

ASD ballot measure will ask voters to approve \$79.9 million bond

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) unanimously approved a resolution for specific ballot language for a \$79.9 million bond measure for voters to decide on this fall. If approved, the bond would help fund a new pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade (PK-8) campus to be

built on ASD’s Vista Boulevard property uptown, which the district already owns. During the meeting, Superintendent Rick Holt explained that “what the resolution allows us to do is move forward with an item on the ballot, with the exact ballot language.” BoE president Bob Lynch mentioned that the district has been working on this project for a few years now with facility assessments and

■ See Bond A8

Commissioners approve 30-day notice to close Country Center Drive access

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved posting a 30-day notice of intent to close access to Country Center Drive from North Pagosa Boulevard. County Manager Longinos Gonzalez presented the matter, explaining that the suggestion of closing the access due to it being unsafe for

public use has been discussed in previous BoCC meetings. The meeting agenda notes that the county would close the access after the 30-day period, “unless the property or business owners initiate maintenance and repair efforts to address the condition of the private road.” Commissioner Warren Brown explained that he does not want to close the access, but feels there is nothing else the county can do after years of attempting to coordinate

■ See Access A8

Town, county discuss housing authority roles, expectations

By Clayton Chaney and Derek Kutzer
Staff Writers

On Aug. 24, at a joint meeting of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and the Pagosa Springs Town Council, Commissioner Veronica Medina expressed opposition to the idea of creating a new multi-jurisdictional housing authority. The idea of a new local housing authority came about as the town and county are in the process of

working out a draft housing action plan to meet the requirements of the Proposition 123 funding taken by both entities. Proposition 123 is a voter-approved state law that created a dedicated, ongoing funding stream for local governments to support affordable housing. One of the requirements of taking the funding is that local governments must make a multiyear commitment to expand their affordable housing stock and draft a housing action plan

■ See Housing A9

Pagosa Springs man arrested for arson

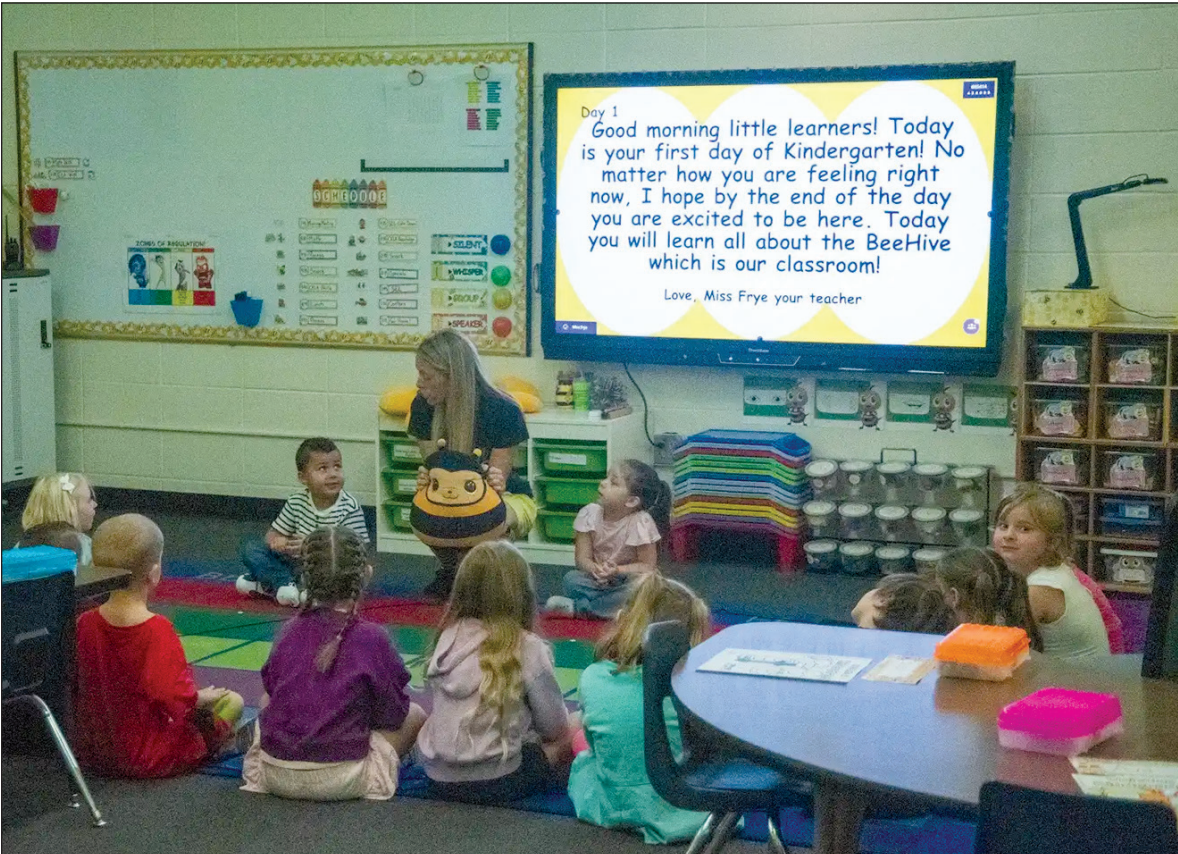
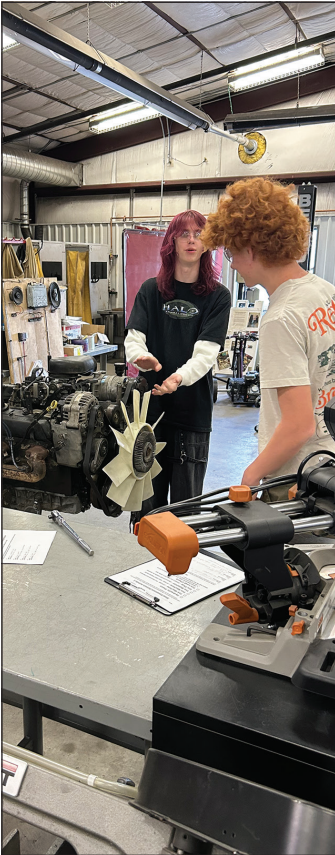
By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A Pagosa Springs man was arrested on Saturday, Aug. 29, on suspicion of fourth-degree arson. According to Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock, the agency received a report of suspicious activity at approximately 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29. An officer responded, he stated, and a man, Dylan Brent Sanchez, 40, of Pagosa Springs, was next to a fire that had just started in the bar ditch near 8th Street and Rosita Street. At the time the officer arrived, the fire was about 3 feet by 4 feet, Rockensock explained.

