforcement and local partners re-

spond to concerns and support young people. The Annual Report this fall will provide a comprehensive analysis of those trends, but one thing remains clear: Speaking up continues to make a difference.”

One report came from a person who said a student was experiencing suicidal ideations, self-harming, dealing with mental health issues and using substances. Local law enforcement conducted a welfare check, contacted the student’s parents and spoke with the student, who stated they had thoughts of self-harm, but were not planning to act on them. A suicide assessment was completed, and law enforcement met with the parents to create a safety plan.

In another report, a person shared that a student was harassing another student through text messages, and that after being blocked, they began sharing the other student’s number with peers. An officer contacted the reported student’s parent, who confirmed their child had sent text messages, but had not shared the other student’s number. The parent had their child block the other student and will notify school teams if any further issues arise.

“The start of a new school year is the perfect time to remind students, families, educators and community members to keep Safe2Tell in mind throughout the year,” said Safe2Tell Director

Stacey Scardino. “The program is anonymous, available 24/7 and designed to make it easy to report concerns so they can reach those who can help.”

The 2026-2027 reporting cycle began Aug. 1, coinciding with the start of the new school year. A full analysis of the 2025-2026 school year, including data trends, program insights and outcomes, will be published in the Safe2Tell Annual Report in late fall 2026.

A full breakdown of this month’s data is available in the Safe2Tell July 2026 Monthly Report at <https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/08/Safe2Tell-July-Report-2026.pdf>.

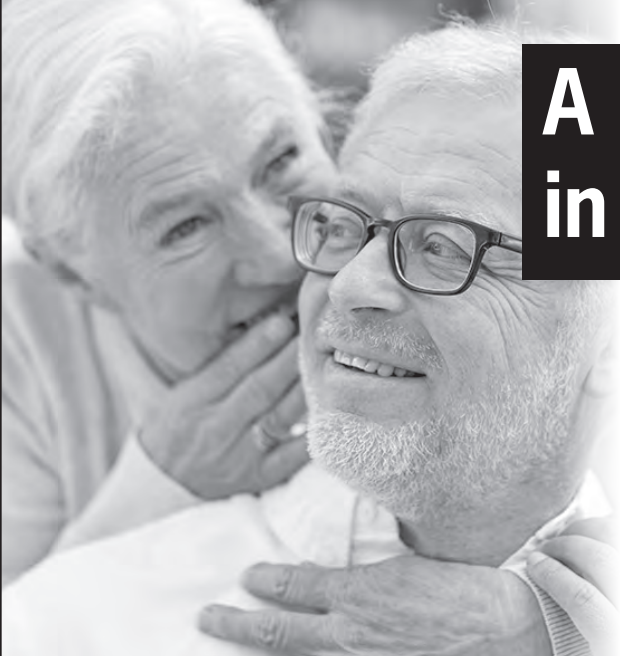
How to submit a report

Reports can be submitted 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling (877) 542-SAFE (7233), visiting Safe2Tell.org, texting “S2TCO” to 738477 or using the Safe2Tell mobile app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

About Safe2Tell

Safe2Tell is Colorado’s anonymous reporting system for concerns about the safety and well-being of students.

Safe2Tell is not an emergency response unit or a mental health counseling provider. Instead, it serves as an information pathway for distributing anonymous reports to local law enforcement and school officials, as required by state law.



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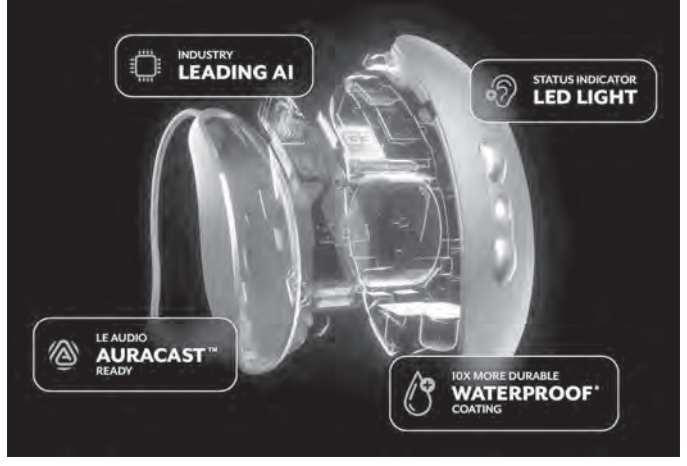
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Feedback from Continental Divide National Scenic Trail survey underscores concern for public lands and outdoor economies

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Communities in five Rocky Mountain states rank public lands and waters as having the most impact on quality of life, according to the recently released Continental Divide Trail Community Survey.

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) has released the results of the 2025 survey as part of the organization’s community-centric conservation efforts.

“We are thankful for community members, partners and other stakeholders who want to openly share their experiences and connection with the CDT, and how they envision the trail integrating with their community in the future,” said L. Fisher, CDTC director of trail programs. “The responses from this survey will serve not only to inform CDTC’s work in the future, but also provide information to towns, counties, states and sovereign nations about the potential benefit of a connection to the CDT for their communities.”

Stewardship of the 3,100-mile CDT is a collaborative, community-centric effort with federal agencies working alongside tribes, trail organizations, 23 designated Gateway Communities, volunteers and others. The CDTC actively works with partners and volunteers across the five states that encompass the CDT: Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and New Mexico.

The 2025 CDT Community Survey is the first of its kind from the CDTC, expanded from a Small Business Survey, and sought insights from all members of the CDT communities about their connection to the CDT and public lands. Conducted in the fall of 2025, the survey gathered more than 600 responses, including responses from nearly 100 business owners along the CDT. Input from communities and stakeholders shared perspectives on trail protection, trail access, community connection and trail information resources.

Some key takeaways from the survey include:

- “Improving the quality of life in

my community” was the top-ranked impact that public lands and waters have on communities along the Divide.

- 96 percent of respondents agreed that “the outdoor recreation economy is important for the future well-being of my community.”

- 95 percent of respondents support completion of the CDT.

- 85 percent of small business owners associated future growth in popularity of the CDT with business growth.

- 78 percent of small business owners said that trail users have a positive impact on their business.

- 79 percent of respondents agreed the CDT is an important part of the culture in their community.

- 50 percent of CDT community members identified “increased stress on volunteer organizations to maintain trails, clean bathrooms and other facilities, and ensure public access” as an impact from recent land management actions, with 38 percent reporting “resource damage” as a

recent impact.

The 2025 Community Survey can be found at <http://cdtcoalition.org/2025-survey>.

The CDTC will host a virtual Community Summit Nov. 9 and 10 to share findings from the survey and provide workshops on how communities can leverage the CDT and strengthen their connection to the trail.

“These are dynamic times for our public lands, and these responses provide a snapshot of the shifting public land management landscape and impacts at a local level,” said Fisher. “The CDT touches every aspect of a community, from supporting small businesses to promoting healthy lifestyles to providing a classroom and a training ground for the next generation of stewards. To see the data and testimonials reflect the positive impact that the CDT is having in communities clearly demonstrates how central keeping places like the Divide protected, accessible, and wild is to the culture in the Rocky Mountain West.”

Persons Who Wander Grant awards \$89,141 to law enforcement agencies, including Archuleta County

Colorado Bureau of Investigations

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is pleased to announce that it has awarded a total of \$89,141 to seven different law enforcement and search and rescue agencies across Colorado.

These Persons Who Wander grants will be used to support wanderer recovery programs, including tracking technology, searching technology, community outreach and training, helping to improve search and rescue efforts for individuals who wander.

“By investing in these technologies to aid in searches, we are empowering our local partners to respond

more effectively when time is of the essence,” said Armando Saldate, CBI director. “This grant program is a vital step in ensuring that our most vulnerable community members are protected and can be reunited with their families as quickly as possible.”

In 2025, CBI issued 64 Senior Alerts and 10 Developmentally Disabled Alerts, which was more than one-third of all alerts issued statewide and more than all the Amber, Medina and Missing Endangered alerts combined.

The following law enforcement agencies received grants:

- Archuleta County Sheriff’s Of-

fice: \$3,120 for four wearable GPS tracking devices.

- Jackson County Sheriff’s Office: \$13,300 for two drones, training, travel and office supplies.

- Chaffee County SAR (North): \$19,631 for two drones, batteries, software, training and license test.

- Estes Park Police Department: \$8,897 for a drone and pilot certification courses.

- Grand County Sheriff’s Office: \$14,896 for a drone, drone battery and Bluetooth signal detection device.

- Kit Carson County Sheriff’s Of-

fice: \$19,297 for drone technology package, implementation costs, drone software license and drone data plan.

- Erie Police Department: \$10,000 for searching technology, tracking technology and training.

Since the Persons Who Wander program’s inception in 2022, the CBI has awarded \$264,132 to 23 distinct applicants across Colorado.

For more information about the Persons Who Wander program to help locate individuals with cognitive or medical conditions please visit <https://cbi.colorado.gov/investigations/missing-persons/persons-who-wander>.

Bear

■ Continued from front

neighborhoods and other developed areas where trash, bird seed, pet food, barbecue grills and other human food sources provide an easy meal.

CPW is reminding the public that a difficult natural food year is not a reason to feed bears. Providing food — intentionally or by negligently leaving attractants unsecured — can make a dangerous situation worse.

Bears that repeatedly get food around homes can lose their natural wariness of people and learn to return to human areas. Once that behavior is established, bears can cause property damage, create threats to human safety and ultimately face relocation or euthanasia.

Nearly half of the bear incidents reported in Colorado in 2025 occurred during August, September and October. A bear’s annual search for calories can take it outside its typical territory, making encounters in communities more likely during this time of year.

Preventing bears from accessing human food is one of the most effective ways Coloradans can help bears during a poor natural food year. Securing attractants allows bears to continue searching for natural foods instead of learning that homes and neighborhoods provide an easier source of calories.

New law strengthens penalties for knowingly luring bears

A new Colorado law that strengthens enforcement against people who knowingly leave out food or edible waste that can lure bears took effect Aug. 12.

House Bill 26-1342 amended Colorado law by changing the culpable mental state for luring bears from “intentionally” to “knowingly.” The change removes the requirement that law enforcement prove a person intended to lure a bear and instead allows enforcement when a person

knowingly places food or edible waste in the open under circumstances where there is a reasonable probability it will attract a bear.

The law also removes the requirement that first-time offenders receive a warning. CPW officers and other peace officers now have discretion to issue either a warning or a violation when a person’s knowing actions result in circumstances likely to lure a bear.

For a third or subsequent offense, the fine increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000. The law does not apply to acts related to agriculture. Food or edible waste also does not include live animals or food grown in the open before harvest.

CPW supported HB 26-1342, which was developed following stakeholder input through the agency’s statewide bear working group.

Keep bears wild

As a member of BearWise, CPW encourages everyone to share BearWise information with their neighbors and communities to help prevent conflicts with bears.

CPW asks all residents and visitors to help save Colorado’s bears by being actively bear prepared throughout the year. Human-bear conflicts are most often traced back to human behavior. Living BearWise is the most effective way to prevent human-caused conflicts with bears.

Six at-home BearWise basics

1. Never feed or approach bears: Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people looking for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don’t risk your safety and theirs.

2. Secure food, garbage and recycling: Food and food odors attract bears, so don’t reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.

3. Remove bird feeders when bears are active: Birdseed and grains

have lots of calories, so they’re very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.

4. Never leave pet food outdoors: Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can’t see or smell it.

5. Clean and store grills: Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.

6. Alert neighbors to bear activity: See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share information on how to prevent conflicts with bears. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it’s up to us to adapt to living near bears.

Six outdoor BearWise basics

1. Stay alert and stay together: Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog or cycle with others when possible. Keep kids within sight and close by. Leave earbuds at home and make noise periodically so bears can avoid you.

2. Leave no trash or food scraps: Double bag your food when hiking, and pack out all food and trash. Don’t burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill. Leaving scraps, wrappers or even “harmless” items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.

3. Keep dogs leashed: Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for

trouble; don’t force a bear to defend itself. Keep your dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home.

4. Camp safely: Set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources. Cook as far from your tent as possible. Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking or toiletries in your tent. Store in approved bear-resistant containers or out of sight in locked vehicle or suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. Local regulations vary.

5. Know what to do if you see a black bear: If you see a bear before it notices you, don’t approach. Stand still, enjoy, then quietly move away. If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response. If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell, “Hey, bear,” until it leaves. Stay with your group. If it keeps approaching, use bear spray. If a black bear makes contact with you, do not play dead; fight back aggressively.

6. Carry bear spray and know how to use it: Bear spray is proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn’t work like bug repellent, so never spray your tent, campsite or belongings.

For more information on bears in Colorado, visit cpw.state.co.us/living-bears. If you have questions or need to report bear problems, call your local CPW office. The Durango office can be reached at (970) 247-0855.



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Fatal

■ Continued from front

that states, “On or about February 15, 2025, in Archuleta County, Colorado, the defendant, Justin Levi McCelvey, drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and such conduct was the proximate cause of the death of Date Tenorio and serious bodily injury to Angelica Talamante; further, such conduct was a cause of the death of Aaron Tenorio.”

McCelvey is represented by attorney Jeffrey S. Pagliuca.

McCelvey remains in custody in the Archuleta County jail, where he has been since November 2025.

McCelvey turned himself in on Nov. 20, 2025 — after McCelvey went missing for a time and after a warrant was issued for his arrest while he was out on bond.

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Sports

Soccer

Pirates to open season at home Aug. 27

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team is back for another season and this year's team, led by coach Trevor Gian, is looking to lean on experience in its pursuit of a third straight year atop the 3A Intermountain League (IML).

The team boasts a lot of experience, featuring 17 upperclassmen, five of whom are seniors. Between both varsity and junior varsity, there are 12 juniors on the roster.

"This junior class we have is one of the biggest classes we've had," Gian said. "It's kind of their time to step up and step into some roles they've been preparing for and they're hungry for."

There are a lot of Pirates returning from a team that went 11-3-1 overall last year and finished with the top record in league play, going 5-0-1 record in the IML.

Gian emphasized that there will be a mashup of all age groups at the varsity level and there are some sophomores specifically set to make an impact this season.

"They've been building together over the last few years, and now it's their time to kind of put everything there," Gian said. "There's no expect-

tations, no egos, no nothing. We're looking to go out and everybody's got an opportunity to earn their role."

Gian emphasized that the experience and togetherness of this year's team is its biggest strength.

A lot of the starters on this year's team have been playing together and building together at the junior varsity level, noted Gian.

From a tactical standpoint, Gian expressed he is excited about the creativity that he's seen so far in practice, especially from the midfielders through the forwards.

He noted he feels like the experience will help him anchor his defense as well.

"Ryder King coming back as a senior, you know, he had a phenomenal junior year, being able to find ways to be creative and seeing some of that [in the] central midfield as well as our outside midfield and throwing the defenders up a little bit will be fun," Gian said.

Ahead of the start of the season, Gian explained he is focused on just knocking the rust off.

He noted he feels that could be the team's biggest weakness.

He also mentioned that, tactically, the team hasn't been able to iron things out until this week because

the team had been practicing on a smaller field.

Regardless, Gian emphasized that the first few weeks of the season will be important when it comes to finding the flow of the game positionally while still building as a team.

"Every single training's been good," said Gian. "Great attitude, great outlook. Everybody's hungry, excited. Myself and Coach [Dyan] Rice, we're both extremely excited to see what this group is going to do this season."

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

The Pirates will begin their season with a home game against Piedra Vista on Thursday, Aug. 27, with kickoff set for 4 p.m.

The team won't play again until Sept. 5, when they'll host Aztec starting at 11 a.m.

The team will head on the road for the first time on Sept. 11 when they play at Manitou Springs at 4 p.m., and then the following day they'll travel to James Irwin for a game at 11 a.m.

The Pirates will be back at home on Sept. 18 for a game against Alamosa at 4 p.m. and then head back on the road for a game at Bayfield on

Sept. 21 starting at 5 p.m.

They will then play Montezuma-Cortez two games in a row, the first at home on Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. and the second at in Cortez on Oct. 3 at 1 p.m.

The Pirates will host Bayfield on Oct. 8 for their final home game of the season. The game will kick off at 4 p.m.

Their final three games of the regular season will be in Crested Butte at 11 a.m. on Oct. 10, in Alamosa at 6 p.m. on Oct. 13 and in Fruita Monument at 2 p.m. on Oct. 16.

jsellner@ourorkemediagroup.com



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

Pirate Chatwin Pickering chips the ball during Tuesday's Panther Invitational in Cortez. Pickering finished tied for 16th after shooting a 79.

Pirates show improvement over trio of tournaments

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate golf team teed off the 2026 season with a trio of tournaments over the last week.

"It was nice to get the year started," coach Mark Faber said, adding having three tournaments so close together was tough. "They were a little worn out at the end."

But, he noted, the Pirates showed improvement, with the Pirates playing a little better each tournament for the most part.

"So, that was kind of nice to see out of all of them," he said.

The Pirates opened their season on Friday, Aug. 14, at the Alamosa Invite at Cattails Golf Club.

The day featured 61 golfers and 14 teams. The Pirates took fifth at the event with a team total of 255.

The team was led on the day by Tyler Dimond's third-place finish. He notched a 77 to finish in a six-way tie on the par-71 course, shooting birdie on two holes and par on eight holes.

Faber highlighted that Dimond played well on the day.

Chatwin Pickering took 19th with an 88, which included shooting par on four holes.

Logan Lamoreaux landed 22nd with a 90. His effort included shooting birdie on one hole and par on seven holes.

Treyson Cotts tied for 55th with a 124.

"We weren't real competitive at Alamosa," Faber acknowledged,

adding the team has some mistakes to clean up, but that that's common early in the year. "It was good. It was good to get started."

On Monday, Aug. 17, the team was back in action at the Durango Hillcrest Invitational, where they took 11th out of 18 teams with a team score of 256. The day featured 102 golfers competing.

Durango, Faber noted, is a tougher course in some ways, adding everybody played all right.

Dimond finished in a four-way tie for 14th with an 80 on the par-71 course. His effort included shooting par on eight holes and an eagle on one hole.

Pickering finished as part of a six-way tie for 27th with an 84, which included shooting birdie on one hole and par on five holes.

Lamoreaux shot a 92 to finish 69th. His day included shooting birdie on one hole and par on five holes.

Maximus Ibram finished as part of a three-way tie for 88th overall with a 104.

Cotts finished 97th with a 114.

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, the team took part in the Panther Invitational at Conquistador Golf Course.

The Pirates took sixth out of 14 teams with a score of 240.

Dimond finished in a five-way tie for eighth out of 100 golfers on the par-72 course with a 77. That effort included shooting birdie on two holes and par on nine holes.

"That was a very good round," Faber said.

Pickering finished in a three-way

tie for 16th with a 79, which also included shooting birdie on two holes and par on nine holes.

Lamoreaux finished in a five-way 31st with an 84. His day included shooting birdie on one hole and par on seven holes.

Ibram finished in a three-way tie for 62nd with a 91, shooting par on three holes.

Cotts finished tied for 87th with a 104, which included shooting par on one hole.

Faber highlighted that he's excited about how Ibram played and that Cotts "just got better and better."

"Both those guys really improved," Faber said.

Faber also highlighted the improvements between tournaments for several other Pirate golfers, and added there were a lot of bigger schools that took part in the tournaments in Durango and Cortez.

Currently, the Pirates aren't slated to compete again until Sept. 8, though Faber noted they are working to fill in the gap with an additional tournament.

Faber indicated that the gap gives the golfers time to improve on what they saw at the first three tournaments, noting he can now sit down with each golfer to figure out where they were losing strokes, where they were gaining strokes and how to improve.

He added the team's younger players who are newer to the game are also working hard.

"Now we just need some more tournaments," he said.

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VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates look to feature mix of returning and new faces to open season

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

In Chelsea Caler's second season of coaching, a strong group of returning players mixed with some new faces have the Pagosa Springs High School volleyball team poised to play together and to play smart this year.

This year's squad features four returning players. Dawson Iverson, Tatiana Monterroso, Avea Bruce and Sydney Plake all played on last year's squad that finished 5-18 and will be anchoring this year's team that is looking to improve.

Iverson is an all-around hitter and Monterroso will be the team's libero, according to the coach.

Plake and Bruce were both hitters last year, but Caler noted that they

have been playing around with sticking Bruce on the outside due to her powerful swing.

"Our chemistry is so good," said Caler. "It's really nice. I think a lot of these girls are ... friends, so we're having a lot of fun on the court with each other. But we also have quite a few big hitters."

Caler emphasized that this year's team features a lineup with more hitters than the last few seasons.

Malorie Morten, senior, didn't play last year but can be slotted in anywhere. Juniors Ellie Vining and Darria Fiorenza along with sophomore Veda Deitemeyer are all slotted to play valuable positions as well, noted Caler.

The coachability of the girls is another reason that Caler explained

she is excited for the upcoming season.

"We have a lot of options," Caler said. "We can tell someone on the outside, someone on the right side, someone in the middle, and they're confident and willing to play that position. I think defensively and on serve receive, we've been passing really well."

The team has only had four practices since finishing tryouts last week. Caler noted she is working hard with the girls tactically to institute an offense and a defense that will work while also taking into account the team's personnel.

Ahead of the start of the season, Caler explained she is working hard with the girls to dial in their blocking, figuring out what defensive system is the most effective and focusing on

out-of-system play.

The Lady Pirates will open the season with a tournament in Glenwood Springs, where they'll play four games in two games.

Caler stated she is excited to see the team in real-game situations and emphasized that the girls are excited to play, as well.

This year Caler has emphasized the importance of trust and accountability amongst the girls on the team. Since the end of tryouts she has focused on building a culture for the upcoming season, she noted.

"We did a lot of just culture building, team building, conversations, making sure that we're all on the same page, that we're all willing to hold each other accountable [and] that we're all willing to be committed to each other," said Caler.

Last year's team only won five games, and while the goal is to win more this year, the team's main goal is to play together and to have fun throughout the season.

"Sometimes we allow the game to get too serious," Caler said. "So we're just really focused on playing for each

other, executing things that we are working on."

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

The Lady Pirates will open their season in Glenwood Springs for a varsity tournament. They'll start with a game against Coal Ridge on Friday, Aug. 21, at 4 p.m., and then play Meeker at 7 p.m. the same day.

They'll then play Glenwood Springs the following day at 10 a.m. and close out the tournament with a game against an opponent that will be determined by their group standing.

Their first home game will be on Tuesday, Aug. 25, against Dolores at 6 p.m.

Then they'll head to Durango on Thursday, Sept. 3, for a game against Durango at 6 p.m.

On Sept. 5, they'll play Centauri at home at 1 p.m. and then they'll be at home for a game against Montezuma-Cortez on Sept. 8 at 6 p.m.

They'll follow two straight home games with four straight road games,

starting with Del Norte at 6 p.m. on Sept. 10. They'll follow with a 1 p.m. matchup in Telluride on Sept. 12, and will travel to Bayfield on Sept. 15 for a 6 p.m. game and Cortez on Sept. 22 for a 6:30 p.m. matchup.

The Lady Pirates will be back at home against Kirtland Central on Sept. 24 at 6 p.m., but will go back on the road for their next game against Alamosa on Oct. 3, with the matchup set for 1 p.m.

The Bayfield Wolverines will come to town for a 6 p.m. game on Oct. 6, and then the Lady Pirates will head back on the road for their next two games. They'll go to La Jara to face Centauri at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 15, and then to Monte Vista on Oct. 20 for a 6 p.m. matchup.

The Lady Pirates' final home game of the regular season will be against Alamosa at 6 p.m. on Oct. 22.

The Lady Pirates will close out the regular season with three straight away games. They'll start with a game in Ignacio at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 26, and then round out the season in Coal Ridge on back-to-back days starting on Oct. 30.

jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com

FOOTBALL

Pirates set to kick off season at Centauri Friday

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team will kick off its 2026 season on the road this Friday, Aug. 21, as the Pirates travel to La Jara to take on the Centauri Falcons at 7 p.m.

The Pirates will be competing in the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) 2A division in the Western Slope League, which includes Aspen, Basalt, Coal Ridge, Delta, Gunnison and Montezuma-Cortez.

Familiar league opponents from past seasons like Bayfield and Alamosa have been left off the schedule this season, with Bayfield competing in the 1A Southern League and Alamosa moving to the 2A Tri-Peaks League.

Coach Nathan Morales explained that with the new league opponents this year, the Pirates' closest away game will be the two-hour drive to La Jara this weekend, while other league matchups against Aspen, Coal Ridge and Delta will entail even longer bus trips.

