



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Crews work to finish concrete tie-ins from the sidewalk to the overlook parking lot.

Local officials hear update on U.S. 160 reconstruction project

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At an Aug. 24 joint meeting, the Archuleta Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Pagosa Springs Town Council received an update on the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) downtown road reconstruction project.

Meredith Greene, a public information manager on the project, was on hand to inform the elected

officials on the status of the U.S. 160 project, with an emphasis on wrapping up the two-year project.

The project is slated to be completed by December of this year, with only minimal work, "wrapping up odds-and-ends," such as restriping the road, extending into 2027, Greene said.

"The only big lift that we have left is around the 1st Street intersection," she added, and this would be done

■ See Update A8

Bennet calls for investigation into federal treatment of Colorado

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet is seeking an immediate investigation into the Trump administration, alleging the administration used federal agencies, grants and personnel to carry out the president's political vendetta against Colorado.

In an Aug. 20 letter, Bennet calls on Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) to launch an

investigation into the matter, which includes, in part, the denial of disaster funding for Southwestern Colorado, including Archuleta County.

"The call for the Senate to investigate the role the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Interior and Transportation as well as the Office of Management and Budget played follows new evidence that the White House coordinated efforts to punish Colorado and its residents in an effort to secure Tina Peters' release," a press release

■ See Investigation A8

CSU Extension director discusses fire recovery resources with BoCC

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular work session on Tuesday, Aug. 25, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard from Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Director Cindi Galabota about what her office is doing to provide recovery resources for those affected by the recent Rio Blanco Fire.

Galabota explained that she's been working with the county's public health department, along with the San Juan Conservation District, in discussing what resources and recovery efforts the CSU Extension office could offer.

She noted that a survey was sent out to residents and that the survey was directed toward the Rio Blanco Fire, "but it's really for anyone who may need resources."

She explained that the survey asked about exterior home repair, interior smoke damage, repairs to fences and out buildings, soil erosion control, vegetation landscaping, wells, septic, and drinking water concerns.

"Those are kind of the big categories we've asked with that survey," she said, noting the survey also asked about potential mental health resources and insurance needs.

Galabota also explained that she heard a presentation from U.S. Forest

Service (USFS) District Ranger Josh Peck about the conditions of the fire.

Galabota clarified that she was not speaking directly for Peck, "but one of the main things I got out of it, is because of the way they handled the fire, the soil isn't as damaged as they thought it could be."

She noted that some areas burned hotter than others.

"That was important to me because soil erosion can be a big issue," Galabota said, explaining fires can cause hydrophobic soils "where the water's not going anywhere, causing significant flooding."

She also indicated that there are various sources of potential grant funds for recovery efforts, but that she is waiting on feedback from the community to see what specific resources are needed.

Commissioner John Ranson commended Galabota's work during the evacuations caused by the Rio Blanco Fire, saying that "returning home was big."

Ranson also noted that the CSU Extension office was able to provide resources for evacuees while the county's fair was also taking place.

"Something good always comes out of something bad," Ranson said, explaining that people are now looking closer at how to make their homes safer.

Galabota mentioned she felt more

■ See Recovery A6



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Middle schoolers at Pagosa Peak Open School prepare for class to start with project-based learning advisor Kelle Bruno on Monday, Aug. 24, in one of the school's renovated middle school spaces. Students at the charter school returned to class on Aug. 17.

School district prepares for new academic year

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Next week, the bulk of Archuleta School District (ASD) students will head back to their classrooms for the new academic year, which will run until the end of May.

"We look forward to a great year of learning, growth, and engagement for every student," ASD Superintendent Rick Holt states in the district's August newsletter.

This year, the district will see familiar faces in new places, new faces and changes in how it looks at absenteeism and artificial intelligence (AI).

"This year, our work will center on three strategic priorities: Academic Excellence, Exceptional Teaching, and Student Engagement," Holt announced in the district's August newsletter. "We are also focusing on two important districtwide initiatives: improving student attendance and thoughtfully integrating AI into teaching and learning."

Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Pagosa Springs Elementary School will continue to be led by Principal Kelly Vining and Assistant

Principal Nicolle Looper.

"As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, Pagosa Springs Elementary School is celebrating the strong foundation we have built together," Vining wrote in an email to The SUN. "Our students continue to demonstrate meaningful academic growth, reflecting the dedication of our teachers, staff, and families. This year, we are building on that momentum through consistent, high-quality programming and instruction across our school."

"Just as importantly, we remain committed to creating a culture where every student feels known, valued, and that they truly belong. We believe that when students feel safe, connected, and supported, they are better prepared to learn, grow, and thrive. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and partnership as we continue working together to make PSES a place where every child and family member can say, 'I belong here.'"

This year, the school will implement a new language arts curriculum, Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA).

In a presentation to the school board last spring, Vining highlighted the move will give the district consistent curriculum from kindergarten through

■ See School A6

Commissioner proposes shutting down access to Country Center Drive

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At an Aug. 24 joint meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Pagosa Springs Town Council discussed ongoing negotiations between private businesses to fix pothole problems on Country Center Drive, which serves access to the shopping center that includes City Market.

The road is a private drive, outside the jurisdiction of either the town or county, and it's up to the private business owners to maintain the road for their customers.

Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harris delivered the bad news that City Market's Miles Pearson, who represents the largest commercial interest on the road, would not be attending the meeting.

At the April 27 joint meeting, Pearson had told the boards that he would be working on an agreement between the various business owners to fix the potholes, saying he would have an update at the next meeting.

At that meeting, Pearson stated that it was "in the best interest" of all the businesses to hash out a "shared maintenance agreement" for the road.

Pearson explained that, from what he could tell, at that time, "not much progress" had been made toward forging an agreement.

"It's tough to get a bunch of property owners to agree" on something like this, he noted, but added that Kroger-owned City Market is dedicated to "getting an agreement done."

At that April meeting, Commissioner Warren Brown proposed shutting access to the road down,

■ See Drive A7

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Opinion



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

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SUN STAFF

Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke
Publisher, Advertising, Circulation
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com
Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com
Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com
Jack Sellner, jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com
Classified Advertising/Front Office
Ashley Cassidy, classads@pagosasun.com
Head Pressroom Robert Penton
Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon
Mailroom William Thomas

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
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8/12	89	51	0.06	NA	NA
8/13	85	50	0.02	NA	NA
8/14	78	53	0.00	NA	NA
8/15	80	53	0.00	NA	NA
8/16	81	52	0.01	NA	NA
8/17	83	44	0.00	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

Have a great school year

Summer flew by, and another school year is already upon us, with the majority of Archuleta County's students set to return to classrooms on Monday, Aug. 31.

The new school year brings with it excitement, a fresh start and so much opportunity.

We wish all of the students, educators, administrators, other school officials and parents/guardians a happy, successful school year full of growth, adventure and learning.

We can't wait to see the successes of the students and staff, and to report to on a few of the many highlights we know will come.

We also wish everyone a safe school year and, as usual, we'd like to offer a few safety reminders.

Following are safety tips from the American Red Cross that can help our students have a safe year (some of the tips can help us to be safer pedestrians, too).

If your student is younger or going to school for the first time, teach them:

- Their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911.
- Not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know.

If your child walks to school, teach them to:

- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
 - Stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
 - Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk (and, in our case, ensure they know where they can and cannot safely walk with the ongoing construction).
 - Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- If your student takes the bus to school, teach them to:
- Get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.
 - Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. And teach them to only board their bus, never an alternate one.
 - Stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.
- If your student rides their bike to school, teach them to:
- Always wear a helmet.
 - Ride on the right in the same direction

as the traffic is going.

If you drive your child to school, teach them to:

- Always wear a seat belt. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly.
- If you have a teenager driving to school, make sure they:
 - Use seat belts.
 - Don't use their cellphone to text or make calls, and avoid eating or drinking while driving.
- Drivers should remember to slow down, and remember:
 - Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop — slow down and be prepared to stop.
 - Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.
- And, as a reminder, motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.
- We wish all those in our education community a wonderful, educational, fun and safe school year.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Aug. 27, 1987, Pagosa SUN — GOOD BLOOD LINE — It was easy to coax Mr. George 'Babe' and Mrs. Lola Shahan to pose with great-grandson Twine Register [sic] following Twine's winning of a blue ribbon in the 'open-class cattle' competition during the 4-H livestock judging. The 1987 Archuleta County Fair was dedicated to Mr. Shahan, while Mrs. Shahan reigned as 'Pioneer Lady' over the annual event.

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

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 27, 1926

Word of drilling actively eight miles west of Pagosa Springs, Colo., on the Sunetha structure, where showings of gas and oil have been had, and where a lively speculation is being carried on in adjacent lands, was brought to Denver today by a local man just back from the region, says the Denver Times.

A test well begun in mid-July by Wirt Franklin, wealthy Ardmore, Okla., independent, had been drilled to more than 1,400 feet yesterday, and the operators were sanguine of the commercial possibilities of the hold. Franklin is using a standard rotary rig and drilling is to be carried to the Pennsylvania sands, which are expected to be encountered from 1,800 to 2,500 feet.

Location of the well is in section 28, township 35 north of range 2 west, it being in the midst of a 6,000-acre tract that is held by lessors who scent possibilities.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 24, 1951

Since finishing the cleaning up of the town dump grounds on the Trujillo road, signs have been erected showing citizens where to dump their trash. Failure to obey these signs will result in fines.

The County has been receiving quite a bit of moisture the past few days, particularly in the northern and eastern parts. This is probably due to the fact that many ranchers and farmers are in the midst of haying and grain harvest. At any rate the rains are most welcome and the much needed moisture will be a great help to fall and winter pasture as well as next year's crops.

School buildings and busses are being prepared for school opening on September 4 and many of the teachers are arriving for the term of school.

Most of the schools in the county have received repairs and the work incident to general maintenance and the busses have been checked over. The school building in town has been painted inside and several extensive remodeling jobs accomplished.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 26, 1976

Enrollment in the local schools is up 56 students after the first two days of school to a record high of 843. More students are expected to enroll during this week and next, and possible more will arrive after the Labor Day weekend. The schools, especially the high school, are bulging at the seams and it is a full house for the district.

A Bayfield man, Jack Talbot, was killed by a bolt of lightning Monday afternoon. Talbot, along with several residents of the Pagosa Springs area, was on a pack trip on the Continental Divide when struck by lightning. The bolt of lightning also killed six horses and mules, and caused injuries to two local men, Wm. Downey and Ray Johnson. Also injured was Fred Lucero of Ignacio. None of the three were seriously injured.

Rain has fallen often the past week and as a result some of the streams are muddy or roilly. Rainfall at lower elevations has been scattered and not too heavy, but there have been some heavy rains high up in the mountains.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 23, 2001

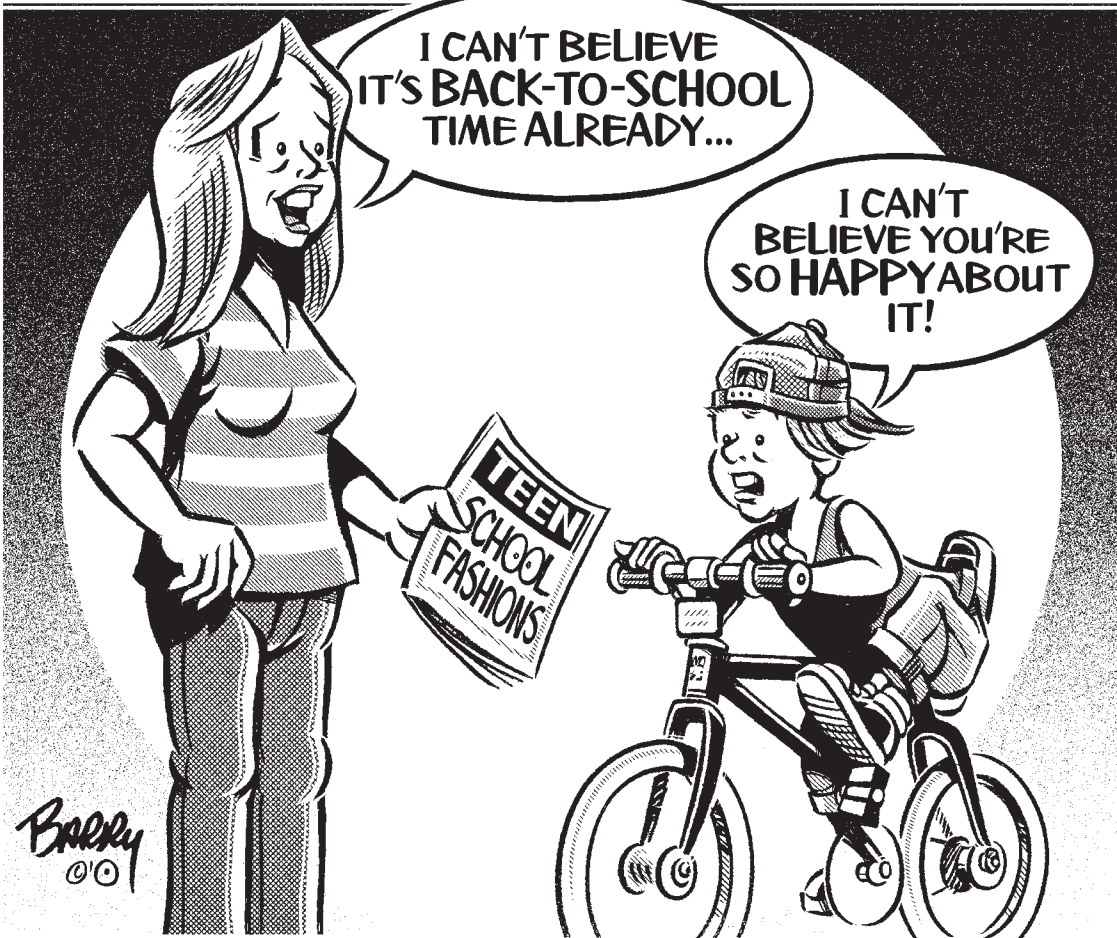
County sales tax income has pumped about \$5.9 million into Archuleta County's Road Capital Improvement Fund starting with 1995, according to a report compiled from information supplied by the county's road and bridge and finance departments.

One-half of a two-cent sales tax last approved by voters during November of 1994 is devoted to the RCIF. The 1 percent levy has financed a multitude of road projects, equipment purchases, and equipment leases. Language on the ballot when the tax was approved by the voters dedicates the county's 1 percent portion to the RCIF.

Since the 1994 two-cent tax was approved for seven years only, it will expire Jan. 1, 2003. With the thought of that expiration at the front of their minds, the county commissioners are considering a renewal election before the expiration date.

Without the income from that tax, we are dead in the water, all of the commissioners say. As justification for the statement, they point to road projects and equipment purchased since 1994 using the 1 percent sales tax.

Capital construction projects have consumed about \$4.2 million since the 1994 tax was initiated. Another \$1.2 million has been invested in capital equipment purchases and lease payments for capital equipment.





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.

Supreme Court ruling

Dear Editor:

The U.S. Supreme Court’s latest ruling blocking a lower court’s decision to expand vote-by-mail access in key states is a direct assault on democracy. By reinstating restrictions on mail-in voting, the Court has made it harder for millions of Americans to cast their ballots safely and conveniently. This decision ignores the overwhelming success of vote-by-mail in 2020, when 43% of voters—nearly 70 million people—voted by mail without widespread fraud or chaos.

Yet, the Court’s conservative majority has sided with baseless claims that mail-in voting is unreliable, prioritizing partisan politics over the fundamental right to vote.

This ruling is not just about convenience—it’s about power and exclusion. It disproportionately targets marginalized communities that have long faced systemic barriers to voting, including working-class Americans, people with disabilities, rural voters, young people, communities of color, and military personnel.

Working-class Americans, such as teachers, nurses, retail workers, and service industry employees, often cannot afford to take time off work to vote in person.

Mail-in ballots allow them to participate without risking lost wages or childcare conflicts. For people with disabilities—including the 61 million Americans with mobility issues, chronic illnesses, or visual impairments—voting by mail is often the only viable option. In-person voting can be physically inaccessible or require assistance that many do not have.

Rural communities face even greater challenges. Long distances to polling places and limited transportation options make in-person voting a logistical nightmare. Mail-in ballots are a lifeline for millions.

Younger voters, who are more mobile and less likely to have stable housing, also rely on mail-in ballots to ensure their votes are counted. Many colleges and universities no longer provide on-campus polling places, making mail-in voting essential for 24 million young voters.

Communities of color have long faced voter suppression, from poll closures to intimidation tactics. Vote-by-mail is one of the few ways to counteract these barriers. Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous voters, who already face higher rates of suppression than white voters, are disproportionately affected by this ruling.

Active-duty service members and Americans living abroad depend on mail-in ballots to participate in elections. Restrictions on mail-in voting silence their voices, further undermining democratic representation.

This ruling is a dangerous step toward eroding trust in elections. The Big Lie and repeated false claims of voter fraud have already made it harder for Americans to believe their votes matter. By blocking vote-by-mail, the Court fuels this narrative, leading to lower turnout, increased polarization, and a cycle of distrust that weakens democracy.

Worse, this decision exacerbates inequality. By making voting harder for working-class people, people of color, and rural voters—groups already underrepresented in govern-

ment—it perpetuates policies that benefit the few at the expense of the many. From healthcare to education to economic opportunity, these communities will continue to be marginalized.

This ruling sets a dangerous precedent. If the Supreme Court can block vote-by-mail, what’s next? Early voting? Voter registration? The Court’s decision opens the door to even more extreme voter suppression laws.

Christa Chagra

Thoughts

Dear Editor:

The first article in the Preview; ‘Archuleta School District to present the Sponge Bob Musical: Youth Edition ready to dazzle audiences at the PS High School Auditorium’ cast our School District in a smutty light. That double B B start wording that describes where the sponge bob spends his time under the sea and writer Katrina used as lead titillate draw and again emphasized a second time the following week was inappropriate considering it’s a children’s school play ‘youth edition.’ Lewd advertising like that has no place in our schools or in our children’s minds. Sponge Bob is swollen with smut innuendo and care should be taken of which thou does so brazenly preach and advertise and erotica language that even in our newspaper should be nixed.

So about that Data Center our town council is apparently considering that according to the Sun article, put a six month moratorium on, Yay!, this is what a simple Google ask revealed;

‘A Data center is a massive physical windowless warehouse facility or building used to house large groups of computer systems storage drives and networking equipment which store process and send information for everything done online from streaming videos to sending e-mails to roaming cloud networks and tracking artificial intelligence, whose cooling power is water, lots of it thru air conditioning, with huge back-up diesel generators to keep those machines from overheating.

Usually built and used by a single company for its own private needs that create heavy construction traffic offer no long term local jobs with few benefits to the paying public create massive consumption of water millions of gallons of water gigawatts of residential power and energy used daily for cooling which strains local and regional electrical grids threaten grid reliability outpacing renewable energy supplies while creating higher utility bills for the paying public create environmental land and noise pollution for nearby communities and threaten wildlife.’

SO In review; Data Centers are tall imposing massive windowless warehouse buildings that block views consume vast amounts of water, foul the environment make higher local utility bills for the paying public are noise polluters air polluters land polluters that threaten wildlife negatively affect people environment and community, use massive electricity energy and tons of water. In this drought prone arid season’s precious view community Town council is considering that for us?