He noted that Sanchez was put into detention and the Pagosa Fire Protection District arrived and extinguished the fire, which was about 51 feet by 16 feet. Rockensock reported at least two witnesses came forward reporting they had seen Sanchez light the fire. Sanchez was taken into custody for fourth-degree arson for “recklessly endangering an occupied structure” because the fire was close to a house, Rockensock reported. He added that no structures were damaged and nobody was injured. As of Tuesday, Sept. 1, Sanchez remained in custody in the Archuleta County jail.

randi@pagosasun.com

Back to school



The bulk of Archuleta County’s students returned to school this week, with students at Pagosa Springs Elementary School, Pagosa Springs Middle School, Pagosa Springs High School and San Juan Mountain School digging right into the learning and fun.

Opinion

Letters

Obituaries

Education

Sports

Public Notices

A2

A3

A4

A5

A10

A12

PREVIEW

Live Performers

Preview Calendar

Crossword

Classifieds

2

10

16

24

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Opinion



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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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OUR VIEW

‘Adjust the sails’: Let yourself be inspired

On Aug. 25, Dolly Parton passed away.

While she was just one of a string of celebrities to pass within a short amount of time, and one of a number of big names to pass so far in 2026, her death has seemed to have an outsized effect.

Her decades of entertainment, philanthropy, humor, heart and more touched people across America and, undoubtedly, the world.

Statements honoring Parton's work and legacy were posted rapidly and plentifully. We texted with family and friends about how the world lost an icon. Quotes of Parton's quickly popped up in a wide variety of places, including on sidewalks at local parks.

We seemingly were all pulled together in honoring the life of someone who changed the lives of so many others and made the world a little brighter.

Unfortunately, things have gone downhill from there.

Instead of simply appreciating the legacy Parton left here on earth and striving to be a little more generous like her, her passing led to — not shockingly, but sadly — political arguments. Some from each “side” quickly tried to co-opt her legacy as being more in their favor. While she made many of her beliefs known during her life, Parton made it clear while she was alive that politics were not where she wanted to be and that who she voted for was her business. She expressed understanding that she had friends and fans from across the political spectrum and sought to not

be divisive.

Then, a week after her death, Parton's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was apparently vandalized, with flowers stolen and Parton's name heavily scratched.

It's incredibly disappointing that the historic career and life of someone who truly loved her fellow man would lead to arguing and vandalism.

We don't always have to claim something for ourselves and try to take it from others.

Sometimes it's OK to just appreciate what someone else has done, without pointing out imperfections and differences.

Sometimes it's OK to just let yourself be inspired by people who do cool things.

Parton did a lot in her 80 years on this planet, and she has made a difference in countless lives, with that reach far from over.

Among many other accomplishments in her entertainment and business careers, and philanthropy, Parton was a driving force in:

Starting the Dollywood Foundation in 1998 to help lower high school drop-out rates in her home county in Tennessee. The initiative was reported to be highly successful, with rates dropping from 35 percent to 6 percent.

Launching and giving away numerous scholarships over the course of decades.

Having an eagle sanctuary for non-releasable bald eagles at Dollywood for 35 years, helping to advance bald eagle conservation and education.

Giving to disaster relief efforts after several natural disasters.

Giving to help with medical research, including for pediatric cancer, and children's hospitals.

Starting the Imagination Library, which to date has given away more than 300 million books to children up to age 5 across the country regardless of economic or other factors.

Certainly, we can't all accomplish all that Parton was able to build up over her 80 years, but we can let her — and others — inspire us to make positive changes where our reach allows.

As she said, “We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.”

We may not be able to contribute millions, but even \$5 to a local nonprofit or a few hours spent volunteering helps make a difference.

We can let Parton — and others — inspire us to go about our days with a few more smiles and a little more humor.

It's OK to let your self be inspired. You might just help inspire someone else. That's the type of thing that can make this world a little better.

As she said, “When I wake up, I expect things to be good. If they're not, then I try to set about trying to make them as good as I can 'cause I know I'm gonna have to live that day anyway. So why not try to make the most of it if you can? Some days, they pan out a little better than others, but you still gotta always just try.”

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 3, 1926

The children of this town and county are wearing those pleased expressions that won't wipe off — all caused because Tuesday is the opening of the 1926-27 session of the Pagosa Springs grade and high schools.

Mr. A.A. Miller, who has charge of the Wolf Creek Pass maintenance work and other road work in this section, has completed the steam shovel work at the Laughlin hill, five miles north of Pagosa Springs, and is now located with his crew at the San Juan ranger station, where a number of curves will be straightened out. Later, work will commence at what is known as “Catchpole's Mistake.”

Dan Russom, who resides northwest of Dyke, was placed under arrest last evening on complaint of John Dyke, and charged with the larceny and butchering of Dyke cattle. Sheriff Dutton, who made the arrest, found one of the hides, containing the Dyke brand buried in a manure pile at the ranch. He was brought to town and appeared before Justice Herbert Loucks last night, admitted his guilt and was bound over to the district court in the sum of \$500.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 31, 1951

Work was started this week on straightening out the parking problems on the town's main street, with the first step being a change to parallel parking and in the near future a two hour parking limit. All double parkers will also be warned and then issued a ticket for traffic law violation. The two hour parking limit will go into effect as soon as the necessary signs can be obtained.

The curbs on main street are being marked for proper parking positions and violators of the marked spaces will 1st be warned and then issued tickets. The problem of wholesale delivery trucks is also being investigated and it is hoped that in the future most deliveries will be made at the rear entrances.

Saturday morning, the KOA — Western Farm Life Range livestock judges spent the day looking at the H. Ray Macht ranch, livestock and range. These men are the judges in the Top Hands contest and Mr. Macht was chosen by the local cattle growers association as the Archuleta County entry in the contest.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 2, 1976

Local school enrollment has jumped another 15 students from last week's enrollment to a total of 858 for the system. A.D. Hahn, superintendent, said that another 10 to 12 students are expected to enroll by the end of next week.

The superintendent said that the most serious problem was being created in the high school grades. The building isn't large enough to handle the enrollment in an efficient manner.

Enrollment figures show, as of Wednesday of this week, 376 students in grades kindergarten through fifth, 482 students in grades sixth through ninth, and 171 students in the top three grades of high school.

Last year at this date the total enrollment stood at 787 and according to the estimates may level out at somewhere around 865 students this year. This will, force the high school into a Class AA status next year for athletic events.