"I think it's a pretty good league for us," Morales said, explaining that the long bus trips for away games is similar to what the Pirates often have to do in the first or second round of the state playoffs.

He added, "And that's the type of team we want to be."

Morales explained that he wants the team to be prepared for that come later on in the season.

"I just want us playing our best football at the end," Morales said, also noting he wants the Pirates to start this season off "faster" than the 2025 season.

Last season, the Pirates started out with a 1-3 record before going 5-0 in league play and earning a playoff

spot as the 13th-ranked team in the CHSAA 2A division.

The Pirates lost their first-round playoff matchup against the Elizabeth Cardinals by a score of 44-38.

Morales is returning for his seventh season as head coach of the Pirates, boosting an overall record of 29-26.

Morales also noted the Pirates were able to compete in a preseason scrimmage last week, mentioning it was a good experience for some of the team's new starters this season.

"It's exciting stuff," he said, noting that the Pirates have seven returning seniors, with the bulk of the team being the 17 juniors on the roster.

Morales commented that this week's game against Centauri is a good early-season challenge for the Pirates, noting the Falcons are a consistently good team that typically makes a deep run in the state's 1A playoffs.

The message from this year's team is, "Earn it," Morales said, explaining that this year's senior captains came up with that motto and that's exactly what the Pirates plan on doing.

"We're gonna go earn it," Morales said.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time Wednesday, but is subject to change.

After Friday's game, the Pirates will host the Salida Spartans at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 28, at Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Pirates will be home again the following week on Sept. 4, hosting the St. Pius X Sartans from Albuquerque, N.M., at Golden Peaks Stadium at 7 p.m.

The first league matchup for the

Pirates will be on Sept. 11, with the Pirates hosting the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers at 7 p.m.

League play continues the following week with the Pirates traveling to Delta to take on the Delta Panthers at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18.

The Pirates will return home the following week to host the Basalt Longhorns at Golden Peaks Stadium on Sept. 26 at 1 p.m.

The Pirates then have a bye week before traveling to Aspen on Oct. 9 to take on the Aspen Skiers at 7 p.m.

The last regular-season home game for the Pirates will be on Oct. 16, when Pagosa Springs hosts the Gunnison Cowboys at Golden Peaks Stadium at 7 p.m.

The Pirates will then head to New Castle for their last regular-season game to take on the Coal Ridge Titans at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23.

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Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
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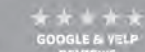


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COMBINED NOTICE — PUBLICATION
CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2026-006

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On June 10, 2026, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s)
John S. Graham
Original Beneficiary(ies)
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Oaktree Funding Corp, Its Successors and Assigns
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of Angel Oak Mortgage Trust 2023 S, Mortgage Backed Certificates, Series 2023 S

Date of Deed of Trust
December 22, 2021
County of Recording
Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust
December 27, 2021

Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.)
22109856
Original Principal Amount
\$927,500.00
Outstanding Principal Balance
\$927,500.00

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the Deed of Trust and other violations thereof

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
LOT 6, BLOCK 2, AMENDED PLAT PAGOSA PEAKS SUBDIVISION NO. 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, FILED FOR JULY 2, 1997 AS RECEPTION NO. 148818, COUNTY OF ARCHULETA, STATE OF COLORADO.
Purported common address: 75 W Pyramid Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

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

THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 10/08/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 8/13/2026
Last Publication 9/10/2026
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 06/10/2026
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
Irene Dell'Aquila #31755
McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369 6122
Attorney File # CO 26 1051689 JH
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
Published August 13, 20, 27, September 3 and 10, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311623)

Demand has been filled with the Piedra Falls Ditch Company in accordance with CRS sections 7-42-114 to 7-42-117, to issue a replacement for a lost Certificate of Shares previously issued to Bob Gourney, Piedra Falls Ditch Company will issue on or after September 1st, 2026, following the last publication of the notice by at least 30 days, a registered certificate to the registered owner, the registered owner's legal representative or assignee, or any lienholder named in the books of the corporation as a lienholder on the lost certificate unless a contrary claim is filed with the corporation prior to September 1, 2026. Point of contact is Vallissatle Chavez 970-585-7553.
Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311624)

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

Plaintiff: AVALON REAL ESTATE PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC v. **Defendants:** CHANNING M. WELLS; and ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.
Case Number: 2026CV30034
Submitting Attorney: Duke Eggleston, #24965
Eggleston Kosnik LLC
160 E. 12th St., Ste 7
Durango, CO 81301
Phone Number: (970) 759-5380
E-mail: deggleston@e-klaw.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO THE BELOW NAMED DEFENDANTS: ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other re-

sponse within 35 days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

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

This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows: Lot 47, Pagosa Meadows Unit Four, according to the plat thereof filed June 4, 1973 as Reception No. 77867, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado, a/k/a Pagosa Meadows 4; Lot 47 PM 4 Sec. 33 Twn. 35 Rng 2W. Respectfully Submitted this 20th day of July, 2026. Published in *The Pagosa Sun* Eggleston Kosnik LLC /s/ Duke Eggleston Duke Eggleston, #24965 160 E. 12th St., Ste 7 Durango, CO 81301 (970) 759-5380 Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311622)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
Service by Publication:
Case No. 26DB31
In re the Dissolution of Marriage of: Jaime Michelle Gilles, Petitioner and
And: Tyler Gilles, Respondent
Notice for Deliberation of Marriage (divorce) RSP TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENTS: A copy of the Petition and Summons may be obtained from the Clerk of this Court during regular business hours. Default judgment may be entered against Respondent, if Respondent fails to appear or file a response within thirty-five days after date of Publication.
District Court
Archuleta County Courthouse
109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published August 6, 13, 19, 27, and September 3, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (312333)

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

Archuleta County, Jess E. Ketchum, 320 Stevens Lake Road, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147: Watson Reservoir (Reservoir Pump); Located in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 5, T35N, R2W, NMPM, the axis intersects the East abutment at a point approximately 875 ft. North & 1,550 ft. West of the SE corner of Section 5. Feeder Ditch - Watson Ditch, heading of Watson Ditch is approximately 1,430 ft. North & 1,300 ft. West of SE corner of 5, T35N, R2W, NMPM, with a capacity of 2.0 CFS, Dutton Creek, Piedra River, San Juan River Watershed; UTM coordinates: Easting 315678, Northing 4129388; Dutton Creek, Piedra River, San Juan River Watershed; Appropriation date, August 31, 1987; 1.7 cfs Conditional; Stock Water and Irrigation; Application for Conditional Water Rights (Irrigation); See Applications for further details. (11 pages including exhibits)

THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of September 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304)

/s/ Jason Poyer
Published: before August 31, 2026
Water Court Specialist
Published August 20, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (314096)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

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

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

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Published August 20, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (314452)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of CHRISTOPHER LEO CHAVEZ, Deceased
Case Number 2026 PR 30010
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before October 26, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.
MARIE R HERNANDEZ
17221 Forestdale Drive
Bellevue, NE 68123
Published August 13, 20 and 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313400)

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Roy Alan Stevens, Deceased
Case Number 26 PR 30020
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before December 13, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.
Jessica Stevens, Personal Representative
287 Sparrow Circle
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published August 13, 20 and 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313398)

VALE Legal Notice 2027
2027 VALE FUNDS – 6th Judicial District (La Plata, San Juan, Archuleta Counties) Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Grant
GRANT PERIOD: January 1, 2027– December 31, 2027. The Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board announces the availability of 6th Judicial District VALE funds. The VALE Board is a five member, volunteer, community board appointed by the judicial district's Chief Judge, the Honorable Kim S. Shropshire. Funding for these grants is generated from a surcharge or fee assessed to people convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, traffic offenses and fish and game violations. No tax dollars are used.
APPROXIMATE AMOUNT AVAILABLE: \$150,000. During the 2026 grant cycle, seven agencies were approved to be funded for around \$151,000.
FUNDING PURPOSE: The purpose of the 6th Judicial District VALE grant process is to fund effective and efficient programs which will provide services to crime victims in the 6th Judicial District and assist them with: emotional and physical needs to stabilize their lives, provide a measure of safety and security, and/or enhance victims' experience with the criminal justice system.

FUNDING PRIORITIES: Programs that provide direct services to crime victims and witnesses as outlined in the VALE statute* such as victim related trainings, equipment and personnel needs of law enforcement agencies. The VALE Board has also established the following priorities: programs that provide direct services to victims of violent crime, unique and non-duplicative programs; agencies working with children and young adults; agencies offering a unique service to the community (unmet needs in an underserved community.) The VALE Board may take into consideration factors other than those stated above in making their final decisions. Board members may award money for projects not designated in the priority categories. The fact that an applicant meets eligibility requirements and applies for services within a priority category does not guarantee funding.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications will be available Monday, August 31, 2026, and returnable no later than Monday, September 28, 2026. To request an application please contact Carol Little at the Sixth Judicial District Attorney's Office at (970) 382-6339, or at clittle@jpcgov.org, or at 1060 E Second Avenue, Suite B10, Durango, CO 81301.
*copies of VALE statute and Victim Right's Act are available upon request.
Published August 13 and 20, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313427)

CROSS-COUNTRY

Pirate harriers set sights on regionals as season opens

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

Featuring one of the largest teams in years, Josh Kurz's Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country teams once again have their sights set on regionals this year.

This year's team is currently sitting at 28 runners, 17 boys and 11 girls. Of the 17 boys on the team eight are freshmen. There are also three freshmen on the girls side.

Kurz expressed he is excited about the talent on the boys' side. Ryland Ash, a sophomore, was the team's only runner to qualify for state last year, where he finished as the top

freshman in the field.

Ash will be a front-runner for the boys along with Miles Dempster, the coach indicated. Dempster is a freshman and had a very strong middle school cross-country career.

Kurz emphasized that it has been awhile since the team had a true frontrunner that would help push the rest of the team.

Isaac Hanto and Stetson Osborn are the two senior boys who will serve as captains for this year's team.

"It's going to be tough to make the varsity team this year because we've got such great depth, which is going to help us on the boys' side," said Kurz. "We usually try to qualify for

state. I always want to take as many kids to state as possible."

The top four teams in each region advance to state. Pagosa Springs' region is full of schools with legacy running communities such as Gunnison and Alamosa, but Kurz noted he believes this year's team has the talent.

On the girls' side, returners Madi Stretton, senior, and Lily DeClark, sophomore, headline a group that boasts more depth than last year.

While the girls team isn't as strong or as large as the boys team, Kurz explained he believes that they have an opportunity to make it to state.

This year Pagosa Springs will host

the regional meet.

"About every decade or so, we get the opportunity to host a regional race," said Kurz. "And so that's something that we're taking on this year. So, it'll be great to have a home field advantage and a home crowd."

Ahead of their first meet, the team has been practicing all summer. Last year Kurz challenged his runners to run 150 miles throughout the 10 weeks of summer, averaging about 15 miles a week. This year he challenged the kids to do 200 miles.

Official practices started on Aug. 10, after Kurz and kids got back from the 23rd annual Scott Anderson Training Camp at the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Kurz noted he is excited for the start of the season on Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Bayfield XC Invitational.

Most of all though, Kurz explained he is excited so many kids are choosing to challenge themselves and push themselves to accomplish their goals.

"So, it's the hardest things that we push through that [are the] things we're most proud of," Kurz said. "And so we're trying to push that philosophy, and hopefully that'll transfer into their lives as adults. That's our goal, our overarching goal."

Schedule

The Pirates will open their season at the Bayfield XC Invitational in Bayfield on Saturday, Aug. 22.

On Sept. 12, the Pirates will be back in action at the 33rd Jo I. Vigil Open High School meet in Alamosa.

The Pirates will then participate in the Coronado Cougar Classic in Colorado Springs on Sept. 19.

Their next meet will be their home meet, the McGinn Memorial Cross Country meet on Sept. 26.

On Oct. 3, the Pirates will travel to Salida for the Salida High Mountain Desert Twilight.

The Intermountain League XC Meet will be held on Oct. 8 in Durango.

The Pirates will head to Monte Vista for the Eric Wolff Invitational on Oct. 16.

The final meet of the year before state will be Colorado 3A Region 2, meet which the Pirates will host on Oct. 22.



Photo courtesy Cindi Galabota

Participants pose before heading out for the inaugural Archuleta County BioBlitz in June. Together, 75 participants made 855 observations, identifying close to 300 species.

Inaugural Archuleta County BioBlitz deemed successful

By Keith Bruno
Audubon Rockies

This year, Colorado State University Extension, Archuleta County Weed and Pest, the Town of Pagosa Springs Recreation Department, Weminuche Audubon Society (WAS), and Audubon Rockies teamed up to plan, organize and implement an exciting event.

As you may have noticed in the "thank you" ad in the July 30 issue of The SUN, it took a lot of folks to pull off our inaugural Archuleta County BioBlitz at the downtown wetlands and on Reservoir Hill in late June.

Everyone from volunteers who worked long, hot hours directing, shuttling and feeding event participants and the statewide professionals who joined us from Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and other agencies, collectively made our first effort a memorable one.

The event's 292 recorded plant, fungi, insect, mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile and other species can be found on iNaturalist, a year-round community science platform that allows for observations to be made

by the citizenry and then validated (or corrected) by industry oversight.

BioBlitzes effectively serve to identify the biota (living organisms) in a given area. This inventory creates a baseline to determine what species live in that area in a sampled season.

Moving forward, it allows natural resource professionals to monitor changes and species presence or absence over time and hopefully discern the drivers behind those changes.

Together, 75 participants made 855 observations, identifying close to 300 species.

Groups simultaneously combed the alkaline grasses and rushes of the wetlands, montane forests of the north and south slopes of Reservoir Hill, identifying and counting birds and mammals, and whatever flying insects would stay still long enough to photograph.

Inventories included macroinvertebrate samples with aquatic ecologist Patti Spindler from both the San Juan River and the Ross Aragon Community Center pond. Amy Dolan of the Xerces Society led folks through catch-and-release bee identification sessions. Lake McCullough led

participants on a medicinal plant walk. Colin Tucker of the Mountain Studies Institute got granular parsing out lichen species growing on rocks and trees. CNHP and CPW walked participants through difficult plant identifications. WAS volunteers took folks on bird walks. The Riverwalk Naturalists characterized not only the biota of the wetlands, but also spoke to the impacts that geology and hydrology have on the ecology of our downtown treasure.

Eighty-six percent of BioBlitz attendees who completed surveys reported an increase in knowledge of local ecosystems and species. Anecdotally, everyone commented on learning "something new" from the day. Some exciting finds from the day included Wright's deervetch, northern leopard frogs, twelve-spotted skimmers, cedar waxwings and green starburst lichen.

The planning committee plans to host another BioBlitz in Archuleta County in 2027 at a location that is yet to be determined. Stay tuned for that information next year and join in for another incredible learning opportunity.

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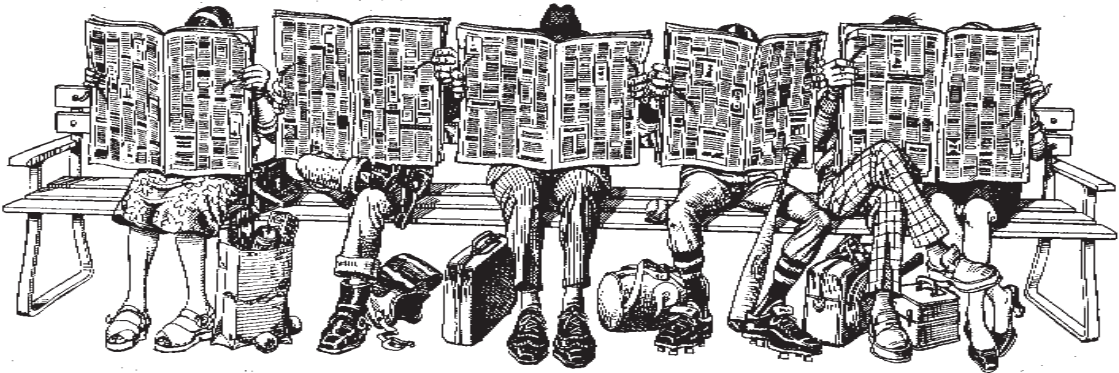
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ARTS & LIFE

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Photo courtesy Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Rescue Rendezvous: Humane Society to present 31st annual Auction for the Animals

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Some nights are meant to be remembered.
Some nights are meant to change a life.
And some nights do both.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs invites you to join us for our 31st annual Auction for the Animals: Rescue Rendezvous: Where the Mountains Meet Our Mission. This will be an unforgettable evening celebrating the animals and the community that makes second chances possible.

This is more than a night out; it is a night that directly changes lives.

Guests will enjoy an elevated Western-inspired gala filled with incredible food, beautiful art, exciting live and silent auctions, live entertainment, an adorable pet talent show, heartwarming stories, and plenty of opportunities to make a lifesaving difference for animals in our community.

Last year alone, 275 pets found loving homes. And each one of those happy endings began with a community that cared enough to help.

This year, you can help write the next chapter.

But the real excitement? The auctions. There is something for everyone, from unforgettable mountain adventures and luxurious getaways to artwork, gift baskets,

home treasures and unique experiences.

Golfers won't want to miss Golf the Mountains, featuring golf at an area club and resort and an exclusive private round at a Durango club.

Dreaming of a luxurious mountain getaway? Luxury in the San Juans – Pagosa Style, valued at more than \$1,500, includes an overnight stay at an estate with dinner for two, a \$500 gift card to a hot springs resort, a half-day guided fly-fishing trip and two bottles of wine.

For those who could use a little rest and relaxation, the Mountain Wellness Retreat brings together pilates, a \$500 gift card to a hot springs resort, dinner and a \$100 gift certificate to a local store.

Or, take your Pagosa adventure to new heights with Sky High Over Pagosa, featuring a hot-air balloon ride for two over the spectacular San Juan Mountains followed by dinner.

But the best thing you'll take home isn't something you can bid on. It's the feeling of knowing you helped save a life.

The Auction for the Animals is the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs' largest fundraiser of the year. The generosity raised during this special evening provides the resources animals need while they wait for their forever families. Your attendance provides safe shelter,

■ See Auction on next page

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Max Miller, 6 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: The Status Crowes, 5 p.m.
East Side Market: Michael Dae Hanlon, 11 a.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Cues and Brews: The Status Crowes, 5 p.m.

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PCI's Back-to-School Fair set for Aug. 22, final week to donate school supplies

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, while also urging the community to take part in the final week of school supply donations. Hosted by the PCI Family Resource Center, the event will provide free school supplies, complimentary haircuts from local volunteer styl-

ists, hygiene items, and access to community organizations offering services and information on education, health, youth programs and family support.

PCI states the goal is to help local students begin the school year prepared and confident while easing some of the stress families often face this time of year.

"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."

■ See PCI on next page

Auction

■ continued from previous page

nutritious food, medical treatment, emergency veterinary care, enrichment, rehabilitation and, ultimately, a path home.

Throughout the evening, guests will hear stories of animals who arrived needing a second chance and left with something every animal deserves — a loving home.

So, come raise a glass, raise your paddle and raise a little friendly competition at the auction.

And leave knowing that, together, we gave a second chance to an animal who desperately needed one.

Buy your tickets today at Pagosa-Humane.org.

The dress code is elevated Western attire. Think cocktail party meets the Wild West: Dresses, blazers, denim, cowboy boots, cowboy hats. Western elegance is encouraged, but not required. All are welcome.



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Arts Council

This weekend’s studio tour will allow the public to visit and tour the studios of numerous area artists. The public is invited into the workspace where art is created to see the process in person and ask questions.

Tour to offer glimpse into studios of area artists

Pagosa Springs Arts Council

Artists of Pagosa Springs are excited to announce the return of the Artists Studio Tour.

Pagosa is home to a vast array of artistic talent, and these talented artists are opening their studios to the public for one weekend only.

An open studio tour is an event where the public is invited into the workspace where art is created, allowing them to see the process in person, ask questions and possibly purchase art directly from the artist.

Studios will be open for three days — Friday, Aug. 21, through Sunday,

Aug. 23 — allowing visitors the opportunity to tour as many as possible.

This year’s lineup of artists in 25 locations in the Pagosa Springs area includes sculptors, jewelry makers, painters, fiber and ceramic artists, custom wood furniture builders, and more.

An opening reception at The Springs Resort will take place on Thursday, Aug. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. It will feature live music as well as the tour artists there to introduce themselves and their art form. This event and the tour are free and open to the public.

Printed maps are available at

various locations in town to aid in planning which studios and in which order to visit. Go to the tour website for details on the artists, printed map locations and the digital map: www.studiotourpagosa.com.

PCI

■ continued from previous page

PCI is still accepting donations of new school supplies to help meet local needs. The following items are still what is needed: large Clorox wipes, chisel tip Expo markers, paper towels, tissues, broad black dry erase markers, Sharpie markers, sticky notes, quart and sandwich size zipper-lock bags, 1.5-inch binders, and wet wipes.

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

Families interested in attending are encouraged to mark their

calendars for Aug. 22. Haircut appointments are filling quickly, and an RSVP is highly recommended by contacting Viola at (970) 585-6521 or familysupport@pagosacommunityinitiative.org. School supplies will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, and no advanced sign-up is required for the supply distribution or community resource tables.

PCI is also seeking teachers and club leaders interested in leading clubs through its after-school program this year. Participants can create their own schedules, and topics are flexible. Those interested may contact Youth Programming at (970) 585-6461.

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

Addy Hart and Kaia White as Shprintze and Bielke in Thingamajig Theatre Company's "Fiddler on the Roof," closing Aug. 29 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Final curtain approaches on Thingamajig Theatre Company's summer season

By Tim Moore

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

The final days of Thingamajig Theatre Company's 2026 summer repertory season have arrived at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

With "Company" having closed its run on Wednesday, Aug. 19, just two productions remain: "Come From Away" and "Fiddler on the Roof." Both will continue in repertory through the final performance of the summer season on Saturday, Aug. 29.

"Come From Away" tells the remarkable true story of nearly 7,000 airline passengers unexpectedly stranded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, following the Sept. 11 attacks. What begins in confusion and uncertainty becomes a funny, moving celebration of the extraordinary kindness shown by ordinary people. Thingamajig's company of professional actors portrays dozens of characters, from the travelers whose journeys were suddenly interrupted to the Newfoundlanders who opened their homes and hearts to them.

"Fiddler on the Roof," the be-

loved Broadway classic centered on Tevye, a Jewish milkman struggling to balance tradition, family and a rapidly changing world in the village of Anatevka, also returns for its final performances. Featuring favorites including "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "Sunrise, Sunset," the production has been one of the Center's most popular offerings of the summer.

The closing weeks are always bittersweet at the theater. After months of rehearsals, performances and life together in Pagosa Springs, the actors, technicians and creative artists who have made up this year's summer company will soon begin heading to their next projects around the country.

There are still several chances to catch "Come From Away" and "Fiddler on the Roof" before the curtain comes down on another summer of professional theater in Pagosa Springs. We hope to see you.

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

WHIPS to hold monthly luncheon Aug. 25

By Nancy Ford

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their next monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at 11:30 a.m. at the Elkwood

Manor Bed and Breakfast on Easy Street and U.S. 84.

The cost is \$20, and all women are welcome. We must have an accurate count for this luncheon. RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Sunday, Aug. 23.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society’s brass ensemble will be part of the Aug. 22 fundraising concert for the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association and the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society.

Special evening in sculpture garden will celebrate history, music and community

By Michelle Chapman
Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) and the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS) will come together for a special evening celebrating history, music and community on Saturday, Aug. 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Tennyson Sculpture Garden gazebo downtown.

The evening will open with stories from local author and historian Sue Fischer’s presentation, “Surprises, Mysteries and Oddities at Chimney Rock.” Fischer will share intriguing insights into Chimney Rock National Monument and the many unexpected details that continue to enrich understanding of this important Southwest Colorado archaeological treasure.

After a brief intermission, there will be performances by three PSIMS ensembles: a brass trio, a brass quintet and a woodwind ensemble. The trio, including Karen Mesikapp on trumpet, D’Ann Artis on horn and Leo Baughman on trombone, will play a selection of light classics with a Latin flair. The brass ensemble, including Jeff Fuller and Mesikapp on trumpet, Artis on horn, Dan Burch and Baughman on trombone, will play a rendition of “Sweet Georgia

Brown,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’” and other jazz classics.