Also read about Town Council dabbling in Real Estate out bidding its constituents to successfully win that bid of 4.9 million dollars for that condo they will then spend additional millions it is likely to take converting into 64 rental units into “affordable housing.” With questionable funding stream liability the paying public will now be saddled with this vastly insurmountable payback is beyond staggering, and with numbers like that, not very likely to produce “affordable housing.”

O and about the name of the new East end park that acquiring Town Council banded about earlier, hope-fully abandoned, could we call it something with Liberty in its title?

Carmen Ferguson

Editor’s note: The town council

considered and approved a moratorium on data centers; it was not considering any specific proposals for data centers.

Draft housing action plan

Dear Editor:

After reviewing the draft Housing Action Plan, I offer these comments in the spirit of helping our community develop a housing strategy that is effective and financially sustainable.

The Plan’s Vision and Goals are worthwhile. Housing affordability and availability are significant challenges deserving serious attention. However, similar programs are often implemented in larger communities with stronger economies, broader tax bases, and greater financial and administrative resources.

My principal concern is the proposed creation of what could become a large and expensive centralized housing “clearinghouse” coordinating programs, organizations, funding sources, and initiatives. Such an organization will require executive leadership, staff, office space, technology, administrative support, and ongoing expenses. Ultimately, someone must pay those costs.

The Town and County already face substantial demands on limited public resources. Before creating another permanent layer of government, we should understand its long-term costs, measurable benefits, and sustainable funding sources. Grants may help, but competitive grant funding cannot provide a dependable foundation for permanent operating expenses.

We should also determine what existing organizations are already accomplishing. Each has its own staff, volunteers, boards, priorities, funding, and decision-making processes. Before creating something new, we should identify genuine gaps, eliminate duplication, and determine whether existing organizations can accomplish these objectives more efficiently.

The Plan should also emphasize financial literacy. Housing stability is not solely about housing supply and public funding. Budgeting, saving, understanding credit, managing debt, prioritizing expenses, and preparing for emergencies are important to becoming and remaining a suc-

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Aug. 31-Sept. 8

want to keep everyone safe.

Harman Park and Piedra Road intersection

Safety benefits of this work includes pedestrian safety upgrades and ADA accessibility improvements. Enhancements to the Harman Park and Piedra Road intersection will include:

- Removal of existing islands to be replaced with expanded islands to include ADA-accessible ramps.
- Installation of new sidewalks north and south of the intersection.
- Signal enhancements to include pedestrian countdown lights and push buttons.

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

Town council hears report from municipal advisor

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Aug. 18, the Pagosa Springs Town Council heard a presentation from Joey McLinney, the town’s municipal advisor, on what the town has accomplished over the last 24 months.

“In the last 24 months, you guys have accomplished unbelievable things for a town of 2,000 [people],” McLinney said.

He explained that, over the last 24 months, the town has been dealing with a major sewer project and coming up with ways to finance emergency needs.

He added that during that time the town began fixing things “that have been kicked down the road” for the past 30 years.

He mentioned that over the course of tackling urgent issues related to the town’s sewer system, instead of taking on a “massive amount of debt,” town voters approved a sales tax, with 76 percent approving the ballot measure.

“That doesn’t happen,” McLinney said in reference to the percent of voters who supported the sales tax measure.

He added that is the “town telling

you they trust you.”

McLinney explained that by passing the sales tax measure, the town was able to stop the escalation of sewer rates, “which was a huge problem.”

He also commented on sales tax collections, indicating the town will receive approximately \$3 million this year and close to \$4 million “if it goes back to the mean.”

McLinney explained that the town is now eligible for low-interest loans to be paid back through sales tax collections.

“We’re also eligible for loan forgiveness,” he stated.

McLinney also spoke about the town’s efforts on housing, noting the town has “secured workforce housing.”

He explained that, originally, the town was looking at a project which would’ve cost roughly \$26 million, and held the town liable for \$24 million of that.

“You were able to do almost the exact same thing,” he said, noting a project that will cost roughly \$8 million.

“I’ve been in this business for 35 years; I’ve never had a single community — no matter the size — do what you’ve done in 24 months,” McLinney said.

Mayor Shari Pierce commended the work done by McLinney and town staff.

McLinney offered more comments on the town’s housing projects, explaining that he actually pushed back on most of the housing stuff.

“I didn’t want you to be in the housing business” or the real estate business, he said. “And the path you were heading was the real estate business.”

He commented that the town was essentially able to buy “50-cent dollars,” noting that is almost unheard of in the housing business.

“That’s just smart,” he added.

Council member Brooks Lindner also thanked McLinney for his work.

“Sometimes it’s difficult in this position to take a step back and think about what has actually been accomplished and our role in it,” Lindner said.

Town Manager David Harris also provided a sales tax report to the council, explaining that in June the town was about 1.79 percent over compared to collections in the same time period in 2025.

He also explained that over the last 12 months the town’s sales tax collections are just over flat and “barely eking along there.”

clayton@pagosasun.com



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
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- include the author’s address and daytime phone number
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Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



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PAWSD talks drought conditions and enforcement

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard an update on drought conditions and continued discussions of violation enforcement at its Aug. 13 meeting.

The board previously discussed violation enforcement at its July 30 meeting, where staff presented proposed letters to be sent to customers who violate drought restrictions and an associated scheme of fines.

The board tabled the issue to further review the letters and discussed implementing fines if the district reaches drought stage three.

PAWSD is currently in drought stage two of its four-stage drought management plan.

PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor stated that PAWSD currently has “really good compliance” and saw a drop in water sales in July, meaning that public education is working, even if revenues for the district also decreased.

He asked if the board still wanted to delay imposing fines for violations until the district reaches drought stage three.

Connor added that, if this direction was chosen, staff would continue calling any reported violators and proceeding from that call instead of

going into the violation system.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges commented that he prefers the phone call system since the district is getting compliance from customers violating the restrictions once it notifies them.

“Hatcher is absolutely the top priority, keep that lake as full as possible, and thank goodness for the little bit of rains we’ve been getting.”

**Andrew Connor
PAWSD District Manager**

He added that he knew Connor was going to discuss getting permission to reduce the drought restrictions later in a later portion of the meeting.

“I think a conversation and some education is a good starting point,” Connor said.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh asked if the revenue decrease from lowered water use in July was compensated for by surcharges for high water use, which staff con-

firmed.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer commented that, since the district is getting compliance with its regulations, he did not think implementing violation letters and fines is necessary.

He added that he would also like to authorize Connor to move the district in and out of drought stages when necessary.

Tautges commented that he would only want this authorization for reducing the drought stage and not for increasing it, which should require a board vote.

Boehmer stated that, since the district was looking at reducing the drought stage and there is further rain forecasted in the future, he would support authorizing Connor to change the drought stage.

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones asked if the fines for violations are based on something.

Connor replied that they are based on a table of noncompliance fines included in the district’s drought management plan.

Jones commented that fines would become more enforceable in drought stage three, although he also would be comfortable implementing fines on customers who do not comply with restrictions after being informed about them in drought stage two.

He added that, since these are reports by neighbors, PAWSD should also work to honor the effort of the people who take the time to report violations.

Connor commented that the district needs concrete evidence of violations to start imposing fines.

Later in the meeting, he provided an update on conditions in Hatcher Lake, one of PAWSD’s primary water sources, which he stated only dropped 1 inch since Monday Aug. 10 and was now 32.75 inches below full pool.

“So, we’re doing good,” he said. “The staff has worked extremely hard this year to try and save that water. Hatcher is absolutely the top priority, keep that lake as full as possible, and thank goodness for the little bit of rains we’ve been getting.”

He added that the district is consistently seeing a drop of between 100,000 and 150,000 gallons of water demand on days with rain.

On Aug. 25, PAWSD District Engineer Justin Ramsey provided another update on conditions in Hatcher and the San Juan River, indicating that Hatcher is currently 36 inches below full pool and that average flows in the San Juan River as of 9 a.m. Aug. 25 are 23.4 cubic feet per second (cfs).

He added that median flows for the river for Aug. 25 are 120 cfs.

josh@pagosasun.com

PAWSD hears financial report, discusses budget roadmap

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard a financial update and discussed the district’s budgeting process for 2027 at its Aug. 13 meeting.

The board first heard a report on the district’s second-quarter financial statements and debt service situation from PAWSD Comptroller Jack Dossett.

He explained that the district’s general fund is “very healthy” and that property tax collections appear to be on track.

For the district’s water enterprise fund, Dossett stated that the district had to pay about \$19,000 in insurance liability due to the Snowball Water Treatment plant coming online this summer.

He added that revenues for water and wastewater continue to be down

from the 2026 budget expectations and that leadership is doing a “good job” managing costs.

He explained that the district is currently on track to hit its debt service coverage ratios, but that things are “tight” and that unexpected expenses could impact this.

Dossett stated that the district’s debt will increase by about \$540,000 in 2027, giving the district a “harder hurdle to jump” in terms of the requirements of meeting the ratios of net operating income to debt service required by its loans.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges asked if the second-quarter report would go up on the PAWSD website.

Dossett replied that it would be incorporated into the minutes, similar to the last report.

Tautges commented that he believed PAWSD had heard a request to make the report “easily available” on the website and asked if there was any

reason why this could not be done.

Following a discussion of the issue and a public comment by Carl Young, the board agreed that the reports could be placed on the finance page on the PAWSD website to make it more accessible.

In response to a question from PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh, Dossett explained that the district received a \$123,000 grant which was budgeted but not incorporated into the debt service coverage calculations since grants are onetime funds not included in such calculations.

PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor also explained, in response to another question from Walsh, that PAWSD has succeeded in reducing utility costs and improving its utility budget through equipment upgrades and increasing the consistency in the amount of water that is processed at the district’s San Juan water treatment plant.

Dossett also explained in response

to concerns from Walsh about the differences between the amount of availability fees collected versus budgeted that the area has seen an increase in lot consolidations due to recent state legislation concerning residential lots and that this has likely reduced the amount of availability fees the district has collected.

The board then moved on to a brief discussion of the schedule for drafting the 2027 budget, which Dossett highlighted would likely have adjustments to the process, but that he hoped would help the board easily move through the budget process.

“This is going to be a living, working schedule,” he said.

Connor added that staff would update the board every month on progress with the budget and that it would also help guide staff through the budgeting process.

“Pretty good road map to success to me,” Tautges said.

josh@pagosasun.com

Letters

■ Continued from A3

cessful renter or homeowner. Many people were never taught these skills. A comprehensive housing strategy should address underlying causes of housing instability as well as its consequences.

Most importantly, we need broader community engagement. The financial, social, and economic consequences of this Plan could extend for decades. Participation should go beyond those who routinely attend public meetings. We should actively seek input from residents, employers, employees, business and property owners, builders, contractors, lenders, real estate professionals, nonprofits, educators, healthcare providers, young families, retirees, renters, and homeowners.

Public engagement should not become a procedural box to check. Outside consultants provide valuable expertise, but we should not simply adopt a framework developed for another community.

This is our community. Our economy, resources, limitations, challenges, and opportunities are uniquely our own.

There is greater risk in adopting the wrong long-term structure than in taking additional time to get it right. Before implementation, we should answer fundamental questions: What will it cost? Who will pay for it five or ten years from now? What existing efforts might it duplicate? How will success be measured? Most importantly, have we truly heard from a representative cross-section of our community?

I support improving housing opportunities. Precisely because this issue is important, we owe our residents a process that is thoughtful, transparent, financially responsible, and broadly inclusive.

Let’s take the time necessary to get this right.

Mike Heraty

The SUN

Dear Editor:

Thank you Pagosa Sun Newspaper — Owner & Staff, I’d like to give credit where credit is deserved & that’s for

your dedicated team of hard workers that give us a great newspaper to hold in our hands (or read online option).. unfortunately in this day and age that’s a rarity...

..I am happy to understand from walking in the office recently that there are No Changes expected to not count on this weekly publication that many of us do!

With the many community interest stories, meetings & updates & sports ect you give us what’s going on with who & where .. Pagosa Sun keeps us informed on so many important topics at & about our Home Sweet Home Pagosa Springs!

Thank you so much

Robin Nay

Bailouts

Dear Editor:

Recently Donald Trump authorized the purchase of Intel stock to keep that company afloat. So far that has proved to be a good investment, as the stock is up considerably.

In 2009, we had the General Motors bailout and in 2008 we had the financial crises. Over one trillion of government support was deployed. The “troubled asset relief program” authorized 700 billion of government support. Do you recall who was president at that time? I quote Candace Jones “no bailouts for big banks or bankruptcy recues for the owners of failed casinos or real estate projects”. Did she forget these or choose to ignore them? The cuts to Medicare and Medicaid were put in place to cut down on fraud. Are we just supposed to keep funding these programs and let the fraud continue? I believe Barak Obama should be the bailout king.

John Meyer

Roadless rule

Dear Editor:

Last fall the Trump administration proposed ending the roadless rule, the 25 year old rule protecting about 60 million acres of publicly owned wilderness land. They received 625,000 comments from the public, 95% of which were opposed to ending this protection. Polls indicate that 76% of likely voters support retaining the roadless rule — favored by mem-

bers of both parties. With the usual lack of regard for what the American people actually want, this administration has once again proposed opening this land to exploitation and monetization. The stated reason is that it will return these lands to local authorities so they can better manage them and reduce wildfire risks.

This reasoning is a result of the administration’s need to create facts that fit the desired outcome of profiting off the land that is owned by we the people. The actual facts from real research and study reveals that about 85% of wildfires are human caused and most wildfires start proximal to roads — wildfires are statistically less likely to start in roadless wilderness areas (https://wildfiretoday.com/end-to-landmark-roadless-rule-will-make-wildfires-more-likely-study/).

This rule was a result of scientific data indicating the benefits of protecting valuable wilderness areas for the future of a livable planet. Not only does it keep fire starting humans at a distance, it protects the habitats of over 350 animal species and migration routes of large animal herds like elk. These areas include the watersheds of 354 municipalities that provide drinking water for 25 million Americans.

Currently the Forest Service is charged with maintaining 380,000 miles of roads and have a \$6.4 billion maintenance backlog. The DOGE firing spree did not help the situation for the Forest Service — but talk about your unfunded mandates! Not that this administration actually cares about forestry road maintenance or wildfires in the western US, which is mostly where this rule applies. I am going to assume, however, that if the rule is reversed, the usual grift will apply and there will be kickbacks aplenty for the Trump family and friends from the logging and mining industry.

Though the roadless rule has broad bipartisan support, our congressman, Jeff Hurd, is interested in revisiting this rule to remove restrictions on timber management, resource development and outdoor recreation. The latter should jibe with the Trump administration’s recent announcement that they will relax

travel rules in our national forests, probably allowing motorized vehicles. Who asked for this? Do they have another planet they plan to go to when things get unlivable here? Will their money keep them company? Seriously. I’m really asking.

Concerned citizens have until September 21 to submit comments regarding the rescission of the roadless rule at regulations.gov. They can also vote in November.

Lee Stopher



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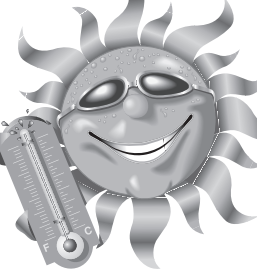
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Photo courtesy Chuck Riehm

Local nonprofits receive funds awarded through voting at the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Archuleta County’s July event. The three winners were: first place, Ruby Sisson Memorial Library; second place, Healthy Archuleta; and third place, Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County. Pictured, from left to right, are Sally High, LWV nonprofit coordinator; Sarah Riehm, LWV treasurer; Leah Ballard, Habitat for Humanity; Barbara Brattin, Ruby Sisson Library; Mellane Davies, Healthy Archuleta; Taylor Worsham, Ruby Sisson Library; and Janice McIntyre, LWV chair.

League of Women Voters supports Archuleta nonprofits

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County

On July 9, the local chapter of the League of Women Voters (LWV) sponsored the award-winning documentary film “Join or Die!” about the importance of nonprofit organizations in sustaining a healthy democracy.

At the event, 10 local nonprofits showcased their organization; attendees voted for their favorite. The three winners were: first place, Ruby Sisson Memorial Library; second place, Healthy Archuleta; and third place, Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County.

Each of the recipients received a cash grant from ticket sales proceeds. Congratulations to our winners:

- First place: The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library stated its need to support the grand re-opening of the newly expanded library space on Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- “We need donations to finish out our special Fair Play Studio, a makers’ space to support artistic and technol-

ogy projects,” said Assistant Director Taylor Worsham. “We already have a 3D printer, a Cricut vinyl cutter, and sewing machines for public use, but we’d love additional equipment such as a laser engraving machine.”

- “We still have two significant naming opportunities for larger donations,” said Library Director Barbara Brattin. “We need sponsors for a study room and our community center, which will be able to house community gatherings for up to 100 people at no cost to organizations.”

Contact the library for more details at (970) 264-2209.

- Second place: Healthy Archuleta is looking for community members to get involved with its programs.

- “Our vision is a community where everyone contributes to and benefits from an equitable, resilient and sustainable food and health care system,” said Mellane Davies, the volunteer and events coordinator. “We have three main programs that need volunteers and participants: community cohesion, health equity,

and nutrition security.”

Community cohesion programs engage diverse participants to build connections and belonging. Health equity programs aim to educate and improve access to local health care. Nutrition security provides education and access to healthy local food.

- “Don’t miss our upcoming health fair at Pagosa [Springs] High School on Oct. 24, now in its fourth year,” said Davies. “We need more vendors and healthcare providers, and especially you to attend.”

For more information, visit www.foodcoalitionarchuleta.org.

- Third place: Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County seeks donors and volunteers to support its local home builds.

- “We just finished our application season for our 2027 builds,” said Executive Director Leah Ballard. “Our family selection team will be visiting with all qualified applicants during August. In October, the board makes the final selections for new home builds going up on Traveler’s Circle.”

The mission of Habitat is to build decent and affordable homes in partnership with families in need of a decent place to live. Habitat homebuyers help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

Contact Habitat at (970) 264-6960 for more information.

The LWV is a national, nonpartisan grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education and litigation, at the local, state and national levels. Everyone is welcome: we have women and men in our membership, as well as independents, Republicans, Democrats and “other.”

To join our mailing list with meeting info, please contact Sarah Riehm at sarah.riehm@gmail.com. To join the local league, visit www.lwvcolorado.org/LWVArchuleta. Anyone may attend meetings, but only registered members may vote.

County’s unemployment rate rises in July

By Randi Pierce

Staff Writer

According to an Aug. 21 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Archuleta County’s unemployment rate rose to 3.6 percent in June, which is up from June’s figure of 3.3 percent.

Archuleta County’s labor force totaled at 6,546 with 233 unemployed, according to the report. That compares to a labor force of 6,501 in June, with 213 unemployed.

Colorado’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.9 percent, the report notes.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals increased by 200 to 125,000 from June to July.

“Colorado’s labor force decreased by 4,300 in July to 3,189,000,” the report notes. “The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 65.5 percent in July, one-tenth of a percentage point lower than in June, this marks the lowest labor force participation rate since July 2020. The U.S. labor force participation rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.4 percent in July.”

The national unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percent to 4.1 percent for July.

Costilla County had the highest unemployment rate in the state in

July at 7.4 percent, followed by Las Animas County at 6.7 percent and Huerfano County at 6.3 percent.