Hahn reported that other than the problems being created by the lack of space that school is off to a smooth start and that everything else is functioning well.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
August 30, 2001

Longtime Archuleta County resident and noted environmental activist Elizabeth “Betty” Feazel passed away at her home Aug. 26.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1916, Betty studied at Wellesley College and summered at the At Last Ranch in Archuleta County, acquired by her parents in 1922. She graduated in 1938 with a degree in philosophy. In 1944, she married attorney and TWA pilot Ernest Feazel at a spot near her mother's ranch house.

Together Betty and Ernest raised four children on a farm near Kansas City. Betty returned to the At Last Ranch and full-time ranching upon her husband's death in 1976. Over the years, she collected people — artists, scientists, political activists and family. Her family reunions were the stuff of legends, renting whole train cars for the ride to Silverton, reserving several floors in the Strater Hotel in Durango.

She was recognized for her preservationist positions in “Audubon” magazine, “Sports Illustrated,” and on the front page of the “New York Times,” accomplishing all of this at the At Last Ranch.



From the Sept. 24, 1970, Pagosa SUN — CHEER LEADERS — Pagosa Pirate cheer leaders in formation at half time during the last football game were, back row, left to right, Beverly Breedlove, Peggy Lister, Gee Gee Clevenger, and Loretta Martinez. Front row, left to right, Dodie Aguilar, Desi Clevenger, Kindra Clevenger, and Judy Bennett.

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
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Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Moisture	Type	Depth	
8/18	88	50	0.00	NA	NA	
8/19	86	49	0.00	NA	NA	
8/20	86	50	0.00	NA	NA	
8/21	89	50	0.18	NA	NA	
8/22	85	48	T	NA	NA	
8/23	80	53	0.23	NA	NA	
8/24	83	46	0.27	NA	NA	
8/25	84	50	0.00	NA	NA	
8/26	85	47	0.00	NA	NA	
8/27	85	48	0.00	NA	NA	
8/28	86	48	0.00	NA	NA	
8/29	79	53	0.00	NA	NA	
8/30	77	54	0.00	NA	NA	
8/31	71	52	0.13	NA	NA	

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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.

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

Dear Editor:

Where is our Congressional Representative who voted for because he claimed he was going to work for all of District 3. All I can say is never seen, never Hurd doesn't deserve my vote this November I personally haven't seen one thing he has done for Colorado that deserves that vote. I don't feel represented or informed by him and I think that we have a right to be informed. His silence tells me we are not important enough for him to put time and effort locally especially so close to the election.

Personally I plan to make a change this November to change our lack of representation over the last six years. We deserve better.

Rebecca Curling

Dear Editor:

Our Commissioner base starring as survey takers of 'friends' and 'friend builders' offering up million dollar cost projections to so early in the clouds sport ideas, to posing as real-estate appraisers sellers and buyers, (don't mean Veronica.)

Is there any truth at all that the already in use Wyndham building as Administration Building has already now been purchased? Last write-up it was still being considered as a purchase site and said that personnel there are packed into that building like sardines and with dismal parking besides, evidently with no way to expand but up this week was banded about. Cheaply apparently, by incoming already sitting-in, of the opinion of Commish #4.

FOMO abrupt deals are hardly ever the best and three energized

Nonetheless, Expressed was the still looking into the purchase of a second location even after it was expressed that there is no money left. The old Alco building that is apparently for sale they said which apparently comes with adjacent expansion space also available for purchase, Lots of conjecture with no money left for Real Estate that doesn't come cheap.

The community as a whole does not expect a Commissioners base to so brazenly manipulate their arena by indulging in fields not their own and bandying it about as expertise. Those field analysis best left to (perhaps hired?) professional consultants in those early purchasing scenarios where negotiations are made for best low price purchase versus best high price sale. Certified certifiable professionals should have been consulted before haphazardly sinking the community with elementary ideas.

And a reliable accurate way to get confirmed public opinion would be to post a community wide survey in the Newspaper that those interested could have input on and for getting a feel for how the paying public constituent is of the opinion of. Barring that, for the good it might do, we do write letters addressed to the Editor.

Carmen Ferguson

Dear Editor:

Colorado's public lands encompass four national parks and nine national monuments, including the 210,844-acre Dinosaur National Monument in Moffat County, home to some of the most stunning canyons on the continent, including the jaw-dropping Lodore Canyon and Echo Park.

During August I joined a group of public lands and national monument proponents—hunters and anglers, banking and mining executives, a local rancher, small business owners, marketing professionals, economic development specialists, public lands and waters stewards—for a four-day float down the Green River through Dinosaur.

Sponsored by Visit Moffat County and the National Park Service, we were tasked with discussing the diverse and sometimes conflicting interests intertwined with public lands and waters management along with considering the economics of communities sustained by these public resources in Northwest Colorado and beyond.

The common denominator among all of us is a desire to help ensure that public lands are managed sustainably for everyone: communities and wildlife. Unfortunately, threats to public lands have increased significantly during recent years. From proposed sell-offs to rapidly accelerated oil and gas leasing with limited opportunity for public input to growing year-round recreation, our shared estate is experiencing unprecedented pressures.

Earlier this year I joined a group of public lands advocates visiting

A January 2026 report from Headwaters Economics (“Economic performance of communities near national monuments”) documents the vital role national monuments play in local economies. The report emphasizes that Colorado’s national monuments and other public lands are sustainable economic engines that power rural economies and support our great hunting, angling, and outdoor recreation heritage.

During our four days rafting the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument we discovered that we don't all vote the same. We don't always see eye to eye. But we all agree our shared public lands shouldn't become the exclusive property of the few.

David A. Lien
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Dear Editor:

This past year has been interesting. We've experienced much that doesn't often happen. A hundred-year flood, fires, one of the longest droughts in Pagosa history, the most expensive local highway project ever, more people moving to our "refreshingly authentic small mountain town", more leaving, etc. We've been significantly affected, we've survived, we're still here. In many ways we've thrived.

I think it's time for a celebration and suggest our local leaders and talented organizers plan a community party to show appreciation to all who worked hard and contributed much to success. Yes, it's been a challenging, sometimes a frustrating and painful year for many, but we have much to be thankful for. Let's plan a huge 2027 springtime event in to express appreciation to those who pitched in and helped see us through challenging times. Let's invite all and party together! As Tyny Tim said, "God bless us, everyone."