Our newest ensemble is making its debut at this concert with Phil Bennett, Erika Sueker and Michelle Chapman on clarinet, Denise Fisk and Kuch Oberly on flute, and Jean Broderick on cello (bassoon). In honor the spirit of Chimney Rock, we will play “In the Hall of the Mountain King” from the play “Peer Gynt” by Henrik Ibsen and selections from “Cloud Dances” by Valarie Morris, which is inspired by the desert sunsets of the southwest.

Admission is free, and donations are strongly encouraged. Proceeds will benefit both CRIA and the PSIMS, supporting educational programming, performances and community outreach.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, as seating is not provided in the sculpture garden. Community members and visitors are invited to spend a memorable summer evening surrounded by stories, music and neighbors while supporting two nonprofit organizations that contribute to the cultural life of Pagosa Springs.

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Runway for Rise: Raising funds for 24/7 hotline support and more

Rise Above Violence

When domestic and sexual violence happens, knowing where to turn can feel overwhelming. In Archuleta County, Rise Above Violence provides immediate, confidential and compassionate support to anyone experiencing interpersonal violence and needing safety and resources.

At the core of Rise's emergency response is the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline. Available around the clock, 365 days a year, the hotline connects callers directly to trained advocates who listen without judgment and guide survivors through their options. Services are free and accessible in English, Spanish and additional languages through interpretation services. Last year, Rise answered 794 hotline calls.

The hotline is open to everyone, including:

- Concerned friends, family or neighbors seeking advice on how to safely support a loved one.
- Individuals questioning their relationship who aren't sure if what they're experiencing is abusive but know something feels wrong.
- Survivors of past abusive relationships who are working through ongoing emotional fallout, trauma or delayed stress.
- Anyone in immediate danger needing emergency assistance, safety planning or shelter options.

Survivor-led services and safety

Rise Above Violence emphasizes personalized safety planning. Advocates assist survivors in mapping out actionable steps to protect themselves and their children — whether they plan to leave, stay or are unsure of their next move. A comprehensive safety plan covers securing crucial legal documents, identifying emergency housing options, establishing discreet communication channels and locating safe transportation during a crisis.

Beyond the hotline, Rise Above Violence provides legal advocacy, crisis counseling and connections to long-term recovery resources.

Meet team Barista Baddies

At this year's Runway for Rise event, we're excited to welcome back two past winners who have teamed up and brought along a friend to help raise money for Rise Above Violence's hotline and other services.

Team Barista Baddies features returning champions Hadley and Tanya, and proudly introduces Morgan to round out the team.

"We have seen the good Rise does in many people's lives, and we want to continue to give back to our community and this organization," the team states.



Photo courtesy Hadley Phillips

From left to right, Hadley Phillips, Morgan Leslie and Tanya Quinn are ready to transform cardboard, plastic, nature and thrifted finds into something fabulous as team Barista Baddies in this year's 2026 Runway for Rise.

Rise can't thank our teams enough for all the good they do: creating amazing recycled fashion outfits, raising funds for services and survivors, and raising awareness.

It's incredible to see the work and commitment Team Barista Baddies and all the other 2026 Runway teams are contributing this year. Check them all out online at www.riseaboveviolence.org and vote with your dollars: \$1 equals one vote.

Buy tickets now

Teams will reveal their outfits on the runway on Oct. 3. You can buy tickets now for the live event on Rise's website.

Whether you are in a crisis, healing from past pain, or trying to help someone else, you don't have to figure it out alone. Call Rise Above Violence's 24/7 Hotline at (970) 264-9075.



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Jeremiah Steed, MD

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Sunday Night Unplugged to feature Sweet River this Sunday, Aug. 23

By Anthony Aldwell
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church is pleased to host the next rendition of Sunday Night Unplugged this Sunday, Aug. 23, at 5 p.m., which will feature one of Pagosa's favorite musical groups: Sweet River.

The performance is open to all, during which they will be playing original and cover numbers along with sharing thoughts and reflections of their songs.

Sweet River is a Pagosa Springs-

based indie-folk-rock trio that transforms Colorado mountain-town inspirations into a folk-infused energetic musical journey. The trio combines upbeat vocal harmonies, rhythmic guitar, driving cello, lively fiddle and tasteful additions of mandolin and harmonica.

They describe their performances as "weaving Appalachian-meets-orchestral arrangements into a foot-stomping parade of fun-filled live music".

The Sweet River trio is the combination of Sean Meade, playing the

guitar, harmonica and stomp pad; Pamela Meade on cello; and Payton McIntyre on the fiddle and mandolin, with all three blending their harmonic voices to produce their unique sound.

Members of our community, as well as visitors to Pagosa, are very welcome to attend this free hour-long event at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, located just south of the hospital, at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., during which we will share the gift of music and reflection with Sweet River.

Healthy Archuleta announces garden education series

Healthy Archuleta

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

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

Beyond the harvest itself, garden-

ing offers profound personal and community benefits.

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 local community will also benefit from planned enhancements to the Vista Lake Community Garden, including upgrades that make the garden more age-friendly and welcoming while creating opportu-

nities for community members to engage in gardening, physical activity, social connection and lifelong learning.

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

Classes will take place in the garden, and attendees are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring water

■ See Series on next page



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Community United Methodist Church to continue 'Direction' series with 'Choose This Day'

By Ken Daniell
Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church will continue its "Direction: Following the Way" sermon series this Sunday, Aug. 23, with a message titled "Choose This Day" drawn from Joshua 24:14-15.

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

In one of the most dramatic moments in the Hebrew scriptures, Joshua gathers the entire community, every tribe, every family, every elder, and gives them a choice. Not someday. Not eventually. This day. Whom will you serve?

Pastor Ken Daniell will explore what it means to make a deliberate, self-defining choice in a culture of drift, drawing on the family systems work of Murray Bowen and Edwin Friedman, the wisdom of James about fresh and salt water from the same spring, and Jesus's own words about anxiety and presence.

"We are all very good at drifting," said Daniell, "toward whatever is most comfortable, most convenient, most familiar. Chronic anxiety keeps us just unsettled enough to avoid the

hard work of actually deciding who we are and what we are for. Joshua calls the whole community back from that drift and says, choose. Out loud. Today."

The sermon is the fourth in the six-week "Direction" series, which will run through Labor Day weekend.

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

Blessing of the Backpacks set for Aug. 30

On Sunday, Aug. 30, Community UMC will hold a special Blessing of the Backpacks at their combined fifth Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.

All those involved in education, students, teachers, administrators, school staff, parents and anyone who supports the work of learning in our community are invited to bring their backpacks, bags and briefcases for a blessing as the new school year begins.

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

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. 28, 6 p.m.: Friday Full Moon Sturgeon Moon Drumming at Xanadu with Shayla Azriel. Brint rattles, drums and musical instruments. A \$10 donation will be collected. 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 Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

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

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.

Series

■ continued from previous page
and sun protection. Garden tools and gloves will be available.

Classes will take place on Sept. 9, 16 and 23 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) Vista Community

Production Garden, adjacent to the PLPOA administration building.

For more information and to register, visit the events page on our website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org, or email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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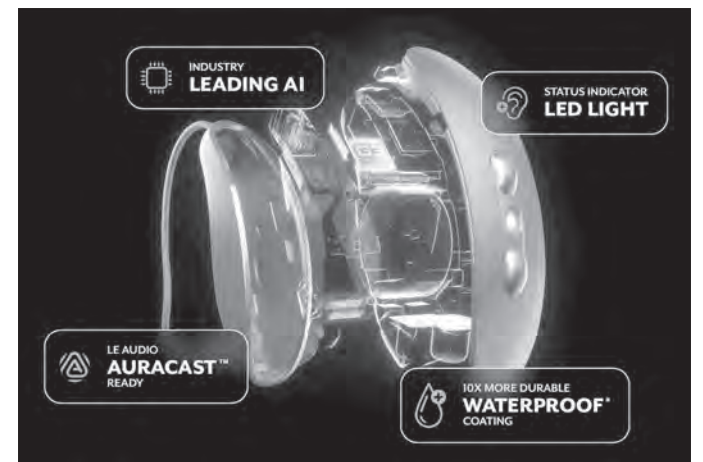
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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Aug. 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 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).

Saturday, Aug. 22

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

■ See Calendar on next page



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

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

Pagosa Community Initiative Back-to-School Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. An event designed to help ease the financial burden that comes with preparing children for a new school year.

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.

Puzzle Palooza. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Put together some puzzles and have some family fun.

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

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association and Pagosa Springs Community Band Fundraiser. 5:30 p.m., Tennyson Sculpture Park and Gardens. The evening will begin with local author and historian Sue Fischer speaking on "Surprises, Mysteries and Oddities at Chimney Rock." The Pagosa Springs Community Band will then present performances by its brass trio, brass quintet and woodwind ensemble.

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

Sunday, Aug. 23

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.

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).

Sunday Night Unplugged. 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Indie-folk-rock Pagosa trio Sweet River will share music and reflections. Open to all community members and visitors.

Monday, Aug. 24

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.

DivorceCare. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church library, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through, are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You can register online or join at any class during the 13-week session. For more information, call Jim and Holly Shook at (951) 733-1893 or email jshookup@gmail.com, or the church at (970) 731-2205 or centerpointchurchpagosa@gmail.com. There is no cost for the program.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

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

accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

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

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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- Morganne

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- Lauren

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., Elkwood Manor Bed and Breakfast, 85 Easy St. The cost is \$20. All women are welcome. An RSVP to (970) 946-1895 is required by Sunday, Aug. 23.

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

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

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

Teen Advisory Group. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 12-18. Be a voice at your library. Build leadership skills, mentor others and plan programs that interest you. Snacks will be provided.

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

accessible. Tours are weather dependent.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Dolores.

Wednesday, Aug. 26

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.

Moving Caterpillar Craft. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-10. Make a caterpillar that can actually move.

A Tour of Two Trails. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

Thursday, Aug. 27

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,

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Piedra Vista.

Full Moon Program and Early Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. Combine the Full Moon Program with an early, guided tour of the Mesa Village Trail to create a four-hour event. The cost is \$30. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Full Moon Program. 7 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A three-hour event culminating in a unique experience of viewing the moonrise from atop Chimney Rock Mesa. Prior to that, a presentation will highlight the Ancestral Puebloan ties to astronomy and the Chacoan culture. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Come From Away.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit

pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Aug. 28

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.

org or call (877) 444-6777.

Read Wild! Summer Finale Party. 1-3 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Join to celebrate the completion of the library's Summer Reading Program. There will be juggling, balloon animals, games, drinks and snacks. There will also be grand prize drawing, door prizes and other awards for top readers in each age category.

A Tour of Two Trails. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Salida.



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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

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

At this time of year, the smallest bird in the United States and Canada stops to rest and refuel in our area. Measuring less than 3.5 inches, and at one-tenth ounce weighing as much as a ping-pong ball, it is also recognized as the smallest long-distance migratory bird in the world. Everything about this bird, including tail, wings and thin bill, is short.

Following flower bloom times, a calliope hummingbird may migrate more than 5,000 miles each year from winter grounds in pine/oak forests of Mexico to western breeding grounds and back. In the spring they migrate north along the Pacific Coast to breed in cool mountain meadows, willow/alder thickets, or forests recovering from fire or logging between 4,000 and 11,000 feet of elevation. Their summer range stretches from California north to British Columbia and east to Wyoming.

The calliope breeds at higher elevations than many other hummingbirds. To survive nighttime drops in temperature, it may enter a state of torpor, lowering its body temperature and metabolic rate to conserve energy. As is typical with hummingbirds, no lasting pair bond is formed between partners. Although the male defends his breeding territory against birds as large as a red-tailed hawk, he provides no parental care.

The female builds a tiny nest on an evergreen branch sheltered from above that can look like a pine cone. She lays two white eggs about the size of a coffee bean and is responsible for incubating, feeding the young and keeping them warm at night until they are on their own.

Until genetic testing placed the calliope in the same genus as rufous and broad-tailed hummingbirds, it was in its own genus, *Stellula*, which means little star. This was a reference to the male calliope's iridescent magenta gorget, which is divided into separate rays like a burst of starlight. Females and immature males have a white throat marked with a few small dark spots and a peachy wash across the breast.

Calliope hummingbirds that we see here are returning by an inland migratory path along the Rocky Mountains back to Mexico, a remarkable journey for this tiny bird.

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

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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Just okay
- 5 Aaron and Raymond
- 10 Home to the Himalayas
- 14 Cocoon contents
- 15 Son of Cain
- 16 River's turn
- 17 Rapper-turned-actor
- 18 Paneled art in a church
- 20 Having a topic
- 22 Funnywoman Tracey
- 23 "Credit or ____?"
- 24 Toddler's perch
- 25 Diacritical dots
- 27 Walmart's home
- 31 Potting mixtures
- 32 Scottish hillside
- 33 Emerald Isle
- 34 Self starter?
- 35 Chic
- 38 Blackjack card
- 39 Actor Stoltz
- 41 "Rebel Yell" rocker
- 42 Pistol-packing
- 44 Goes back over, as one's steps
- 46 Systems of belief
- 47 Once more
- 48 Spills
- 49 South American river
- 52 Perfectly clean
- 55 Iberian and Yucatan, e.g.
- 57 Superfruit berry
- 58 Effortlessness
- 59 Wear away
- 60 Knitter's need
- 61 Paint can direction
- 62 Frozen rain-drops
- 63 Guys-only party

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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55						56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

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DOWN

- 1 Type of shine
- 2 Exclamation of pain
- 3 Highway sign
- 4 Quaker product
- 5 "Get lost!"
- 6 Out, as a candle
- 7 School military org.
- 8 Color TV pioneer
- 9 Shriveled up
- 10 Chisholm Trail town
- 11 Come across as
- 12 Machu Picchu builder
- 13 Yemen port city
- 19 "Not guilty," e.g.
- 21 Treat poorly
- 24 South African village
- 25 Theater worker
- 26 Watered silk
- 27 Odysseus' dog
- 28 Blue-eyed feline

- 29 Rainbowlike
- 30 Gardener's need
- 32 Sprinkle with drops
- 36 IDs shown at airports
- 37 Mystical deck
- 40 Less rational
- 43 Sportscasters' second looks
- 45 Any minute

- 46 Coat or linen follower
- 48 Digging tool
- 49 Chimps and gorillas
- 50 Vegan no-no
- 51 Standards org.
- 52 Blackthorn fruit
- 53 Actress Gilbert
- 54 Croon a tune
- 56 Web address

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

‘THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL: YOUTH EDITION’

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce
Scene ... taking a dive to Bikini Bottom for ‘The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition,’ presented by the school district’s middle schoolers Aug. 13-15. The musical was presented following nine days of in-person rehearsals.



Ruby Sisson Library adds Hoopla

By **Barbara Brattin**
PREVIEW Columnist

We have a brand-new ebook product on board, Hoopla. If you have used larger libraries across the country, you are probably familiar with this popular product. Our new subscription comes through our AspenCat membership, and offers both e-books, including comics, as well as e-audiobooks. Ruby Sisson Library will continue to offer Libby (Overdrive). We will no longer offer CloudLibrary.

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Summer reading challenge wrapping up

With just a few weeks to go, you have surpassed our lofty goal of 250,000 minutes read and are almost at our next-level 350,000-minute goal.

Yes, Pagosa, this summer you have read a combined 320,000 minutes. That is simply phenomenal. And we have one more week to go. Read Wild! ends Aug. 28 with an end-of-summer celebration for all ages on Aug. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park.

We hope you all had a wonderful time at the library this summer. As one young visitor exclaimed recently, "It's the summer for kids." It was, indeed. And all of you made it so special.

1,000 Books Before

Library News

Kindergarten prepares your little one for success

Don't let the Summer Reading Program be the end of your reading time together. As the beginning of another school year looms on the horizon, you might be thinking about your own small child's first day of kindergarten. Will she be prepared?

The library has a free, fun program to give your child the head start she needs.

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

The goal is not to read 1,000 different books before kindergarten, but to simply read 1,000 times before they begin their journey to expand their knowledge. If your little one has a favorite book that they want you to reread to them immediately after finishing it the first time, then that counts as another book read.

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

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

Group meeting room available

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

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.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly calendars at the library or check the website, www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar,

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

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.

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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

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ continued from previous page

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New in large print

- "Eyes of Kings" is the action-packed final installment in Chloe Gong's "Flesh & False Gods" trilogy. The 400-page fantasy novel is inspired by Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra and follows an ultimate showdown for power in the kingdom of Talin.
 - Kristin Harmel is back with "Meet Me in Paris." Julia Glover has brought her 23-year-old daughter, Piper, to Paris for the first time, their last trip here together. Julia is dying, and as the mother and daughter desperately try to make memories together as the clock ticks down, they both meet men they never want to leave.
 - "The Wild Beneath" by Kelly Anderson will appeal to fans of "Wild Dark Shore" and "The Time Traveler's Wife." A woman caught in a tsunami meets a mysterious stranger with magnetic secrets. When the stranger disappears, the woman must make impossible choices.
- New fiction**
- Joyce Carol Oates is back with a

- collection of psychological stories in "The Frenzy."
- "Spinning at the Edges" features protagonist Ruth Pearl, a woman who has found critical solace in the Connecticut countryside from the horrific legacy of the Holocaust but must somehow cope when her peaceful sanctuary is threatened.
 - A new thriller, "Wisdom Corner," from native author David Heska Wanbli Weiden, features Virgil Wounded Horse, who is trying desperately to escape his past as a hired vigilante but is forced to return to the job when a legendary figure is murdered on the reservation.
- Back to school**
- "The Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for Special Education Services for Your Child" is a legal guide for parents and caregivers to arrange for appropriate evaluations and win disputes with school districts.
 - "Get Into Any College: The Insider's Guide to Getting Into a Top College" by Gen and Kelly Tanabe will appeal to many high school seniors who dream of attending the college of their choice.
 - The companion to the above title is "Get Fresh Cash for College: Secrets to Winning Scholarships," with plenty of advice for affording to attend that college of your dreams.

- True crime**
- Fans of mystery fiction may enjoy true crime stories. These are new to our shelves:
- "Confessions of the Green River Killer: A True Story of Manipulation, Madness, and a Search for Justice" is by Maria DiLorenzo, one of the few journalists to interview the killer.
 - "By the River's Edge: A True Story of Identity and Serial Murder," tells the story of the 1990 murders by one crazed killer of women near Spokane, Wash.
- New in history**
- "Enslaved on the Trail of Tears: Race, Removal, and the Transformation of Indian Territory" is from historical scholar Terry J. Ligon.
 - Middle Ages historian Thomas Asbridge brings us "The Black Death: A Global History of Humanity's Most Devastating Pandemic."
 - World War II buffs will find interest in "The Last of the Old Breed: An Oral History of the Final Marines of World War II," a collection of oral histories from surviving soldiers aged 90 to 103.
- See you at the library.

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



Cobwebs in the corner

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Before the fire, my daughter and son-in-law came to do some deep cleaning. They swept cobwebs out of corners, cleaned away which had been hidden and brought attention to things long forgotten. Yet, even then, some cobwebs seemed to linger unnoticed.

When life suddenly demands attention, usually cobwebs are the last thing on my mind. But, sooner or later, there is a wake-up call, a moment that forces us to look at what shouldn't still be there.

Emotional cobwebs can remain hidden until something disturbs them. It's as though a spider quietly spins a web of hurt in the corner of our hearts, layering pain upon pain while we shut off the light and avoid that place. Sometimes it's a person who should have gone long ago, yet still lingers, cluttering the soul and carrying darkness into spaces meant for peace. Then, very quietly, God begins to work. That was how my week began.

I was preparing for the Bible study on John the Baptist, the one who came to point to Jesus and prepare the way for Him. The theme was transition.

Isaiah wrote of the voice who was coming, and John boldly identified himself as that voice. He understood his role and assignment in God's economy. There was no resistance in John, just only the humble question: "Are you the one?" Being resolved, he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30, NASB).

Artist's Lane

He was saying more than that his own influence would lessen. He was announcing the climax of an order and the arrival of something far greater. A transition was coming. He had done what he was sent to do. He was not the bridegroom, but the friend, and now he was handing the bride to Christ. In that moment, he had heard the Bridegroom's voice, and his joy was fulfilled.

I have settled into roles before, and when it was time to move on, my joy was not so easily fulfilled. It felt as if I had once been in the first chair in the band and quietly moved to the second. Before long, I found myself not even in the band at all. Did I blame the ones who took my place? Yes, probably. Did I blame those who did not recognize my worth? Probably. Did I see it clearly as God's plan and rejoice? No.

Something triggered an emotional cobweb in me. I had not swept the lingering webs from the rafters of my mind. Yet, I knew something inside had to be made right.

In that moment, the stubborn web found no place in my heart or mind. The weight lifted. And suddenly I saw more clearly why I was where I was, and how to move forward with understanding and purpose.

Just like John, the voice, made room for Jesus, the One who gave

His life so that we, His bride, might receive life and make us able to transition into that spiritual place that is meant for us.

Anything of lasting value often starts in a transitional season. We begin something, and someone else

■ See PCI on next page

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HEALTHY SELF

PROPER HYDRATION CAN HELP WITH HEADACHES



After reading today's excerpt, you may find yourself reaching for a glass of water instead of a pill for your next headache.

The question for most all headache sufferers is, "Is there any relief?"

From migraines to tension headaches, it comes down to coping with fighting pain. For those of us who have dealt with headaches, it seems as if we have tried everything to rid ourselves of pain. Sometimes the strategies work and sometimes they don't.

What can we do to find relief from the throbbing, aching, and pounding? It may be as

simple as looking at our lifestyles and identifying triggers that can start a headache.

What is a headache trigger? A trigger can be anything from what we eat or drink, our environment (light or odors), stress, or a combination of factors. By simply examining what these triggers are and where they may enter our lives, we may gain some insight to why headaches begin and possibly learn to divert these headaches before they ever start.

Dehydration is a major cause of headaches. 75 percent of Americans are chronically dehydrated) and the coffee and soda we consume only adds to the problem (B. Levine, 2004).

Did you have a cup of coffee this morning? Did you have more than one? "You can get headaches from too much caffeine and from caffeine withdrawal. Withdrawal starts from 8 to 16 hours after the last ingestion, which explains why many people get a headache toward the end of their workday, or when they wake up in the morning." (Healthisquare, 2004).

Tyramine is a natural substance found in the body that assists in regulating blood pressure. It is also found in some foods. Tyramine can be found in chocolate, some cheeses, sour cream, soy sauce, yogurt, and some yeast extracts. Some preservatives like nitrites and monosodium glutamate (MSG) can also be triggers to headaches. Common foods containing these chemicals could include: processed meat products, potato chips, dry roasted nuts, salad dressings, and mayonnaise.

Source: "Headache Triggers." <http://apps.cignabehavioral.com>

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

"... I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." Revelation 21:6 last part

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to focus on civic engagement for Action Sunday

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

In high school civics class we learned the importance of civic engagement, and that it is the responsibility of everyone to understand how governance works. Voting rights and rules were discussed, such as, “the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.”

Even with this knowledge, the average number of eligible voters, only about 50 percent, actually vote.

As part of the broader Unitarian Universalist’s (UU) Meet the Moment

framework, we turn our attention to the “UU the Vote” effort, “a non-partisan civic engagement initiative focused on inviting people of faith to deepen their commitment to democracy by organizing in their communities, supporting voter engagement, and strengthening the civic culture that sustains a healthy democracy,” as stated in an April press release from the UU Association.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship spends the fourth Sunday each month with what we call Action Sunday. This week, Aug. 23, at 10:30 a.m., we will

gather to address postcards for a get-out-the-vote message. All are welcome to join us and learn more about the vital work of civic engagement. Aug. 30 is a fifth Sunday and the fellowship takes this as a day of

■ See Unitarian on next page

Lane

■ continued from previous page

may finish it. Sometimes another receives the credit. But that is part of how God works. We are learning to understand how we are made, our design, our place in the chain of progress, and especially our place in the spiritual progress of another heart and in the larger divine picture.

Then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Thy will. He takes away the first in order to establish the second” (Hebrews 10:9, NKJV). This reflects the fading of the old and the coming of the new, the voice giving way to Jesus, the eternal life.

This scripture in Hebrews points to Psalm 40:10 about the transition from the old covenant of law to the new covenant of grace. It reveals how Jesus established the second order.

It is like giving a room to someone who writes a bestseller. Maybe it was our desire to write that book, but that isn’t our job. As they fulfill

their mission, soon God takes away the importance of the first in order to establish the second.