Yuma County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.4 percent, followed by Kit Carson County at 2.6 percent.

Regionally, the report shows La Plata County with a 3.6 percent unemployment rate in July, San Juan County at 3.1 percent, Mineral County at 4.0 percent, Hinsdale County at 2.4 percent, Rio Grande County at 4.7 percent and Conejos County at 4.2 percent.

Job loss, growth

“Employers in Colorado gained 5,800 nonfarm payroll jobs from June to July for a total of 2,973,700 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased by 6,500, while government decreased by 700,” the report notes.

The report also states, “June estimates were revised down to 2,967,900, and the over the month change from May to June was an increase of 1,900 jobs rather than the originally estimated increase of 4,800 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates).”

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure

traveling to the area.

Travelers are being asked to avoid driving on NFS 653.B as it was damaged as a result of heavy fire traffic and will require additional repair when soil moisture content is higher. The likelihood of getting stuck or damaging a vehicle is very high.

Burned areas are susceptible to a variety of hazards such as erosion and fire-weakened trees. Trees that remain standing but were exposed to fire can be easily blown over due to burned-out roots or soil that no longer has vegetation holding it in

the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job gains in July were in:

- Professional and business services at about 2,000 jobs.
- Education and health services at about 1,800.
- Other services at about 1,500.

There were no private industry sectors with significant over-the-month job losses in July, according to the CDLE.

Since July 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased by 12,100, with the private sector increasing by 16,700 and government decreasing by 4,600 jobs.

The largest private-sector gains were in:

- Education and health services at about 15,500 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality at about 9,000.
- Construction at about 5,600.
- Professional and business services at about 1,700.

During that same period, payroll jobs declined in:

- Information by about 5,600 jobs.
- Financial activities by about 5,300.
- Other services by about 1,900.
- Manufacturing by about 1,400.

“Colorado’s rate of job growth over the past year is 0.4 percent, above the U.S. rate of 0.2 percent,” the report

place.

We would like to thank the public for its patience and support throughout the fire closure during the Rio Blanco Fire. These closures were a vital component in keeping the public safe in a rapidly changing landscape, and firefighting personnel safe and able to focus on their duties.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874 or visit the forest website.

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To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/31-Laguna-PI-1>



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School

■ Continued from front eighth grade.

She also noted in the presentation that the curriculum helps disadvantaged kids close achievement gaps and indicated the middle school has seen “great growth” with it.

Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) will be under the helm of a new principal, Janae Ash, who previously served as PSMS assistant principal.

She will be joined by Megan Gurule as assistant principal.

“Pagosa Springs Middle School is excited to welcome students and families back for the 2026-27 school year with a continued focus on strong relationships, high expectations and improving outcomes for every student,” Ash wrote in an email to The SUN.

She adds, “This year, I am honored to step into the role of principal at Pagosa Springs Middle School, and we are also excited to welcome Megan Gurule as our new assistant principal. Megan brings a strong commitment to students, staff and families, and I am looking forward to working alongside her as we continue building on the many strengths and traditions that make PSMS such a special place.”

Ash indicates she and the rest of the PSMS are focusing on growing each student.

“As we prepared for the year, our staff has spent a great deal of time talking about what it means to truly grow every student, every day, through every opportunity,” she wrote. “We know that academic growth is an important part of that work, but middle school is about much more. We want our students to grow academically while also developing confidence, character, leadership, belonging and the skills they will need to successfully navigate their futures.”

Ash notes the school will focus on both relationships and rigorous academics through added programming at the school.

“One of our biggest areas of focus this year is strengthening the connection between relationships and rigor,” she explains. “We believe relationships make rigor possible. When students know they are cared for, supported and truly known by the adults in their school, we can also challenge them to think deeply, persevere when learning becomes difficult and take greater responsibility for their growth. Our goal is not simply to make school harder; it is to make learning more meaningful, challenging and engaging while providing students with the support they need to be successful.”

Ash notes a “significant” addition on the academic side is the addition of a “What I Need,” also called WIN, block that students will attend Monday through Thursday.

“This dedicated time will allow us to provide more consistent intervention, enrichment and targeted support based on individual student needs,” Ash states. “Teachers will use multiple sources of information, including classroom performance and assessment data, to identify what students need and adjust sup-

ports throughout the year. For some students, WIN may mean additional help with an essential math or reading skill; for others, it may provide enrichment and opportunities to extend their learning.”

Ash indicates, however, that the school will be focusing on more than academics.

“At the same time, we want our students to experience everything that makes middle school such an important and exciting time in their lives,” she wrote. “PSMS students have opportunities to discover new interests, take healthy risks, build friendships, develop leadership skills and find places where they belong. Whether that happens in the classroom, on an athletic field or court, through a club, during an outdoor or adventure learning experience, or while serving our community, we want students to find something that connects them to their school and helps them discover who they are becoming.

“Most importantly, we want every student who walks through our doors to know that they belong here and that there are adults who know them, care about them and believe in what they can accomplish. We want every Pirate to feel challenged, supported and proud to be part of PSMS.”

Ash indicates that partnering with others will be critical in helping students succeed.

“We also know that we cannot do this work alone,” she wrote. “Our families and community are essential partners in helping our students thrive. When students see the adults in their lives working together, communicating and sharing high expectations for their success, it sends a powerful message that they are surrounded by people who believe in them.

“That idea of being Stronger Together will continue to guide us this year. It means students supporting one another, staff working collaboratively, families partnering with the school and our community continuing to invest in its young people. Each of us plays a different role, but we share the same goal: helping our students grow into confident, capable and caring young people who are prepared for whatever comes next.”

Ash also shared excitement for the new year.

“There is tremendous energy heading into this school year, and we are excited about what lies ahead,” she states. “We are fortunate to have incredible students, dedicated educators, supportive families and a community that cares deeply about its schools. Together, we have an opportunity to make the 2026-27 school year one filled with growth, connection, challenge, joy and countless opportunities for our students.

“We are excited to welcome our Pirates back. We are PSMS, and we are stronger together.”

Pagosa Springs High School

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) will be under the leadership of Principal Josh Sanchez this year, who moved into the role following Sean O’Donnell’s retirement.

He will be joined by Assistant Principal Angela Ayers.

“I am incredibly excited and hon-

ored to lead the Pagosa Springs High School community,” Sanchez wrote in an email to The SUN. “As a proud graduate of Pagosa Springs High School myself, I have a deep appreciation for and understanding of the culture of excellence that exists throughout our school—in the classroom, in athletics and activities, in the performing arts, and in so many other areas.”

This year, PSHS will have a new start time of 8 a.m. in order to accommodate a new class schedule.

“This year, we are implementing a new eight-period schedule designed to provide students with greater opportunities to prepare for success beyond high school,” Sanchez explains. “With this schedule, students will have the opportunity to take all of their core classes every day throughout the school year. Research has shown that increased consistency and access to core instruction can positively impact student learning and academic achievement.”

Sanchez continues, “I am excited about what this new schedule, combined with the dedication of our outstanding staff and the commitment of our students and families, will mean for the future of Pagosa Springs High School. Together, we will continue building on our strong tradition of excellence while creating even greater opportunities for every student to succeed.”

San Juan Mountain School

San Juan Mountain School (SJMS), the district’s alternative high school, will again be led by Principal Stewart Bellina.

“San Juan Mountain School staff members are all excited for another year, and look forward to taking time when students return to develop the culture of our school before diving into academics,” Bellina wrote in an email to The SUN.

Bellina also notes the staff will include two new members this year.

“We are welcoming 2 new staff members this year, Sam Peters for Social Studies and Leslie Hutchison as our Resource Interventionist. They are great fits for our team, both bringing lots of experience in adventure-based learning and a history of working with students who perform better in an alternative environment,” she wrote.

Bellina also highlights this will be the school’s seventh graduating class, adding, “we are already looking forward to supporting our seniors in their last year of high school.”

Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS), which is chartered by the district, began classes on Aug. 17 under the helm of School Director Emily Murphy.

This year, PPOS unveiled its newly renovated middle school area, which features three classrooms with offices/small group spaces attached — an upgrade from one room with a curtain.

The middle school area will also see the addition of new technology soon — a Promethean interactive digital display that takes the place of whiteboards and projectors.

“Our community is awesome and within a week we got \$3,000 funded,”

middle school math advisor Joey Wychesit said with a smile.

Murphy noted this year’s goal is to fund the renovation of the school’s other downstairs area, which is currently a large room that features a library and spaces for art and music.

“Right now it’s very makeshift,” Murphy said.

The school also has a new outdoor classroom and amphitheater space in progress, Murphy shared.

Murphy also shared excitement that middle school students will be able to take electives this year, including orchestra, learning an instrument or football.

Murphy noted it’s a lot of small groups, but students are able to choose what they do.

“We’re just excited,” Murphy said, highlighting the school’s enrollment is 142 currently. “We growing, which we’re really happy about.”

District changes

Last year, the district began a stronger focus on combating absenteeism — something work will continue on this year.

“We will continue our focus on reducing chronic absenteeism and helping students be at school, engaged, and ready to learn,” Holt explains in the newsletter. “This year, we are changing how we respond to attendance concerns. Rather than distinguishing between excused and unexcused absences, we will look at the percentage of school days a student misses. Every absence represents missed instructional time, regardless of the reason. School-sponsored activity absences will not count toward this percentage. Our goal is to identify concerns earlier, partner with families, and provide support before absences significantly affect student learning.”

On the AI front, Holt explains the district will continue developing “a thoughtful districtwide approach that prepares both students and staff to use AI ethically, responsibly, and effectively.”

“There is no doubt that AI is changing how we learn, work, and communicate,” he notes.

Holt adds, “This work will include continued staff learning, clearer student expectations, resources for teachers, and opportunities to explore how AI can strengthen teaching and learning.”

School and road construction

With construction continuing downtown, ASD is encouraging families to use school transportation whenever possible.

ASD notes in its newsletter that

■ See School A7

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Recovery

■ Continued from front

prepared for the Rio Blanco Fire after dealing with the Oak Fire in August 2025.

“As a staff we’ve come together and put some plans in place so that for if and when that does happen ... we’ll be more prepared,” she said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina highlighted that there were no injuries or homes lost in the fire.

“We learned a lot from it,” she said.

“You guys have really got the hang of this fire response,” Commissioner Warren Brown commented.

He noted that, “sadly,” fire events like the two that have occurred in the county since August 2025 will likely continue, “but the service to the community has been outstanding, and the partnership, and everybody just kind of falls in line.”

Brown explained that everyone responding to the fire knows what’s going on and what’s expected.

“This is a big deal, having the ability to bring large livestock,” he added, mentioning how residents have the ability to house large livestock at the

county fairgrounds when evacuation orders are issued.

Galabota commented that part of the CSU’s outreach “isn’t just us informing, but us teaching,” noting the importance of livestock owners trailer training their horses.

Medina indicated that a report from the USFS on the soil conditions of the fire area is being prepared.

“The areas that were burnt the most were small areas, and they were in the Frio Canyon,” she added.

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Community news.

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Doctor of Audiology
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Water conservancy approves water demand study contract

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Aug. 17 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors moved forward with contracting engineering firm RJH Consultants to perform a water demand study for the district’s reservoir project.

SJWCD board president Randy Cooper opened discussion of the study by summarizing the history of the study, which the board delayed approving at its last meeting since board treasurer Joe Tedder was not at the meeting and had not had an opportunity to review the contract.

He explained that the \$147,400

cost of the study would be split between 2026 and 2027, which RJH had agreed to.

In response to a question from Tedder, Cooper stated that RJH would be ready to start work on the study immediately upon board approval.

Tedder commented that, if the district exceeded the money it had budgeted for reservoir studies in 2026, it would have to approve a revised budget, although he added that this would likely not be an issue.

Cooper explained that the billing by RJH would be based on their cash expenditures for the work completed, and Tedder added that the district does its accounting on a cash basis and can

not accrue expenses for the future.

Tedder also commented that state law does not require the district to create a revised budget when it moves money from one line item to another, such as moving unspent litigation funding to another purpose, but that the district does so to maximize transparency.

SJWCD board member Candace Jones pointed out that the district’s litigation with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District over the sale and management of Running Iron Ranch is not concluded and will still be incurring costs for the SJWCD.

Tedder commented that the district is accounting for these expected litigation costs and asked that the

district do any budget amendments necessary before Oct. 15, since this is when the district’s budget is due to Archuleta County.

The board agreed that RJH should provide monthly updates on the project to ensure that the project adapts to any changing circumstances or barriers the district encounters, which Jones raised concerns about.

Cooper also commented that the district will be highly engaged with RJH throughout the study, so it would be aware of what is happening as it progresses.

The board then unanimously voted to move forward with the RJH study with the addition of the items discussed.

Drive

■ Continued from front

through county-owned North Pagosa Boulevard.

He said, “I’m not trying to be hard-nosed, but the county can shut down that road.”

Harris explained that “Mr. Pearson will not be able to be present” at this meeting, but that Pearson had told him that City Market is working on a temporary solution to fix the potholes near the North Pagosa Boulevard access point.

Harris noted that a “meeting would be scheduled with all the property owners sometime next month ... to try to talk to the property owners to find a permanent solution, so it’s not a reoccurring problem.”

Brown then again proposed shutting down access.

“I’m in favor of shutting this down,” Brown said, “to shut the access point off to force the issue.”

He explained that he had a conversation with one of the property own-

ers, Alan Bruno of CentrePoint Properties, and that he got the impression that Bruno “seemed rather frustrated” with the whole situation.

“If this road doesn’t get fixed out of concern for the safety of our community members,” Brown suggested he’d vote to shut down access.

He added, “I believe it will negatively impact our businesses, and that’s not my intent.”

He further suggested, “My intent is to bring in these folks to the table. We’ve had the same discussion over and over again for years, and Mr. Bruno was very responsive,” he said, but that he was also “frustrated” with getting the other property owners on board to find a solution.

Brown explained that Bruno had asked him what’s going to happen if nothing gets done, and Brown said, “I’m going to recommend to our board [BoCC] that we shut that access off.”

Brown then read a letter sent to him by an elderly constituent that

explained how “the condition of this privately owned road” had caused bodily injury that required hospital and doctor’s visits.

“This is exactly what I’m talking about. Enough is enough. The time has come,” Brown said.

He added, “I believe the county is perfectly within their right to shut off access, for safety and well-being. At some point in time, we got to bring these business owners in.”

While noting this is the first time he had heard of bodily injury, “I have been made aware of many repairs to vehicles ... because of the condition of that roadway,” he said.

The idea of placing a “30-day notice” came up to try to force the business owners to the table, and after the 30 days, shutting access down if nothing happens, he explained.

“We have talked about this for years. We’ve bent over backwards trying to invite people to meeting after meeting ... and yet here we are and

we are living here ... and enough is enough,” he said.

He concluded, “That’s just my pitch.”

“It’s been 15 months since we started all this, and we’re just not getting any attention, so I appreciate you staying on this,” Commissioner John Ranson said, adding, “Whatever it takes.”

He continued, “I know people won’t be happy, and they might blame the county commissioners, but we got to get their attention somehow.”

“We have no authority on that road, on that private property,” Brown said.

An audience member then asked, “Why haven’t they fixed it? What’s the reason? Why won’t they fix it? I’m just asking. I don’t understand.”

Brown replied, “I do not know, but, at the end of the day, it’s not fixed.”

He added, “I suppose it comes down to money and who is gonna pay for it.”

derek@pagosasun.com

School

■ Continued from front

families should check bus routes, as some routes and pickup/drop-off times have changed this year.

The newsletter points families to the district’s website, www.mypagosa-schools.org, to review the current information before school begins.

U.S. 160 reconstruction

In its newsletter, the district offers the following general safety tips related to the ongoing construction work:

- “Ride the bus whenever possible, including on the first day of school. Fewer cars around the schools will reduce congestion and improve safety for everyone.”
- Students walking or biking to

school should use the open crosswalks at 2nd, 3rd, 4th/Hot Springs Boulevard, 5th and 8th streets. Barriers are there for safety: Do not walk into the construction zone.

- Parents and student drivers should plan for delays of up to 15 minutes during drop-off and pick-up.
- Always stop before crosswalks, follow all traffic signals and flagger

instructions, and put phones away when driving.

For additional information on the reconstruction work, see the information on page 3 weekly and the related article in this issue of The SUN.

Additional information is available at codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.

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Update

■ **Continued from front**
by Christmas.

The project is currently at 83 percent completion, she explained.

CDOT is managing, with WW Clyde as its contractor, the \$24.5 million road reconstruction project, which is replacing old asphalt with a new concrete road surface between 1st and 8th streets in downtown.

The project is also widening sidewalks, adding new pedestrian crosswalks, upgrading ADA sidewalk ramps and upgrading underground utilities.

Greene noted that this coming Monday, the start of school for Archuleta School District, parents who are bringing their children to school should be mindful of traffic slowdowns due to the construction.

“Please ride the bus, when you

can, to help mitigate the traffic,” she urged.

After Labor Day, drivers will see a traffic shift from the dog-leg (near the former courthouse) to 8th Street, moving traffic to the north side of U.S. 160, she explained.

This will allow “milling” to begin on the south side from the dog-leg to 8th Street and stormwater utility work at 5th and 7th streets, she explained, adding that the intersection improvement at Piedra Road and Harman Park will also begin in mid-September.

When opened to questions from the elected officials, town council member Brooks Lindner wanted to know the total number of days worked so far and the total expected number of work days remaining.

“In reality, it really doesn’t mean

much to tell you the total number of days, because it’s just literally the number of days worked,” Greene said, adding, “I thought the 83 percent was a better number to give you.”

Lindner asked, “But we have some considerations based on the total number of days, no?”

Greene explained that the total number of days worked sits at 270, and that “this is the same” as that 83 percent number.

On the number of days remaining, she didn’t have an exact number, but explained that the road should be fully open by Christmas.

“I know it seems like a lot, but we really don’t have that much more to do,” she said.

In talking with her “construction team, the only heavy-lift that remains is the 1st Street work,” she added.

CDOT is also working with the school district to inform parents about closures from 7th to 10th streets during the fall school months, but that only one road at a time would be closed, allowing navigation through the other routes, she explained.

Commissioner Warren Brown said to Greene, “Thank you for your updates. We really appreciate it.”

CDOT states on its website about the project that replacing the old asphalt with concrete “will increase the lifespan and longevity of the roadway, requiring less frequent maintenance.”

It adds, “Concrete is less susceptible to wear and tear under heavy traffic volume and is less prone to weather damage.”

derek@pagosasun.com

Investigation

■ **Continued from front**
from Bennet’s office states.

Peters formerly served as the Mesa County clerk and recorder, and in 2024 was convicted of three counts of attempting to influence a public servant, conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation-cause liability, official misconduct, violations of election duties and failure to comply with secretary of state requirements, with the charges relating to a breach of Mesa County’s elections system in an attempt to find evidence of voter fraud in 2020.

She was sentenced to eight years and three months in the Colorado Department of Corrections and six months in county jail, but, in May, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis granted Peters a limited commutation, with that action granting Peters parole effective June 1.

Prior to taking action to commute Peters’ sentence, President Donald Trump pushed for Peters’ release.

“The Trump Administration’s coordinated weaponization of the federal bureaucracy - intended to compel Colorado to pardon an individual convicted of state crimes in state court - is unprecedented, and strikes at the core of our democracy and our Constitution’s federal architecture,” Bennet’s letter states.