Sincerely,
Don Volger



Week of Sept. 8-12

- Labor Day holiday: Crews will be off the project from Friday, Sept. 4, through Monday, Sept. 7, with work resuming on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

- Crews will begin traffic pattern changes after the Labor Day holiday. Motorists need to slow down and be on the lookout for traffic shifts throughout the project work zone.

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

- North 3rd Street intersection: Crews have completed concrete paving work and are preparing to re-open North 3rd Street.

- Work is scheduled to commence at the Harman Park and Piedra Road intersection at U.S. 160 in mid-September. Working hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Please allow extra time to get through the work zone.

- Pedestrian safety: Pedestrian crosswalks are open at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and Lewis streets. Our team continues to see pedestrians not practicing good

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Town’s new river access park given official name, data center moratorium approved

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Town of Pagosa Springs’ new river access park located at 1040 E. U.S. 160 has now been given a formal name, with the Pagosa Springs Town Council voting unanimously to name the park “San Juan River Park” at its Aug. 18 regular meeting.

In May 2025, the town acquired the four-acre property that formerly housed Bob’s LP for roughly \$800,000.

The main reason for the town’s acquisition of the property is to expand boater and recreational access to the San Juan River near downtown Pagosa Springs.

During the Aug. 18 meeting, Town Manager David Harris explained that, at the direction of the council, he and council member Leonard Martinez met with leaders at the Southern Ute Cultural Center “and we’ve had really good conversation with them.”

He explained that from that meeting, one suggestion for naming the park was to incorporate Spanish and Southern Ute history.

Harris noted that the town had yet

to receive a specific name suggestion and that there have also been conversations with the Jicarilla Apache tribe on the matter.

“Still comes back to the same issue,” Harris said.

He explained that town staff are running into issues with things like signage and potential grant opportunities by not having a formal name for the park.

“We just need to kind of formally name this baby,” he said.

Harris also explained that a “supplemental name” could be added at a later date, mentioning that it is common in communities across the country.

Harris mentioned that the name that kept popping up in conversations was San Juan River Park, noting that San Juan is a prevalent name in the region.

“It does help tell the story of our region to some degree,” he said.

Martinez explained that with the 150th celebration of Colorado’s statehood and the nation’s 250th anniversary, “we also found out” that it has been 260 years since the Spanish first saw the San Juan River.

Martinez explained that the Spanish chose to call it that, which led to San Juan being a popular name in the region for mountain ranges and forests.

“For me, I agree with getting started,” Martinez said, explaining he feels there is still work that can be done to come up with a more inclusive name for the park to end up “in a place that works for all of us.”

The council then unanimously approved a motion to name the new park the San Juan River Park and leave it to staff to add any supplemental name at a later point.

Other news

Also during the Aug. 18 meeting, the council unanimously approved the second reading of Ordinance 1037, authorizing a moratorium on the acceptance or processing of permit and land development applications where a data center is included as a proposed principal or accessory use.

Planning Manager Owen O’Dell explained that, earlier this summer, “council directed staff to draft a moratorium while we monitor the state

and nation on data center development across the country and specifically the technological advances and the impacts to human health safety, and ecological impacts.”

O’Dell also reminded the council that the six-month moratorium is “based on the preference from counsel” and that moratoriums can be extended.

Prior to voting on the ordinance, council member Madeline Bergon offered some comments on the matter, suggesting that the public should have a say in potentially finding a more long-term solution on data centers in the community.

“I think what we’re doing is really important, and I would also love for the community to have a say,” she said, explaining that if the public wants to take the initiative to put something on the ballot, “I think that would be a really good move for our community, just so that this decision isn’t solely resting on council.”

Mayor Shari Pierce indicated that the council could “give that some discussion” between now and the next election.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Water conservancy district talks Running Iron Ranch lease

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Aug. 17 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed moving forward with leasing a portion of the Running Iron Ranch, where the district plans to build a reservoir, to an adjoining landowner to allow their cattle to access water this fall.

SJWCD board president Randy Cooper explained that the adjacent landowner approached the district to use a small portion of the property from late August to the middle of September.

He stated that the SJWCD’s attorney drafted a lease agreement for the proposed arrangement.

SJWCD board member Candace Jones indicated that the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), which is a co-owner of the property, is aware of the arrangement and was coordinating with the SJWCD to answer any questions it had about the proposal.

“This is not a money-making kind of thing,” Jones said. “It’s more of a neighborly, kind of, let’s help our neighbors.”

She added that she would encourage the board to authorize Cooper to

finalize the lease agreement.

SJWCD board member John Kappelman raised concerns about the process, commenting that the district would likely be doing this lease for the “next several years” and that the U.S. Forest Service puts out grazing leases for bid, which he encouraged the district to also do, at least in the future.

“I totally understand the issue of neighborliness on this, but we’re also a public entity, and I think having a fully transparent process is the best way to go. And, I still think that there’s time to do that,” he said. “I don’t think that it’s necessary that we actually bid the lease to the one person who’s

requested it, but that we make it a public process.”

Cooper commented that he would agree with Kappelman about a lease of the entire property for grazing, but that a short-term, water-access-focused lease might not require it.

Kappelman reiterated his concerns about transparency, and SJWCD board member Rob Hagberg suggested that the district could advertise the lease opportunity in The SUN for a week to ensure transparency.

Cooper raised concerns that delaying approving the lease by the week or more that advertising the lease in The SUN would require could shut down the opportunity since the end of the season is near.

Jones suggested that the district could post notice about the lease opportunity on its website.

She also clarified that, while the lease does not include direct payments, it does involve fence repairs and fencing in the cattle to ensure they do not move onto other portions of the property.

Following further discussion, the board agreed to post the notice on its website, and Kappelman agreed to write the notice for the website.

Jones amended her motion to authorize Cooper to approve the lease if no other offers were received in the notice period.

The board then unanimously approved the motion.

In an Aug. 25 email, Cooper confirmed that the district did not receive any other bids to lease the property and that the lease went to the initial bidder.

According to the lease opportunity notice on the SJWCD website, the lease will be in effect between Aug. 21 and Sept. 15.

josh@pagosasun.com

Monday crash leaves two injured

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A two-vehicle crash occurred on U.S. 160 at Aspen Village Drive at about 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31.

According to Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock, the drivers of both vehicles were transported with injuries.

Rockensock explained that a Suba-

ru Forester driven by a male was in the left-hand turn lane on U.S. 160 waiting to turn and, while it had a flashing yellow light, decided to make its turn.