The second rests upon the grace that was already laid down in order to accomplish what God called each one to do. What came before was necessary. It gave shape, truth, and footing to what followed. The first role is still important; it simply carries a different blessing.

Final brushstroke: So often, we can’t truly see the corners of the room until the cobwebs are swept down, then we see ourselves. It takes a mature Christian to let go of any offense and let go of the hurt. It also takes the power of the Lord to cleanse the mind and heart in order to take us into the next step of transitioning into something greater.

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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Where does your donation go?

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

When you make a donation to Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), your generosity goes directly toward helping older adults in our community live healthier, more independent lives.

Your support helps provide nutritious Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors, meals at the Senior Center, wellness and educational programs, and opportunities for seniors to gather and connect with others.

Your donation also helps ASI keep these essential services available to seniors who may be living on a fixed income and struggling with rising food, housing, utility and medical costs. Every dollar makes a difference in helping ensure that local seniors have access to the resources and support they need.

But, the impact of your donation goes far beyond the services themselves.

When a Meals on Wheels volunteer arrives at a senior's door, they may be delivering more than a nutritious meal; they may be delivering a friendly conversation, a wellness check and a reminder that someone cares.

When seniors gather at the Senior Center, they find opportunities to make new friends, share a laugh, participate in activities and feel connected to their community.

When you give to ASI, your giving really goes to a smile, independence, companionship, friendships and a happy heart.

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.

Unitarian

■ continued from previous page
rest and renewal as we plan for our monthly theme of interdependence for September.

The UU Fellowship meets for worship services the first and third Sundays of the month, and offers small group ministry the second and fourth Sundays, all beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Our Community Hub is home to several other gatherings that are open to all.

Weekly Tara Meditation practice is on hiatus for the month of August,

Senior News

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 classes

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

■ See Senior on next page

HUD

Publisher's Notice



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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
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.

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' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

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

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

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

Community Cafe menu

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

Thursday, Aug. 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.

Monday, Aug. 24 — Chicken fettuccine Alfredo, broccoli, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Aug. 25 — Tomato basil soup and grilled cheese sandwich, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday, Aug. 26 — Orange ginger garlic beef, jasmine rice, sautéed snap peas, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Aug. 27 — Sliced ham with apricot glaze, scalloped potatoes, carrots, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Aug. 28 — Cod with lemon butter, rice pilaf, broccoli, 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

■ **See Senior on page 23**

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

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

WORDS

- AMBULANCE
- BOTTLENECK
- BOULEVARD
- COMMUTER
- CONGESTION
- CONSTRUCTION
- CROSSWALK
- GRIDLOCK
- HIGHWAY
- INTERSECTION
- MOTORCYCLE
- OVERPASS
- PEDESTRIAN
- POLICE
- ROUNDBOUT
- RUSH HOUR
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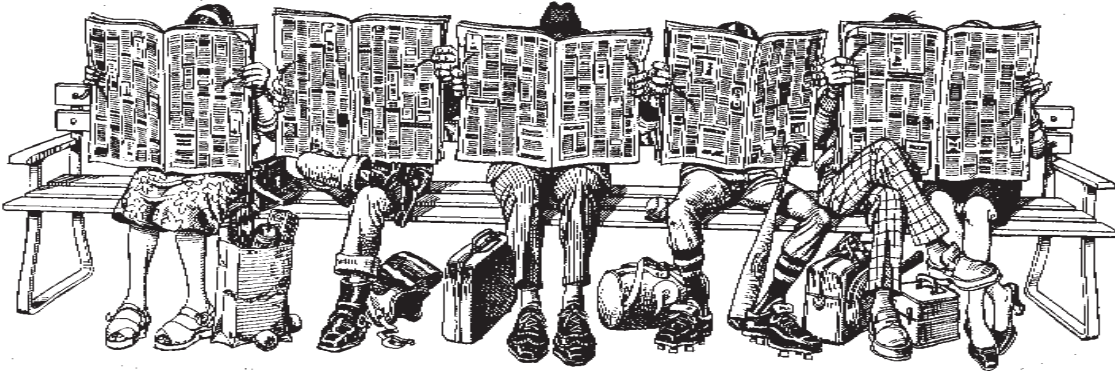
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Photo courtesy Alisa Pegram

Women affiliated with a collegiate sorority gathered at The Alley House Grille for a Panhellenic gathering to catch up with old friends while enjoying new friends and sharing the bond of sisterhood across badges. Twenty-two women from 19 different colleges/universities and nine sorority groups attended. If you would like to be added to our list for future events, please contact Sherry Spears at (940) 887-9208 or sherrykayspears@sbcglobal.net.

Senior

■ continued from page 21

homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

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

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

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

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

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

Medicare assistance by appointment

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

Board vacancies

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

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

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

Support the Senior Center

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

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

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

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: www.psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to

\$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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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](https://dmv.colorado.gov) to book via the Sign-Up Genius link. Appointments for seniors, veterans, and the disabled are available before 11a.m. and can be made by calling the County Administration Office at (970)264-8309. For a list of state required documents visit <https://dmv.colorado.gov>/documents to have ready for your appointment. 2026 DMV2GO services will be held in the Archuleta County Department of Human Services Conference Room – 550 Hot Springs Blvd. Suite A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. DMV2GO does not offer driver testing. If a driving test is needed, you must have this done before the scheduled appointment.

PAGOSAAA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: ID 858-319-763 password 754-234. For information call Kathi (970)946-1482, Ranza (970)903-3849 or (970)731-9774 or central office (888)333-9649.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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Classifieds

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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HOME REMODELS and improvements at affordable prices. Bathrooms, kitchens, additions, decks, drywall, painting, siding and more. Call: (970)844-0554.

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.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

NEED HELP WITH A PROJECT? Moving? Packing and unpacking. Organizing and decluttering. Something else? Call Marlene, (719)850-3055.

PREMIUM PEAK CLEANING. 4 hours \$150 cleaning special for August and September. Call (970)902-3145.

RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

ROOF RESCREWING, CHIMNEY CLEANING, roof repairs, dryer vent cleaning, valley repairs. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543.

STORAGE SPECIALS, ALL SIZES. We also deliver cargo containers. Buy, rent, rent to own. Pagosa Springs Storage. (970)731-0007.

TANKLESS /ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only certified company that extends the parts and labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. water Heater solutions, (970)585-6513.

TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning and mitigation. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience **REFLECTIONS** Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 -FREE estimates.

HELP WANTED

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.

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



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

Apply in person.
 Applications available on
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Weekends and holidays required. Benefits include discounts, paid time off, sick pay, profit sharing and more!



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Full-time, year-round position.

Must possess a valid CDL, safe driving record, and strong work ethic.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVER WANTED to work with quadriplegic. Monday-Friday, noon to 3p.m. Training provided. Weekly pay. Call Summer at (970)946-3061.

CARETAKER NEEDED FOR VRBO on upper Blanco. 10 minutes from Tractor Supply. Light maintenance, yard work, snow removal, I have all equipment or use your own. References required. (210)241-6002.

CITY HALL CAFE looking for part -time and full -time dishwashers. Apply within. 2151 Eagle Drive.



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Dr. Peter Roukema & Dr. Jaime Astorga
 Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is looking for an energetic and personable individual to join our growing family practice.

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This is a fun, friendly, and fast office.

Competitive pay and full benefits available.

Please reach out to us at:
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COLORADO DREAM HOMES IS HIRING.

Seeking a general laborer, clean driving record preferred. Responsibilities would include deliveries, construction site clean up and support, insulation and utility work. Pay starts at \$21+ per hour. Full-time, year round work. Consistent work start time and location, paid time off and paid holidays. To apply, come by 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application or send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com.

FREE GOLF when you're employed by Pagosa Springs Golf Club /Square Top BBQ. See us for details. Immediate Openings DOE: Counter Server/Bartender \$12.14 -\$14.50 / hour plus tips, Grounds Crew \$17 -\$19 / hour. Seeking reliable, outgoing and honest applicants with excellent customer service skills for our team. Full /part -time positions available. Will train. Apply in person at 1 Pines Club Place.

HAVE 2 BEDROOM TRAILER on the river, needs work. 1st month free if you fix it. I will provide parts. River water, solar, generator, 22 miles south of town. Rent \$800 per month. (970)264-2592.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HIRING BARISTA AND REGISTER POSITION. Root House Coffee + Shop in downtown Pagosa Springs is hiring an experienced barista or someone eager to learn the craft of exceptional coffee, along with a front of house register tea member to greet and serve our guests. A genuine love of hospitality, kindness, and attention to detail are essential as we create a welcoming experience for every person who walks through our doors. Part-time positions available. Pay with tips averages over \$20 per hour. Send your resume today to howdy@roothouseco.com.

HOUSE CLEANER- 22 miles south of town. (970)264-2592.

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

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

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$18/ hour, full or part -time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LOOKING FOR STUCCO PERSON. 22 miles south of town. (970)264-2592.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS WINE AND LIQUOR is looking for a dependable, friendly, part-time cashier to join our team. **We're looking for someone who:** Is reliable and punctual, Has great customer service skills, Is friendly and outgoing, Can work independently and as part of a team, Is available nights and weekends, Has a positive attitude. If you are interested, please stop by the store to apply. **Come join our team.**

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OLD WEST SPIRITS is looking for part -time help. Apply in person at 10 Solomon Drive. Starting wage, \$16.50.

HELP WANTED

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

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.

PLPOA RECREATION CENTER Now hiring. The PLPOA Recreation Center is seeking a part -time custodian to help keep our facility clean and welcoming for our members. This position pays \$21 –\$22 per hour, and employees receive a free Rec Center membership. Position Details: • Monday–Sunday • 8:30p.m.–1:30a.m. (or until cleaning is complete) • Responsibilities include cleaning and disinfecting locker rooms, removing trash, mopping floors, and other duties as assigned. If interested or have questions, please email Ryan at Ryan@plpoa.com.

REQUEST FULL -TIME CAREGIVER. Hi, my name is Michael Shields. I am 47 and a spinal cord injury survivor. Looking for caregiver available 7 days a week. Background in medical: RNA, CNA or prior caregiving. Includes getting dressed, undressed, lifted into wheelchair, position back in bed, light cooking, feeding, grooming, toiletry, etc. Looking for somebody flexible, compassionate and RELIABLE. 965 Cloud Cap Ave., Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Jesus drastically changed my life and if this sounds like an answer to prayer and a paid position you would be interested in, please contact me at (623)606-1986 for more info.

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.

HELP WANTED

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

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full -time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO, additional sick time, and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$17 -\$18 DOE. Apply for the Animal Care Specialist role online https://pagosahumane.org/ or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

AUTOS

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

1984 WW 16FT STOCK TRAILER. Solid floor, divider, brake, lights. Good condition overall. Needs some paint. \$3500. Call (970)264-1365.

DE WALT 735 2 speed planer, like new —\$600. (970)731-6878 or (970)946-7218.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? It's time to get stocked up. Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine mix. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FOR SALE

DRY, SEASONED DOUGLAS FIR and aspen for sale. Ryan Whitlow (970)585-4578.

FIREWOOD DELIVERED. Doug fir /pine mix \$250 per cord, \$1400 for 6 cords. Call Kathie, (303)358-6218.

FIREWOOD. Tired of not getting a full cord? 4'x4'x8', \$265 full cord, pine and fir mix. Very dry, split last year, 14 cords available. Delivery extra. Just off Piedra and 160. (970)398-1928.

FOLDABLE HEAVY DUTY black metal stand with hammock also 2 chains and 2 hooks for hanging. New \$150. Call (970)946-6263.

LARGE LEATHER CHAIR — FREE. (561)703-1699.

PORTABLE CHEMICAL TOILET —Never used. \$60. (970)731-6878 or (970)946-7218.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

PETS

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

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

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

21' AEROLITE RV. Updates and title needed. \$850. (970)507-0132.

YARD SALES

BIG SALE: 120 Steamboat Drive. Friday and Saturday 7:30a.m.-2p.m. Lots of new and used. Furniture, linens, kitchen wear, collectibles, books, toys, yard games and more. Everything must go.

YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE August 21st -23rd. 8a.m.-3p.m. 149 Turkey Lane. 6000 sq. ft. warehouse. Tons of tools, stained glass and artist supplies, pottery, electronics, steamer trunks, kerosene lanterns, building supplies, garage cabinets, cameras, books, artwork, antique furniture, Christmas villages galore — Department 56. Antique Fireman's pole phone. Can't possibly list it all. If you need it, we probably have it.

ESTATE SALE. AUGUST 22-23 from 9a.m.-3p.m. at 28061 HWY 160 in Bayfield. Antiques, country living items, tools and more. Located near Yellowjacket pass right off the 160. Photos at nesestatesales.com.

GARAGE SALE Saturday August 22, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 128 Bastille. Cash only. Things priced to sell.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 22 AND 29. 54 Simmons Place. 8a.m. -3p.m.

SEARCHING FOR HIDDEN TREASURE? Gearing up for fall? See you Saturday 22nd only, 8a.m.-2p.m. 32 Woodland Drive.

YARD SALE. August 29, 30, 9a.m.-4p.m. 581 Hills Circle, Pagosa Springs. Cannondale bikes, kitchen ware, plates, furniture, carpets, patio umbrellas, grill .

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND BAR for rent or lease. The Colorado Garden Company. Great for wine /cheese /beer /tapas. Great space in garden nursery. Ice cream trailer for rent in addition. Text (970)398-0518.

COMMERCIAL STORAGE. Flex/ Hobby Garage. One unit available. Approximately 1800 sq. ft., 1 full bathroom, 14 ft. x 10 ft. door, high ceiling. Radiant floor heat. Finished drywall interior. \$2,000 a month. 218 Hopi Drive, Pagosa Springs. Call or text (903)327-3345.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AVAILABLE. Liberty Theatre building. Main Street access, parking, AC, fiber Internet, Eastern Range and river views, keyless entry. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

LARGE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park. 112 acre lot— \$995 /month. and 1.27 acre lot— \$750 /month. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities are located at the street. Tenant must verify end use with the county. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

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All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

Office Space for Lease in Pagosa Springs

Newly remodeled space in the First Southwest Bank building, conveniently located off Highway 160. Suites ranging from 160 to 1,585 square feet — perfect for solo professionals or growing teams.

- Flexible suite sizes to fit your business
- Shared conference room access
- Break room and restrooms
- Large on-site parking lot
- Prime, high-visibility Hwy 160 location



Contact Melanie Russek
for leasing details and availability.
melanie.russek@fswb.com
866-641-3792

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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

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

TWO ADJOINING OFFICES DOWNTOWN Upstairs. Rent one or both. \$350 per month per office. Includes utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

UPTOWN WAREHOUSE SPACE with office and bathroom for rent. 1400 sq. ft. Water and trash included. 97 Hopi Dr. Text (970)946-5163.

Email us at
classads@
pagosasun.com
to submit your
classified.
PagosaSUN.com

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

BRIGHT, SUNNY, NEWLY REPAINTED 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath unit with attached garage, 2 outdoor parking spaces, sundeck and fire-place in downtown. Utilities included except for internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up). Background check and credit report required. All appliances except washer and dryer. No smoking, pets upon approval. \$2650 per month. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL, New build 7th Street—one and two bedrooms available. Walking distance to hot springs and shops and restaurants in old downtown. (720)470-2653.

FOR RENT. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1750 month. First and last with security deposit. 633 Prospect Blvd. (970)946-3983.

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.

HAVE 2 BEDROOM TRAILER on the river, needs work. 1st month free if you fix it. I will provide parts. River water, solar, generator, 22 miles south of town. Rent \$800 per month. (970)264-2592.

LOCATED IN DESIRABLE PAGOSA LAKES subdivision, 3 bedroom, 1 bath in fourplex, 5 minute walk to lake, spacious 1200 sq. ft. newly updated with vinyl plank flooring and freshly painted throughout. Washer and dryer included. No pets allowed. \$1525. For more details call Lee, (970)946-3856, or John, (303)881-1407.

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

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.

PARK YOUR CAMPER OR TRAILER and camp, or just store it. 22 miles south of town. (970)264-2592.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 1 bath condo. \$1400 per month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available 09/10/26.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 2 car garage home in nice neighborhood. Water paid. \$2995 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.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

1 ACRE PLUS, downtown property. Great location for townhomes for singles. (970)398-9136.

ARBOLES 2 ACRES with approved septic and well. \$100,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

FOUR DOWNTOWN PRIME BUILDING LOTS. Mountain and river views for those looking to build an exceptional home or builder spec. Starting at \$395K. Realtors welcome. builder7@fastmail.com. (970)398-9136.

HOMES FOR SALE



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying or Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

2 BR CABIN the in woods on 1.2 acres, updated kitchen, stainless steel appliances, new septic and cistern. \$259,900. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 BR 2BA HOME 1680 sq. ft., all newer appliances, nice wood and metal accents, close to shopping. \$275,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

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

MATURE LANDSCAPE, FENCED 3 bedroom, 2 bath with green belt on 2 sides on a double lot. 2 car attached garage. Furnished. Can email photos. (970)903-3049. \$540k.

NEAR NAVAJO LAKE, 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on 2.2 acres on quiet street, central water, lots of updates, \$355,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

OPEN HOUSES

Come see me at my
OPEN HOUSE
41 Pueblo Ct.



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THE HUNT



2026 PAGOSA SPRINGS HUNTING GUIDE

Published by The Pagosa Springs SUN
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Pagosa Country: a hunters' headquarters

Pagosa Country is headquarters for many hunters in southwest Colorado. It is ideally located in the midst of some of the best big game hunting in the United States.

Many of the people who live in the area are big game hunters and have, therefore, learned to cater to the needs of hunters. The town and surrounding area can supply all of the amenities needed. There are motels, hotels, lodges, campgrounds, medical facilities (including a hospital), supermarkets, convenience stores and many retail stores.

The inventory of hunting equipment in local stores is extensive. There are hunting and fishing supply stores, hardware stores, clothing stores and automotive service establishments.

Pagosa also has some of the finest restaurants to be found in the region. Hunters, after several days of camp food, will find that any of the area restaurants will provide a welcome diet change. These restaurants make a special effort during hunting season to provide hearty meals.

Stores are well-stocked with warm, comfortable outdoor clothing and shoes. They carry special boots and shoes for hunting and for stormy weather, plus fluorescent orange vests, jackets and hats (required by law).

Hunters often wish to take home a gift or souvenir of their visit to this part of the world. There are numerous stores and shops with every imaginable type of gift.

Along with the merchandise and items for sale, local merchants are a good source of information about the area and will assist hunters whenever possible.

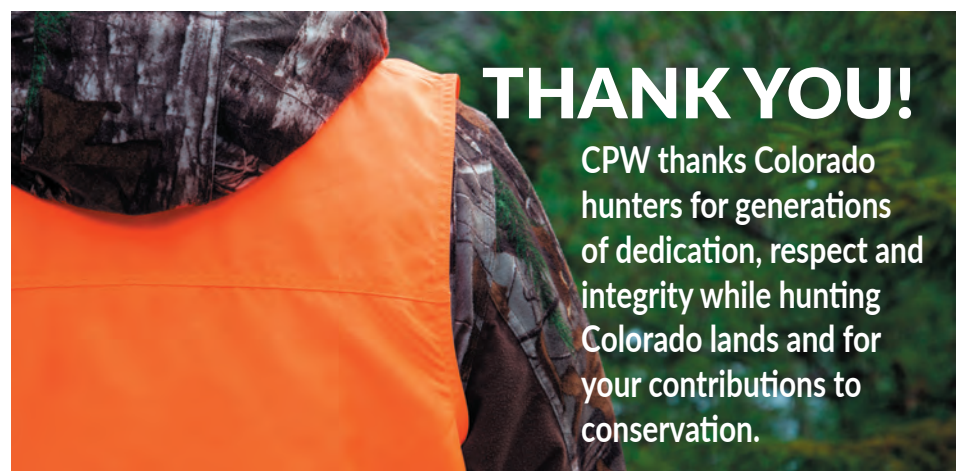


Photo courtesy Wayne D. Lewis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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CPW thanks Colorado hunters for generations of dedication, respect and integrity while hunting Colorado lands and for your contributions to conservation.

Why hunt Pagosa Country?

By Dick Ray

I was born and raised (reared) in New Mexico, a grandson of pioneers who came to the territory in a covered wagon.

I grew up hunting in the dry, rocky, cactus-covered mountains of southwest New Mexico where my grandparents had homesteaded.

Then one day more than 50 years ago, my wife and I discovered Pagosa Country.

Of course we noticed the scenic grandeur of the San Juan Range, but we also noted that we could ride our horses over most of the terrain and the vegetation that did not include cholla or prickly pear cactus. Every major drainage had a creek, stream or river, and most had trout in them. There was a variety of game animals, and plenty of them.

We decided this is better, and proceeded to move from New Mexico to Pagosa Country. But, we weren't truly satisfied with the game situation. The state allowed spike (yearling) bull elk to be harvested and, consequently, there were very few 5x5 bulls or larger taken each fall. All deer and elk licenses were unlimited and public land was crowded.

It seemed that Pagosa Country had been discovered. The standing joke around town was, "If the Mexicans knew when Colorado elk season began, they could retake the Alamo with no resistance," as every able-bodied man in Texas was in Colorado hunting.

All of this prompted some research on my part. This resulted in the purchase of a guide/outfitter territory in British Columbia, Canada, in 1977.

We continued to remain Colorado residents, but quit guiding elk hunters in Colorado and focused on private land in New Mexico, and elk, moose, bear, mule deer and white tail deer in Canada. Traveling to Canada each fall took me through Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Montana, always on the lookout for better hunting grounds. This went on until 1992, when we decided to sell the Canadian venture and refocus on Colorado and northern New Mexico. My son, Mike, and I had been licensed to guide in Utah, Arizona and Wyoming and had decided, "Pagosa is better."

Good judgment had prevailed in Colorado, for all through the 1980s, the state had made a bull elk less than four points illegal to take in most areas. It took a while, but finally, there were some older-age class bulls to be found to keep the spike from breeding, allowing the elk herds to begin to regain their sizes. (Without older-age bulls to drive the yearling away, he will mate with his mother, sisters and aunt, thus depriving the herd of the genetic diversity required.)

In 1999, encouraged by sportsmen, the Colorado Wildlife Commission totally limited the numbers of deer licenses in the state. Deer numbers have rebounded to some degree, bears are abundant, foxes are common, as are mountain lions and coyotes — all are the result of good habitat.

With the largest wilderness area in Colorado, the Weminuche, to the north, and the South San Juan Wilderness to the east, hunters and prey have the room to roam.

Pagosa Country is good country.



Photo courtesy Wayne D. Lewis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



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Photo courtesy Buck Pierce

Know the rules and your own limits

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Hunting is challenging. Not only must you understand the habits of the animal you are hunting, you must also understand regulations, laws governing public and private lands and your own limitations.

Following are some reminders and things to consider before you start your hunt.

- To obtain a license, all hunters born after 1948 must present a hunter education card from Colorado or another state.
- You must know the specific rules that apply to the game management unit (GMU) in which you are hunting. If you violate rules, you can be cited and fined.
- Be sure to know where you are hunting. You can only hunt in the GMU that your license specifies.
- As you are hunting, be aware of buildings, homes, roads and your overall surroundings. Make sure you know what is behind an animal before you shoot. A bullet shot from a high-powered rifle can easily carry for more than 1,000 yards.

- Make sure that someone at home knows where you are hunting, your vehicle's license plate number and where you are staying.
- Weather in the fall can change rapidly in Colorado. A day that starts sunny and warm could end with a snowstorm. Be sure you are prepared for all weather conditions.
- Make sure you can recognize the symptoms of hypothermia in your hunting partners.
- Know how to get back to your camp.
- Cellphone service is not reliable in the mountains. Don't expect to contact someone by phone if you are lost or if your vehicle is stuck.
- Make sure to drink plenty of water. Colorado's dry air and high altitude can quickly dehydrate you and deplete your energy stores.
- Be sure to consult Colorado Parks and Wildlife regulations to understand antler requirements for taking bull elk.
- Do not attempt to shoot at animals that are in areas where you could not retrieve the meat. Know your

- physical limits.
- If you harvest an animal, make sure the carcass is properly tagged. Tags must remain with all processed meat.
 - If you transfer an animal killed by another hunter, ensure that it is properly tagged. You could be cited for illegal transport of a game animal even if someone else made the error.
 - Do not strap a harvested animal on the outside of your car.
 - Operate ATVs and OHVs responsibly. The vehicles must be registered in Colorado — even if it is registered in another state. Off-road vehicles can cause resource damage. Be sure to know the local travel management rules for public lands. OHVs also disturb animals and other hunters.
 - If you see hunters violating laws, please report the actions to a wildlife officer or other law enforcement agency. Actions by a few hunters can reflect badly on all hunters.
- For more information, visit cpw.state.co.us.