Bennet’s call for investigation follows a pending lawsuit revealing new information concerning a White House meeting that focused on Colorado in December 2025.

“As you know, last week, a pending lawsuit revealed new evidence confirming the White House’s willful targeting of Colorado,” Bennet’s letter states. “In an email, sent at 2:43am on December 15, 2025, a White House special assistant directed individuals from the Departments of Transportation, Agriculture, Interior, Energy, and the Office of Management and Budget to join a ‘brainstorm call’ to discuss ‘immediate actions that [their agencies] can take with respect to Colorado.’ This email was a clear and direct continuation of President Trump’s effort to secure former Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters’ release from state prison, after a jury of her peers found her guilty of four state felonies and multiple misdemeanors. President Trump raised the issue again within hours of the email being sent, criticizing Colorado Governor Jared Polis for not allowing ‘our wonderful Tina to come out of a jail, in a high intensity jail, because she caught people cheating on an election that they said she was cheating.’”

In the days following the December email, Bennet alleges, the Trump administration took a series of actions targeting Colorado. It cut grant funding; denied two requests for disaster relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related to the Lee and Elk fires and flooding in Southwest Colorado; threatened SNAP benefits for more than 100,000 Colorado families; and sought to dismantle the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. In the final days of the year, Trump issued the first veto of his second presidential term, blocking bipartisan legislation that would have completed the long-promised Arkansas Valley Conduit and delivered clean drinking water to 50,000 Coloradans.

“Presidential administrations are entitled to advance their political priorities - part of the presidency’s power is the ability to direct the executive branch in a manner that aligns with their policy preferences,” the letter states. “But that authority does not and has never included the absolute ability to dictate terms to states, which retain elements of sovereignty in their own right. This is a fundamental precept of our federalist system of government, and is especially true in the realm of state sentences and state convictions handed down by state courts.”

The letter indicates there is no “policy difference being adjudicated” that pits Colorado against the federal government, nor did Congress pass a law that would override state law.

“Instead, the Administration is at-

tempting to use the overwhelming power of the executive branch - grant determinations and disaster aid, nutrition benefits and the location of federal facilities - to force action that is arguably within Colorado’s exclusive sphere of authority,” the letter states.

It adds, “Allowing this unconstitutional overreach to go unchallenged sets a dangerous precedent, and unsettles the relationship between states and the federal government. No state should be subject to punitive measures for decisions that simply happen to go against a sitting president’s desires - and no American should be denied relief from floods and wildfires, or see their opportunity for clean water ripped away, simply because they happen to live in a state at odds with a given administration.

“The President - unable to accomplish his objective legally - resorted to a campaign of coercion. But the nature of this assault is not confined to Colorado alone. Today, no state, and no citizen, can assume they are safe from similar methods of intimidation. That should concern us all.”

Bennet calls for the investigation to commence when the Senate reconvenes in September.

“The Senate must investigate this coordinated effort when we return in September. Coloradans, and all Americans, deserve to know the truth,” Bennet wrote.

Archuleta County ties

On, Nov. 12, 2025, Polis formally requested a major disaster declaration from the president and the FEMA to support ongoing recovery efforts in La Plata, Archuleta and Mineral counties following the record-breaking western Colorado flooding that occurred Oct. 10-14, 2025.

The declaration would have unlocked FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to help communities recover from severe flooding, debris flows, infrastructure damage and long-term watershed impacts.

Trump and FEMA denied Colorado’s requests on Dec. 20, 2025, with the denial letter stating, “Based on our review of all of the information available, it has been determined that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a major disaster declaration is denied.”

On Jan. 16, Polis, along with Bennet and Sen. John Hickenlooper, submitted appeals to Trump appealing Trump’s denials of Colorado’s two major disaster declaration requests for flooding in Western Colorado, as well as for the Elk and Lee fires.

Polis’ letter to Trump regarding the flooding, sent through FEMA’s acting regional manager for Region VIII, Katherine Fox, notes, “The State is appealing your denial of the request because the damages from the flooding clearly exceeded FEMA’s indicators for a Major Disaster Declaration.”

The letter further discusses the significant impacts of the flooding, the state’s effort to help and financial challenges.

In Archuleta County, it states, “the per capita indicator equates to more than \$995 per person to repair damages to roads and other county infrastructure. The total annual road repair and maintenance budget for the County falls vastly short at approximately \$7,000,000, when total costs exceed \$13,292,000.”

The letter also discusses the flood impacts on the San Juan River and notes the river’s role as a “substantial economic driver” and potential impacts of not repairing the river.

On April 13, the state of Colorado was notified that the federal government denied Colorado’s two appeals for major disaster declarations for the flooding and fires.

The April 10 denial letter from the FEMA states, “After a thorough review of all the information contained in the initial request and appeal, we reaffirm

the determination that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your appeal for a major disaster declaration is denied.”

According to Kevin Klein, director of the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, it was the first time in 35 years that the state of Colorado had been denied federal assistance as part of a major disaster declaration request.

On April 29, Bennet and Hickenlooper, together with U.S. Reps. Raja Krishnamoorthi, Joe Neguse and Brittney Pettersen, introduced the Disaster Declaration Transparency Act, which would allow Congress to override a presidential denial of federal disaster relief funding and create a new fast-track process.

That bill was referred to committee.

A new FEMA request

On Aug. 23, Polis requested a major disaster declaration from the president and FEMA to support recovery from the Aspen Acres and Gold Mountain Fires, and the subsequent flooding and debris flows on both burn scars.

The request includes more than \$18 million in individual and public assistance for Pueblo and Custer counties, and public assistance support for residents in Ouray County.

The Gold Mountain Fire began on June 27 northeast of the town of Ouray, and has burned just over 39,500 acres and, as of Tuesday, Aug. 25, was 87 percent contained.

Two days later, the Aspen Acres Fire ignited in eastern Custer County and quickly spread to Pueblo County, burning more than 102,000 acres and becoming the seventh largest wildfire in Colorado’s history. As of Tuesday, it was 77 percent contained, and the area was under a flash flood watch.

“The Aspen Acres and Gold Mountain Fires destroyed over 300 homes, damaged critical infrastructure, and disrupted the livelihoods of Coloradans across three counties,” Polis said. “These disasters clearly meet all the requirements for a major disaster declaration, and the flooding and debris flows that followed have caused further destruction and claimed a life. Colorado has committed significant resources to this response, but the scale of this disaster requires a strong partnership among federal, state, and local governments for a successful recovery. We have been working to assess the damage correctly and by the book and ensure we get it right to do all we can to support our communities affected by these disasters.”

The entire Colorado congressional delegation expresses support for the request in an Aug. 24 letter to Trump.

“In June 2026, extreme heat, pro-

longed drought, and high winds up to 100 miles per hour contributed to two mega fires in Colorado within 48 hours,” the letter states, adding, “Together, these fires destroyed drinking water and electric utility infrastructure, and over 800 structures and 324 homes. The burn scars from both fires contributed to significant post-fire flooding and debris flows that destroyed additional homes, buildings, and electric, water, and transportation infrastructure. On August 16, a significant rain event resulted in one fatality in Beulah, Colorado.”

The letter also cites economic and other damages and disruptions.

“Both fires occurred immediately before the Fourth of July during the summer’s peak tourism season, disrupting lodging, recreation, hospitality, outfitter, and guide businesses,” it states. “Repeated fire, flood, and debris flow closures have limited visitation and disrupted tourism along the U.S. 550 corridor in Ouray and San Juan Counties, and in Beulah, Rye, and Westcliffe, Colorado. State and federal emergency response officials expect these disruptions to continue through the remainder of the summer season, with flood warnings and business closures continuing to cause cancellations while agricultural producers lose livestock, fencing, and grazing lands. In already isolated rural communities, the ongoing road closures are limiting access to work, schools, pharmacies, medical care, and other essential services.”

A trio of area elected officials have also expressed support for the new disaster declaration request and referenced the area’s denied requests.

“The denial of a federal disaster declaration after experiencing two 100-year flooding events between Oct. 10-14, 2025, was and continues to be deeply disappointing to us and to the families who have suffered losses,” said Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown. “The county and our residents should not be left with the financial and emotional burden of rebuilding without the federal assistance we desperately need. We urge the administration to consider this when they receive additional disaster declaration requests from the great state of Colorado, and recognize the severity of the damage and the urgent needs of those affected. Our communities, regardless of their political affiliation, deserve a strong compassionate response that puts the well-being of our neighbors and our communities first.”

“After last year’s devastating floods and the denial of federal disaster assistance, Archuleta County is only now beginning to return to a sense of normalcy,” said Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux. “In one year

■ **See Investigation A9**

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County planning commission hears comprehensive plan update

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a special meeting held by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on Thursday, Aug. 13, the commission heard an update on the county's comprehensive plan from Senior Project Manager Ed Boik with HR Green.

Boik explained the county's current comprehensive plan is nine years old and that, "A lot has changed since then, and the plan should keep up."

Boik noted the county is continuing to grow with new homes and businesses, putting more pressure on utilities like water and power use.

Boik also explained that the state is now requiring counties to plan for water supply and where growth and development should take place under Senate Bill 24-174.

Boik went on to review what a comprehensive plan is, and what it is not.

He noted that a comprehensive plan is a "shared vision" for the next 10 to 20 years in the county and helps guide county decisions related to roads, water use and other services.

He explained that the plan gives the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) "a policy to point to" and puts community priorities in writing to carry forward.

Boik also explained that a comprehensive plan does not rezone anything, nor does it change what property owners can do on their land today.

He also mentioned that it is not a county budget, "but it can help guide decisions related to infrastructure."

Boik noted that the comprehensive plan also does not approve or deny any specific development project.

"It's a forward-looking document," he said.

Boik then explained the multiple different elements that go into mak-

ing the comprehensive plan, suggesting that the land use and strategic growth element is "probably the most important part" because this is what will say where certain types of development should go.

Boik also mentioned that the "community character and heritage" element is a really important component "because the county's got a really unique character" that residents want to protect.

He noted that was expressed a lot during a community workshop held on Aug. 12.

"So, that remains something that's very important for how we move forward and think about planning here," Boik said.

He also mentioned the transportation and mobility component of the plan go hand in hand.

"What decisions you make on land use is going to determine how the roads respond," he said, explaining that trails and other alternative transportation methods should also be considered.

Boik then spoke about the infrastructure, utilities and water supply element, noting again that the water supply aspect is being mandated by the state.

Boik also highlighted that a natural environment component will also be included, mentioning the abundance of open space and recreation opportunities in the area.

He then talked about how these plans don't do a lot of good without having a good implementation side to it, "because you want that plan to actually be used and it be defensible."

He explained that his firm is working with stakeholders in the community, alongside county staff "to develop strong implementation actions that are defensible by having goals and policies support them."

Boik spoke more on the state-mandated water supply and strategic growth elements, explaining

those elements can have an effect on housing.

He mentioned that these elements are also being formed in part by other ongoing activities like the community's housing needs assessment.

"So, we're working to integrate all of that information together into this general plan so it's consistent and it speaks properly amongst all the other actions that are taking place," he said.

Boik then went on to explain that the comprehensive plan is used in helping make decisions with rezoning requests, and that the plan can be useful in helping secure grant funding.

He reiterated that the comprehensive plan does not change any zoning, and that it does not necessarily mean the community is going to build more.

He noted that the strategic growth element can also be used to help preserve and retain the community's character.

Boik also encouraged residents to share feedback, even if their ideas are not in alignment with what's being incorporated into the plan.

"We want to hear it," he said, explaining how that will help improve the plan.

A community survey is available to take online at <https://bit.ly/4qF5MrT>.

That survey will close on Aug. 31.

Boik explained that much of the plan has yet to actually be written as his firm has been gathering all the necessary information in order to do so.

"Public comment is super, super important," he added, explaining that whatever input is received is going to help develop the vision for the plan.

Boik gave a brief review of the community workshop that was held on Aug. 12, explaining that "a lot of great comments" were received and that attendees were able to participate in some activities to help identify where certain developments should

take place.

"We're making it transparent," he said.

He explained that folks were asked what they like about the county currently as "that sets the foundation for how we move forward."

He noted that people expressed appreciation for the rural small town community, along with appreciation of the history and natural environment of the area.

Boik also mentioned that people expressed wanting sustainable and affordable development in the future, specifically noting the desire for more year-round recreation opportunities.

Boik explained that a second public engagement workshop will be held in early 2027 once a draft of the comprehensive plan is completed.

He noted that the water supply and strategic growth elements need to be adopted by the BoCC by the end of the year, but that the other elements in the plan can be adopted later in 2027.

A few public comments were given at the meeting, with one commenter speaking about how the plan can be used for preserving stuff in the community.

"I think if that's what this plan does, that's going to be a mistake," he said, suggesting that the county is either going to "grow or die."

He also commented on housing affordability in the county, suggesting that low incomes are part of the problem.

"I think this plan has to strategize growth and building the business base here," he said, also mentioning that big-box stores and national franchise developments can be "scary."

He mentioned that developing a vision for the future of the county is super important in helping provide a narrative that "people can understand that we have to grow and that there's a way to do that that's not scary."

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Investigation

■ Continued from A8
since August 2025, the Oakwood Fire, the floods, and the Rio Blanco Fire, have strained the limited resources of our small, rural community and reinforced just how important it is for communities to be resilient when federal support is no longer guaranteed.

I'm grateful to Governor Polis and the state for keeping local leaders informed and supported, and I sincerely hope the communities impacted by these latest disasters receive the federal assistance they need to rebuild and get back on their feet faster than we were able to."

"I support Colorado communities receiving federal assistance when disasters overwhelm local resources," said La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka. "That same support should have been available to Vallecito, where residents and La Plata County were left to manage a significant flood recovery

without federal disaster funding. Families and local governments should not have to carry the financial and emotional burden of recovery alone, and Vallecito's experience demonstrates why timely federal partnership is so important when disaster strikes."

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Sports

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates go 1-4 to open season

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team opened its season with a four-game tournament in Glenwood Springs last weekend.

The Lady Pirates started the tournament with a 2-1 win over Coal Ridge, but lost the next three.

Coach Chelsea Caler attributed those losses to errors, and expressed she feels that when the girls are able to clean things up, they are going to be a tough team to play.

Pagosa Springs kicked off the tournament and their season with a late afternoon showdown on Friday, Aug. 21, against the Coal Ridge Titans.

The Lady Pirates won the first set 25-18, dropped the second set 25-14 and won the winner-take-all third set 15-12.

“I thought we did a really good job of turning our opportunities into points against Coal Ridge,” Caler wrote in an email to the SUN. “Our serve receive was solid, but more importantly, our hitters were putting balls away and we were able to get our offense going.”

Avea Bruce led the girls with nine kills in the match. Dawson Iverson was right behind her with eight kills, and she held a kill percentage of 53.3 percent. Veda Deitemeyer had four kills, Sydney Plake had three, Malorie Morton had two and Ellie Vining had one.

Darria Fiorenza led the team with three aces, Tatiana Monterroso and Plake each had two, and Iverson and Saleisha Black each had one.

After the win to open their season, the Lady Pirates went on a three-game slide in the final three games of the tournament.

“Honestly, it came down to errors,”

wrote Caler. “We had some hitting and blocking errors that put us in some holes, and we struggled at times to get ourselves back out of them.”

In their second game of the tournament and second game on Friday, the girls lost 2-0 to Meeker.

The Lady Pirates lost the first set 25-16 and the second set 25-11.

Morton, Bruce, Deitemeyer and Iverson each had three kills, which accounted for all 12 Pagosa Springs kills in the match.

Fiorenza and Iverson each had two aces and were the only two girls on the team with aces in the match.

The Lady Pirates finished with 12 attacking errors and five service errors in the match.

The second set of two matches was played on Saturday, Aug. 22. The Lady Pirates started the day off with a match against the tournament host Glenwood Springs.

The team lost the match 2-0, which included a close 27-25 loss in the first set and a 25-15 loss in the second set.

Plake led the team with four kills and Iverson had three kills. Bruce, Deitemeyer and Vining each had two kills. Iverson also had three aces, and Liana Vega and Monterroso each had one.

The Lady Pirates committed eight attacking errors, three service errors and eight receiving errors.

The loss set up a matchup with Rifle for the Lady Pirates’ final match of the tournament.

The Lady Pirates couldn’t correct the slide and lost 2-1 to the Bears.

The Bears took a close first set 28-26, but the Lady Pirates evened it up after the second with a score of 25-22. Ultimately, the Bears came out on top with a 15-6 win in the third set.

Iverson and Plake each had eight kills in the match to co-lead the team. Morton had six, Deitemeyer had four

and Vining had two. Vining led the team in aces with three, Iverson had two and Monterroso had one.

The Lady Pirates committed 24 attacking errors, 10 service errors and five receiving errors.

“We’re still working on getting our hitters and setters connected and finding that timing,” Caler wrote. “When it clicks, I think we’re going to have some serious power.”

Despite going 1-3 at the tournament, Caler indicates she was impressed with the girls’ level of competition even when they were struggling.

She also highlighted that setters Vega and Black are taking on big leadership roles in their first varsity experience and handling it in stride.

The Lady Pirates were back in action on Tuesday, Aug. 25, against Dolores in their home opener.

After the tournament, Caler emphasized that the Bears were going to be a tall task for the girls and that proved true as the Lady Pirates lost 3-0.

“Dolores is a fundamentally sound team,” wrote Caler. “They do a good job of putting pressure on you while taking care of their side of the net, and that exposed some of the inconsistencies we’re still working through.”

The Lady Pirates lost the first set 25-14, the second set 25-11 and the third set 25-19.

Serving and passing, two things that Caler noted the Lady Pirates had done well throughout the early part of the season, broke down for the girls against Dolores, she indicates.

She also mentions that, like the tournament in Glenwood Springs, the team committed too many unforced errors.

“We definitely had some good stretches, and I think the biggest

■ See Volleyball A11



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Malorie Morton sends the ball into Dolores Bears territory for a point during the team’s home opener on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

From dance floors to ski slopes: Support Pagosa’s young athletes during Colorado Youth Sports Giving Day

By Suzy Halterman
Special to The SUN

Sports give kids more than an opportunity to move their bodies. Participation can build confidence and resilience, support physical and mental well-being, create connections, and develop skills that last far beyond their years as athletes.

From Sept. 1-15, the Daniels Fund and Project Play Colorado will host the third annual Colorado Youth Sports Giving Day, a statewide online fundraising campaign helping more Colorado kids experience the joy, health and lifelong benefits of sports.

The initiative has raised nearly \$9 million in its first two years, benefiting more than 240 organizations across the state.

This year, two Pagosa Springs nonprofits — Pagosa Springs Dance Academy and Wolf Creek Ski Team — are participating.

Dance and skiing may not be the first activities that come to mind when thinking of traditional youth sports, but both get kids away from screens, moving their bodies and training alongside other young athletes. They build strength, coordination and discipline while giving kids opportunities to challenge themselves, build relationships and gain confidence.

The Wolf Creek Ski Team aims to uplift athletes by helping them develop life skills, build lasting friendships and reach their individual potential on the mountain.

The Pagosa Springs Dance Academy embraces the joy of movement while empowering students to develop skills, discipline and confidence through dance.