A Ford Explorer driven by a female was traveling eastbound on U.S. 160 approaching Aspen Village Drive, with the Explorer striking the Forester “almost head-on,” according to Rockensock.

Rockensock reported Tuesday the

extent of the female’s injuries were unknown, but she was transported. She was alone in the vehicle.

The male was also transported, with Rockensock explaining he did not believe the man received major injuries.

The man, he added, was charged with failing to yield to oncoming traffic when making a left-hand turn.

randi@pagosasun.com

Obituary

Kennie May Persson

Kennie May Persson (née Parrott) was born May 2, 1948, in Denver, Colo., and passed away in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on Aug. 22, 2026, after a brief illness with Alzheimer’s. She passed peacefully surrounded by family holding her hands as she took her last breath. Kennie was one of five children and an identical twin. She grew up in Southern California, but also spent some of her childhood



in Denver, Colo.

In 1973 she was introduced to her best friend and future husband of 51 years, Roger Persson. With that marriage came four children, whom she adored and raised as a stay at home mom: Troy (Amy), Trevor (Rocio), Tamara (David) and Tyr (Tara). Her children were her greatest accomplishments, and her pride and joy. There wasn’t a day that her children didn’t feel the love that she had to offer. She raised her kids right next door to her identical twin Pattie and treated her children — Melody, Andy and Scotty — as if her own receiving the same love that her own children did.

Kennie and Roger moved to Pagosa Springs in 1999, purchasing Las Montanas and running the restaurant for two years before selling

it and returning to work as a banker and in the oil fields. Grandchildren soon arrived, and Kennie relished in the role as a “Meemaw.” Camren, Isabelle, Cooper, Trevelyan, Talon, Knox, Sebastian, Octavia, Valentina and Maximiliano will miss their Meemaw beyond measure.

She is preceded in death by her beloved grandmother Bawmaw, who was more like a mother to her than a grandmother; her parents, NelRose and Kenneth, her identical twin sister Pattie Ray; and her identical twin brothers Stony and Brooke.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Hospice of Mercy. There are no services planned. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family is requesting any donations be made in her name to the Alzheimer’s association.



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Education

School district again accredited, schools receive performance ratings

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Aug. 31, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) released preliminary school and district accountability frameworks based on 2025-2026 data.

The annual performance frameworks are part of the state's accountability system and are used to accredit school districts and assign school ratings based on measures including academic achievement, academic growth and, for high schools and districts, postsecondary and workforce readiness.

Archuleta School District (ASD) was deemed an accredited school district for the third straight year.

In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the district was accredited with improvement, then improved to an accredited rating in 2023-2024.

During the ASD Board of Education meeting held on Tuesday, Sept. 1, ASD Superintendent Rick Holt commented that "this is the first year that all of our schools have been performance schools," meaning ASD remains a "performance district."

He also indicated that the elementary and high school campuses received "outstanding growth performances."

Schools can receive one of several plans, as described by the CDE's website:

- Performance plan: Schools with a Performance Plan are meeting expectations on the majority of performance metrics.
- Improvement plan: These schools are identified as lower per-

forming. They may be meeting expectations on some performance metrics, but they are not meeting or are only approaching expectations on many.

- Priority improvement plan: These schools are identified as low performing. They are not meeting or are only approaching expectations on most performance metrics. The state will provide support and oversight to these schools until they improve.

- Turnaround plan: These schools are identified as among the lowest performing schools in the state. They are not meeting or are only approaching expectations on most performance metrics. The state will provide support and oversight to these schools until they improve.

The performance ratings are based on assessment achievement and growth results, graduation rates, dropout rates, matriculation rates and participation rates.

According to CDE data, Pagosa Springs Elementary School's receipt of a performance plan is a step up from the improvement plan it received the last two years.

Pagosa Springs Middle School received a performance plan for the third year, according to the data.

Pagosa Springs High School again received a performance plan, as it has the last several years.

Pagosa Peak Open School received a performance plan, up from being on an improvement plan from 2023 to 2025.

San Juan Mountain School's determination is not currently available, with the CDE document indicating that rating is pending alternative

education campus (AEC) framework.

Last year, San Juan Mountain School received a rating of AEC: improvement plan.

Statewide results

According to the CDE, this year's results are generally in line with previous years.

"These preliminary frameworks give us an important picture of where schools and districts are making progress and where students need more support," said Colorado Education Commissioner Dr. Susana Córdova. "It is encouraging to see that most Colorado schools are meeting or exceeding state expectations and that fewer schools are on the Accountability Clock. At the same time, we know that too many students are still attending schools that are struggling to meet their needs. Our job is to learn from what is working, strengthen instruction where it matters most and partner with local leaders to provide the support schools need so that every student has access to a high-quality education."

The preliminary 2026-2027 ratings are available on the Performance Frameworks Results webpage at <https://bit.ly/3SKspOV> or the school and district dashboard at <https://bit.ly/3T76x0o>.

Key results of the preliminary release for 2026 (before the request to reconsider process) include:

- 55 percent of districts earned an Accredited or higher rating, the same as 2025.
- 65 percent of schools earned a performance plan type, compared to 66 percent in 2025.
- 148 schools are on "Performance

Watch," down from 176 in the 2025 preliminary frameworks. Of those, 31 improved enough to move to "On Watch" status, which puts them on a path to exit the Accountability Clock if they maintain improved performance.

The Colorado State Board of Education directs an improvement course of action for schools and districts on the Accountability Clock for five consecutive years.

The preliminary ratings will be finalized in the coming months.

School districts have until Oct. 15 to provide additional data through the "request to reconsider" process, which may result in a rating change before frameworks are presented to the Colorado Board of Education later this fall.

randi@pagosasun.com

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

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New 2027 Colorado driving laws target teen safety

Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles

Starting Jan. 1, 2027, getting a learner's permit in Colorado will require more comprehensive training for young motorists.

Under House Bill 24-1021, the state is rolling out updated education standards for all permit applicants under the age of 21.

Passed to enhance public safety and lower traffic fatalities among young drivers, these changes ensure every young driver receives formalized instruction before a permit is issued.

By targeting driver preparation early, the law provides new motorists with a thorough understanding of defensive driving, right of way rules, and road risks before they ever take the driver's seat.

Key changes to learner's permit requirements

The updated standards apply to any individual applying for a Colorado instruction permit on or after Jan. 1, 2027:

- Applicants ages 15 through 17: Must complete an approved 30-hour

driver education course (online or in-person) before receiving a permit. This eliminates previous exemptions that allowed 15.5- to 16-year-olds to bypass the full course in favor of a four-hour class.