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Photo courtesy Wayne D. Lewis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Hunter safety card required to purchase hunting license

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Donald D. Volger

Colorado law requires that anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1949, complete an approved hunter education course before applying for or buying a Colorado hunting license.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) hunter education courses, led by certified volunteer hunter education instructors and/or CPW staff, are offered throughout the state year-round.

Courses are offered in several formats:

- Traditional classes: Students complete the course in a classroom setting that includes lectures, hands-on activities and videos.
- Internet course plus conclusion class: Students complete a portion of the course online at their convenience, then attend a shorter class than required by the traditional course.
- Bowhunter education class: Bowhunter education is not a required course in Colorado, but is offered as an opportunity to learn additional skills.

Students should register online prior to the class. To register, go to <https://cpw.state.co.us/activities/hunting/education-and-outreach>, then choose “Class Options” under the Hunter Education heading and follow the instructions. The direct link is <https://register-ed.com/programs/colorado/98-colorado-hunter-education-course>.

Resident and nonresident hunters 50 years of age and older can test out of the hunter education requirement. U.S. military personnel who do not have a hunter education card from Colorado or another state can also test out.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities

If you need special accommodations as a result of a disability, please contact the hunter education instructor or the hunter education office at (303) 291-7233 or (303) 291-7470.

If you are hearing impaired and need sign language interpretation, please download the accommodations form and send an email to michael.gallegos@state.co.us to request the hunter education interpreter(s).

Note: The hunter education team requests that you contact them with at least 15 days’ notice prior to the event you wish to attend.

To learn more about how CPW provides opportunities to individuals with disabilities, please its accessibility page on its website.

DEER SEASON DATES

ARCHERY.....	SEPT. 2-30*
MUZZLELOADER.....	SEPT. 12-20*
FIRST RIFLE	OCT. 14-18**
SECOND RIFLE.....	OCT. 24-NOV. 1
THIRD RIFLE	NOV. 7-15
FOURTH RIFLE.....	NOV. 18-22
PLAINS RIFLE.....	OCT. 24-NOV. 3

ELK SEASON DATES

ARCHERY.....	SEPT. 2-30
MUZZLELOADER.....	SEPT. 12-20
FIRST RIFLE	OCT. 14-18
SECOND RIFLE.....	OCT. 24-NOV. 1
THIRD RIFLE	NOV. 7-15
FOURTH RIFLE.....	NOV. 18-22

BEAR SEASON DATES

ARCHERY.....	SEPT. 2-30
(over-the-counter and/or limited)	
MUZZLELOADER.....	SEPT. 12-20
(over-the-counter and/or limited)	
SEPT. RIFLE	SEPT. 2-30*
(limited)	
SEPT. PLAINS RIFLE	SEPT. 2-NOV. 22
(over-the-counter)	
RIFLE	
(over-the-counter and/or limited)	
1st season:	OCT. 14-18
2nd season	OCT. 24-NOV. 1
3rd season	NOV. 7-15
4th season.....	NOV. 18-22
PRIVATE-LAND-ONLY RIFLE..	SEPT.2-NOV. 22*
(over-the-counter)	
*unless otherwise noted in the hunt code tables in the state’s brochure	
**in select GMUs. See the rifle hunt code tables in the state’s brochure	

Satellite messengers save lives

By Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Getting lost or hurt in the backcountry is a helpless feeling.

When you head out, make sure someone else knows where you were heading, what you were wearing, what vehicle you were driving, your license plate and other pertinent information. Then stick to the plan.

But something could still happen.

To increase survivability during a backcountry incident, experts recommend always carrying the "Ten Essentials." The first of the 10 essentials is navigation and the ability to determine your exact location.

One of the most critical things you can do during an incident is communicate an accurate location to emergency services. It can mean the difference between life and death. An accurate global positioning system (GPS) location allows first respond-

ers and search and rescue teams to create the best operational plan based on where you are at. Your location and description of the emergency circumstances will help responders determine what level of medical care is needed, and what the best extrication mechanism will be.

Many hunters and backcountry enthusiasts are turning to their smartphones for navigating in the woods. There are several good third-party apps (such as OnX Hunt) that provide accurate navigation even without cell service. Your phone is constantly receiving signals from GPS satellites that work independently from data connection, provided you have downloaded maps of the area ahead of time. These apps allow you to determine an exact latitude and longitude coordinate even without cell service.

Additionally, iPhone 15 and newer

can text any number via satellite for free, meaning once you reach a contact on your phone, responders can begin the process of narrowing down your location.

Accurate navigation in the backcountry is important and can help you find your way back to camp, and back home, but in the event of an emergency, your ability to communicate your location is critical. Many backcountry emergencies happen outside of cell service.

Smartphones are a great tool for navigating off the beaten path, but they can fall short when it comes to getting help on the way. A critical piece of gear that should be in any outdoor enthusiast's pack is a satellite messenger. These devices have revolutionized search and rescue responses.

Satellite messengers started with the need for reliable emergency contact, but

have expanded into two-way communication devices that can also be used to update friends and family when you find yourself outside of cell service.

In an emergency, these devices can alert national emergency dispatch centers with the touch of a button. An SOS activation will automatically send your exact coordinates to a national dispatch center, which will begin the rescue process with local response agencies. They also give you the ability to communicate the circumstances of the emergency, whether you are simply lost or need emergency medical services.

For anyone venturing beyond the safety of cell coverage, a GPS satellite device is an investment in your safety. Satellite messengers give yourself, your friends and your family piece of mind, and they might just save your life.

Take your cellphone into the backcountry

By Mark Rackay

These days, most of us are dependent, to some extent, on our cellphones. While service can be nonexistent or, at best, sketchy in remote areas, emergency rescue experts suggest that hunters carry their phones with them in the field.

Cellphones have become the most important tool for finding people who are lost or injured. Here are some tips on the use of cellphones in the backcountry.

Start your trip with the phone fully charged. You can always top off the charge in your vehicle on the way to your starting point. Also, turn on the phone's automatic location setting. This allows emergency services to get a "ping" and calculate your position using GPS. Then, keep the phone turned off. When phones are on, they are con-

stantly searching for a signal, which drains the battery. Try to store the phone close to your body — keeping it warm also helps conserve battery power.

Turn your phone on at least once each day for about five minutes. When powered up, the phone will search for, and hopefully find, the nearest tower. Even though there might not be enough signal to make a call, it can be enough to leave an electronic trail that can be used later in an emergency.

Cellphones, like radios, work off of a line of sight. This means that land features such as mountains, heavy tree cover and rock formations can block signals. If you are going to make an emergency call, find the highest and most open location and search for a signal. Hold the phone in the air at arm's length and rotate around until

you find reception.

I was on an elk hunting trip some years ago where the only service I would find was in a spot about 50 feet from camp, next to a fence line. I would power up the phone and check in twice daily from that location.

If you do not have enough reception to make a call, or if reception is spotty, it's possible you can send a text message. Send it to someone you know, give the location and the problem you're having. Your friend can then call 911 with the information to request help. If the text doesn't send, just keep moving. As soon as the phone locates a tower, the message will be sent.

Given that cellphone service is becoming available in more and more remote places, it's a good idea to carry your cellphone with you in the backcountry.

Hunters: Who are they?

By Dick Ray

Each fall, in the months of September, October and November, Colorado is invaded by a force clad in camo and blaze orange. They come in numbers and are well-armed.

The question is often asked, "Who are these people and where do they come from?" The answers are different, from different people. Some say they are all from Texas and they just come to kill, either an animal or a bottle. Others may say that they are my friends from whatever state the respondent came from.

Anyway, they are hunters, and it is best to analyze just what a hunter is before pass-

ing judgement.

According to Webster, "hunt" is defined as the act of seeking, searching or finding something.

By that definition, we are all hunters, for the day we are born each of us begins life by seeking our mother's milk to beginning our life here on Earth. Our individual hunt never ends as we go through life searching for knowledge, a date, a mate, a better job, an affordable home, and bargains on anything and everything.

So, if we are all hunters, why do some dress in blaze orange or camo? These are the men, women and youth who are hunting animals and use blaze orange, as

the law requires, for safety during hunting seasons where firearms are legal. Camouflage allows archery hunters to blend into the vegetation for concealment, allowing a very close shot opportunity with bow and arrow.

Elk and deer hunters are often criticized for simply just being cold-blooded killers. However, statistics show that only about 40 percent of deer hunters and 20 percent of elk hunters actually kill an animal. Yet each and every one must purchase a hunting license. The total of their license purchases generates almost all of the annual operating budget for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Additionally, an excise tax is collected on the sale of all sporting arms and ammunition. Authorized by the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, funds in excess of \$27 billion have been collected in the United States since 1937.

Although most of the money has come from sportsmen east of the Mississippi, Colorado has been able to purchase and create some 350 state wildlife areas using

90 percent federal aid funds. This is something that all Americans can take pride in — a win/win for wildlife and recreationists.

One asks, "Why doesn't the 60-80 percent of hunters kill an animal?"

The answer lies with each individual. The American elk and/or deer hunter has never been better equipped with clothing, optics, weapons and information. An individual may choose not to even shoot at an animal because it may be too difficult to bring out of a remote location, or it may not be definitely mature enough to harvest. The quarry may be on the move or in the trees and a good, clear shot opportunity just is not available. The hunter is governed by a multitude of laws and ethical considerations. The laws and penalties, both state and federal, can be life-changing for the hunter who makes a fatal mistake. In some cases, a convicted hunter can lose hunting privileges in their home state as well as almost every other state. The informed hunter is wisely cautious before squeezing the trigger.

Select a licensed outfitter

Legal, legitimate outfitters operate around the state and can provide invaluable resources for your hunting trip.

Guides and outfitters must be registered, bonded and insured in Colorado. They also need permits to operate on public land and must register with the Division of Professions and Occupations, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1350, Denver, Colo., (303) 894-7800;

<https://dpo.colorado.gov/Outfitters>.

Verify an outfitter's registration by contacting the above office or the Colorado Outfitters Association, www.coloradooutfitters.org.

For more information regarding hunting and fishing, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at (303) 297-1192 or visit cpw.state.co.us.



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How not to get lost in the woods

By Chris Parmeter, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

In the 1980 classic movie “The Mountain Men,” the character Henry Frapp is questioned by a young green-horn: “Haven’t you ever been lost?”

Frapp scratches his whiskers and, after a recollecting pause, replies, “A fearsome confused for a month or two ... but I ain’t ever been lost!”

For the fur trappers, wandering through a vast and unexplored country, “lost” would have been something of an oxymoron. Not knowing where you were was a necessary part of the mountain man business. The blank space on the map was as much “home” as it was wilderness, and “lost” was more a state of mind than a physical dilemma.

When the mountain men plunged headlong into the unknown, they knew that, where they were going, there would be no restaurants or hotels. So, they planned accordingly. They learned quickly where to find food and how to get it; how to mend equipment, to make new or make do; they could sleep in a log, a cave or just plain under the stars — and survive. How did they accomplish this incredible feat? Simply, they were prepared — mentally and physically.

Today, the same principles apply. When you head out into the woods, be prepared: for cold, rain or snow; to tend an injury; or to stay the night in the woods. It’s not as difficult as it sounds. Here are a few nuggets of mountain man wisdom to help you survive.

Staying found

The old-timers relied on “dead reckoning” for navigation: utilizing a compass to guide them in the general direction they wished to go. Sometimes in the absence of a compass, they relied only on “reckoning.” As in “I reckon camp is back that way.” The contemporary woodsman may have the handiness of a GPS, but owning one of these high-tech gizmos is not an adequate substitute for

map and compass skills. Just as with other conveniences (cellphones, cameras, flashlights), the batteries will invariably go dead just when you need them the most.

Learning how to read a map is not that difficult; up is north, left is west and so on. The closer the lines are together, the steeper the country. Water is shown as blue, while man-made objects are black. It is simply a two-dimensional rendition of a three-dimensional world. Using a map and a compass to show you which way is north, you’d be hard pressed to get seriously lost. Sure, some practice is required, but that’s all part of the preparedness thing.

Paying attention to where you’re going can also be a big help to staying found. As you pursue your quarry, notice which way the shadows are falling. Have you been mostly climbing or descending? Look for landmarks as you go. Not stumps and rocks, but big landmarks that give your relative position to the valley below, or that craggy peak to the west. Turn around and look behind you; what would it look like if you were going that way — back to camp or the truck?

The essentials

Unless your trip is taking you across the Gobi or the Brooks Range, you probably don’t need to carry 50 feet of copper wire or spare fishing line and hooks. The largest wilderness area in Colorado can be traversed in a day or two by a man in decent shape. So, what are the essentials you need when you’re on your own?

Water. Without it, you’re dead in three days. Without it for a few hours, at 9,000 feet above sea level, you’re not dead, but you may wish you were. Dehydration can lead to altitude sickness and hypothermia. But, even worse, it can impair your judgment, induce panic and result in a fatal case of lost.

Fire good. Fire friend. Fire No. 2 in importance. Learn how to build one, without toilet paper and gasoline. It’s as easy as one two three: One, you need dry tinder.

Scratch around under grass tussocks for the driest stuff. Get lots of it, about a volleyball-sized bunch. Two, kindling. You want about twice as much as the tinder you gathered. Kindling is small stuff — the sized of a matchstick. Three is the fuel itself. Gather up plenty if it looks like you may have to spend the night. Pick dry branches 1 to 2 inches in diameter — these burn without difficulty and make it easy to control the heat. Of course, we can’t overlook the match. You don’t need to be proficient with a flint and steel, but you should have at least a couple of ways to start fire; it doesn’t matter if it’s a lighter or a fire plow, as long as you can get it lit.

Shelter. Now don’t jump right into bivy sacks and backpacking tents. Let’s take a step back and start at the beginning. Shelter starts with your clothing. Dress for the worst. And in a Colorado autumn, the worst can be pretty harsh. Pick synthetics — like fleece or polyester blends — but wool is best. Dress in layers: long handle union suit, light mid layer(s) and warmer outer layer. Dressing appropriately when you leave camp will find you well on your way to surviving a night in the outback even without a buffalo robe.

Make a plan and let someone know what it is. Leave a map open on the dashboard of the truck. You don’t have to give up your secret spot with an “I am here” arrow, just circle a square mile or two. When you leave camp, a plain old “I’m gonna work this ridge out and come back down the crick” is enough to give your buddies a place to start looking for you if you should become “a fearsome confused.” The important thing is to stick to your plan.

As you head into the high country this fall, see yourself as one of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Be prepared, both mentally and physically, for the challenges of the unknown. Keep your powder dry and your eyes on the horizon, and you’ll know that “lost” is, by and large, just a state of mind.



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A hunter’s tale: ‘The day I grew up’

By Dick Ray

The southern Rocky Mountains are rich in the natural history of many species of wildlife, as well the history of the people who affected and were affected by that wildlife, be they hunter, trapper, stockman or explorer.

In the mid 1970s, there were only a few outfitters who kept a pack of hounds trained to hunt bear. I did keep hounds, and, consequently, was called upon from time to time by the Division of Wildlife to pursue a stock-killing bear. One such hunt, in the mid 1970s, caused me to venture high into the mountains above Saguache, Colo., onto the summer range of rancher George Ward.

In order to reach the site of the predation, we had to pack in on horseback to the high country on the north side of Baxter Peak to an elevation of approximately 10,500 feet. I was accompanied by Bert Widhelm, the game warden for that area, a couple of young men who worked for me at that time and the rancher, Ward.

We got to the campsite late in the evening with just enough time to hobble the horses, tie up and feed the hounds, gather some firewood and make camp. After a supper (not dinner) of biscuits, beans and steak came the coffee and Ward’s stories.

After a while, he asked me, “You are from Pagosa; don’t you know Lloyd Anderson?” I replied, “Of course I do; he is the government hunter and trapper, and a

fine gentleman he is.” I then asked, “How is it that you know Mr. Anderson?”

Said Ward, “I used to work for Lloyd Anderson, and I’ll tell you about the day I grew up. It was back just before WWII, and Lloyd and I were packing into the headwaters of the Pine, northwest of Pagosa, to do some predator work around the many herds of sheep, on their summer ranges.

“Ahead of us, going along the same trail that we were on, we spied a pair of bears. We got off our horses and Lloyd peered at them with his field glasses and then spoke out, ‘I believe it is a grizzly.’

“At that, I took my .25-20 from the saddle scabbard and took aim. While Lloyd looked through the glasses, I calculated windage and elevation. I squeezed the trigger and the biggest bear dropped. I jumped up and down with excitement as the shot was several hundred yards long. Lloyd didn’t say much except, ‘Let’s go see what you’ve done.’

“We mounted and rode on to the dead bear; the other one had run off. I asked Lloyd, ‘Have you ever seen a shot like that? And with a .25-20.’

“The bear was a beautiful, adult female grizzly. Finally, Lloyd said, ‘Now let me tell you what you have really done. You have killed a bear that didn’t need killing and with a gun that is no bear gun and that is much more likely to wound than kill, even at close range. Now we



Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Although variable from blond to nearly black, grizzly bear fur is typically brown in color with white tips. A pronounced hump appears on their shoulders; the hump is a good way to distinguish a black bear from a grizzly bear, as black bears do not have this hump. There are no grizzlies remaining in Colorado.

are up here to protect domestic sheep and there has been no report of that bear killing any sheep, so why kill it?’

“Well, as those words sunk in, from a man who I respected so much, well, that is the day I grew up.”

Ward went on to speak to us younger men that night about ethics, respect for the animals and self respect.

And so it is with hunting. It is not so much about what you kill as it is about what you learn — about the natural world, the terrain, animal behavior and yourself. I greatly appreciate the time I have been able to spend with men of the quality of Anderson, Ward and all of the others who passed on their knowledge before they, too, passed on.

Hunter orange and pink requirements

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Hunters must wear fluorescent orange or pink during certain hunting seasons.

The law requires hunters to wear at least 500 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink material on an outer garment above the waist while hunting deer, elk, pronghorn, moose or bear with any firearm license. A fluorescent orange or pink hat or head covering, visible from all directions, is also required. Camouflage orange or pink does not qualify. Mesh garments are legal, but not recommended. This includes all muzzleloader hunters. It also includes archery hunters who hunt during rifle seasons.

Archers hunting during the limited September rifle bear season; archers with an archery bear, deer, elk, pronghorn or moose license; and archers licensed for private land hunting through the Ranching for Wildlife program do not have to wear fluorescent orange or pink, but should consider wearing it to increase safety while in the field. Auction- and raffle-license holders do not have to wear orange or pink when hunting with archery equipment when no rifle seasons are open. If using a ground blind or pop-up blind, hunters should display orange or pink that is visible from all directions on the outside of the blind.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommends wearing fluorescent orange or pink clothes in the field, even if not hunting. Archery deer, elk, moose and bear hunters are encouraged to wear hunter orange or pink during the overlapping archery and muzzleloader seasons to help address safety concerns. Wearing orange or pink is for hunter safety, as big game animals don’t see these colors like we do. Movement, sound and smell are what give hunters away.

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High-altitude survival tips

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Every year, more than a few hunters must be rescued from the wilds and high country of Colorado. Hunters get trapped by snowstorms, injured in various types of accidents or simply get lost in the woods.

Hunters must remember that altitude can affect their health and their ability to move easily. And in the Rockies, weather can change quickly, with fast-moving storms dumping a couple of feet of snow in just a few hours.

Be prepared for all types of weather — wet, cold, dry and hot. Take appropriate clothing and the right camping gear. If possible, especially for those coming from lower altitudes, spend a few days at higher elevation just before the hunting season to allow your body to acclimate.

Heavy snowfall can occur starting in September. High-country hunters, especially those who backpack into wilderness areas and have to get out on foot, need to watch the weather closely and pick their escape routes before they choose a campsite. Snow can obliterate trails or make them impassable.

Survival experts recommend that you never go into a wilderness area alone. Unavoidable accidents do happen that make self-rescue impossible. Learn how to use a compass, take a map of the area and orient yourself before leaving camp. Explain to your hunting partners where you'll be going and when you plan to return.

Always carry a survival kit and know how to use it. Such a kit should include a knife, waterproof matches, fire starter, compass, reflective survival blanket, high-energy food, water purification tablets, first aid kit, whistle and unbreakable signal mirror.

If you get lost, sit down, regain your composure and think for a few minutes. Many times people who are lost can figure out where they went wrong and make it back to camp. If you truly don't know where you are, stay put.

Survival experts explain that survival is 80 percent attitude, 10 percent equipment, and 10 percent skill and knowledge.

If you are caught in a storm or forced to spend the night out, there are three keys to survival: shelter, fire and signal.

If you can't find camp and have to overnight in the wild, your first priority is shelter. Even if you have nothing else going for you — no fire or food — an adequate shelter that is warm and dry will keep you alive until rescuers find you. That means anything from an overhanging rock shelf to a cave, a timber lean-to or snow cave. Always prepare for the worst and build a shelter that will last. Cut boughs from evergreen trees and use them as padding and for covering.

Dress in layers and take extras with you. Put on layers before you become chilled and take off a layer before you become damp with perspiration. Staying warm is a process of staying dry. Do not dress in cotton — it becomes wet easily

and is difficult to dry. Use wool, wool blends or synthetic clothing that wicks moisture away from skin.

Be sure to carry a quality stocking cap that is made of wool or synthetic fleece. You lose up to 45 percent of your heat around your head, neck and shoulders.

Winter headgear should conserve heat, breathe and be water repellent. The old saying, "If your feet are cold put your hat on," is good advice.

Use waterproof footwear, wool or synthetic socks, and always remember to carry gloves.

Fire is the second priority if you are forced to stay out overnight. Know how to build a fire even in wet or snowy conditions. That means carrying a lighter, metal matches or wooden matches in waterproof containers and a fire-starter — such as steel wool, cotton or sawdust saturated with paint thinner or alcohol. Camping stores sell a variety of fire starters. Experiment with various materials before going into the field. A fire will warm your body, dry your clothes, cook your food and help you to signal for help.

The third priority is signaling. This can be done by fire — flames at night or smoke from green branches during the day; with a signal mirror in bright sunshine; and with sound — hence the whistle.

You can live up to three or four weeks without food. You will, however, be more efficient and alert, and have more confidence, if you are able to satisfy your hunger. So, carry some high-energy food in your survival kit.

Water is more important to survival than food. Your body needs about three quarts of water a day to metabolize its energy reserves and carry away waste. Carry iodine tablets to add to water taken from streams or snowbanks. Avoid drinking ice-cold water, which can cause your body temperature to drop.

Altitude sickness is another danger. Hunters who are fatigued, cold or exhausted are vulnerable. At the very least, altitude sickness can ruin a hunting trip; at the worst, it can be fatal. Hunters who are coming to Colorado from low-altitude areas should be especially careful.

Take time to acclimate and do not move quickly above 8,000 feet. Symptoms of altitude sickness include shortness of breath, fatigue, nausea, headache and loss of appetite. To avoid altitude sickness, get in shape, limit alcohol consumption, acclimate for a few days before the start of the season and drink lots of water. Staying hydrated is a key factor in reducing your chances of getting altitude sickness.

Hunters with any heart problems should be extra careful in Colorado's high country. If you have a heart condition, you should keep any prescribed medication with you at all times. Inform your hunting partners of your condition.

Finally, be sure to leave accurate information at home about where you're hunting and when you'll return.



Photo courtesy Wayne D. Lewis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife



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Use OHVs properly and know the rules

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The number of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) used during hunting seasons has been increasing steadily during the last decade. While the vehicles can be useful tools to aid a hunt, some hunters are using them improperly and causing a variety of problems.

Hunters must be aware of Colorado OHV rules, local regulations and federal travel management regulations for national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

All OHVs must be registered in Colorado. Your home-state registration is not valid. To register your vehicle, call the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) office at (303) 791-1920 or go to cpw.state.co.us.

Hunters need to remember that rifles carried on OHVs must be completely unloaded and placed in a hard or soft case — no bullets in the chamber or magazine. Bows must also be carried in a case.

On national forest and BLM lands, OHV travel is allowed only on roads and trails designated for such use. Roads and trails open to motorized use will be signed as “open” or be shown as open on Forest Service and BLM travel maps. It is recommended that you consult with the local USDA Forest Service or BLM office prior to your trip to make sure you understand travel regulations in your hunting area. Federal fines, up to \$500 per incident, may be levied for violations of travel management regulations.