Both organizations work to keep participation affordable and offer scholarships to reduce financial barriers for local families.

The need for accessible youth sports extends across Colorado. Only 38 percent of children from low-income households participate in sports, compared with 72 percent of children from higher-income families.

Colorado Youth Sports Giving Day gives individuals and businesses an opportunity to support programs like these while leveraging statewide matching funds to bring additional dollars back to youth programs in our community.

The biggest opportunity begins at 6 p.m. on Sept. 1, when a statewide \$1.5 million matching pool opens. Eligible online donations will be matched dollar for dollar while funds remain. Because the pool is shared statewide and expected to be claimed quickly, donors hoping for the full 1:1 match should give as close to 6 p.m. as possible.

A separate \$250,000 America250 Fund provides a 1:1 match for qualifying online donations made through donor-advised funds, IRAs or wire transfers.

After the 1:1 matching pools are exhausted, eligible donations made through Sept. 15 will still receive a percentage-based boost through the statewide incentive fund.

Individuals and businesses can

make donations Sept. 1-15 through each organization’s Colorado Gives page. The Pagosa Springs Dance Academy’s direct giving link is <https://mtyc.co/2kxscf>, and the Wolf Creek Ski Team’s is <https://mtyc.co/p5okgf>.

Donors can also visit YouthSports-GivingDay.org and search for either organization by name.

Whether young athletes find their passion on the mountain or in the dance studio, youth sports give kids opportunities to move, connect with others, challenge themselves and build confidence. This September, Pagosa Springs can support two very different local organizations with a shared goal: keeping kids active and helping local youth experience the joy and lifelong benefits of sport.



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Soccer

Pirates slated to open season with Thursday home game

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate soccer team will open its season with a home game against Piedra Vista (3-0) today, Thursday, Aug. 17.

The Pirates will square off against the No. 1-ranked squad in New Mexico's 5A classification.

The Panthers are 3-0 on the season.

"I think it'll be a good game," said coach Trevor Gian. "They [have been] highly ranked in 5A New Mexico over the last few years, and Farmington's a town a lot of our players are familiar with on the club side. [There are] good players down there."

The start of the Pirates' season was

pushed back after last week's Aztec tournament in New Mexico was canceled.

In the meantime, the boys have been practicing their formation, positioning and tactics while also trying to simulate game action on a full-size field, noted Gian.

Specifically, Gian emphasized that the work has looked like practicing two-touch passes, swinging the ball around the back, looking to positionally switch the point of attack and working on creativity with the ball within the formation.

Still, without a game under their belt yet this season, Gian emphasized that the Pirates have been unable to simulate real game speed and he believes that Piedra Vista will want

to play fast.

"I just think it's just going to be a fast game, and we'll have to settle in a little bit and slow it down," he said. "[It] would be ideal to where we can sort of make some adjustments, again, because it'll be our first time on the field."

Gian put a big emphasis on playing a very tight first 10 minutes of the game as to not give anything up early.

He noted he really wants his team to slow the game down and not play rushed.

On the field, players such as senior Ryder King and junior Hudson Davis in the middle of the field as well as junior Ethan Bracken in net are players that Gian highlighted as important

pieces for the Pirates.

Younger players such as sophomore Ryder Davis are also going to get a chance to fortify the defense and push the ball through the middle of the field, Gian noted.

More than anything, Gian explained he wants his team to stay in shape as they both push forward on the attack and recover defensively.

"This will be a big test," Gian said, adding, "Formationally, we're looking to do some specific things, and a lot of those players are going to play a pivotal role there."

Thursday's game will kick off at 4 p.m. at Golden Peaks Stadium.

jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com

Football

Pirates fall to Centauri in season opener

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team was shut out in its opening game of the season last Friday, Aug. 28, in La Jara, falling 31-0 to the Centauri Falcons.

Despite the scoreline, coach Nathan Morales explained that there were still "a lot of good takeaways" from the game.

He noted that the Falcons are consistently a tough opponent and that the Pirates gave up eight plays that made the difference in the game, with the Falcons scoring on five of those.

The Falcons put up a total of 350 yards of offense and took an 18-0 lead into halftime. They would go on to score a touchdown in the third and fourth quarters, converting one extra point to bring the final score to 31-0.

"I gotta do a better job of making sure we're prepared for an opponent like that early on," Morales said.

He mentioned the Pirates had eight new starters on defense and nine new starters on offense compared to last season.

Morales also explained the Pirates need to do a better job of blocking, running the ball and finishing tackles.

"I need to make sure we execute better," Morales said, adding, "It's all on me."

Morales also spoke about how the Pirates will continue to grow together as this group gets more experience with each other.

"When they get experience, they're gonna get better," Morales said of the Pirates.

Morales explained that, other than

the handful of big plays the Pirates gave up, he thought the team put in a good outing.

"I thought we played really well," he said, adding, "We're all gonna learn and grow together."

Morales explained that the goal for the Pirates is to function as a unit "to be the best that we can be."

"We just gotta execute," he said.

The Pirates put up a total of 116 yards of total offense, with quarterback Kasen Limebrook completing one of three pass attempts to receiver Noah Bellina for 7 yards.

The Pirates rushed for a total of 109 yards on the night, with Hudson Mazur leading the team with 60 yards on seven attempts.

Limebrook rushed for a total of 3 yards on five attempts, Bellina rushed for a total of 8 yards on eight attempts, Colby Ross rushed for a total of 23 yards on nine attempts and Gage Sams rushed for a total of 15 yards on 11 attempts.

On the defensive side, Mazur led the Pirates in tackles on the night with a total of six, followed by Zander Lefthandbull and Sams, who each had four tackles.

Mark Ray tallied three tackles, with one for a loss of 3 yards on the play.

Reese Jenkins came up with four tackles on the night, as well.

Looking forward to this week's matchup against the Salida Spartans at home, Morales mentioned, "It's always good to play in front of your friends and family."

The Pirates will take on the Spartans this Friday, Aug. 28, at Golden Peaks Stadium at 7 p.m.

clayton@pagosasun.com



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirates Sydney Plake redirects the ball to gain a point during Tuesday's matchup with the Dolores Bears. The Lady Pirates fell in the affair.

Volleyball

■ Continued from A10

positive for me was that the match gave us a really clear picture of what we need to work on," the coach wrote. "Right now, we're still learning how to stay composed and execute when the pace picks up and we're under pressure."

Stats for the game were not available by press time Wednesday.

The Lady Pirates now have over a week until their next match.

Caler emphasizes that in that time the Lady Pirates will be working on taking care of their side of the net, putting points away when the opportunity presents itself and making smarter decisions.

She also notes that practices will be intense over the next week, especially since the schedule starts to take off after this break.

On Thursday, Sept. 3, the Lady Pirates, who are now 1-4, will head to Durango to take on the 4A Demons, who are 1-0, for their sixth match of the season.

Including the Durango match, the girls will play six matches in less than two weeks.

"We're still a young team in terms of experience playing together, and I think these are the kinds of matches that will help us grow," wrote Caler.

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Archuleta County, Colorado is in the process of finalizing the above-listed project constructed by Strohecker Asphalt & Paving, Inc., P.O. Box 521, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. Any claims against this project by suppliers, subcontractors, or others should be delivered to the project engineering firm of Davis Engineering Service, Inc. at 188 S. 8th Street, P.O. Box 1208, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147. All claims shall be delivered prior to August 31, 2026. Any claims received on or after August 31, 2026 shall not be considered. Claim forms can be obtained from Davis Engineering Service, Inc. (Phone 970-264-5055).
Published August 13, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313411)

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 5, Mortgage Backed Certificates, Series 2023 5
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.)
22109656
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.
Portured 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:
Ilene Dell'Acqua #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, 2026, September 3 and 10, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311623)

a lienholder on the lost certificate unless a contrary claim is filed with the corporation prior to September 1, 2026. Point of contact is Vallissate Chavez 970-585-7553.
Published July 30, August 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311624)

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

Plaintiff:
AVALON REAL ESTATE PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC v.

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

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

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado, more particularly described as follows:
Lot 47, Pagosa Meadows Unit Four, according to the plat thereof filed June 4, 1973 as 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. 26DR31
In re the Dissolution of Marriage of:
Jaime Michelle Gilles, Petitioner
and
Ander Tyler Gilles, Respondent
Action for Dissolution of Marriage (divorce) RSP.
TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENTS: A copy of the Petition and Summons may be obtained from the Clerk of this Court during regular business hours. Default judgment may be entered against Respondent, if Respondent fails to appear or file a response within thirty-five days after date of Publication.
District Court
Archuleta County Courthouse
109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published August 6, 13, 19, 27, and September 3, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (312333)

Notice of Liquor Board Hearing
Pursuant to C.R.S. 44-3-311(1) notice is hereby being given that Thai Bangkok Pagosa LLC dba Thai Bangkok Pagosa Restaurant has applied for a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License with the premises being located at 19 Navajo Trail Drive, Suite A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. A public hearing by the Board of County Commissioners as the Local Liquor Board is set for 1:30 p.m. on September 1, 2026, in the Board's meeting room located at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
Submitted this 19th day of August 2026 for publishing in the *Pagosa Springs Sun* in the August 27, 2026, issue. Published August 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (314832)

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
12721 Forestdale Drive

■ Continued on A12

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon*

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

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



Continued from A11

Bellevue, NE 68123
Published August 13, 20 and 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (313400)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Roy Alan Stevens, Deceased
Case Number 26 PR 33026.
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)

Request for Proposal: The Town of Pagosa Springs is soliciting proposals from qualified firms and individuals to serve on an as-needed basis as a **Municipal Court Prosecutor** on behalf of the Town. Please visit the Town's website at <https://www.pagosasprings.co.gov/330/Purchasing> —Bids-RFPs for details and instructions on the request for proposal.
Published August 27, and September 3, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (314894)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Color Pagosa's Past Custom Coloring Book

The Town of Pagosa Springs, on behalf of Pagosa Springs Main Street, is accepting proposals for turnkey development and production of *Color Pagosa's Past*, a commemorative coloring book celebrating the history, heritage, landmarks, landscapes, and wildlife of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

Project Scope

The selected proposer will provide illustration, design, layout, proofing, printing, and delivery of 5,000 finished books. Pagosa Springs Main Street will provide source photographs, historical information, concepts, captions, and other content as appropriate.

- Specifications include:
- 28 interior coloring/content pages, plus front and back cover.
 - Finished size of 8.5" x 11", portrait orientation.
 - Custom hand-drawn illustrations based on historical photographs, current photographs, and/or concepts provided by Pagosa Springs Main Street.
 - A cohesive illustration style throughout the book.
 - Black-and-white interior line art suitable for coloring.
 - Placement of captions and/or short historical text provided by Main Street.
 - Full-color front and back cover.
 - High-quality, bright white, uncoated interior paper suitable for crayons and colored pencils, approximately 70–80 lb text stock or equivalent or better.
 - Heavyweight full-color cover stock, approximately 100 lb cover or equivalent, with a professional matte or gloss finish.
 - Saddle-stitched or equivalent binding appropriate for a short-format coloring book and comfortable for coloring.
 - Digital proof and reasonable revisions prior to final approval and production.
 - Final high-resolution production files.
 - Delivery of 5,000 finished copies to Pagosa Springs, Colorado.
- The finished product should have a substantial, professional look and feel and should not use lightweight or newsprint-style interior stock. Equivalent or superior paper and production specifications may be proposed.

Ownership and Reproduction Rights

Upon completion, Pagosa Springs Main Street/Town of Pagosa Springs must own the final artwork and publication files and have unrestricted rights to:

- Reproduce and reprint the book through any printer.
 - Reuse individual illustrations in marketing, educational materials, social media, exhibits, and related projects.
 - Reproduce the artwork without additional licensing fees.
 - Retain final high-resolution production files.
- Any limitations on ownership, licensing, reuse, or reproduction must be clearly identified in the proposal.

Schedule

Finished books must be delivered to Pagosa Springs no later than December 1, 2026, with earlier delivery preferred. Proposals should include a production schedule demonstrating the ability to meet this deadline.

Proposal Requirements

- Proposals should include:
- Brief description of relevant experience.
 - Examples of comparable custom coloring-book or illustrated publication work.
 - Description of the proposed illustration and production process.
 - Proposed project schedule.
 - All-inclusive project cost, including illustration, design, layout, printing, shipping, delivery, and any other fees.
 - Any assumptions, exclusions, or additional charges.
 - Confirmation of ownership and reproduction rights as described above.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on overall value, relevant experience, quality of prior work, proposed process, ability to meet the required schedule and specifications, and total cost.

Submission

Proposals Due: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Questions and proposals should be submitted electronically to:

Kathleen McFadden
Pagosa Springs Main Street Coordinator
Kat@pagosaspringscdc.org

The Town of Pagosa Springs reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor informalities, request additional information or clarification, and select the proposal determined to provide the best overall value for the project.

Published August 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (314844)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for a Final Major Design Review, a redevelopment of Healing Waters Resort and Spa.

The proposed redevelopment encompasses the entirety of Healing Waters Resort and Spa, located at 140 Hot Springs Boulevard. This is a phased development aimed to bring the establishment up-to-date with current codes, trends, and expectations within the Town of Pagosa Springs.

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm to consider the Sketch Major Design Review application.

Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes** and **Agendas** tab located at the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mypagosa.org/proposed-development-projects.

We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions via phone at 970-585-8610 or email at odeell@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing.

Please note that your public comments submitted on MyPagosa.org or via email will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. Published August 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (314911)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for a Sketch Major Subdivision and a Planned Development known as the Ponderosa Mountain Major Subdivision

The proposed subdivision encompasses approximately 70 acres of vacant land located at Great West Blvd and U.S. Highway 160. The project area includes three pieces of property: Parcel #s 569914309001, 569914309004 and 569914311011

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm to consider the Sketch Major Subdivision application and Planned Development Agreement. This hearing is specific to the subdivision action; all future proposed individual site development within the subdivision will be reviewed under a separate Major Design Review application process.

Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round Minutes and Agendas tab located at the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mypagosa.org/proposed-development-projects.

We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions via phone at 970-585-8610 or email at odeell@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing.

Please note that your public comments submitted on MyPagosa.org or via email will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. Published August 27, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (314905)

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CROSS-COUNTRY



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Lady Pirates Lucy Rivera, front, and Madi Stretton race at the team's opening meet in Bayfield on Saturday, Aug. 22. The Lady Pirates finished first as a team, with Stretton finishing sixth and Rivera taking seventh.



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Pirate Rylan Ash runs to a first-place finish in Bayfield on Saturday, Aug. 22. The Pirate boys' team notched first as a team at the race.

Pirate harriers open season with firsts

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country teams achieved a feat in their first meet of the season that hadn't been done since assistant coach Emily Bryant was on the team — both the girls and boys teams finished in first place.

The teams were in Bayfield on Saturday, Aug. 22, kicking off a brand new season.

It was a small meet, with only four teams competing on both the boys' and girls' sides, but it didn't matter to the Pirates, who took first on both sides.

"It was just a good first benchmark to see where we're at, and to come home with two first places is really encouraging," said coach Josh Kurz. "And, hopefully, they'll start to believe what I believe, [which] is they've got a lot of talent. They're going to turn a lot of heads this year."

The boys were led by Rylan Ash, who finished first overall with a time of 18 minutes, 5.67 seconds.

Kurz called it an impressive time for the first meet of the season, especially on a slow course.

Weston Sweet finished third with

a time of 19:54.85 and was one of only three, including Ash, who finished the race in under 20 minutes. He also dropped two minutes and 52 seconds from his time at last year's race.

Jacen Easling finished seventh with a time of 21:12.94. Silas Yost was right behind him in eighth with a time of 21:53.76. Kieran Kurz finished 11th with a time of 22:25.18. Stetson Osborn finished 14th with a time of 22:41.20. Wells Witting finished 15th with a time of 22:48.78. Matthew Mars finished 17th with a time of 23:25.33.

Micah Tyler finished 19th with a time of 25:19.43. Liam McKnight finished 20th with a time of 25:56.87. Jacob Freeman finished 21st with a time of 26:31.16. Breland Bridges finished 22nd with a time of 26:33.36 and Davyn Leiker finished 25th with a time of 29:08.58.

On the girls' side, Lily DeClark led the girls and was in first for most of the race until she rolled her ankle at the end of the race. She stuck it out and ended up coming in second with a time of 23:33.30.

"She went out and competed and probably could have won the thing, but she rolled her ankle right at the end," Josh Kurz said. "But, I was proud

of her for sticking out and finishing the race in second, which is still pretty awesome."

Madi Stretton finished sixth for the Lady Pirates with a time of 25:23.99. Lucy Rivera placed seventh with a time of 26:06.16, and Bella Jackson finished eighth with a time of 26:27.97.

Olivia Diffey finished 11th with a time of 27:43.88. Elsy Wood finished 12th with a time of 27:45.86. Adelaide Oelking finished 17th with a time of 32:17.45. Isabelle Ratcliff finished 19th with a time of 32:48.94. Sklar Leiker finished 22nd with a time of 34:32.22.

For a lot of athletes on the team, this race was their first time out as a high schooler. Along with that, everyone who ran that race last year dropped time this year, noted Josh Kurz.

The coach also mentioned that the pack times for both the girls and the boys, excluding the front-runners, was small, which shows that the team has great depth.

Up next, the team will head to Durango for the Durango Relay Carnival.

Instead of a traditional meet, the athletes will pair up and run 8 miles together in 1-mile increments so that

each runner will have run 4 miles by the end of the race.

The meet will be on Saturday, Aug. 29, at Escalante Middle School in Durango.

"It's early season, so it's low pressure," said Kurz. "We treat every race up to regionals as a workout, so it's just a way to mix it up a little bit. It's basically mile repeats with some competition. So, it's just another hard workout, but we get the extra push of having some athletes from our backyard to make us dig a little deeper."

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ARTS & LIFE



August 27, 2026

Blood drive slated for Sept. 2

By David Hamilton
Special to The PREVIEW

It has been fun to be a part of our nation’s 250th year celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Those great men and women who were part of the formation of this great nation were once again remembered for their vision and courage to establish a nation such as ours. They were heroes. Today we also have heroes, who on a regular basis donate blood for all

humanity. Thinking more of others than of self, they take time from their busy schedules to provide a service to others that others cannot provide for themselves. We invite you to join with other caring and generous friends and neighbors in providing a blood donation at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1879 Majestic Drive, on Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 2 to 7 p.m. Please contact local blood drive coordinator David Hamilton by call

or text at (970) 799-4056 for more information or to schedule an appointment. You may also go directly to vitalant.org or call (877) 258-4825. As always, walk-ins will be welcome at this blood drive, but the donation time might take a bit longer as appointments are given priority. If you have any questions regarding your Vitalant donor profile or your ability to donate due to medical or health issues, please contact (877) 258-4825.