- Applicants ages 18 through 21: Must complete either the 30-hour driver education course or an intensive four-hour driver awareness program before a permit is issued. Previously, this age group had no mandatory education requirements.

- Motorcycle riders under 21: Must successfully complete a motorcycle safety training program approved by the Colorado State Patrol.

Existing rules remain in place

Existing graduated driver licensing laws remain strictly enforced. Drivers under 18 must still hold their permit for a mandatory 12 months and complete a 50-hour supervised driving log. Drivers under 16 years and 6 months must also complete six hours of behind-the-wheel training with a driving instructor.

Note on current permits: These new education requirements do not

apply to individuals who obtain their learner's permit prior to Jan. 1, 2027, even if they test for their driver's license after that date.

State officials urge Colorado families to plan ahead for the 2027 transition. Because driver education certificates are valid for six months, teenagers and adults 15 through 21 planning to apply for their permits in early 2027 should schedule their required courses in the second half of 2026.

Beware of any driving school or individual offering a "guaranteed pass." Legitimate driving schools cannot guarantee a passing score, as testing must adhere to strict state standards to ensure road safety. To learn more about "guaranteed pass" scams, visit <https://dmv.colorado.gov/fraud-alertsscams#FakeGuaranteedPassDrivingSchools>.

For more details on the upcoming education requirement changes, visit <https://dmv.colorado.gov/hb24-1021-motor-vehicle-minor-driver-education>.

For driving schools and driver education resources, visit <https://dmv.colorado.gov/drivereducation>.

Daniels Scholarship applications open

Daniels Fund

Graduating high school seniors in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming are encouraged to take a chance on themselves and apply for the Daniels Scholarship, which provides up to the full cost of attendance colleges and universities across the country. Applications opened on Sept. 1 and will be open through October 15.

The Daniels Scholarship Program, one of the most comprehensive and generous in the country, provides the opportunity for motivated students to attend any accredited nonprofit college or university in the United States as follows:

- Scholars who choose one of 25 partner schools receive funding to cover their full cost of attendance including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and other educational expenses.
- Students choosing to attend col-

leges other than the Daniels Scholarship's partner schools are eligible to receive up to \$100,000 over four years for schools outside the four-state region of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, and up to \$30,000 over four years at non-partner institutions within it.

- Selection criteria for the Daniels Scholarship include strength of character, leadership potential, commitment to serving their community, academic performance or promise, well-rounded personality, and emotional maturity and stability.

"Bill Daniels encouraged young people to take a chance on themselves, and applying for this scholarship is exactly that," said Hanna Skandera Grady, president and CEO of the Daniels Fund. "If a student meets the scholarship criteria but wonders whether they have a shot, my advice is simple: Apply. Many of our Daniels Scholars and alumni once doubted they had a chance but took the leap

anyway — and it changed their lives."

In addition to funding, Daniels Scholars receive networking opportunities, unique and exclusive educational experiences, leadership development opportunities, career development, and financial literacy and civics knowledge for life beyond college.

With more than 3,600 Daniels Scholar alumni now graduated and in the workforce, the Daniels Scholarship has had a profound impact on thousands of aspiring college students and their families.

Applications for the scholarship close at 4 p.m. on Oct. 15, and finalists will be notified in January. The first step typically takes less than an hour to complete. Following a personal interview process, scholarship recipients are announced in late March.

The online application and additional information on the Daniels Scholarship are available at danielsfund.org/scholarships.

Governor launches Governor for a Day contest

Colorado Governor's Office

On Monday, Aug. 31, Gov. Jared Polis announced a new contest inviting Colorado seventh- and eighth-graders to be governor for a day and join Polis at the State Capitol.

The Governor for a Day competition gives one student who is passionate about state government and Colorado the chance to see firsthand how state government works, from sitting in on meetings to learning what it takes to

lead Colorado.

"Young Coloradans are our future, and there's no better way to get involved in state government than by being governor for a day. Every day, I work hard on behalf of Coloradans to build a brighter future for our state, and I can't wait to show one of our students what that looks like firsthand. Colorado's next generation of leaders is already in our classrooms, and I'm excited to give one of them a special opportunity to serve alongside me for a day," said Polis.

Colorado students in seventh and eighth grade can enter the contest, with submissions closing on Sept. 7. The Governor's Office will announce the winner on Sept. 14, who will then join Polis in Denver for a behind-the-scenes look at a day in the life of Colorado's governor.

To enter the contest, students must fill out the form and submit a video between 30 seconds and two minutes long explaining why they want to be the governor of Colorado for a day.

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Enjoy donuts, coffee and meet other community members.

Following this meeting, if you wish to assist, we will be dividing up areas to canvass in groups and answer questions about the bond issue.

Contact Dee McPeck to volunteer, designbyd70@gmail.com or 970-317-3224
Lisa Scott, campaign manager, 970-749-4268

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Colorado announces settlement with Meta Platforms

Colorado Attorney General's Office

Social media giant Meta Platforms Inc. will pay more than \$17 billion and implement sweeping child-safety reforms on Instagram and Facebook under a nationwide settlement, Attorney General Phil Weiser announced On Aug. 26.

The multistate settlement with Meta is one of the largest state consumer protection settlements in history.

The agreement, subject to court approval, resolves claims by 47 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands that Meta designed Instagram with addictive features, knowingly exposed young users to serious mental harms, and intentionally misled the public about the safety of its platforms, among other things.

Under the settlement, Colorado will receive close to \$615 million over nine years, which will go directly to protecting and restoring the mental health and safety of Colorado children.

Weiser stated the settlement is a monumental victory for protecting America's children and will fundamentally transform how the entire social media industry designs products for kids and teens.

"The relief we are getting in this settlement is very meaningful and well beyond what any court has ordered or is likely to order," Weiser said

on Aug. 26. "The focus of this case was to protect our kids — stopping notifications and alerts at night and when they are in school, encouraging them to take breaks from social media, protecting them against harmful features, implementing age assurance technology and more. Today's action is an important step forward and I welcome Meta's decision to accept responsibility and to collaborate with the multistate coalition to protect kids who deserve better."

Weiser also acknowledged that this problem extends well beyond one company, and the settlement with Meta could set the standard for the industry.