CPW officers are authorized to write tickets for illegal OHV use. Besides the federal fines, violators who are using OHVs while hunting, fishing or trapping will be assessed penalty points against their license privileges: 10 points for most violations, 15 points for riding into wilderness areas. Hunters who accumulate 20 penalty points lose their ability to buy hunting or fishing licenses for at least one year.

Hunters must minimize their use of OHVs if they expect to see any big game animals, with some hunters who drive around on OHVs all day complaining that they’re not seeing any animals.

The constant drone of OHVs also causes problems for other hunters. OHVs are noisy and cause animals to move deep into inaccessible territory. Just one vehicle can cause problems for numerous hunters.

Big-game hunters who wish to be successful must walk slowly and quietly well away from roads. It is unlikely during hunting season that a hunter will see a big game animal from the road.

And if an animal is spotted, a hunter doesn’t have time to get off the vehicle, take a rifle or bow out of its case, load the weapon and move off the road to take a shot.

Besides disturbing animals and other hunters, improper use of OHVs can cause resource damage when they are driven off of established roads and trails. That action can destroy vegetation, compact soil, and lead to stream and water-quality degradation.



Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

ity degradation.

Please, remember these rules and guidelines:

- Rifles and bows carried on OHVs must be completely unloaded and secured in a case.
- Be sure to check with local Forest Service and BLM offices for the local travel management plans in areas where you will be hunting.
- In most areas an OHV cannot be used to retrieve harvested animals. Check with local BLM and Forest Service offices for specific game-retrieval

policies.

- OHVs cannot be driven into designated wilderness areas.
 - Be careful not to trespass onto private roads.
 - Be considerate of other hunters. Drive slowly to reduce noise; minimize driving distances; don’t hunt from the road.
 - Explain these rules and guidelines to young hunters and those unfamiliar with proper OHV use.
- For more information and to register OHVs, visit cpw.state.co.us.

Information resources available

Hunters looking for information to help with their big game adventure will find plenty of helpful material online through Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

A plethora of information is available directly through the agency’s website, cpw.state.co.us.

The information includes how to apply for a license, where to hunt, detailed maps — including the Colorado Hunting Atlas, species-specific information and much more.

Also available on the website is the PDF version of the Colorado Big Game Hunting Brochure, which provides important information on hunting requirements, seasons, licenses, game management unit descriptions, species identification, additional opportunities, hunting tips, illegal activities and more.

The website also offers statistical tables that provide complete harvest details for all big game species, including method of take and a season-by-season breakdown.

Hunters can also check if they’ve drawn a license and look at preference points tables for each game management unit and season.

Detailed maps on the website, including interactive maps, allow you to discover state parks and state wildlife areas, trails, wildlife habitats and other natural resources. The maps are available at <https://cpw.state.co.us/maps-and-gis>.

In addition to the maps available on the website, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Mobile PDF map reader app can also pinpoint your location on a map without the need for an internet or cell tower connection.

Also on the website: hunting regulations, explanations of ranching for wildlife, leftover license information, information about all Colorado hunting opportunities, descriptions of various species and much more.

In addition, the agency hosts numerous videos on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@ColoradoParksandWildlife> and Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/cpwvideo>.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is part of the Colorado Division of Natural Resources. More information on the Colorado Division of Natural Resources is available at <https://dnr.colorado.gov/>.

The following area offices can assist hunters with animal checks and taking samples that are related to hunting activities. See Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s website for a complete list of park locations that can also sell licenses, issue duplicate licenses and accept some licenses for refunds.

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Hunting violations can be costly

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Every hunting season, officers for Colorado Parks and Wildlife hand out thousands of tickets for violations that cost hunters hundreds of thousands of dollars.

While some of those tickets are for flagrant violations of wildlife regulations and hunting laws, many more are for minor violations that could have been avoided.

Hunters are reminded that not only can they be fined for violations, they can also lose their hunting privileges in Colorado and the 45 other states that cooperatively participate in a wildlife compact agreement.

Rick Basagoitia, area wildlife manager for the San Luis Valley, explained that hunters need to set aside some time to review the Colorado Big Game Brochure. The brochure explains many of the common violations and how to avoid them.

“Hunters must know their responsibilities when they get into the field,” Basagoitia said. “Wildlife laws are written to protect a valuable resource and for safety.”

Following are some of the more common violations that occur every year:

- Not wearing fluorescent orange or pink: You must wear at least 500 inches of daylight fluorescent orange/pink, including a head covering of the same color that can be seen from all directions. Mesh garments are legal but not recommended. Camouflage orange/pink does not qualify.
- Carrying loaded firearms in or on ve-

hicles: Rifles must not have ammunition in the chamber while in or on any motor vehicles. For those riding OHVs, weapons (rifles and bows) must also be in a closed case and fully unloaded (chamber and magazine). Most accidents involving firearms occur in or near vehicles.

- **Shooting from a road:** Before firing a shot, you must be at least 50 feet off of a designated state or county road, and just off Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management roads. You also cannot shoot across a road.
- **License not voided:** After you kill an animal, you must void the license immediately.
- **Improperly attached carcass tag:** The carcass tag must be attached to the animal. The best way is to cut a hole in the hide and attach with a tie. It is OK to wait until you get the animal back to camp or to your vehicle to attach the carcass tag.
- **No evidence of sex:** Be sure to leave evidence of sex naturally attached to the carcass. Evidence includes the head, the vulva or the scrotum.
- **Waste of game meat:** Big game meat can begin to spoil at 38 degrees. To keep the carcass cool, remove the hide as soon as possible after the kill to allow for air to circulate around the meat. Reduce the mass of the carcass by quartering the meat or boning out the meat. Place the meat in a cooler as soon as possible. Even in cold weather, a carcass should not hang outside for more than 36 hours.

Remember: Because game meat contains very little fat, it cannot be aged like beef. The so-called “gamey taste” is caused by spoilage, not because the animal is wild.

- Shooting a spike-antlered elk: Hunters who hold a cow elk tag sometimes shoot spike bulls. Be sure of your target. If you are shooting at a long distance or in

low-light conditions, it can be difficult to see spike antlers. If you are not absolutely sure, do not shoot.

- Illegally tagging an animal: You can only place a tag on an animal that you shot. You cannot trade tags with other license holders, or use tags of other license holders.

Advice on taking the shot

By Dick Ray

You have drawn that expensive non-resident license that you have waited so long for. You have bought more gear than you probably need.

You are ready for the hunt — or are you?

When the moment of truth arrives, will you be able to perform efficiently and capably with your weapon?

The most common complaint from outfitters is that their hunter missed or wounded the quarry.

Here are some points to consider:

- The most important thing that the hunter can do prior to the hunt is to become well-acquainted and proficient with his weapon, rifle or bow.
- After sighting in, practice under field conditions that you might encounter on the hunt.
- The only weapon commonly used off hand, with success, is the bow.
- Unless very, very close, rifle hunters

should find a tree, rock, log or something stable to lean against or to sight over, or at least sit placing your elbows on your knees in a stable position.

- Prone is a very stable position, but tall grass, deep snow or steep terrain often makes prone impractical.
 - Learn your limitations and stick to those limitations.
 - If you choose to use shooting sticks, practice with them as well. Practice a rapid sight picture acquisition. When the moment of opportunity presents itself, you don't want to be fiddling with your sticks.
 - Before squeezing the trigger, if sighting through a scope, make sure the horizontal crosshair is horizontal.
 - If the rifle is canted, you will shoot high and to the left if you are right-handed, or high and to the right if left-handed.
 - Rifle or bow: If you can't make the shot, don't take the shot.
- It is a matter of ethical pride and honor.

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The LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES are the best way to minimize your impact while hunting:

- ▶ **PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE:** Get permission to hunt private land, respect road closures, leave gates as found.
- ▶ **TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES:** Good campsites are found, not made. Use existing sites whenever possible.
- ▶ **DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY:** Pack it in, pack it out. All trash including food scraps and toilet paper.
- ▶ **LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND:** Sight-in firearms away from hunting areas—do not use signs for target practice. Clean all gear between trips.
- ▶ **MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS:** Use an established fire ring or fire pan, and don't put trash or food in the fire pit.
- ▶ **RESPECT WILDLIFE:** Never feed wild animals; store your camp food and trash securely.
- ▶ **BE CONSIDERATE TO OTHER VISITORS:** Be aware of the direction you shoot and be courteous and welcoming to others you see.

The LNT Center respects the tradition of hunting on public lands, expects hunters to abide by state game and hunting laws, and encourages all hunters to put Leave No Trace skills and ethics into action on every hunt. This copyrighted information was reprinted under partnership with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. For more information, visit: **LNT.org**

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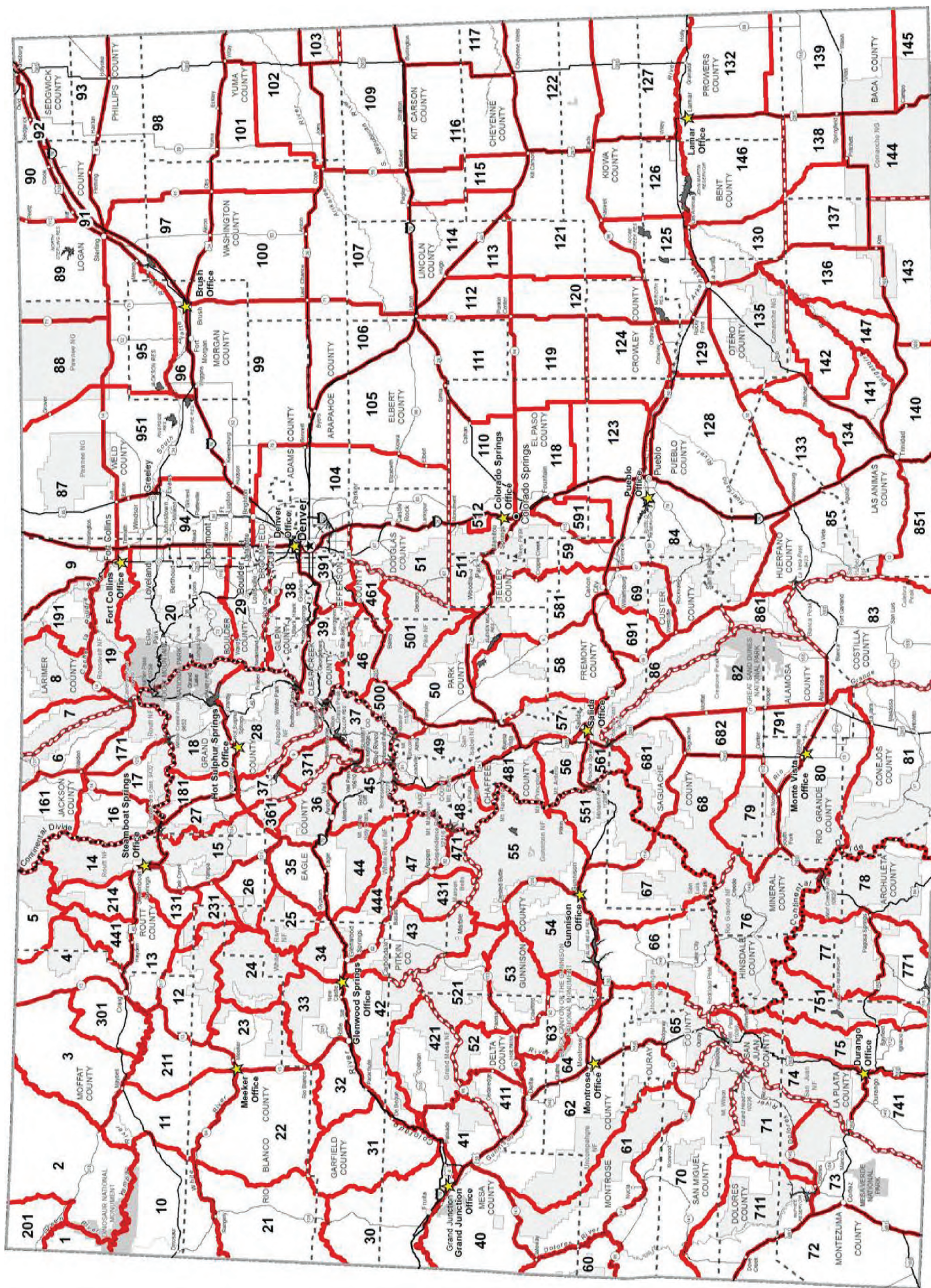
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Poaching: a constant problem

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Poaching continues to be a major issue in Colorado. Some studies indicate that poachers kill almost as many animals as legitimate hunters do during legal seasons.

If poachers kill even half that number each year, the problem is serious because they are stealing game from licensed hunters, robbing businesses and taxpayers of revenues generated by hunting, and depriving us all of a valuable resource — our wildlife.

Bob Thompson, former assistant chief of law enforcement for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), said most poachers are not poor people trying to feed their families. Some kill for the thrill of killing, others for trophies. Some kill for money — trophy heads, antlers and bear gallbladders can be worth thousands of dollars.

Poaching is the illegal taking or possession of any game, fish or non-game wildlife. Hunting out of season or outside of the game management unit for which you have a valid license, hunting at night with a spotlight or taking more animals than the legal limit all constitute poaching. A nonresident who buys a resident license can also be convicted for poaching.

Flock shooting big game is tantamount to poaching since it usually leaves multiple dead and wounded animals.

“Hunters who keep shooting into a herd of animals should realize that not every animal goes down right away when it is hit,” said Thompson “Not only is it unethical hunting, it leads to a lot of game waste, which in itself is illegal.”

Hunters who witness such violations should report them to wildlife officers, local law enforcement or call Operation Game Thief, a nonprofit organization that pays rewards to people whose tips lead to an arrest being made or a citation being issued to poachers. The number to call is (877) 265-6648, which also is printed on carcass tags. Tips can also be made to CPW via email at game.thief@state.co.us.

Rewards are paid for information that leads to an arrest or a citation being issued.

“We depend on concerned citizens to report poaching activity. We need the public’s eyes and ears to help catch poachers,” Thompson said.

For more information, visit cpw.state.co.us.



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Leading way in conservation: CPW’s non-toxic bullet replacement program

By Kristin Cannon, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

On May 10, 2024, representatives from the North American Non-lead Partnership (NANP), The Peregrine Fund and Sporting Lead-Free gave a compelling pitch to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff. Hunters themselves made the case for putting a copper round in the rifle when hunting in the field instead of lead. While their logic felt obvious, I hate to say I had not given it much thought before that day.

I was tasked with ensuring that CPW met its obligations under House Bill 23-1036, the Nontoxic Bullet Replacement Hunting Program. As part of this legislation, CPW is required to provide range days to demonstrate the efficacy of non-lead ammunition. I reserved the ranges, ordered lunch and arranged with our nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, but I still had not yet made the switch myself.

So, why not? I think my reasons were understandable, maybe even relatable to a lot of hunters: I used what I learned with and what I always use. I thought non-lead ammo wasn’t as common or as cheap as lead. And, what is the actual harm, anyway?

The experts fill me in

Neil Thagard, with The Peregrine Fund, has heard all of these same barriers many times. He showed me a spreadsheet of local stores he had visited the previous day. It included lead ammo alongside a variety of available non-lead (copper) alternatives. The prices were comparable; there was a similar selection of caliber and weight. Thagard started telling me about ballistics and he told me that the bottom line is that, for what hunters are trying to accomplish, the efficient and effective killing of the targeted game animal, there was no meaningful difference in price or availability.

Chris Parish, also with The Peregrine Fund and the co-founder of the NANP, recounted his time with Arizona Game and Fish studying the California condor, an endangered species. This species is so endangered almost every individual is tracked and monitored. They could actually look at causes of mortality for the entire population and found lead poisoning was a significant factor. They were able to narrow down where that lead was coming from as largely being from gut piles left in the field by hunters. Arizona Fish and Game then began a program where they encouraged and incentivized hunters in a California Condor Recovery Area to either use non-lead ammo or remove the gut piles from the field. They saw high levels of cooperation and they saw benefits to the condor. While we don’t have condors in Colorado, we do have struggling golden eagles and other species susceptible to lead exposure.

Bryan Bedrosian is a raptor biologist and the co-founder and director of Sporting Lead-Free out of Wyoming. Over the years, he has collected some pretty compelling data showing how lead builds up in the bloodstream of raptors and other scavenging birds and how lead levels in these animals spike annually following the fall hunting seasons. Bedrosian and his organization are also after the hearts and minds of anglers to get them to use non-lead tackle (Did you know a lot of wire for fly tying contains lead? I did not.).

Seeing is believing

In the afternoon we went on the range. Parish shot a 6.5 CM Hornady lead round (129 gr) and a 6.5 CM Hornady copper round (120 gr) each into a water barrel and ballistic gel. We recovered the spent rounds and the lead bullet lost 30 percent of its weight in the form of an uncountable amount of tiny fragments. The copper round maintained 99 percent of its starting weight. From the ballistic gel we could see a clear path both bullets took. The lead round split up and fragmented, which is good for causing tissue damage, but all those tiny pieces of lead were spread through the gel, well beyond the bullet’s path. In an animal these fragments would



Photo courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

be in the meat, the organs, the hide. The copper round’s path was equally as large and damaging as the lead’s, but no stray fragments were embedded in the gel. In other words, had this been meat it would have been free of extra pieces of metal, especially pieces of toxic metal. It’s not just scavengers that end up eating this lead, and lead is toxic to everyone.

Seeing is absolutely believing, and that is really all it took for me. Leland Brown, also with NANP, observed that of the four firearms safety rules, one is that every shooter should “know their target and beyond.” Most of us consider that to mean knowing what we are shooting at (elk versus moose, doe versus buck), but also what is behind that animal, what is next to it, is there a safe backstop. Brown challenged us to consider that “beyond” our target meant taking responsibility for the bullet from the time we pull the trigger to the time it hits the target —and after. What unintended harm does that bullet cause beyond?

The next evolution in hunting

Like any hunter, I am also a conservationist. I hunt for many reasons, but primarily to experience the natural world and the wildlife within it in a unique and connected way. When I harvest an animal, I do it with intention and I care about the environment from which it came. I want to take care of the habitats I spend time in and harvest food from. So, for me, that will mean making a different decision when I load a round into the chamber of my rifle this fall. It also means helping to spread awareness on this topic and encouraging other hunters to consider what NGOs such as NANP and Sporting Lead-Free have to tell us.

Just to be clear, this isn’t about a mandate — no one I spoke with is interested in that — and it isn’t about shame, blame or judgment. It is about information and continuing a long tradition of hunters protecting and conserving wildlife and their habitats. Our tools have evolved over the years, and we have along with them. To me, this is just another step in a long journey of hunters protecting landscapes for everyone to enjoy now and into the future.

Kristin Cannon is the Northeast Region deputy regional manager for the CPW.

Hunters should be aware of bears, lions in the field

By John Livingston, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Each year, hunters in the field encounter black bears and mountain lions and, in rare instances, must be prepared to defend themselves from an aggressive animal. It is important for everyone recreating in Colorado to know how to react and understand the warning signs a large predator may send their direction.

Every encounter with these charismatic creatures can be different. Here is a closer look at the warning signs and what you should do if you encounter a bear or mountain lion while on a big-game hunt.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) asks that anyone who encounters an aggressive bear or mountain lion report it to the nearest CPW office. The Monte Vista office can be reached at (719) 587-6900.

Black bears

Colorado is home to an estimated pop-

ulation of 17,000 to 20,000 black bears. While aggressive behavior is rare, bears may be unpredictable, and there have been three documented bear attacks on a human in Colorado in 2023. With that said, experience has shown that the majority of conflict with wild bears is avoidable, and for hunters that starts with keeping a clean campsite.

“Unsecured food and trash remains the leading cause of human-bear conflict,” said CPW Area Wildlife Manager Adrian Archuleta, of Gunnison. “Maintaining a clean camp, and securing food away from camp is the best way to keep bears away from your campsite.

“For successful hunters, meat management at camp is also a good thing to think about. If you can hang your meat out of reach of bears, that really helps. We seem to have instances every fall where a bear drags a quarter out of camp, which leads to problems for the hunters and bears.

The last thing we want is for wild bears to associate hunting camps with food rewards.”

When encountered in the wild, black bears are usually wary of humans and will look to turn and go the other way. For those without a valid bear hunting license in their pocket, if you find yourself in close quarters with a bear, or happen across a bear on a food source (think elk or deer carcass), simply back away or give them plenty of room to escape. Wild black bears seldom attack unless they feel threatened, cornered or are provoked. Many hunters carry bear spray these days, which is proven to be an effective, nonlethal tool in many conflict situations.

If you surprise a bear on a trail

- Stand still, stay calm and let the bear identify you and leave. Talk in a normal tone of voice. Be sure the bear has an escape route.

- Never run or climb a tree.
- If you see cubs, their mother is usually close by. Leave the area immediately.

If the bear doesn’t leave

- A bear standing up is just trying to identify what you are by getting a better look and smell.
- Wave your arms slowly overhead and talk calmly. If the bear huffs, pops its jaws or stomps a paw, it wants you to give it space.
- Step off the trail, keep looking at the bear and slowly back away until the bear is out of sight.

If the bear approaches

- A bear knowingly approaching a person could be a food-conditioned bear looking for a handout or, very rarely, an

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Aware

Continued from A14

aggressive bear. Don't concede to this behavior; instead, stand your ground. Yell or throw small rocks in the direction of the bear.

- Get out your bear spray and use it when the bear is about 40 feet away.
- If you're attacked, don't play dead. Fight back with anything available. People have successfully defended themselves with pen knives, trekking poles and even bare hands.

Mountain lions

Colorado is also home to an estimated 3,000 to 7,000 mountain lions, with studies ongoing around the state to get a better understanding of their density. One such study is currently being conducted in Gunnison.

"Mountain lions are rarely seen, but are common throughout western Colorado," said CPW Senior Wildlife Biologist Jamin Grigg. "They prey primarily on deer and elk and are likely to be present anywhere deer and elk are abundant. They are generally shy around humans, but are also very curious, similar to house cats."

Mountain lion attacks are relatively rare. There have been 25 known attacks of a mountain lion on a human in Colorado since 1990. Oftentimes, protective behavior by a mountain lion can be mistaken with predatory behavior.

Grigg said mountain lions are ambush predators, meaning they rely on stealth and secrecy when hunting.

"If a lion allows you to see it, it's likely not acting in a predatory manner," he said.

What is observed more commonly is protective behavior by mountain lions when they make an effort to direct a human away from a food source or its young kittens. Protective behavior can include bluff-charging — an act in which the lion will behave aggressively by walking toward a person and gesturing with its paws while vocalizing.

"When you see that, a lion likely has a kill or kittens nearby and is simply trying to encourage you to leave the area," Grigg said. "Bluff-charging is a protective behavior."

If you encounter a mountain lion

- Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- Stay calm when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly.
- Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.
- Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly



Photo courtesy Wayne D. Lewis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

and speak firmly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion.

- Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully. Remain standing or try to get back up.

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Photo courtesy Pedro Laumbach, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

A father and daughter share an archery hunt.

Archery elk hunting: Hunting up close

By Alan Hannasch and Jason Garnett, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

For most of us, hunting is a lifelong pursuit. We have developed (over the years) a routine that begins every year around the first of February and, in one way or another, finds us in the Colorado high country in late August and early September. It seems second nature to expect big game brochures to arrive in the mailbox, an “alarm clock” announcing the new hunting season.

After a few planning sessions with our hunting partners, we decide on hunt units and species. Sometime before the April deadline, we apply for our “tags,” and after a month or so of anxious waiting, we get draw results off the ‘net. We spend the next three months or so scouting our hunting units, usually not as often as we would like (and, at the same time, more often than our better halves would prefer). Two or three days before opening weekend, we are off to the woods. For the next four weeks, we are in our element. Sounds great, right? It is.

Not everybody has had enough experience, however, to develop a routine. Whether you are a longtime hunter new to Colorado, an out-of-state guest or a first-time archery hunter, we sincerely hope this article will help you experience the true wonder of early season hunting in the state that hosts one of the largest herds of elk in the world. Archery hunting can be the most exhilarating experience a sportsman or sportswoman can imagine. The absence of city noise, the hubbub of modern life, the relaxed attitude of animals that haven’t been hunted all year and the usually mild weather make for an unforgettable good time.