San Juan Stargazers to meet Sept. 3

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The Sept. 3 San Juan Stargazers educational meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour of visiting and snacks. The educational part will begin at 7 p.m. and will last until around 8:30 p.m., with a special discussion section starting at about 8:10 p.m. to end the evening. The meeting will take place in the fellowship hall of the Community

United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St. Please use the side entrance. The topic for September and October will be “Mind-Blowing Black Holes.” This is one of two topics in astronomy that has many, many more questions than answers. We don’t know a lot, but in September we will study information from the Great Courses to get a background on what has been known for

a while. We will have one of the best astronomers present a lecture on video and then spend as much time as is needed to study and dissect the information he presents. Then, with that information in our minds, in October we will study much of the newest discoveries from the James Webb Space Telescope. We certainly haven’t learned much more about black holes, but we have learned enough to ask some ■ See Stargazers on next page

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Retro Cats, 6 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Mountain Alibi, 6 p.m.
East Side Market: Jacques Grant, 11 a.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Chris Cody Meacham, 5 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

The PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke

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

Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com
Jack Sellner, jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Classified Advertising/Front Office
Ashley Cassidy, classads@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom Robert Penton
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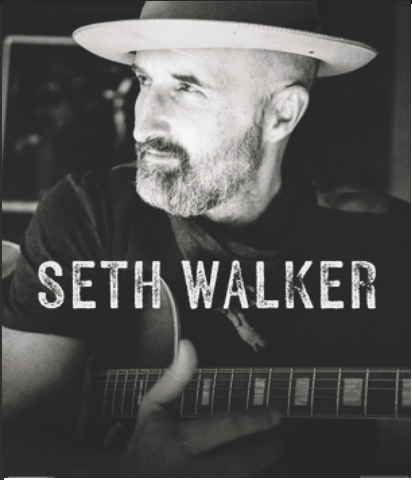
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Registration open for Archuleta Health Fair and Expo

Healthy Archuleta

The fourth Annual Archuleta Health Fair and Expo will return on Oct. 24 from 7 a.m. to noon at Pagosa Springs High School.

Register today to discover local health resources, connect with dedicated providers and support your entire family's well-being.

This annual event supports com-

munity health and connects the community with dedicated health care professionals and local organizations.

The annual Archuleta Health Fair and Expo is a single place to access low-cost wellness labs, adult vaccinations, and health screenings and resources to support families and individuals of all ages.

This year's health fair features health care agencies, integrative health providers, community partners and educational information.

More information on the event, including the organizations that will be there, will be available on Healthy Archuleta's website leading up to the event.

Love the Health Fair? Be a volunteer.

Whether you have volunteered in the past or you are new to the health fair, we would love your support in offering this amazing resource to our community. There are many volunteer opportunities available; visit our

■ See Expo on next page

Stargazers

■ continued from previous page
new, amazing questions. A small group of astronomers are asking about the possibility of our, meaning our galaxy, being inside a black hole.

You might be asking why are we doing this. So far we have seen some beautiful discoveries of the James Webb. There are some other discoveries that are mind blowing, but why not take a little time to look at the most difficult discoveries? Challenge yourself to try this with us.

We may all leave the programs more confused than when we arrived, but that is the wonder of astronomy. This is a subject perhaps beyond human understanding.

We especially want to invite our high school students. We have an astronomy teacher and astronomy classes offered at our high school. We also, as always, want to invite families who want to have more to talk about at the dinner table.

If you have questions or want more information check, out our website, sanjuanstargazers.org.

We hope to see you on both Sept. 3 and Oct. 1. By coming, you will be welcomed as a brave person and rewarded with an ice cream treat.



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Runway for Rise: how online voting works and why every dollar counts

Rise Above Violence

In October, community members step onto the runway for Runway for Rise, an annual recycled fashion gala benefiting Rise Above Violence.

The Runway event features teams showcasing unique recycled and upcycled creations, and the event blends art, fashion and local creativity to support survivors of domestic violence.

Beyond the runway show itself, a major highlight of the competition is the online vote. This is where the community decides which team takes home the coveted Pagosa Prada Award for raising the most money.

Meet Team Top Model

Team Top Model is bringing the swagger. From auctioneer to emcee to now Top Model, Darren Lewis has risen through the ranks and is ready to take the runway with his team.

Joining Darren are Stacey Lewis, Karen Ross and Kirsten Le Roux, who are helping bring Team Top Model to life both on and off the runway.

“We believe in the power to rise up, rise above and raise a little runway swagger along the way — all in support of survivors,” the team shares.

With plenty of personality, creativity and community spirit, Team Top Model is ready to strut its stuff for Rise Above Violence.

How the voting process works

Voting for Runway for Rise is designed to be accessible, interactive and directly impactful.

Here is how it works:

- Dollar-as-a-vote system: Each vote costs \$1, and every single dollar goes directly to supporting Rise Above Violence programs.

- Unlimited voting: Supporters can vote as many times as they want, as often as they like, and split their support across multiple favorite teams.

- Where to vote: Online voting is hosted directly on the Rise Above



Photo courtesy Team Top Model

Team Top Model is bringing the runway swagger. Stacey Lewis, Darren Lewis, Kirsten Le Roux and Karen Ross are ready to strut their stuff at Rise Above Violence’s Runway for Rise in support of survivors.

Violence website at www.riseaboveviolence.org.

Why your vote matters

While winning the Pagosa Prada Award brings friendly rivalry and bragging rights to the winning team, the true purpose behind every dollar vote is support for survivors in our community.

Every dollar raised powers Rise Above Violence’s mission to foster safety and healing for those impacted by domestic violence.

By participating in the Runway for Rise voting process, you aren’t just supporting local creatives and models, but you are actively helping survivors in your community break free from violence and build secure futures.

To cast your votes and support your favorite team, visit www.riseaboveviolence.org.

Expo

■ continued from previous page website to sign up.

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and-expo.html or simply click the “2026 Health Fair & Expo” button on Healthy Archuleta’s homepage.

To learn more about Healthy Archuleta’s efforts, visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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El Pomar Foundation approves \$339,700 to organizations in southwest region

El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Trustees approved \$339,700 allocated to 27 nonprofit organizations and government entities in the southwest region at the Foundation's June Trustees meeting.

Through the Foundation's grant making process, the following organizations were awarded grants:

- Archuleta County (Pagosa Springs): \$10,000 for Pagosa Outreach Connection; Colorado Assistance Fund.
- Aspire Medical Services and Education (Pagosa Springs): \$15,000 for counseling program; competitive and regional council.
- Aspire Medical Services and Education (Pagosa Springs): \$3,200 for positive parenting program; regional council.
- Bridge Emergency Shelter (Cortez): \$10,000 for general operating support; competitive.
- Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation (Colorado Springs): \$35,000 for La Plata County pediatric mental health initiative; regional council and trustee regional merit.
- Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado (Durango): \$5,000 for Friends and Neighbors in Need; Colorado Assistance Fund.
- Community Radio Project (Cortez): \$5,000 for Sunflower Theater; regional merit.
- Community Radio Project (Cortez): \$5,000 for KSJD public radio; regional merit.
- Dolores County (Dove Creek): \$10,000 for Dolores County Senior Services general operating support; competitive.
- Dove Creek Care and Share Food Pantry (Cahone): \$10,000 for direct human service needs; Colorado Assistance Fund.
- Durango Early Learning Center: \$10,000 for new playground; competitive.
- Durango Education Foundation: \$15,000 for Ignite Mobile Learning Lab; regional council.
- Durango Nordic Ski Club, Inc. – \$5,000 for general operating support; competitive.
- Full Circle Expeditions Inc. (Cortez): \$7,500 for The Cookout; Colorado Assistance Fund.

- Healthy Archuleta Inc. (Pagosa Springs): \$12,000 for purchase of food; regional council.
 - Healthy Archuleta Inc. (Pagosa Springs): \$15,000 for youth substance abuse prevention program; regional council.
 - Mancos United: \$10,000 for Summer Hub program; regional council.
 - Manna - The Durango Soup Kitchen: \$7,500 for direct human service needs; Colorado Assistance Fund.
 - Montezuma County Historical Society Inc. (Cortez) – \$7,500 for youth programming; regional council.
 - Montezuma School to Farm Project (Cortez): \$15,000 for general operating support; regional council.
 - Pagosa Community Initiative (Pagosa Springs): \$25,000 for general operating support; regional council.
 - Pine River Shares (Bayfield): \$15,000 for general operating support; regional council.
 - San Juan County Public Health Service (Silverton): \$7,500 for direct human service needs; Colorado Assistance Fund.
 - Silverton School District: \$10,000 for family engagement center; Colorado Assistance Fund.
 - Silverton Youth Center: \$12,500 for summer programming; regional council.
 - The Community Treehouse (Bayfield): \$5,000 for general operating support; regional merit.
 - The Cortez Center Inc.: \$7,000 for summer internships; regional council.
 - The Piñon Project (Cortez): \$7,500 for Montelores Emergency Assistance Coalition; Colorado Assistance Fund.
 - Town of Dolores: \$9,500 for Dolores Family Project; Colorado Assistance Fund.
 - Town of Pagosa Springs – \$28,000 for K.I.D.S. summer camp; regional council.
- Founded by Spencer and Julie Penrose in 1937, El Pomar Foundation has an established legacy of general purpose grant making.
- The competitive process remains the foundation's primary vehicle for organizations to receive funding.

Additionally, over the last 89 years, El Pomar has either developed or been entrusted with the stewardship of a number of other funds, as well as presenting merit grants in each region recommended by trustees and regional council members. Competitive applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

In an effort to increase impact and establish connections across the entire state, the Regional Partnerships program was established in 2003. Each of the foundation's 11 regional councils advises El Pomar trustees and recommends grants to help support its communities. The Southwest Regional Council recommends grants in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties. Council members are regional leaders in the business, nonprofit and public sectors and provide firsthand information about current needs in their own communities.

To view a full listing of El Pomar's funds and grant making areas, please visit www.elpomar.org/grant-making/.

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Community United Methodist Church to continue ‘Direction’ series with ‘Crossing Over’ and potluck

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church will continue its “Direction: Following the Way” sermon series this Sunday, Aug. 30, with a message titled “Crossing Over” drawn from Joshua 3, the next-to-last sermon before the Labor Day weekend finale on Sept. 6.

In a special fifth-Sunday format, the congregation will gather for one combined service at 10:30 a.m. at 434 Lewis St. The Pagosa Community Initiative will be sharing its work during the service. A potluck lunch will follow at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship

hall; everyone is invited to bring a dish to share.

The sermon draws on the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River at flood stage, the moment when the priests stepped into the water before it parted, and the miracle followed the step. Pastor Ken Daniell will connect that ancient crossing to the season turning in Pagosa Springs right now, the cooler mornings, the quieter streets, the signs of fall already arriving before the calendar catches up.

“The Jordan was at flood stage,” said Daniell. “God didn’t wait for calm water to ask them to cross. The

priests stepped in, and then the water parted. That’s still how it works. The miracle is calibrated to the leap.”

The “Direction” series has run since Aug. 2, exploring what it means to walk faithfully when the road ahead is unclear. The series concludes on Sunday, Sept. 6, Labor Day weekend, with “The Way Forward” from John 14 at both the 8:15 and 11 a.m. services. Communion will be served.

The Community United Methodist Church is a progressive, inclusive and affirming congregation. All are welcome.

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

Ideas to help kids overcome end-of-summer boredom

Special to The PREVIEW

The phrase “dog days of summer” refers to the period between July 3 and Aug. 11. The Farmer’s Almanac notes the phrase refers to a period of time when the sun occupies the same region as Sirius, the Dog Star. However, in many households, the dog days of summer has come to mean the hottest days of summer. And for families with children, that period is often marked by repeated declarations of “I’m bored” and/or “There’s nothing to do.”

While many kids are excited at the start of their annual summer breaks from school, come early August those same youngsters may be feeling a little bored.

As summer winds down, parents and children can look to these strategies to overcome end-of-summer boredom:

- Let kids take on some of the cooking duties. Children likely won’t jump at the chance to vacuum a living room or reorganize a linen closet, but tasking youngsters with cooking a family meal a couple of days each week can help to occupy their time with a productive activity.

Middle school-aged children and above can likely manage most if not all of the tasks associated with seeing a meal through from start to finish (parents are urged to gauge

each child’s readiness for such tasks and assign work accordingly), and giving them this responsibility a few days a week, and letting youngsters choose the menu, can liven up their late afternoons and early evenings.

- Encourage kids to pick a new hobby. Hobbies aren’t just a means to making down time fun, they’re also a great way to boost mental health.

Mental Health America notes that hobbies activate parts of the brain that help people process emotions and build connections with others. Hobbies also help to create small wins and a sense of progress. Seeing some daily progress might help kids stay engaged with a new activity.

When the final weeks of summer vacation arrive and summer camp has closed, encourage kids to pick a new hobby like photography, painting or even writing. These activities engage children’s brains and can foster a long-term passion. If parents have some free time, engage in the hobby alongside a child, which might make the youngster enjoy it even more.

- Get in touch with fellow parents. School-aged children may not see their classroom friends much over the summer, as parents’ work schedules differ and kids may attend an assortment of summer camps.

Reach out to fellow parents and arrange some play dates and addi-

tional activities where both families get together. Parents can arrange to share hosting duties or even alternate taking the kids for a day once a week so kids get routine social interaction and a chance to reconnect with their friends as the first day of school approaches.

- Write and perform a play/story each week. Another way to keep kids occupied, and to help their brains shake the dust off a month-plus with no homework, is to encourage kids to write and perform a play or story each week.

Parents can help kids identify a fun story angle and let kids choose and design their own costumes. The weekly performance can feature everyone in the household, as that level of involvement can excite children and keep them engaged with this fun task. Film each performance so everyone can look back on these memories for years to come.

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Sunday, August 30 from Noon to 3 pm

Imagine your days spent on the lake or relaxing on your back patio, surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery. Welcome to this charming home nestled directly on Hatcher Lake in the Pagosa Lakes community. This beautifully maintained 2,792-square-foot residence features 4 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms, including two primary suites—one conveniently located on the main level and the other on the upper level. Ideal for multi-generational living or simply enjoying extra space, the home offers room for everyone to spread out and relax. The main level boasts a bright sunroom for year-round enjoyment.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/31-Laguna-PI-1>



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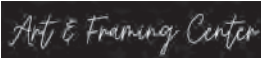
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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

- Aug. 28, 6 p.m.: Friday Full Moon Sturgeon Moon Drumming at Xanadu with Shayla Azriel. Bring 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.

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

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

100 years ago this month: historical events from August 1926

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of August has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in August 1926:

- A thrown dagger narrowly misses the head of Spanish dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera on Aug. 1 in Barcelona. A 34-year-old anarchist is arrested for the failed assassination attempt.

- The French passenger ship S.S. Lotus strikes the Turkish freighter S.S. Bozkourt on Aug. 2. Eight passengers drown, and the captain of the Lotus is eventually charged with liability for the deaths by Turkish authorities.

- On Aug. 3, the Mount Batur volcano on the island of Bali erupts for the first time since 1917. The village of Karang Anyar is destroyed during the eruption, but all residents safely evacuate.

- Shortly before noon on Aug. 3, the first traffic lights in London come into operation at Piccadilly Circus.

- Sultan bin Zayed Khalifa Al Nahyan is killed by his half-brother, Saqr bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on Aug. 4. Four years prior to his death, Sultan bin Zayed had teamed up with Saqr bin Zayed to kill their brother, Emir Hamdan bin Zayed, and seize the throne of Abu Dhabi.

- Magician and escape artist Harry Houdini survives being sealed in a coffin and lowered into a swimming pool at a New York City hotel on Aug. 5. Houdini, who would die from peritonitis less than three months after the stunt, used controlled breathing to remain conscious within the coffin for one hour and 31 minutes.

- The first British Grand Prix is held at the Brooklands motor racing circuit near Surrey, England, on Aug.

7. Frenchman Louis Wagner wins the inaugural race.

- A hurricane strikes Nova Scotia on Aug. 10. Two fishing boats capsize during the storm, claiming the lives of 48 individuals.

- Richard Reese Whittemore, the leader of a group of bank robbers active in the mid-Atlantic and eastern United States in the mid-1920s, is hanged on Aug. 13. Whittemore's wife, Margaret, also was arrested, but was never convicted for her role in the robberies.

- Father Luis Bádiz Sainz is arrested by Mexican government agents in the state of Zacatecas on Aug. 14. The arrest is part of a government-orchestrated purge of Roman Catholic clerics, and Bádiz is executed by firing squad the next day.

- A coffin brought from Norway arrives in London on Aug. 16. The coffin is believed to contain the remains of British Army officer and colonial administrator Field Marshal Herbert Kitchener, but the coroner finds the coffin contains only tar upon opening it in the presence of police. The stunt is later deemed a hoax.

- Marshal Józef Pilsudski conducts a purge of the Polish military on Aug. 21. The purge is conducted to remove any potential challenges to Pilsudski's authority.

- A bloodless coup overthrows Greek dictator Theodoros Pangalos on Aug. 22. The coup is led by Gen. Georgios Kondylis, who places Pangalos on the naval destroyer Pergamos.

- Popular Italian film actor Rudolph Valentino dies in New York on Aug. 23. Valentino, just 31 at the time of his death, underwent emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix eight days prior to his death, but was

stricken with a case of then-untreatable pleuritis while convalescing on Aug. 21.

- Forty-four coal miners are killed after an explosion at a Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation mine in Clymer, Penn., on Aug. 26.

- Dutch Levensen of the Cleveland Indians starts and wins both games of a doubleheader against the Boston Red Sox on Aug. 28. Levensen is the last pitcher in Major League Baseball to start and win each game of a twin bill. Levensen, who won just 21 games over the course of his six-year career, also is the last pitcher to throw two nine-inning complete games on the same day.

- The last voting rights of Italians are removed when the Fascist government abolishes the popular elections of municipal officials on Aug. 30.



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Photo courtesy Gordon Nichols

Several members of the local Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club in Pagosa Springs gathered at the home of Laurie Williams on Aug. 20 for a delightful summer visit and casual lunch. In the back row, left to right, are Laurie Williams, Paula Tennant, Joni Rose and Carole Howard. In the front row, left to right, are Kara Cook and Melissa McDonald. Pi Beta Phi was founded in 1867 at Monmouth College in Illinois, one of the first women’s sororities in the country. Today there are 129 Pi Phi chapters at universities in the U.S. and Canada, and 195 alumnae clubs around the world.

Finding the truth about yourself

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

I recently shared a teaching with the Wolf Creek Christian Writers Network built around one stirring word: axiom.

For weeks, this word “axiom” exploded in my mind — a foundational truth accepted as self-evident. It is the ground beneath an argument, the first principle from which everything else proceeds. There are no middle options in an axiom; it is a starting point. In its simplest form, an axiom declares: this is true.

Artist’s Lane

For writers, that truth matters immensely. We must write from the truest place within us — not from performance, borrowed language, religious expectation or someone else’s comfortable definition of who we should be. We must write from the person God formed.

I asked those gathered to consider how God formed them in their mother’s womb. Few knew how to answer. Yet that is the question beneath so much of our striving. Who was I before I learned to perform? Who did God intend me to be?

It is not what we do, but it is about who we are. It’s the beginning point — the truth from which our lives, our DNA, our voices and our writing come from.

This truth is a deep well, and a shallow bucket will not reach the hearts of the readers. When we draw

■ See Lane on next page

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Lane

■ continued from previous page

from that hidden place, our words carry water to thirsty souls — reach below the surface, touch the reader where polished phrases and safe religious language do not go.

Few writers dare to reach down into that deep water. Vulnerability is risky. It exposes the tender places we would rather conceal. Yet readers recognize the difference between writing that skims the surface and writing that rises from a soul that has wrestled honestly with God.