The settlement requires Meta to implement a series of safety features on Instagram and Facebook, including:

- Hard cap daily time limits and "Productive Pauses" for children: for Instagram and Facebook, a combined two-hour daily time limit with mandatory pauses after 15 minutes of continuous use and again at 60 and 90 minutes to interrupt endless scrolling. These limits remain in effect for five years. If Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube adopt comparable terms, the daily limit on each platform will drop to 60 minutes for 10 years.
- "Nighttime blocks" restricting children's access from midnight to 6 a.m.
- Limited school-time access for children, eliminating push notifica-

tions on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year.

- Robust age assurance measures to more effectively verify the age of young users.
- Safer, age-appropriate content controls, including stronger safeguards against bullying, content promoting eating disorders, and content related to suicide and self-harm.
- Stronger, more user-friendly parental controls.
- Limits on social comparison features, including beauty filters and visible "like" counts, that have been linked to poor mental health outcomes in kids and teens.

Both the implementation and effectiveness of the features will be regularly assessed by an independent auditor and the settling states.

These are groundbreaking changes to Instagram and Facebook and more significant and comprehensive than previously ordered by any court. Perhaps most importantly, this settlement represents a down payment toward an industry-wide social media experience that allows kids to connect in a healthy way.

Beginning in 2021, nearly every attorney general in the country cooperated to investigate the social media industry for designing and promoting platforms to children and teens despite known harms. After a bipartisan, nationwide investigation found that Meta designed Instagram's features to addict children while

internally documenting the resulting mental health harms and failing to warn parents, attorneys general sued Meta individually or as part of a consolidated federal lawsuit.

This settlement resolves those cases, including the states' ongoing trial in federal court in Oakland, Calif., and claims by the other settling states and territories.

The settlement also separately resolves the states' claims against Meta for its sharing of nonpublic information about Facebook users with third parties, like Cambridge Analytica, to garner support for political candidates leading up to the 2016 election. Colorado will receive an additional \$11.4 million to settle those claims.

The attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming joined the settlement.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library to close Sept. 4-11 ahead of Sept. 12 grand opening

By Barbara Brattin
SUN Columnist

Ten days to go until we open our doors to a brand new, beautiful library.

We are spending a week moving everything from storage back into the old section of the building. Our grand opening will be Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature a full slate of ceremonies, programs, tours and activities.

Here's the program lineup:
• 9 a.m.: Remarks and ceremonial blessing by members of the Southern Ute tribe. Charles Martinez will follow the ceremony with a flute performance.
• 9:30 a.m.: Raising of the flag and the national anthem performed by Sara Hurley.

- 9:45 a.m.: Ribbon cutting.
- 10 a.m.: Tree dedication. If you purchased a tree, you will have a tree marker available to place at the tree of your choosing.
- 10:15 a.m.: Children's Garden trough planting. Join community experts to learn how to layer a grow trough and help plant the four garden troughs.
- 11 a.m.: Storytime with Smokey Bear. Join us in the children's room for a special Storytime with Smokey and his friend, Ranger Josh Peck.
- 1 p.m.: Jesse the Juggler will wow you with a dynamic performance.
- 1:30 p.m.: Balloon animals. Take home an artistic keepsake.
- 2 p.m.: Musical performances by local bands in the community garden.

New Craft and Hobby database marks makerspace opening

To celebrate the opening of our new makerspace, we are launching a new database called Craft and Hobby.

Packed with videos for all ages teaching skills like sewing, wood-working, gardening and outdoor photography, Craft and Hobby is available free with your library card online from home or on the go.

We are planning lots of hands-on activities in the new makerspace and will be using Craft and Hobby to provide instruction for participants.

Take a look at the extensive catalog of instructional video at <https://www.pagosalibrary.org/how-to>.

Radon detectors available for checkout

The Colorado State library recently partnered with the Colorado

Department of Public Health and Environment to provide a limited number of radon detectors to libraries for circulation.

The Ruby Sisson Library has two units available to check out with a library card for a three-week loan. Instructions are included in the kit. Reserve one through the library catalog or ask at the front desk.

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 arrives, 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 differ-

ent 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.

Tech Time

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

New books collections brimming with interesting titles

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

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

- "Death Times Seven," is the sev-

enth and final historical mystery novel in "Queen of Historical Crime," Anne Perry's Daniel Pitt series, published posthumously on April 14.

- Author Christine Kuehn delivers "Family of Spies," a World War II story of Nazi espionage, betrayal, and the secret history behind Pearl Harbor.
- "The Parisian Heist," from best-selling author Jo Piazza, is a thriller set in the world of fine art, where fortunes are built on secrets and ambitions.

New fiction

• New Zealander poet Louise Wallace delivers her first work of fiction, "Ash," a slim novel with a powerful protagonist on the verge of unprecedented change when an environmental disaster upends her already precarious life.

- "Men Like Us" from writer Carson Markland is a fictionalized account of Bobby Kennedy's political ambitions and his special relationship with sister-in-law Jackie Kennedy.
- Author Beatriz Williams weaves a story of a 300-year-old treasure hunt, family drama, and a second chance at love and forgiveness on Winthrop Island in "When You Loved Me."

For the changemakers

- "Your Desired Future: The 5 Essential Steps That Take You Where You Want to Go." Psychologist and leadership expert Dr. Henry Cloud provides solid advice for saving a relationship, improving your health, building your business or strengthening teams.
- "On Courage: How to be a Dissident in an Age of Fear." Investigative journalist Julia Angwin teams up with policy advisor Ami Fields-Meyer to interview thousands of successful changemakers for advice on how to fight for what you believe and win.
- "From Presence to Power: How to Take on the Fights That Matter- and Win." Campaign organizer Rashad Robinson shares his strategies for building a more equitable world.

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Archuleta County Republican Women to meet Sept. 9

By Michele Turney
Archuleta County Republican Women

The Archuleta County Republican Women will have their September meeting at Boss Hogg's Restaurant on Sept. 9 from noon to 1 p.m.

Perry Schjolin will speak on "27 Reasons Why the Declaration of Independence Was Needed."

All Republicans are welcome to attend.

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Addressing hearing loss early helps keep you connected to conversations, supports brain health, and promotes long-term quality of life.



970.444.2314

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

40th annual Colorfest set for Sept. 18-20

By **Sandy Douthey**
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Mark your calendars for Sept. 18-20, when Colorfest returns for a full weekend of fall color, community spirit and high-flying fun.

Hosted by the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Colorfest has become one of Pagosa's most recognizable annual traditions, drawing visitors and locals alike to enjoy the beautiful display of balloons.