During the dog days of summer, your pre-hunting activities are kicked into high gear. Final scouting trips should be

planned and your maps marked. Target practice is very important at this point, and by now you should be hitting in groups of 4 inches to a maximum of 6 inches at 30 yards. If you plan on using an elk call, you should be comfortable with it; please don’t practice on elk while sitting in your car at the side of the road — elk learn fast.

Spend some time looking at the game management unit (GMU) interactive maps. The Elk Migration and Travel Corridors map shows you where to focus efforts and mark GPS points.

As the hunt draws near, spend time in the forest (not necessarily where you’ll hunt) and practice making tough uphill and downhill shots (check forest regulations first). It’s also a good time to judge distances before pulling out the range finder to verify your guess.

Go back over your hunt plan.

When it comes time to start packing for a hunt, start a couple weeks early to check gear before it’s packed and loaded into the camper. The camper is used as a base camp (which can easily be substituted with a tent/wall tent). For this article’s “hunt,” we did not take into consideration the use of any off-highway vehicles (OHV) or horses.

Making a list and checking it off is helpful; try making a list of all the gear you take and separate it into two categories — gear for a backpack hunt and gear for a base camp or static hunt from a fixed tent. If you decide to use a base camp, you can then configure your pack with essential gear you need to carry and know what weight you are carrying. Knowing weights of items beforehand comes in handy when planning to carry a backpack. Packaged goods are unwrapped and sealed in plastic bags that can be reused for hauling trash back out. Conserving weight by carrying items that serve more than one purpose is a

good practice; the multipurpose tool, for example. It has a saw blade that will get you by in the backcountry to cut branches for firewood, elk pelvis and ribs, and a sharp blade that can take care of an elk. Don’t forget to bring extra coolers — a quartered elk will fill two king-sized coolers.

No matter how well you plan, you can count on one thing: The elk have complete disregard of your plan. Be flexible. No secret here — elk are where you find them. Sometimes hunting from base camp will keep you in elk range. But you may have to follow the herd. Having a backpack ready to go might be your best option, and planning for more than one scenario can increase your odds of success. My preference is packing a mid-sized backpack to carry emergency items, along with sufficient supplies to field dress an elk, and even having a game bag or two will save an extra trip back to camp.

Archery season can bring hot days and cold nights; don’t be surprised by early snow, rain with lightning, sleet — even all of the above in one day. Dress in layers; most days start off frosty cold in the morning to mid-day sun in the 80s. Especially important: These days, you can carry one of a number of devices that allow you to send messages and/or emergency location signals. The peace of mind is priceless.

Your food supplies are a personal choice, and for day hunts be sure to have nutritional bars and plenty of water. During the archery season, you have more daylight hours, which make for a long day in the field. Getting back to camp and cooking a meal and then cleaning up (being bear aware) is a lot of effort. Simple heat-and-serve meals might be considered.

Now it’s time to head out to your elk camp; always leave a map and specific

information about location, arrival and departure times with someone at home. Pre-arranged call times are a good idea if that can be arranged, as well. Before you leave, get a 10-day weather forecast and print it out. Have a list of phone numbers that you can carry in case of emergencies — and don’t forget your hunting license. One last check of the bow and a final practice round before the hunt are in order; by now, your confidence in your shooting needs to be high.

It does not matter where you set up your elk camp — bears will be in the area.

Once in the field, a host of decisions must be made. Should you call to the elk or just move slowly through the woods and hope to intercept them? If you have had time to scout your area extensively, you can try to set up on a wallow, water hole, game trail or elk crossing and wait them out. If your scouting has been limited, spot and stalk may be the ticket. Archery hunters will tell you that all of the tactics listed above work and, more often than not, it is the correct use of all them that leads to a successful harvest.

First things first — find elk. All of the map making, planning and practice are of little use if the elk that were in your “secret spot” a month ago are now one drainage away. Hopefully, you are able to set up camp early enough before the season opens that you have time to do some last-minute scouting. Of course, you don’t want to go stomping around the woods that you’re going to be hunting, but you can learn a lot by simply looking and listening.

“Glassing” your hunting area from a high vantage point can gain you invaluable information about elk movement in your hunting area. Elk tend to move up and down the mountains they inhabit
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Archery

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early in the morning and also late in the afternoon or early evening. This habit can make it fairly easy to pinpoint travel routes. These routes or trails can be a great place to ambush elk as they move between feeding and bedding areas.

As you sit looking over your area, listen very carefully; elk are the most vocal members of the deer family and, contrary to popular belief, elk communicate back and forth to each other all the time. Bull elk don't have to be in the full swing of the rut to bugle, and the chirps, bleats and mews of cow and calf elk can be heard year-round in the Colorado high country. Elk regularly announce their presence, and the hunter who is paying attention can profit from this apparent lack of restraint.

Now that you have current information on movement and location (even if very general), you will want to put together a plan for the morning hunt. Your plan should put you on course to intercept moving elk. Again, elk will move between feeding areas and bedding grounds. Choosing a spot that, from your scouting, shows the most promise of a well-beaten trail, saddle or a wallow would be ideal. Do what it takes to be not only downwind of the elk, but appropriately up or downhill from them, as well. The cool morning air in the valleys and draws of the Colorado mountains tends to move uphill as it warms. As temperatures drop in the afternoon, the cool air that is at the ridge tops begins to move back down the mountains.

Get into position early — the quickly fading darkness of early morning will afford freedom of movement without detection that daylight hours will not. The key is not spooking the elk out of your area before you get a chance to hunt them. Use every trip in and out of the woods before and during your hunt as a scouting trip. Be mindful of elk sign.

A good sign that elk are using an area is "rubbed" trees. Look for smaller aspen trees or pine saplings that bull elk use to rub against to rid their antlers of drying velvet and to otherwise vent their general frustrations. These trees tend to be stripped of bark 2 to 6 feet from the ground. A bull with a really bad attitude will wipe the tree clean of all branches and bark. Check rubs for freshness; newly rubbed trees will still have a softness to their bark and will still be oozing sap.

Look for wallows. Elk use wallows for several reasons: cooling themselves down in the hot, early days of fall, to control pesky insects and to spread scent, effectively marking their territory. These small bodies of water can be as large as a backyard pool or as small as a kitchen sink. Evidence of fresh tracks in the mud around a wallow is evidence of recent use. But chocolate milk-colored water and fresh hair prints (made as the elk rolls in the mud) near the edge of the wallow is sure proof that elk are near.

As the morning passes, listen for the telltale sounds of elk movement: a twig breaking, rolling rocks, cow calls or possibly a bugle. Once elk are located, it may be necessary to move to the elk or you can try to call them to you. Try a soft cow call, then, if you get a reply, wait a minute and call again. Be patient. It may take some time for the animals to move to you. If your call is not answered, try again just a bit louder. You may even want to try a bugle. Remember, start soft then work

louder — don't blow their heads off with your first call.

Calling elk is, for most, a trial-and-error process; listen to the elk and try to sound like them. Listen for a response. It may take just seconds for a "hot" bull to answer, but it can also take several minutes. A bull that doesn't feel that the caller is close enough to be threatening may simply ignore calls. If these attempts fail to produce a response, consider the wind direction and start to move slowly on a course that will put you ahead of the elk. At all times, be mindful of animals that may be present but remain quiet.

Few things in life prepare a hunter for his or her first up-close experience with one of nature's greatest residents. It's hard to imagine that an animal that can hear a pin drop on a feather pillow, see a gnat blink and smell an unscented candle from across a football field can be successfully hunted. Perhaps that's why after all the hard work, planning and practice, even the most seasoned hunters often turn to putty when it all comes together. The chest-pounding increase in heart rate and the seemingly instant lack of oxygen that a close encounter causes can make it nearly impossible to hold steady on your quarry. Take a moment to settle yourself. The unbelievable thrill of the moment can quickly sour with an ill-placed shot. Shoot like you have practiced; pick a spot, draw smoothly, anchor, peep, pin, trigger, breathe and squeeze.

After you release your arrow, you will have one of two feelings — a great sense of accomplishment as the arrow hits the target as you have planned, or great concern that you might not have hit the spot. Mark the spot where you stood at the time the arrow was released, where the elk stood and the direction the elk ran. Most of the time, what you do after the shot will improve your odds of retrieving your downed elk.

Take some time to savor the moment. Most likely, the release of your arrow is the culmination of a year's worth of hard work. Enjoy it. Allow 30 to 45 minutes before beginning your recovery efforts. Generally, big game will travel downhill and rarely in a straight line. Pay attention to every detail and place markers often. If you lose track, circle your last best sign. Tracking after the shot can be the hardest part of your hunt, so be patient and listen — a wounded elk will hold up in the thickest cover you can imagine.

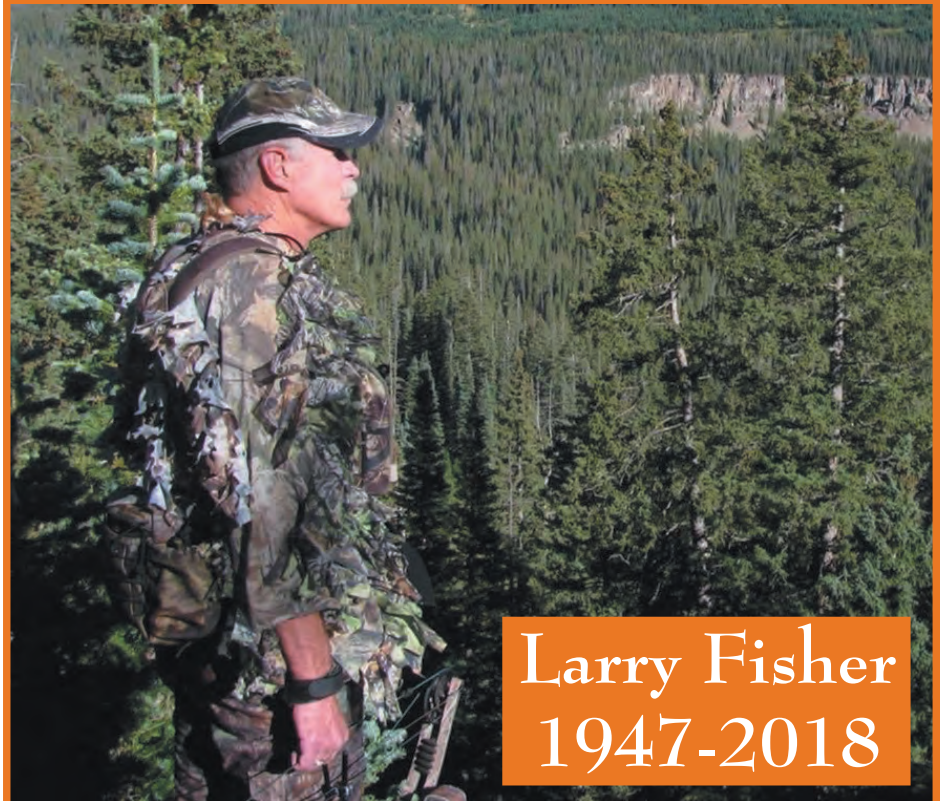
For an archer, every harvest is a trophy and the memory is better shared with a good field photo. Spend a few minutes preparing the animal for the trophy photo; clean up excess blood. If the tongue is hanging out, take pictures from the other side or tuck it in. Look at hunting magazines for good examples of clean trophy photos.

Archery hunting has a relatively low success rate. As with any method of hunting, more times than not you will head back home without an elk. The experience and the fair chase will keep you coming back.

If you do harvest an elk, be aware of the temperature. During the archery season, most daytime highs are well above 60 degrees. You should quarter the elk and pack the meat in coolers for the trip home. You've worked hard to get to this point; proper care of your prize is critical.

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Photo courtesy Wayne D. Lewis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Elk hunters need to be sure to know the difference between elk and moose (pictured above). If a hunter without the proper license shoots a moose, the fine can be more than \$1,000 and hunting privileges can be lost.

Tips for hunting elk

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The popular hunting magazines often display colorful photographs of huge bull elk standing in open meadows presenting easy targets. The reality in the mountains of Colorado, however, is far different.

Stalking the wapiti is challenging, and most hunters won't get easy shots. You're more likely to find elk on a steep hillside, in a dark ravine or in thick timber than standing out in the open.

The hunter success rate for all manners of take in Colorado was 20 percent in 2024, and a total of 36,307 elk were harvested. About 178,014 hunters went after elk that season. It's estimated that there are about 308,610 elk in Colorado, the most of any state.

If the weather is warm, elk stay spread out over vast areas at high elevations at and above timberline. In those conditions hunters need to work extra hard. When snow falls, elk will usually start to move, bunch up and look for food sources at lower elevations or

on slopes where vegetation is exposed. However, the snowfall must be significant; usually more than a foot of snow must be on the ground to get elk moving.

Hunters must get off their off-highway vehicles and hunt slowly and quietly far from any road. Elk are very smart, move quickly at any hint of danger and hide in rugged terrain. Compounding the challenge for hunters is the fact that elk typically gather in groups of 10 or more. If one is spooked, they all move, and they can run easily for a mile or more.

Elk are most active during the night and are likely to be grazing in transition areas — meadows next to heavy timber, where different types of vegetation meet and just above or below ridgelines. Hunters should watch these areas at first light and at dusk.

During the day, hunters need to move into the dark timber — cool, north-facing slopes — and not be hesitant to hunt in difficult areas. Hunters should move as quietly as possible for short distances and then scan

the woods for 10 minutes or more before moving again. Even in dense forest, it's a good idea to use binoculars so you can discern subtle movement or unusual colors in the trees.

If you find the areas where animals graze at night, it's likely that you'll find them in adjacent areas during the day.

When hunting in areas with roads, move far above or far below the roads to find elk. In areas where two roads are in close proximity, locate the most difficult terrain in between.

Line up your shot carefully because elk are difficult to knock down. The best shots are delivered in the critical area of the lungs and heart just behind and below the front quarters. Never try for a head shot, as this can result in only wounding the animal.

To learn how to field dress big game, see the videos at <https://www.youtube.com/@ColoradoParksand-Wildlife> or <https://vimeo.com/cpwvideo>.

Tips for hunting mule deer

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Hunting mule deer in Colorado is always challenging. Hunters can improve their success by understanding the habits of these critters.

During the 2024 seasons, for all manners of take, 76,905 hunters harvested 33,205 mule deer for a 43 percent success rate. Colorado is home to an estimated 384,100 deer.

In the mountains and foothills, mule deer don't spend much time in heavy timber. They are primarily browsers, and prefer aspen and forest edges where there are plenty of low shrubs, small trees, oak brush and varied vegetation types.

Mule deer are most active at night and can often be found in meadow areas during low-light hours. During the day, they'll bed down in protective cover.

In warm weather, look for deer along ridgelines where wind is consistent and helps to keep them cool.

During the low-light hours of evening and morning, hunt in meadows at the edge of thick cover. If you see where they are feeding during times of low light, it's likely they'll move into nearby timbered areas to rest for part of the day. Deer tend to move during the middle of the day toward the areas where they feed in the evening.

A slow stalk is recommended. Spend a lot of time scanning slowly with binoculars — a deer can appear at any time.

Pay attention to the wind direction. If the wind is blowing in the direction you are moving, a deer will likely pick up your scent. Deer avoid going to creeks in daylight, so there is no advantage to hunting near moving water sources

during the day.

One advantage mule deer give to hunters is their curiosity. When mule deer are spooked, they'll often run a short distance then turn to determine if they are being pursued. That may give you one good chance for a shot.

A small amount of snow will get deer moving quickly out of high-altitude areas. Usually by late October, migrating herds will move to winter range areas, even if there is no snow.

Hunters should aim at the vital organ area which presents a small target — about the size of a dinner plate just behind the front quarter. Hunters, no matter how good they are at the range, should never try to make a head shot. Many animals are injured and die slowly because of attempted head shots.



Photo courtesy Nora Logue, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Setting up an elk camp

By Mark Strachan, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

One of the things I look forward to every year is elk camp. It's the time I get to spend with my friends in Colorado's vast and beautiful outdoors. It's also the time I use to reflect on the important things in life while pursuing one of the greatest animals on our continent, the Rocky Mountain elk. We all spend many hours every year in planning, preparation and scouting to make the most of this time in the field. Over the years, we discovered what made our time in the field even more enjoyable: camp.

In this article, I will cover some aspects of camping in Colorado that will make your hunt more enjoyable, too. I'll address topics like: Where do I camp? What do we bring? How to make delicious, quick and easy meals?

I believe in keeping things simple, and simple is always better when it comes to maximizing your time in the great

outdoors.

The first topic to cover is the old question, where do I camp in Colorado? Our first choice is always public land. Colorado has an incredible amount of public land throughout the state. We always look for places that allow us to walk out of camp and into the field to hunt. This is not always possible, but has a lot of benefits. Make sure to mark down as many different camp options as you can. If you have the time, visiting the area and marking campsites on your map is a great idea. Look for spots that have good access and level areas for tents. Keep in mind that if you are camping in a forest, beetle-killed trees' roots weaken quickly, increasing the risk that they will fall during wind and snowstorms.

During elk season, there will also be some competition for the best campsites. Many of us will get there a day or two

ahead of time to secure our favorite spot. It's also important to research the type of public land you are camping on. Forests, Bureau of Land Management and state trust lands have varying rules and regulations in regards to hunting, camping, wood collection and fires. Once you have identified the type of land you are camping on, you will need to visit that particular agency's website to find out which rules or regulations pertain to your area.

Another option is to identify local improved campgrounds. State or private parties may run these. Finding a camp in your area is typically very easy.

Now that you have established where you are going to camp, it's time to think about what you are going to need. The list can be simple or extensive. The amount of gear you take is often limited by your method of travel. Camping See Camp page 20

Defining the word 'trophy'

By Dick Ray

Everything I needed to know about trophy hunting I learned in a small town drugstore in 1958.

What is a trophy?

"Something taken from an enemy and kept as a memorial of victory, as captured arms a deer's head, etc. displayed as evidence of hunting prowess; any memento." (Webster's New World Dictionary)

Many years ago as a teenager growing up in Belen, N.M., there was a drugstore in town that had a number of mule deer heads mounted and hung on exhibit. As boys, we often visited Buckland's Pharmacy to admire the many deer heads and one moose.

On a certain day in 1958, five of us wandered into the store to gawk while drinking Cherry Cokes which we would buy at the soda fountain. As we walked in, Roy Buckland, the owner who had hunted and taken all of the animals on display, happened to be at the front of the store. One boy, who was much more forward than the rest of us, blurted out, "Mr. Buckland, tell us about that buck," and pointed to the biggest one of all.

Buckland, who was a very busy man, halted, gave us a long look, and said, "Come on over here and sit down."

He was walking toward the soda foun-

tain counter and several of us exchanged looks embarrassed to have interrupted such a busy man, but hopeful that he might be going to buy us all a Cherry Coke. Well, he did not buy us a 35-cent Cherry Coke, but all these years later I realized that he gave us something much more valuable on that day long ago.

He began by stating, "Boys, all of these deer — there were 30 or more — represent my life. For years, I have worked here at the store just about every day, all year long. I take a one week vacation with my wife and then I take off a week each November for a deer hunt with my friends."

We were all aware that about 12-15 of the town's businessmen took an annual deer hunt in the mountains of southwest New Mexico.

Buckland continued, "Starting with the one on the right, that is the buck from

our first hunt. I was young then and one of the youngest men on the hunt. Going all of the way around the two walls to the last buck, which was taken last year,

I am now one of the oldest men still going on the hunt. Looking at each buck I can remember and respect how each one lived and how he died. I can remember all of my friends who were along on each hunt and many of them are now dead and gone as well."

Then our impatient buddy blurted out, "But what about the biggest one, Mr. Buckland?"

Buckland took a keep breath and said, "Son, I just saw him and killed him the first morning and it cut my hunt short that year."

Not satisfied, our young colleague then asked, "Mr. Buckland, why did you shoot

He began by stating, "Boys, all of these deer — there were 30 or more — represent my life. For years, I have worked here at the store just about every day, all year long. I take a one week vacation with my wife and then I take off a week each November for a deer hunt with my friends."

that little forked horn?"

The now somewhat exasperated pharmacist said slowly, "I was sick that year and probably should not have even gone on the hunt. But I did, and I did eventually kill that buck, after great effort. That small buck means more to me than the big one does."

"Tell us about the moose, Mr. Buckland," we continued, still wanting more. Mr. Buckland replied, "I had been wanting to hunt a moose and had been corresponding with an outfitter in Canada. It was expensive, but late that summer I received a letter from the outfitter saying that many of his clients had cancelled and that if I would come, I could hunt for half price. That was the first year of the Great Depression. So, boys, I went to Canada and I killed a moose. That's all there is to it. But I do remember that I missed the deer hunt with all of my friends that year because of the moose hunt."

I've often reflected on the stories Buckland shared with us that day. Some time later, I realized I'd learned from Buckland that a trophy is any tangible thing that keeps alive, for a lifetime, the memory of an experience, the camaraderie and the people met along the journey. I still carry this with me nearly 60 years later and I remain grateful for this realization.

Just how important is wildlife habitat?

By Dick Ray

As biologists, we were taught that the three tenets of sound wildlife management are habitat, habitat and habitat.

As wildlife advocates, we are told that the three most important components of wildlife management are habitat, habitat and habitat.

As historians, we begin to wonder, just how important is habitat? A foolish question in a way, because good habitat is, of course, vital, but a glance at the recent history of wildlife in western Colorado does provoke the question.

With the settlement of the mountains and valleys of Colorado came the settler's livestock and their livestock's diseases. Disease, coupled with the human population's need for sustenance (game meat) put great demands on Colorado's elk, deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep.

In 1875, Colorado's territorial governor is quoted as saying, "We must do something about Colorado's vanishing wildlife."

As early as 1861, laws regarding mar-

ket hunting and fish poaching had been enacted, but with very little enforcement.

With 1876 came statehood and the beginnings of the Colorado Fish and Game Department. In 1885, bighorn sheep hunting was closed and remained closed until 1953. Pronghorn hunting was closed from 1914 through 1945. In southwest Colorado, elk hunting was closed from 1903 through 1937, and deer hunting was closed in 1914 through 1918. In 1903, the first guide and outfitter law was enacted.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, cattle, sheep and other livestock grew to record numbers, heavily grazing many areas. The 1880s through the 1970s saw spectacles like 250,000 lambs being shipped out of the San Juan Basin in southwest Colorado each fall, while the ewes were driven home to winter range. The Craig-Meeker area had some 750,000 sheep on summer range, as another example. The habitat also took heavy hits during the epic droughts of the 1930s and the 1950s.

And, yet, the bighorn sheep recovered to

hunnable numbers during this period. Mule deer became plentiful and even abundant, with Colorado harvesting 147,000 in 1963. Elk also increased to the point where 20,858 were taken in the 1969 season. No state had ever produced so much game.

We must ask the question, how could this wildlife recovery occur in the face of such degraded habitats? To find the answer, we must look at the rest of the story.

Every stockman defended his livestock against predators — the same predators that also preyed upon wildlife. In 1934, the U.S. Biological Survey joined with stockmen and the Department of Fish and Game to uniformly pursue predators, and, in 1934, the Colorado Legislature placed bounties on coyotes, mountain lions and bobcats.

The rest is history.

We ask ourselves, isn't the habitat actually "better" now than in those halcyon years of mule deer multitudes? Logging was rampant in the 1960s and 1970s, with clear cuts going to timberline in many areas. The largest sawmill in Colorado in 1970 was in

Pagosa Springs, and every mountain town had a sawmill (habitat manipulation). Roads have been reseeded and closed, burns have been prescribed, well locations and pipelines have been reseeded, grazing is a fraction of what has been seen, and, at many elevations, we see an abundance of forbs and grasses under a dead and dying forest canopy. Why, then, are we seeing a decline in many prey species in many areas of Colorado?

Is it really "habitat" alone, or are we missing something? (That something being balance.) Ecosystems become out of balance when predator species and scavenger species dominate the decline of a prey species.

Therefore, it is imperative that wildlife managers engage in ongoing studies and research to better understand current predator/prey relationships and numbers. Population dynamics of all species change over time and must be monitored constantly to achieve responsible wildlife management.

History: Wildlife matters

By Dick Ray

The American colonists had no real hunting tradition of their own as they generally came from countries where commoners were forbidden to hunt.

They had no knowledge of New World wildlife or hunting methods and brought only honest ignorance, faith and the will to survive. The need to survive fosters rapid learning, and survive they did.

In 1875, Colorado's territorial governor was quoted as saying, "We must do something to save Colorado's vanishing wildlife."