Scripture anchors us in this truth. David wrote, “Thou didst form my inward parts. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance. And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them” (Psalms 139:13,15,16, NASB).

The days are ordained for the person God skillfully wrought in the womb. Anything different from God’s original person will be in conflict with God and will lend to the noise of the world and probably a disappointed soul.

And the days to come are unformed substance, which are ordained for us to walk in.

Why is it important to know who I am? Because I didn’t know where I belonged, and I have a lot of unnecessary bruises and self-inflicting wounds. I questioned why I didn’t fit into someone else’s box that others found comfortable to live in. Maybe it wasn’t necessary for them to fight to get out of their box. The box was too choking for me to remain. I was a round peg in a square hole.

Spouting Christian platitudes is a safe place, but they turn people off. Christian platitudes are different than writing from our true personality, our axiom. The person we are is that which was unformed substance which God formed in the womb. He wants to show His grace through our unique being.

Possibly people are afraid to show their real self. Why? Because they don’t understand how God formed them. The days that are ordained for them have been designed for them to show God’s glory.

I am reminded of a time when we first came to Pagosa. I met a couple who I thought had a corner on the spiritual market. He called his wife his handmaiden. She was and waited on him hand and foot.

That sounded really godly since I didn’t easily submit to my Sweet Al; I wanted to be a handmaiden so I could be right with God. Wrong premises. Wrong axiom. That’s not how I was wired in the womb. I couldn’t be that person. I had to learn how to submit in the person I was meant to be, strong will, independent and outspoken. I tried to make myself something different than how God made me.

God wants to show Himself in who we are, warts, wrinkles and

unfinished. I always tell people that your readers will go as deep as you show yourself. That where you make a difference, that’s where you are an influencer with your writing.

Paul, the apostle, known as a giant in the spiritual world, showed up with his resume, all the things that he could boast about in Philippians 3:4-6, his legal righteousness — circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee. He counted it all rubbish for the knowledge of Jesus.

*I always tell people
that your readers
will go as deep as
you show yourself.
That where you
make a difference,
that’s where you
are an influencer
with your writing.*

He needed to be who God made him. That was the privilege he was born into. That wasn’t the true axiom formed in his mother’s womb, to walk in the days God ordained. God had a mission for Paul that only he could carry out. He had tenacity, he was a bulldog, he fought for his place, his authority, being born out of season. He even had murder in his heart for the sake of the righteousness of God. He had the courage to speak up for the truth.

Paul wrote to the Galatians and said, “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles...” (Galatians 1:15,16).

Final brushstroke: Be ourselves. Let God weave the person, Jesus, into how He made us. We don’t have to apologize for who God made us to be. God wants to show His glory in us.

Readers’ comments: “We became a part of Pagosa when we were given a small plot of land by my husband’s family, which they had owned since the 70s. The land is an acre...much of which goes down a hill on 335. It has no permanent structure, but we camped on it for several years and fell in love with the land, the town, and our neighbors...So much so that we later purchased a property with structures on the lower Blanco.

“While the homes along Roberts Place seem to fair better in terms of positioning in relation to the fire than the residences on 335, we watched, listened, and prayed for our neighbors...my husband from our property

and I from afar as I temporarily cared for my father on the East Coast. We continue to pray for all of you. Thank you for writing such an important piece... Reminding us of the kindness and generosity that is Pagosa. Magdalena Vigil-Tullar”

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



Trinity Anglican Church

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Holy Communion, Sundays @ 10am.

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Preview Calendar

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

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, 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 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.

Saturday, Aug. 29

Pagosa Wetlands Tour. 8 a.m.,

■ See Calendar on next page



BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs.

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Preview Calendar

- **continued from previous page**

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

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

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

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

Boats-themed LEGO Build. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Bring your own LEGOs or use the library's. This month's focus is on boats.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents '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. 30

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.

Monday, Aug. 31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour ex-

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

plores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

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

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

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

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

Blood Drive. 2-7 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1879 Majestic Drive. Please contact local blood drive coordinator David Hamilton by call or text at (970) 799-4056 for more information or to schedule an appointment. You may also go directly to vitalant.org or call (877) 258-4825.

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.

Thursday, Sept. 3

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.

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.

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by an educational presentation at 7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 4

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

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. St. Pius X.

Saturday, Sept. 5

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

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Center-

point Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer. 11 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Aztec.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Centauri.

Pagosa Valor Academy's Bolos and Boots. 5:30-9 p.m., CSU Extension building, 344 U.S. 84. The evening will include dancing to Silverado, barbecue and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50. Individual tickets and full tables can be purchased at <https://givebutter.com/c/bolos-and-boots> or at Higher Altitude Pagosa.

Sunday, Sept. 6

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.

Monday, Sept. 7

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 6:15 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.

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.

DivorceCare. 6-7:30 p.m., Center-point Church library, 2750 Cor-

■ **See Calendar on next page**

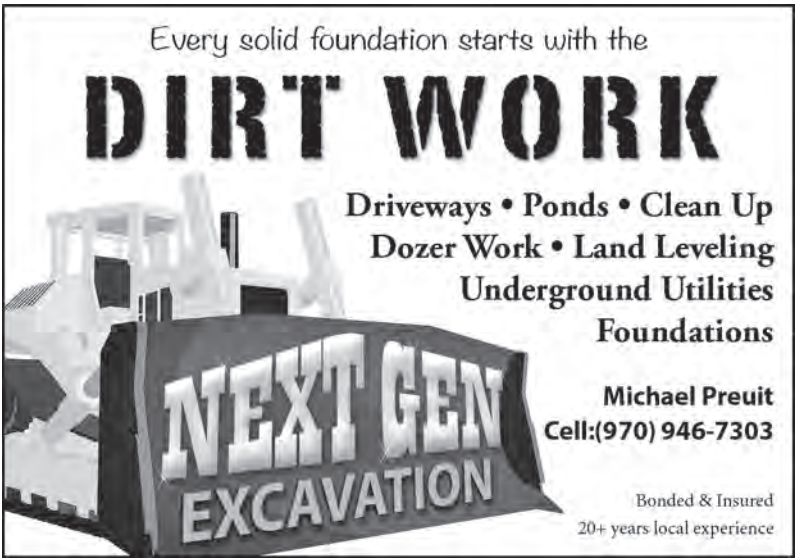
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

nerstone 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, Sept. 8

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour ex-

plores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Montezuma-Cortez.

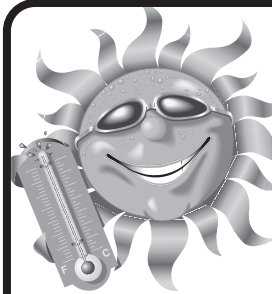
Wednesday, Sept. 9

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.

Health Archuleta Gardening Education Session. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Vista Community Production Garden. For more information and to register, visit www.food-coalition4archuleta.org or email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chim-

■ See Calendar on page 15



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Photo courtesy Heidi Tanner

On Sept. 15, the Pagosa Springs Community Choir will begin rehearsals for its annual Christmas concerts. Registration for this year’s Community Choir will begin at 6 p.m. on Sept. 15, with all those who enjoy singing invited to attend.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir’s Christmas concert rehearsals will begin Sept. 15

By Heidi Tanner

Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir will begin rehearsals for our 2026 Christmas concerts on Sept. 15.

Rehearsals are held in the music room at Pagosa Springs High School weekly on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Community Choir has been operating for more than 20 years, and the group’s Christmas concerts are beloved by the community and are a landmark of Pagosa Springs Christmas festivities.

This year’s three concerts will be on Dec. 11 and Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., and on Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

If you enjoy singing, please join us. It is helpful, but not necessary, to read music to participate in the choir. Our music director, Dan Burch, is a wonderful vocal coach and we provide learning tracks which you can use to practice at home. Venita Burch, our accomplished accompanist, also assists us in learning our parts, and we have plenty of rehearsals to help us prepare.

Rehearsals are fun and challenging leading up to our series of three concerts, which are rewarding to present to the community.

Registration for this year’s Community Choir will begin at 6 p.m. on Sept. 15.

There is a registration fee of \$20, which is used for the purchase of new music and the operating expenses of the choir. Additionally, there are reasonable fees charged for our concert attire, which is available for purchase from the choir. We anticipate this year’s fees for concert attire to be under \$50 for both men and women. If financial assistance is needed for registration and concert attire fees, the organization will assist.

Lastly, Archuleta School District students can participate free of charge. Registration and wardrobe fees are payable with cash or check.

Our theme for the 2026 season is “Gloria,” and Dan Burch has chosen some wonderful music for us to sing.

Look forward to singing Christmas favorites such as “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” “Winter Wonderland” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” along with some lesser-known Christmas pieces such as “Candle-

light Carol” and “Fum, Fum Fantasia.”

To get a taste of what you can expect when joining the Pagosa Springs Community Choir, check out our

website at singpagosa.org.

We look forward to welcoming you at registration on Sept. 15 starting at 6 p.m. in the music room of

Pagosa Springs High School. Our first rehearsal of the 2026 concert season will begin at 7 p.m. sharp. We would love to see you there.

Your source
for community
news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

CHAMA VALLEY ART FESTIVAL & STUDIO TOUR

September 5 & 6, 2026

10am to 5pm both days

ART FESTIVAL
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Los Ojos to Chama

SILENT AUCTION !
Friday September 4th 5:30PM

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Chamavalleyartfest.org

Partial Funding Provided by the Rio Arriba County
& Village of Chama Lodgers Tax Fund

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Byron Greco

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

These excellent weavers are known for constructing the hanging nests you may have seen in trees along the Riverwalk or along the trail near the river at Yamaguchi South. Although typically the female does most of the work, both members of a pair assist in nest building, with one working on the inside and the other outside. It may take up to 15 days to create a gourd-shaped nest from 4 to 15 inches deep that is woven using hair, grasses, twine and wool.

Cottonwoods in riparian woodlands are a favorite tree for nest placement. To discourage predation by tree-climbing animals, Bullock's orioles suspend the nest from the tips of flexible branches high in the tree. The nest is firmly attached to branches in three spots, around the rim and at both sides.

Most of these neotropical migrants arrive in late spring from western Mexico or farther south to nest in western states, but some travel as far as southern Canada and others only to northern Mexico. With brilliant orange coloring, male Bullock's orioles show up with a tropical look. Black on the crown, around the eyes, on the neck, back and wings, and a white wing patch provide a striking contrast. Females and immature birds are a duller yellow color and have grayish wings and backs.

These acrobatic orioles eat insects and other arthropods, which they glean from the leaves, branches and trunks of shrubs and trees. Caterpillars are a favorite meal, and they also visit some flowers for nectar. They use their pointed bills to poke through the skin of fruits. Once inside, strong musculature allows them to pry open the closed bill and create a space to lap up the juice with a brushy tongue. Bullock's orioles may be the largest birds to visit your hummingbird feeders, where they happily lap up sugar water.

Discarded fishing line may look like good nest building material to these birds, and nests have been found with dangerous hooks hanging from them. This is another reminder of the perils to birds caused by careless practices.

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



Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 13

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

Archuleta County Republican Women. Noon-1 p.m., Boss Hogg's Restaurant. Perry Schjolin will speak on "27 Reasons Why the Declaration of Independence Was Needed."

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

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

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

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.

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

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Pagosa with
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or
thestudiospagosa.org

Thank you for reading
The Pagosa Springs SUN

community
powerX where local
energy meets
big Ideas

October 13
at the Durango Arts Center

Ask LPEA how we're
protecting your community
from wildfires, hear from
neighbors about their home
battery storage, and learn
ways to prepare your home
for the future.

RSVP:
lpea.coop/cpx



Party to celebrate end of summer reading program set for Aug. 28

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

You’ve earned it, Pagosa. Now, let’s celebrate.

Our end-of-summer celebration happens Friday, Aug. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Yamaguchi Park pavilion.

Join us as we draw our grand prize winners in every age category, honor our Super Readers, eat cake and watch our performers.

- Also happening this week:
- Aug. 29, 11 a.m.: Lego Play.
 - Aug. 31, 4 p.m.: Conversational Spanish.
 - Sept. 1-2 Forest Bathing Class. Call (970) 264-2209 to register.
 - Sept. 2, 10 a.m.: Family Story-time.
 - Sept. 2, 3 p.m.: Notary service drop-in.
 - Sept. 3, 2 p.m.: Tech Time drop-in help.

Countdown to our grand opening

Two weeks to go until we open our doors to a brand new, beautiful library.

It’s been a long year, but as we watch it all come together, we know you’ll agree, it was totally worth the wait.

This week the ceiling tiles are in and next week the carpet is laid. The trees are planted, the fountain arrives soon, and soon our signs will be hung.

We’ll close the library beginning Sept. 4 to move everything from storage into the new library and reopen on Sept. 12 with a full slate of ceremonies, programs and activities.

So, stock up on your reading before the Sept. 4 deadline and join us in celebration on Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You’re going to love what we’ve created for you.

New Hoopla e-book collection replaces CloudLibrary

On Aug. 18, our library consortium adopted Hoopla, an e-book and e-audiobook platform that replaces CloudLibrary. Our entire CloudLibrary collection has migrated to this new Hoopla platform, so if you were on a waitlist for a book in CloudLibrary, try a search for it in Hoopla.

To get started, download the Hoopla app and register as a Ruby Sisson patron with your library card number.

If you are already a Hoopla user with another library, you can add the Ruby Sisson collection by choosing “settings” on the bottom app menu, then “Library Settings.”

If you need a little extra help, stop



by and we’ll work with you. For extended help, our Tech Time drop-ins are every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

As the beginning of another school year looms on the horizon, you might be thinking about your own small child’s first day of kindergarten. Will she be prepared?

The library has a free, fun program to give your child the head start she needs.

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

The goal is not to read 1,000 different books before kindergarten, but to simply read 1,000 times before they begin their journey to expand their knowledge. If your little one has a favorite book that they want you to reread to them immediately after finishing it the first time, then that counts as another book read.

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

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

Group meeting room available

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

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.

■ See Library on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "___ girl!"
5 Not to be missed
10 Deal with
14 Safari hat
15 Reluctant
16 Actress Perlman
17 Gulf V.I.P.
18 Slideshow creator
20 Spoiled
22 Cyanide and arsenic, e.g.
23 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
24 First name in fairy tales
25 Hebrew name for God
27 Drummed, as raindrops
31 Poetic Emily
33 Seedy joint
34 FBI operative, briefly
35 Harder on the ears
38 Clinch, with "up"
39 Cape of ___ Hope
41 Take another look at
43 Signed up
46 Sharp
47 Like some meat
48 Served, as hash
49 Moves skyward
52 Colt's spot
55 Red Cross contributor?
57 Turner or Fey
58 Azerbaijan's capital
59 Nonsensical
60 Do magazine work
61 Beat anagram
62 Encouraged, with "on"
63 Ohio team

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21				22						
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31						32					33			
34				35					36	37		38		
39			40			41					42			
43				44	45				46					
			47					48						
49	50	51						52					53	54
55							56				57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

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DOWN

- 1 "... ___ a pudgy tat!"
2 Large book
3 Public relations pro
4 Reef diver's need
5 "Serpico" actor
6 Apt to pout
7 Detroit labor gp.
8 Zimbalist of "Remington Steele"
9 Frog's place
10 Risked the wrath of
11 Buckeye State
12 Famous Quaker
13 Consumes
19 Pub serving
21 Pinky's pal
25 Old saying
26 Enjoy, slangily
27 Sat for a shoot

- 28 It lifts all boats, in a saying
29 It may be blessed
30 ___ Decimal System
32 Alluring tune
36 Examined closely
37 The Phantom's rival
40 Dispense
42 Large church, in the UK
44 Give temporarily
45 Highland boy
48 Excelled
49 "Fernando" group
50 Building pad
51 Rum partner
53 Tennyson lady
54 Sewer dwellers
56 Hound

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

What is aging in place?

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Aging in place means remaining in your own home and community safely and independently as you grow older.

Successfully doing so requires planning before help is urgently needed.

Start by making your home safer and easier to navigate by removing tripping hazards, improving lighting, installing grab bars where needed and making frequently used items easier to reach. Maintaining good health through regular medical care, nutritious meals, physical activity and social connections can also help seniors remain independent and active.

Senior News

Just as important is building a strong support system.

Family, friends, neighbors, senior centers, meal programs, transportation services and other community resources can provide help with everyday tasks while reducing isolation. Aging in place does not mean doing everything alone; it means knowing when to ask for help and planning for changing needs.

By preparing ahead, staying connected and taking advantage of available community services, older adults can continue to enjoy the comfort, independence and familiar surroundings of home for as long as it is safe and practical.

■ See Senior on page 19



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Library

■ continued from previous page
New books collections brimming with interesting titles

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

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

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

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

New in large print

- "The Women in White," from fiction writer Sarah Pekkanen, tells the story of four university students who disappear after a parapsychology experiment in 1964 and the caretaker who uncovers the mystery of their disappearance decades later.

- "That Night" by Gillian McAllister is an electrifying thriller about three siblings torn apart by the cover-up of a death while on a family vacation in Italy.

- Suspense writer Jeffery Deaver returns with "Deceptions," a short story collection featuring Colter Shaw and Lincoln Rhyme.

New fiction

- Writer Chris Bohjalian is back with "The Amateur." When a young golf prodigy causes a freak accident at an upscale Westchester country club, the community slowly turns against her as her secret life is revealed.

- James Ellroy is back with "Red Sheet," a "subversive work of fiction" set in October 1962 as the Cuban Missile Crisis has just concluded. The

LAPD has been assigned to investigate a red probe under the leadership of a stone-cold criminal investigating officer surrounded by a cast of crazed characters.

- Stacy Abrams returns with a new thriller, "Coded Justice," the first book in the Avery Keene series, involving a tech company aiming to revolutionize the health industry while battling for control over runaway artificial intelligence in the process.

New cookbooks

- "From Italy with Amore: Seasonal Italian Recipes for Those You Love" provides recipes for each of the four seasons along with advice for creating the perfect Italian dining experience.

- "We Use What We Have: 101 Easy Weeknight Meals" from TikTok star Alex MacLaren helps you balance your budget and schedule to deliver healthy, satisfying meals.

- "Coffee Shop at Home: The Ultimate Guide to Making Your Favorite Coffee Drinks" helps you break the expensive coffee shop habit by perfecting your at-home creations.

- "Small-Batch Breads: 50 Recipes for Loaves, Buns, and Flatbreads Made with 1 Cup of Flour." Learn how to create small delicacies from classic small loaves to garlic knots, bagels and flatbreads.

New travel Journey series from Lonely Planet

Popular travel guide publisher Lonely Planet delivers precise, useful guides to popular pilgrimages, with historical overviews, step-by-step planning and advice from locals on what to bring, where to stay and what you'll see in their new Journey series.

New to our collection this month:

- "Lonely Planet Journey Camino de Santiago, Camino Frances."

- "Lonely Planet Journey Iceland's Ring Road."

- "Lonely Planet Journey Inca Trail."



Dr. Justin Nylund and staff

The team of Black Diamond Dental is excited to serve our Community.

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Humane Society
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Quick, affordable, not trying to upsell you on unnecessary procedures. Very clean, modern, and professional.

- Morganne

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

- Christy

Dr. Nylund's group that helped me through a tough time with an infected tooth comes highly recommended. The staff was stellar in accommodating me in a difficult time. I would be pleased to allow the doctor to work his expertise in my mouth. A great addition to help us here in Pagosa

- Lauren

2363 Eagle Dr Unit A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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www.blackdiamonddds.com



Senior

■ continued from previous page

Holiday closure

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day. There will be no dining services or activities that day.

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.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the group will not meet Monday, Sept. 7. Instead, the meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 1:15 p.m.

Salmansohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility 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 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 through September, 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 Sept. 18 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.

■ See Senior on next page

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Early Deadlines

for the issue of Sept. 10

Display Advertising: Noon, Friday, Sept. 4

Legal Advertising, Articles and Letters: Noon, Thursday, Sept. 3

Classified Advertising: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.

Call your ad rep today to place your advertisement!

970-264-2100

The Pagosa Springs SUN will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day

The Pagosa Springs SUN

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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. 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.

Monday, Aug. 31 — Honey garlic chicken, snow peas and mushrooms, fried rice, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday, Sept. 1 — Southern shrimp and grits, zucchini sauté, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday, Sept. 2 — Beef spaghetti, broccoli, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Sept. 3 — Grilled turkey, Swiss and tomato sandwich on sourdough; vegetable chips; garden salad; fruit; mini Danish; and milk.

Friday, Sept. 4 — Sliced ham with cherry sauce, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Meals on Wheels

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

Text reservations

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

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

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

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

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

Medicare assistance by appointment

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

Board vacancies

The 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.

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The three little pigs build a house: Wind loads explained

By James R. Van Liere
Special to The PREVIEW

As a structural engineer, I have had to serve many different types of clients over the years. With so much wind recently, I was reminded of one of the most unusual clients that I had ever had as young engineer was three little pigs.

Of course, I asked them, why did you come to me? I don't build houses. Well, they said, the Big Bad Wolf threatened to "huff and puff and blow their houses down, and eat them." We also heard that if we wanted a good, strong house, we should hire a structural engineer.

Of course, I asked them what they had in mind. Immediately, Tom piped up and said he had a friend who built his house out of straw.

"How did it go?" I asked.
"He's no longer with us," Tom answered.

Dick said he also had a friend who built his house out of sticks and he also is no longer with us.

Finally, Harry chimed in and said his friend used bricks, and he is still with us.

After much discussion, the three little pigs decided that they felt a timber or brick house would work for them and they would like to build it in the forest next to a lake. Being inquisitive little rascals, they asked what the next step was to design their little house to resist the wolf and other wind storms that frequented the area. First of all, they had to agree to pay me for my services, which they agreed to do.

"Now that you have selected a basic location for your little house somewhere in Archuleta County, we have to break out the building code to select the parameters that we will need to determine the appropriate factors that we will need to calculate the wind load on your house," I told them.

"Building code, what is that?" asked Tom. "My friends up in Aspen Springs never mentioned a building code when I talked to them."

Well, I told them, a building code is basically a set of rules and regulations adopted by local governing entities from various agencies to ensure that your house is safe to live in. In this case, we have to use the 1997 Uniform Building Code.

"Really," said Tom. "And I suppose they are going to charge us money."

"Of course," I told them, "and that money goes to pay the building department's expenses and salaries for its staff. Once I finish the design and drawings of your proposed structure, your building contractor will submit my documents to a building department that will review everything to ensure that proposed design complies with the current building code

The Writers' Circle

After much discussion, the three little pigs decided that they felt a timber or brick house would work for them and they would like to build it in the forest next to a lake.

in use at the time."
"So, if that's the case, who comes up and says what the code is?" asked Dick.

Basically, building codes come from various research agencies and universities. As an example, the American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC), the American Forest and Paper Association, and the American Wood Council all do research in timber construction.

Of course, the main one is the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM). It researches all kinds of materials. And, universities and colleges receive government grants to do research by professors well known in their field of study. For professors, it is well known that it is "publish or perish." (Note, the Uniform Building Code is no longer used; it has been replaced with the International Building Code.)

So, based on all of this research, building codes can be established such that designers and engineers have at their disposal the information needed to ensure that their designs are based on factual, known data.

As far as wind loads are concerned, there are several factors that must be considered. These are exposure, shape, height, wind speed, and I sometimes include elevation.

Exposure deals primarily with where the structure is to be located — on the sea shore, in a forest, or in a city or town. Because you guys are locating your house in a forest, the factor for Exposure B is to be used in calculating the wind stagnation pressure. Because the overall height is less than 30 feet, we will use what is called the Normal Force Method. The shape of your house is basically a box with flat surfaces versus a round structure,

such as water tank. From a map in the code book, we find that the basic design wind speed for the Pagosa Springs area is 90 miles per hour. And, lastly, we must assign an importance factor, which in your case, is one.

"Hey, wait a minute" said Tom. "Can't we make our house more

■ See Circle on next page

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

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Lane

■ continued from previous page

important?"

"You can if you want to pay more money for it," I told him.

If we were designing a hospital, we would increase the stagnation pressure by 15 percent, in essence, increasing the factor of safety, which increases the cost. Although not in the code, I sometimes decrease the stagnation pressure based on elevation because the air density decreases with elevation.

Now it's time to get down to brass tacks or, in this case, the mathematics.

Starting with the wind speed, a formula has been developed for the stagnation pressure at sea level. This formula is $P_s = 0.00256V^2$, where V is wind speed in miles per hour. So at sea level with a 100 mph wind, the stagnation pressure is $0.00256 \times 100 \times 100 = 25.6$ pounds per square foot (psf). For Archuleta County, a wind speed of 90 mph is required, hence, $P_s = 0.00256 \times 90 \times 90 = 20.7$ psf. But, let's modify the stagnation pressure based on an elevation of 7,500 feet. Then $P_s = (0.00256 - 0.000067 \times 7,500/1000) V^2 = 16.7$ psf. If we go to another table in the code book, we find that the height, exposure and gust factors have been tabulated in to one factor, namely, 0.62. Thus, the stagnation pressure is now 0.62×16.7 , or 10.4 psf.

We are not finished yet. Now we must account for the shape of your house and the configuration of the roof.

On the windward side of the house, the design wind pressure now becomes $0.8 \times 10.4 = 8.3$ psf and on the leeward (suction) side of the house, the wind pressure is now $0.5 \times 10.4 = 5.2$ psf. For the roof with a 6:12 pitch, the wind ward pressure is $0.3 \times 10.4 = 3.1$ psf and the leeward pressure (suction) is $0.7 \times 10.4 = 7.3$ psf.

Now, the question is: What is the total force trying to blow the house off of its foundation?

For your house that is 8 feet tall at the eave with a 6:12 roof pitch, 20 feet wide and 40 feet long, the total wind force is as follows.

For the wall up to the eave on the windward side, the force is 8.3 psf x 8.0 feet high x 40.0 wide, which equals 2,656 pounds. We then look at the roof on the windward side and find that the force is 3.1 psf x 5.0 feet high x 44.0 feet wide (assuming a 2-foot overhang on each end) equals 682 pounds. For the wall on the leeward side, we find the force is 5.2 psf x 8.0 feet high x 40.0 feet wide equals 1,664 pounds. And for the roof on the leeward side the force is 7.3 psf x 5.0 feet x 44.0 feet wide equals 1,606 pounds.

Thus, the total wind force trying to move the house off of the foundation is 6,608 pounds. But, it should be pointed out that even though this appears to be an exact number, good old Mother Nature can throw us a curve ball in the form of a microburst, as discussed below. In that case, it never hurts to bump up the calculated wind force slightly, possibly rounding it off

to, say, 7,000 pounds.

So, if you build your house to withstand a 7,000 pound wind load, you should be OK.

"Wow," said Dick, "I bet the big bad wolf can't blow that hard."

As you can see, we have only calculated the wind load on your new house. Of course, to arrive at the final design of your house, the wind load must be combined with the dead load of the structure itself, along with the snow load. Once the entire load analyses are completed and combined to find the worst-case loading condition, the individual members, such as the bracing, columns and beams, can be designed.

Now that the little pigs' curiosity has been raised to a higher level, they began to wonder about a 200-foot-tall structure.

The same basic principles are involved, but to a "higher" degree of complication. Obviously, the higher above the earth, the greater the wind speeds. In lower structures overturning is not so much a factor, but in taller structures the wind force not only tries to slide the structure off of its foundation, but just tip it over.

When designing tall structures in cities, quite often the engineer will submit his design to a firm that models the size and shape of the structure in question and places the model in a wind tunnel. These firms quite often have complete models of major cities so that the wind affect of the surrounding buildings can be observed on the proposed building. All of the models are mounted on a turntable so the effect of the wind from all directions can be observed as the table turns.

Hopefully, what we have talked about here provides you with an idea of wind forces and how they affect buildings. Of course, analyzing wind loads on structures of different shapes, such as water towers, drive-in movie screens, traffic signs, you name it, involves a more complicated analysis.

Lastly, the Rocky Mountains are known for what are called microbursts. These are winds of a short duration and extremely high velocities, sometimes as high as 250 mph.

As you can imagine, at a velocity of 250 mph, the static wind pressure at 7,000 feet would be about 131 psf. It would take an extremely strong, and expensive, structure to resist such a wind load. Thus, it becomes a question of risk versus cost — a difficult decision to make in some cases.

Author's note: The discussion above is accurate based on an old, simple wind code that was in use for many years. However, the newer building codes for wind load calculations are much too complicated to discuss in a simple article such as this. It is interesting to note that under a newer code, the calculated wind force for this structure is 7,558 pounds versus 6,608 pounds as calculated by the old code, which is a 14 percent increase. By rounding

up the old code to 7,000 pounds, the increase is approximately 8 percent. Thus, the roundup appears reasonable.

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THREE REASONS SODA IS SO BAD FOR YOU



Here's another reason you need to get that sweet tooth under control: it's slowly killing you.

Fructose consumption (table sugar and high fructose corn syrup as opposed to what naturally occurs in fruit) is on the rise.

What is interesting to researchers is that this rise mirrors the rise in chronic degenerative diseases and accelerated aging as today's excerpt explains. Sugar-sweetened soda consumption might promote disease independently from its role in obesity, according to UC San Francisco researchers who found in a new study that drinking

sugary drinks was associated with cell aging.

The study revealed that telomeres – the protective units of DNA that cap the ends of chromosomes in cells – were shorter in the white blood cells of survey participants who reported drinking more soda. The findings were reported online Oct. 16 in the American Journal of Public Health.

The length of telomeres within white blood cells – where it can most easily be measured – has previously been associated with human lifespan. Short telomeres also have been associated with the development of chronic diseases of aging, including heart disease, diabetes and some types of cancer.

"Regular consumption of sugar-sweetened sodas might influence disease development, not only by straining the body's metabolic control of sugars, but also through accelerated cellular aging of tissues," said Elissa Epel, PhD, professor of psychiatry at UCSF and senior author of the study.

"This is the first demonstration that soda is associated with telomere shortness," Epel said. "This finding held regardless of age, race, income and education level. Telomere shortening starts long before disease onset. Further, although we only studied adults here, it is possible that soda consumption is associated with telomere shortening in children, as well."

Source: "Sugared Soda Consumption, Cell Aging Associated in New Study." By Jeffrey Norris. <https://www.ucsf.edu>

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

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A N E A V E A G L E D O R O C S M O F O
L O R H A N D I C A P Z G Z K P I U F R E
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T I W B I F I K N Z O R S E Y I V G P S
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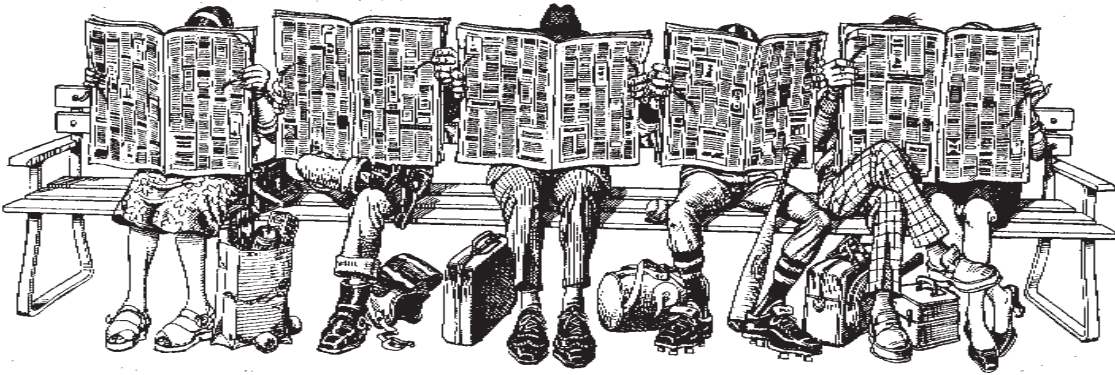
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How to get ready for emergencies the low-cost, no-cost way

American Red Cross of Western Colorado

Major disasters like the Gold Mountain and Ferris fires and flash floods are happening more often. About

once every two weeks, a major disaster happens in the U.S. Add on the smaller emergencies that happen every day like home fires or seasonal emergencies like winter storms, and it's more

important than ever for everyone to get their households prepared.

The American Red Cross of Western Colorado has a few simple, low-cost or no-cost steps everyone can take to help them get prepared.

"September is National Preparedness Month, the perfect time to get ready for emergencies large and small," said Christie Caster, executive director of the Red Cross of Western Colorado. "Western Coloradans are well aware that disasters like wildfires, flash floods, storms and severe winter weather can happen anywhere in our part of the state, at any time. The good news is getting your household ready for an emergency doesn't have to break the bank."

Steps to preparedness

1. Download the Red Cross Emergency app, which helps you and your loved ones before, during and after a disaster. The app includes guides to help you prepare, National Weather Service alerts, live weather maps and help locating Red Cross shelters. And, best of all, it's free to all users, available in English and Spanish, and designed with accessibility in mind. Find it by searching for "American Red Cross" in your app store or visiting redcross.org/apps.

2. Develop an emergency plan for your household — a great way to get

started, and it won't cost a thing. Pick two places to meet — right outside your home or a place outside your neighborhood in case you can't get home or have to evacuate. Plan how you will evacuate. Think about where you will go, how you will get there, where you will stay and what you'll take with you. Plan well in advance if you'll need help leaving or use public transportation.

Don't forget your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters on your phone.

Customize your kit to meet your household's specific needs. If you have young children, don't forget formula and diapers. If you have pets, include leashes, carriers, food, bowls and litter. Make up emergency contact cards for the whole family in case the internet is down, and save the information on everyone's phone. Don't forget the number for your children's school or day care.

3. Gather supplies for a go kit and a stay-at-home kit — use items you already have on hand to keep the cost down. Build your kit slowly, perhaps buying an item every time you shop. Look for sales — buy one, get one free, clearance bins, clip coupons, shop discount stores.

Your go kit should include three days of supplies that you can take with you. Your stay-at-home kit should have two weeks of food and water and a

one-month supply of medications, if possible. Other items could include a flashlight, a first aid kit, a battery or hand-crank radio.

Make sure to include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (flashlight, cellphone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.) and critical personal records. You might also want to include sanitation and personal hygiene items, extra cash, maps of the area, pet supplies, baby supplies, matches, N95 masks, a manual can opener, extra car and house keys, towels, work gloves, a multipurpose tool, blankets and sleeping bags.

4. If you own a business or are part of a school or organization, it's critical you are prepared, that you know what to do should an emergency happen. The Red Cross has a free service — the Ready Rating Program — that provides tools, resources and information for improving your group's ability to withstand disaster, maintain operations, and protect lives and property.

"Disasters don't wait for the 'right time' — they can happen in the middle of the night, while you're at work or your kids are at school," Caster said. "Being prepared is your best defense. Whether it's a fire in someone's home or a storm that destroys an entire town, these emergencies can change lives in just minutes. Take these few easy steps and start your trip toward readiness."

Points of light: growth in Christian unity

By Joyce Holdread

Special to The PREVIEW

"The walls you build on earth do not reach to heaven." So said Mother Mary to her listeners in Medjugorje when they inquired about the myriad divisions of the Christian faith.

No matter what your opinion may be about the reported appearances of Mary around the world, we surely have to admit this response reveals both the wisdom characteristic of her Son, and the open-ended possibility for further development of unity among all Jesus' brothers and sisters here on earth.

We're all familiar with both the historical and current denials of Christian unity: the ugly facts of the Crusades, the Inquisition and, more recently, the bloody conflicts between Irish Catholics and Protestants.

But the Spirit of God has been weaving the filaments of love for God and true unity into the fabric of the Church's life down through the centuries.

At the last supper, Jesus' prayer with his disciples was that they should be one in the same way that He and his Father were one, so that the world might believe He had been sent by God. Would the Father not be moving to answer his own Son's final, impassioned prayer? Would this prayer be ineffective after all?

One outstanding example of the Church's effort for Christian unity is the work of Taizé, the ecumenical community started around the outset of World War II in a small French village just outside German-occupied France.

Roger Schutz-Marsauche, the son of a Swiss Protestant minister, throughout a prolonged period of tuberculosis and extended convalescence, conceived the idea of an ecumenical community as a "sign of unity in the Church and in the human family."

At age 25, he felt God calling him to minister to desperate refugees fleeing the war, and also to help Jews escaping impending Nazi imprisonment. He bought an old, abandoned house and, through farming, pottery-making and various activities, began to make a living for himself, and also to shelter refugees.

Gradually, other young men of varying Christian orientations began to join him. This eventually led to the founding of an ecumenical community now composed of 80-100 celibate brothers from around 30 different countries, all making lifelong commitments to live out their days as a tangible sign of unity among Christ's followers.

The stretching adjustments, difficult tensions and deep sacrifices that are integral to such a living situation has certainly borne fruit: tens of thousands of visitors, predominately

young people, have come to Taizé from all parts of the world searching for something, or Someone, loving, yet solid, around whom they can build their lives. They participate in the day-to-day life of the community — prayer, meditation, scripture reflection, labor and fellowship.

The formation of such a Christian multid denominational community that has endured since 1940 — 86 years — is unprecedented in history.

Now we read of Catholic nuns and priests laboring side by side with various humanitarian faith groups worldwide.

Along the U.S.-Mexican border, the American Bible Society and Catholic nuns work together to heal the shattered lives of victims of sex trafficking. These examples, and many others, are the results of the Spirit's drawing together the strands of interfaith dialog and Christian cooperation for the broader good promoted by the Second Vatican Council and various Protestant groups, especially throughout the last half century.

Closer to home, in 2003, three church communities initiated the formation of the Pagosa Outreach Community to offer a onetime hand-up for local people; they assist with rent, mortgages, car repairs, utilities, etc. to enable those in financial crisis not to drop even further into fiscal ruin. And, more recently, another ecumenical group, Friends and Neighbors in Need, was formed to help the working poor, local families, even visitors with basic needs: food, gasoline, lodging, etc.

In the end, one of the most poignant demonstrations of Christian unity was in the WWII martyrdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, and Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest. Each gave his life to save others: Bonhoeffer was hanged for his complicity in a plot to kill Hitler, and Kolbe accepted starvation in place of one of his prison mates. A Lutheran and a Catholic — often arch opposers, but each willing to give the ultimate sacrifice for the love of Christ and his people.

So, let us dance and serve together, along city streets and country lanes as we wait for Mary's deep knowing to flood across all earth and sky.

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

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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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