Thus bighorn sheep were covered by a total hunting ban from 1885 until 1953. In 1899, the Colorado Game and Fish Department was formed. In 1903, the first guide and outfitter law was passed. Elk season was closed from 1903 thru 1937 in Southwest Colorado; mule deer season was closed from 1914 to 1918. Market hunting and

subsistence hunting were eliminated. Pronghorn were not hunted until 1945, and there was no open season on turkeys until 1963.

Predators, lions, bears, coyotes, etc., as well as scavengers such as ravens, crows and magpies, which exacerbate the need for the carnivores to make more frequent kills, were brought under control.

At the same time, additional law enforcement, habitat improvement, restocking to rebuild ungulate species, i.e., conservation, was predominate. Deer and elk flourished.

Now, with deer, elk, turkey, pronghorn and even bighorn sheep being common, they are taken for granted. Public opinions are changing and predators — charismatic megafauna — are revered by Americans in a way that ungulates are not.

Although we must manage and respect all wildlife,

preferred single-species management will have negative effects on many other species. We must engage in ecosystem management, where all species are considered in relation to each other and in relation to the condition of their habitat. Our wildlife managers must strive for "balance."

Colorado's hunters are tools of Colorado's wildlife managers, affecting funding, harvest, and providing input and information. By encouraging respect and stewardship, hunters build self-respect and gain respect.

As field naturalists, hunters provide value to wildlife management beyond their economic contribution.

Theodore Roosevelt described conservation as "wise use." He believed that certain natural resources were renewable and might last forever if harvested scientifically and no faster than they reproduced.

This is called sustainable yield. Wildlife matters, too.

Camp

Continued from 19

in the Colorado high country during the fall and winter means being prepared for anything. During the hunting seasons, you will see everything from 70 degrees and sunshine to below-zero temperatures with blowing snow. In Colorado, these kinds of variations in weather can even happen in the same day. You will need to be prepared. With this in mind, the first things to think about are shelter and heat.

There are many types of tents on the market, but the most common type in elk camp is the canvas wall tent. Canvas wall tents are durable, sturdy and much warmer than nylon tents. This is not to say that nylon tents will not work, but you will be more comfortable and have more room for your gear in a canvas wall tent. At our camp, we choose to run multiple tents. We use one tent for cooking, eating and storing of gear and another tent for our sleeping quarters. In the sleeping tents, we use catalytic-style heaters attached to 20-pound propane tanks. These efficient little heaters are fantastic for keeping the chill off inside the tents. Two benefits to catalytic heaters are that they take up less space than a wood-burning stove and they do not produce carbon monoxide like other styles of propane heaters. One of the best things about this form of heat is not getting

out of bed to stoke a fire in the middle of the night. For planning purposes, you will burn about 2 to 4 pounds of propane per night with catalytic heaters.

In the cook tent, we use a wood-burning stove for heat and for drying out clothes, if necessary. Here is a tip: We use the wax fire logs that come in a paper wrapper. Combine that with a wood log or two and it will give you four-plus hours of easy-starting heat. For planning purposes, we bring two of these instant fire logs per day in the field. Even though we typically only use one per day, the other logs are what we bring for the "what if" factor of camping in the high country.

The "what if" factor of camping in Colorado high country is the scenarios you have to keep in mind that you cannot control. The weather in the mountains can be highly unpredictable. Some years we hunt in T-shirts and others we throw on every piece of arctic gear we own. This may mean packing more, but the year that the "what if" happens, you will be happy to have the gear you need not only to survive, but to continue with your hunt. I have seen many camps get broken down and their hunting ended early because of not being prepared. Things to keep in mind in the "what if" file are things such as axes, chain saws, extra fuel, extra wood, extra clothes, extra food, rope and tarps.

We do take a few nonessential items to our camp; we enjoy the additional comforts. It will be your decision as to what to bring and what not to bring.

When it comes to crawling into a nice warm place to sleep, there is nothing nicer than a good-quality sleeping bag and a cot to lie on. While there are those who wish to rough it, this is one of the things I will not leave at home. You work hard hunting during the day, so why not be comfortable at night? My personal choice of sleeping bags is a negative 20-degree bag that is flannel lined. These bags will keep you warm on the coldest nights. You can find these at most major sporting good stores for around a hundred dollars. I also choose to bring several packing blankets to go between the bag and the cot. This gives you a bit more padding and added protection from the cold. One thing not to overlook is a small tarp to cover over the top of your bedroll. Oftentimes, you will get condensation in large tents that can lead to wet spots on your bag.

For the last part of this article, I want to share with you a way to prepare food for your next camping trip. Many years ago, I joined a camp with some friends of mine, and their idea of dinner at camp was dehydrated food that you poured hot water into. While some of this stuff is OK, there

are much better ways to enjoy a tasty, hot meal without the hassle of actually cooking in camp. In our camp, we use a boil-a-bag method. The weeks prior to hunting, I will cook meals at home. Foods such as pasta, potatoes, meats and even rice will reheat very nicely. Our camp favorites are rigatoni with Italian sausage and marinara, or what I call hunters' hash. Hunters' hash is a combination of diced potato, bell pepper, onion and ground beef. You can take these types of dishes and put several portions per hunter in a vacuum-sealed bag and freeze them for camp. The best way we have found to reheat these bags is with a turkey fryer. These are inexpensive and will boil water fast. Once you have the water boiling, you add your sealed bag of food and, in 20 to 30 minutes, you have a piping-hot bag of great camp food and no pots or pans to clean. We burn our paper plates and throw away the empty food bag. Great food, less trash and virtually no clean up. It doesn't get any easier than that.

Hopefully, these tips and equipment lists will help you enjoy more of your overall elk hunting experience in Colorado. I know my first experiences would have been greatly improved if I had them starting out, and it is my hope that this article will do that for you. Good luck, hunt safely and have a great camp.

Tales of Colorado’s last grizzlies

By Dick Ray

Living in Archuleta County, Colo., and Chama, N.M., in the 1970s, it was not uncommon to hear talk about grizzly bears at social gatherings. I was fortunate to be able to hear a firsthand account of the last grizzly known to roam along the New Mexico/Colorado border and the Continental Divide west of Chama. One neighbor to the Consuelo Gonzales Ranch (renamed Chromo Mountain Ranch) was Harry Eaklor. Eaklor was old enough to know the answer to my question, "When was the last grizzly killed in this area?"

He related this story to me.

There was a grizzly that would come down from the headwaters of the Navajo River each spring and kill a cow or two as he made his rounds. This would have been just after World War II. No rancher or cowboy had been able to get him, but the apprehension was growing. The game departments in Colorado and New Mexico suggested that the ranchers around Chromo, Colo., contact the best professional hunter in the region. That happened to be Hugh Harris, who lived near El Rito, N.M.

Harris had been an accountant in New England and had taken several hunts out west, much like Teddy Roosevelt or Zane Gray. However, he also had his own hounds and had hunted many bears in the New England states. He came to the decision to relocate in New Mexico and become a hunting guide during the fall hunting seasons and be an accountant during accounting season.

Harris was very successful, and there is even a location named Harris Bear Camp on the Canjilon Ranger District of Carson National Forest.

Eaklor wrote to Harris and inquired as to his availability to hunt their problem grizzly. Harris replied that he would come in the spring when called. Eaklor wrote back that there were no telephones in Chromo. Harris wrote back saying to just go to the Pagosa Springs Ranger Station and they could call the El Rito Ranger Station and he would get the message.

As usual, when the snow melted the old bear's tracks appeared along the irrigation ditch that ran through the Eaklor, Crowley and Shahan ranches.

The call was made. The few residents of the Chromo area eagerly anticipated the arrival of the hunter who lived some 70 miles to the south. About a week passed and here came Harris driving a wagon loaded with camp gear and provisions and drawn by two horses. His pack of hounds followed behind. They came up a rutted road that today is paved and is U.S. 84.

Harris made his way on up the Navajo River to the Eaklor Ranch, where he camped. He rode one of his horses and covered the area around Chromo Mountain. The summit of Chromo Mountain is actually in New Mexico and when the bear was finally found, pursued and killed, it may have been in New Mexico.

But, it was considered a Colorado bear because it spent most of its time in Colorado.

Grizzly talk was still common when I moved to Chama and Pagosa through the 1970s. I had many a breakfast in Chama with TJ Ramsey, the game warden; Bud Brashar, the banker; Mr. Harding, the pharmacist; and Mike Kelly, who owned

the Shamrock Hotel and café. Brashar swore that he had actually seen a grizzly in the early '70s on the north side of Chama Peak, which is just in Archuleta County, Colo., and just north of Chama, N.M.

During this same period, when in Pagosa Springs I often had breakfast at the Elkhorn Café with Earl Mullins, the barber who

had served on the Colorado Wildlife Commission; Bill Warr, whose family had been very active in mining in the San Juan Mountains; and Lloyd Anderson, who was still active as a government trapper. Anderson had many stories regarding grizzlies in the South San Juan Mountains. And, in fact, the Colorado Division of Wildlife had established an area encompassing the head of the Pine River, located along the Continental Divide northwest of Pagosa Springs, as a grizzly bear refuge. It was thought that that was

the most probable location that grizzlies might still be found.

However, at one of our breakfasts, Anderson declared that he had seen grizzly tracks the week before along the head of the Navajo River. There was no question that he was the most knowledgeable and experienced person on the subject in this area. We believed him.

As it turned out, on Sept. 23, 1979, the last grizzly to be killed in Colorado was killed in that very drainage, the Navajo River in Archuleta County, Colo. As it were, I was packing out a party of bowhunters from Dipping Lakes. At the trailhead I loaded up and headed back to Lobo Lodge, listening to the radio, and what did I hear? A hunter had been attacked by a bear along the Continental Divide north of Chama, N.M. — the area I had just come out of. There were no cellphones in those days, so I had to go to Chama to call Dick Weldon, the Colorado game warden who had that area. Weldon had called me to pursue problem bears before, but never a man-eater.

Weldon's wife, Lois, told me that Weldon was on the mountain at the incident location, which was only about 8 miles from where my bowhunters had been camped. Lois also told me that the bear was dead, and that it was a grizzly. The location was in the headwaters of the Navajo River. She also related that the helicopter had crashed on takeoff with no injuries and that there was another helicopter on its way to complete the extraction of DOW men Weldon, Ron Velarde and the bear. Also, she mentioned, neither my dogs and nor I would be needed. There is much more to this story, but this is the crux of it.

However, at one of our breakfasts, Anderson declared that he had seen grizzly tracks the week before along the head of the Navajo River. There was no question that he was the most knowledgeable and experienced person on the subject in this area. We believed him.

Protect your hunting privilege

By Donald D. Volger

Thousands of sincere, well-meaning individuals have concluded that killing is wrong. They don't believe man has the right to take life because all life is precious. They are right; life is precious and murder is wrong.

Murder is killing unlawfully with malice aforethought. However, hunting is not murder because malice is not a factor. Hunters, for the most part, harbor a deep respect and appreciation for the game they pursue.

Man is responsible for what happens to the earth. He must accept his role of caretaker and learn to manage the natural resources wisely. Wildlife is one of this planet's most precious resources.

Wise management is based on the principle that healthy animal populations are limited by the amount and quality of the habitat in which they live. If the number grows too large, the habitat is negatively af-

fected, and animals eventually die of starvation and disease. Therefore, the number of animals must be limited to avoid overpopulation and habitat destruction. In modern times, hunting has proven to be the most efficient and humane method of population control.

Many species have benefited from the establishment of well-planned management programs. Today, whitetail deer, mule deer, antelope, elk, bear, moose and buffalo populations are on the increase in many portions of our country. Nongame species like the river otter and the peregrine falcon also benefit.

How are these programs funded? By sportsmen's dollars. When hunters and fishermen purchase licenses, their money goes to support management programs. When outdoorsmen buy hunting and fishing equipment, a portion of that money is added. When hunters purchase migratory waterfowl stamps, those expenditures help

obtain and improve habitat. Dollars from Ducks Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and similar organizations are used for buying and upgrading wildlife habitat.

Who is responsible for the healthy wildlife populations? The sportsman and the dedicated wildlife manager.

The hunter, however, has an image problem. Many hunters are viewed as egotistical, macho slobs who get some kind of perverted pleasure from watching things die — and this is not true. But we, as hunters, are partially to blame for the misconception.

When unethical hunters litter, vandalize property, trespass, improperly display harvested game, violate safety rules and commit game law violations, all sportsmen suffer. Outdoorsmen need to be more considerate toward those who may choose not to hunt. If we want to be viewed as informed, intelligent and caring sportsmen,

we have to act like it.

Hunters are evaluated by others. Each individual hunter makes an impact. It will either be a positive one or a negative one. We must work harder at making a positive impression on those who watch. A little common sense and common courtesy couldn't hurt.

If you consider yourself a true sportsman, don't just sit idle. Get involved with organizations that support your views. Pass your knowledge and love of the outdoors along to your children and their friends by including them in some of your activities. Evaluate the reasons you hunt and be able to verbalize them. Purchase hunting licenses and duck stamps even if you can't get into the field.

Don't take hunting for granted. If you do, the next generation of sportsmen may not have the opportunity to decide whether or not they are going to hunt. That decision will have been made for them.

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Venison recipes

Venison is the meat of antlered animals, e.g., deer, moose, elk and caribou. It is of finer texture, much leaner, but more watery than beef.

Liver, heart and kidneys are best if eaten immediately while the rest of the meat is still hanging.

The heart can simply be washed, sliced and fried in butter. Liver and kidneys are improved by cleaning and kneading gently in salt water to remove excess blood. They are excellent if pan-fried in butter.

After the carcass has aged several days at 35-40 degrees F, you can easily cut it yourself with only a sharp knife and remove the meat from the bones. Boneless meat takes less freezer space and cooks more evenly. Trim off bloodshot meat and as much fat as you can. The fat is tallow-like and sticks to the roof of the mouth unless piping hot.

Meat high on the upper hind legs and along the backbone is most tender. Slice 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick for steaks and chops.

To freeze, wrap tightly in heavy freezer paper (-20 degree F rated), shiny side in, staple or seal with freezer tape, and label each cut.

You can grind meat as you need it, using scraps or less tender cuts from the freezer. An ordinary home food grinder will do the job. The trick is to use small pieces of partially frozen meat. To make this lean meat more interesting, grind it with fresh sausage (2-3 parts venison to 1 part sausage) or grind with 1 part beef fat to 6 parts venison.

Venison burgundy

Serves: 6-8

Prep time: 3 1/4 hours

2 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons flour

2 pounds venison, elk or moose stew meat

4 carrots

2 large onions

1 cup celery, thinly sliced

1 garlic clove, minced

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1/4 teaspoon marjoram

1/4 teaspoon thyme

1 cup burgundy, or any dry red wine

1 cup mushrooms, sliced

Blend soy sauce with flour in a 3-quart baking dish. Cut meat into 1 1/4-inch cubes. Add meat to soy sauce mixture and toss to coat the meat cubes.

Cut carrots into chunks, slice onions and celery, add minced garlic along with the pepper, marjoram, thyme and wine to the meat. Stir gently to mix. Cover tightly and oven simmer at 325 degrees for 2 hours.

Add mushrooms and again stir gently. Cover tightly and bake 1 hour longer or until meat and vegetables are tender. Serve with fluffy, hot wild rice, noodles or mashed potatoes.

Pan-frying tender cuts

(Steaks, chops and loin)

Because venison is a watery meat with little fat marbling, the key to cooking juicy, tender steaks and chops is to hold the water in the meat. To do so, cut pieces no thicker than 1/4 inch, fry quickly in a liberal amount of fat and do not crowd in the pan.

1. Heat a heavy frying pan until sizzling hot.
2. Add 2 tablespoons butter.
3. Place meat in the hot pan. Sear on both sides, turning only once.
4. Reduce heat slightly to finish cooking. Turn if necessary. (If water seeps out of the meat, the fire is too low or pieces are crowded.)
5. Remove to a warmed platter when meat is still pink, just before it seems done. Serve.

For a real hunter's feast, serve with lemon butter or hot Cumberland sauce.

Roasting

(Round, loin)

1. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Place on rack in uncovered pan; cover surface with bacon strips.

3. Do not add water; do not cover.

4. Roast in slow oven (300-325 degrees F), allowing 20-25 minutes per pound.

Moist heat methods

(For less tender cuts)

Substitute venison in most moist heat recipes calling for beef. Use extra fat if necessary.

Stewing

(Shoulder, shank, neck)

1. Cut meat into 1-inch cubes.
2. Season with salt and pepper; sprinkle with flour.
3. Brown in hot fat.
4. Cover with boiling water.
5. Cover kettle tightly and cook very slowly until tender. Do not boil. Add vegetables just long enough before serving time so that they will be tender.

Braising

(Shoulder, neck, breast)

1. Season with salt and pepper; rub with flour.
2. Brown in hot fat.
3. Add small quantity of water (about 1 cup).
4. Cover closely.
5. Cook very slowly until tender. Turn meat occasionally. About 2-3 hours.

Venison soup stock

Put bones left from cutting deer in large kettle. Add water to cover. Simmer 2 hours. Cover and cool overnight in refrigerator to harden fat; then remove all fat. Pick meat from bones and return it to the jellied soup stock. Package for freezer storage. Use as base for noodle or vegetable soup.

Easy campfire venison

Save your best steaks and chops for pan-frying. Anything you don't quite know how to cook will do for the recipe, and it's sure to be tender.

4-6 servings venison, sliced 1/4-inch thick

1 package dry onion soup

Arrange meat in a single layer on heavy aluminum foil. Sprinkle generously with dry onion soup. Seal foil packet tightly. Cook slowly in bed of hot coals or in 325 degree F oven about 1 hour, or until done. Serve with buttered noodles or mashed potatoes.

Venison sausage

30 pounds venison, cut

20 pounds fat pork, about 50 to 60 percent lean, cut

1 pound salt

3 ounces black pepper

2 ounces sage, optional

Sprinkle seasonings over meat. Grind through coarse chili plate. Regrind through sausage plate. If sausage is to be frozen, season only half the total amount. Wrap sausage in sizes needed for a meal in moisture vapor-proof paper. Thaw and season unseasoned sausage just before using. Unseasoned sausage will keep fresh five to six months, while seasoned sausage will turn flat and rancid after three months.

Venison roast

3- to 4-pound venison roast

1 package onion soup mix

1 clove garlic, slivered, or garlic salt to taste (optional)

1 can cream of celery soup

2 cans water

Season roast to taste with pepper. Sprinkle with onion soup mix and garlic (if desired) over meat. Spread celery soup over roast. Add water. Cover and cook in 250 degree F oven 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Add more water if necessary. Serves 8-10.

Venison burgers

2 pounds ground venison

1/4 pound ground pork or mild sausage

1 medium onion, chopped

1/4 teaspoon thyme

1/8 teaspoon black pepper

1/4 teaspoon marjoram

2 eggs, beaten

2 tablespoons melted fat

1/4 cup sweet cider

Blend venison, pork and chopped onion together. Add seasonings and beaten egg; blend well. Form into small patties, about 1/4 inch thick. Brown burgers on both sides in fat. Cover, reduce heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn burgers. Add cider, cover and simmer 10 minutes more. Serve immediately. Serves 6.

Venison steak marinade

1/4 cup dry red wine

1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom

1/8 teaspoon garlic powder

1/3 cup salad oil

3 tablespoons soy sauce

Combine ingredients; pour marinade over deer steaks in glass baking pan. Leave steaks in marinade at room temperature 1 to 3 hours, turning them occasionally. Drain steaks, broil to desired doneness over charcoal or under oven broiler, brushing frequently with marinade while broiling. Yield: marinade for 1 pound of venison.

Venison loaf

2 pounds ground venison

2 eggs

2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon pepper

3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

1 small onion, chopped

1 1/2 cups bread crumbs or oatmeal

Mix all ingredients. Turn into greased loaf pan. Bake in 400 degree F oven for one hour.

Venison pot roast

Serves: 4-6

Prep time: 3 hours

2-3 pounds venison rump roast

2 onions, quartered

water

1/3 cup sherry

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/4 teaspoon each dry mustard, marjoram, rosemary, thyme, sweet basil

1 bay leaf

4 potatoes, quartered

4 carrots, sliced lengthwise

flour

salt and pepper

1 pound mushrooms

2 tablespoons bacon drippings

butter

Trim off all fat. Season 2 tablespoons flour with salt and pepper to taste. Dredge roast in flour. In Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in hot bacon drippings. Season generously with salt and pepper. Add onions, sherry, garlic, spices, bay leaf and carrots. Add water to cover. Cook at 350 degrees for 2 hours, stirring every 1/4 hour. Add potatoes; cook 1 additional hour or until roast and potatoes are tender. During last 10 minutes of cooking, clean, slice and saute mushrooms in butter. Remove roast and vegetables to warm platter. Remove bay leaf. Pour remaining pot juices into 4-cup bowl. Add enough water to make 3 cups of liquid. Mix 5 tablespoons flour in small jar of water to add to pot liquid. Bring to boil in Dutch oven and cook 3 minutes. Cover sliced roast with mushrooms; serve with gravy and beer bread.

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Taking care of big game meat

By Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Ethical hunters not only make a clean kill, they don't waste what they kill. So, that means taking care of the meat.

It's against the law to waste game meat. If you harvest an animal, it is your responsibility to remove and care for the meat.

Start preparing before you go into the field. Get in shape and be ready to carry heavy loads over rough terrain. Be sure you know how to field dress an animal. Numerous books and websites are available to provide explanations. If you will be hunting with someone who is inexperienced, teach them the proper techniques.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has produced two videos that explain big game field dressing techniques. Those videos are available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@ColoradoParksandWildlife> or on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/cpwvideo>.

Another video, "Down to the Bone," explains how to bone out the meat of a big game animal in the field. By boning out the meat there is much less weight for a hunter to pack out. It is also available on both of Colorado Parks and Wildlife's video pages.

Get your gear organized. Assemble all of the equipment you need for cleaning, hauling and caring for your meat. A short list includes: high-quality knife, sharpening stone, bone saw, tarp, game bags, frame pack, paper towels, rope and rubber gloves.

Get your freezer ready, too. Be sure you have enough room to store the meat.

Make a clean kill

Shot placement can affect meat quality. Try for a quick kill with a shot that will produce minimal meat damage. The best target: the heart/lungs area just behind the front quarter. A shot to that area will drop an animal quickly. Avoid shooting an animal in the gut or hindquarters. Don't try for head shots.

Also, be aware of where the animal might fall. Don't shoot an animal in an area where you will not be able to retrieve it. Make sure you are capable of retrieving all the meat before it spoils, before it attracts predators and before you become exhausted.

If you can't make a clean shot, don't shoot.

The animal is down.

Now what?

When you bring down a big game animal with bullet or arrow, you have achieved one immediate goal, but you haven't fulfilled all of your responsibilities as a hunter. You still have to field dress, transport and butcher the meat properly.

Animals must be field dressed immediately. That means removing the guts, heart, lungs, liver, esophagus and other internal organs. If you choose to bone out the meat, you do not need to "gut" the animal.

After removing all the entrails, roll the animal over to drain the body cavity, then use a clean rag to wipe off excess blood, bone chips, dirt, partially digested food particles and other foreign matter.

Only leave the hide on long enough to keep the meat clean while dragging it on the ground or transporting it over dusty roads in the back of an open pickup.

Next, cool the meat as quickly as possible. Skin the animal as soon as you reach camp. Time is critical, even in cool weather. Without air circulating around the carcass, the meat can sour quickly. Bacterial growth begins at any temperature above 38 degrees Fahrenheit. Maggots can hatch within eight hours if the carcass is exposed to flies and other winged insects.

Remove the head, trim as much fat as possible, place the meat in game bags and hang them in the shade. Keep the meat dry. Do not allow meat to hang more than two days in the woods. If the weather is warm, get the carcass into cold storage as soon as possible.

Remember — aging does not improve the flavor or serve to tenderize game meat. Beef can be aged to become more tender and flavorful because the fat on a domestic cow protects the meat from rotting at 38 degrees. Deer and elk are 90-95 percent lean, and the leaner the meat, the faster it deteriorates.

When taking the animal home, keep it cold and out of sight. Do not strap an animal to the top of your car.

Game meat can last for several years in a good freezer if it is well-wrapped. The best wrapping is a vacuum seal. If you don't have one, use freezer paper. It's better than plastic in staving off freezer burn.

For more information, see cpw.state.co.us.



Rio Grande Outfitters

Game Retrieval



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