The weekend begins on Sept. 18, with the Passport to Pagosa, scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. with live music from Maxwell Miller. This evening offers attendees the opportunity to celebrate Pagosa's culinary community while encouraging people to discover and support the businesses that make the area unique. Each

participant will be able to vote for the restaurant with the Best Vegetarian, Best Sweet Indulgence, Most Flavorful and Most Original dish. There will also be voting for the Best Decorated Booth and overall People's Choice.

On Sept. 19, the celebration will continue with Bands, Brews and Barrels from 4 to 8 p.m. Guests will enjoy live music from Tylor Brandon and Bo DePeña. Beer and spirits will be available, and attendees can cast votes in the People's Choice Brewer and Distiller Contest. There will be a variety of food trucks available that evening, as well. The evening will end with a stunning balloon glow by our Colorfest pilots, and immediately following the glow will be the state of Colorado drone show. It will be a can't-miss viewing.

Colorfest would not be complete without its signature hot air balloons.

Weather permitting, balloon launches are planned for approximately 8 a.m. Saturday in downtown Pagosa Springs, south of The Springs Resort, and again around 8 a.m. Sunday uptown, across from Les Schwab.

Tickets for the Passport to Pagosa and Bands, Brews and Barrels events are available through the Chamber website, pagosachamber.com, or by calling the Chamber office at (970) 264-2360.

Making your membership work

In addition to its major community events, the Chamber encourages members to participate in its monthly Maximizing Your Membership sessions.

Members or prospective members can learn more about networking opportunities, event promotion, sponsor-

ship options, educational programs, marketing tools, and ways to strengthen their business listing and presence within the Chamber network.

The sessions also give members a chance to ask questions directly and identify benefits that best fit their goals. Our sessions are monthly, with the next one being Sept. 8 at 9 a.m. at the Chamber office. Call our office to reserve your spot now: (970) 264-2360.

Whether enjoying a sunrise balloon launch during Colorfest, sampling local flavors at Passport to Pagosa, listening to music at Bands, Brews and Barrels, or learning how to better use Chamber resources, there are many ways to be involved this season.

The Chamber invites everyone to attend Colorfest, support participating businesses and help give a warm Pagosa welcome to all our visitors.

Water districts move forward on water right diligence applications

By **Josh Pike**
Staff Writer

At recent meetings, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the Pagosa Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) boards of directors approved applications for findings of reasonable diligence for several water rights held by the districts.

In Colorado, a finding of reasonable diligence reserves a priority date for a water right associated with a project that is in development for a six-year period. The application process, which begins with filing with the water court, requires the applicant to show that they are actively and diligently working toward the completion of the project which the right will be used to support.

Findings of reasonable diligence can be renewed, as is the case for the applications that the SJWCD and

PAWSD approved.

At an Aug. 13 meeting, the PAWSD Board of Directors unanimously approved applications for findings of reasonable diligence for three sets of water rights, including rights for the San Juan River intake, a group of rights associated with the Dry Gulch Reservoir project that the SJWCD leads development on, and a second enlargement on a water right in Dutton Ditch.

The Dry Gulch and Dutton Ditch water rights are held by both PAWSD and the SJWCD, while the San Juan right is exclusive to PAWSD.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson pointed out that these water rights are not rights PAWSD is currently using, but are rights that could be developed in the future if the district needs them.

He added that, if these applications were opposed, it could be "very

expensive" for the district to defend the rights in court and the board would have to make a decision about whether or not to retain them.

However, he expressed hope that there would not be opposition.

Prior to approving the application associated with the Dry Gulch water rights, PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh expressed his hope that "this filing is based on [the SJWCD's] promise that they made to us 10 years ago that they were searching out federal, state, corporate, tribal partners to find funding for a reservoir for broad communities, pretty much encapsulated in their Wilson Water Group survey which has agricultural, piscatorial, environment, recreational and three different possible needs for drinking water, which I think is fine. ... I certainly hope it's not based on the old Steve Harris projections that this district, which

sells 1,200 acre feet of water and isn't even using any water from an 1,800 acre foot reservoir needs a 10,000 acre foot reservoir. I just strongly hope that this application is based on [the SJWCD's] currently stated plans for a very broad-based reservoir."

Hudson and Walsh also commented that they would like a more detailed report on what these water rights are and why they are important to the district prior to approving another diligence application for them.

At an Aug. 17 meeting, the SJWCD Board of Directors also unanimously approved diligence filings for the Dry Gulch and Dutton Ditch water rights.

SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane explained to the board that he would file the joint application for the Dry Gulch water rights, while PAWSD's legal counsel would file the application for the Dutton Ditch water rights.

josh@pagosasun.com

SENIOR NEWS

Back to school: Be aware of increased traffic, activity

By **Ricardo Martinez**
SUN Columnist

School is back in session, so seniors should be especially aware of the increased traffic and activity around schools, neighborhoods and bus stops.

Children can be unpredictable and may suddenly step into the street, so drivers should slow down, stay alert and avoid distractions such as cellphones. Be especially cautious in school zones, near crosswalks and when approaching stopped school buses.

Seniors who walk for exercise or errands should also use crosswalks whenever possible, wear bright or reflective clothing during early morning or evening hours, and remain aware of vehicles backing out of driveways or parking spaces.

Back-to-school season is a good reminder that safety requires everyone to pay attention. Seniors should allow extra time when traveling, avoid rushing through busy areas, and keep their focus on the road and sidewalk.

Drivers should watch carefully for children walking, riding bicycles or crossing streets, especially during the morning and afternoon school commute.

By slowing down, staying alert and practicing patience, seniors can help keep themselves, their neighbors and the children in our community safe as another school year begins.

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.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive a notifica-

tion 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 ■ See Senior A8

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Bond

■ **Continued from front**
engaging with the community about the future of ASD's buildings.

He noted if the district were to build the PK-8 campus uptown, "this ballot language would fund that."

Holt also explained that there is still a chance that the district might receive grant funding from the state's Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program this year "since we were the first runner-up" in the program's grant applications.

"In order to accept those dollars, should they become available to us, we would need to have the matching dollars in hand, which means we will have had to demonstrate that we have passed our matching bond," Holt said.

In May, ASD announced that it was the first on the waiting list for a BEST grant this year with its \$50 million application request.

Holt noted that there is a benefit for the district if the bond measure is approved now given that building costs are increasing every year.

"That could benefit us greatly," he said, adding there is an "urgency to create that match."

BoE member Amanda Schick commented that the ballot language has been reviewed by professionals,

and that it "supported everything that we have been working for, or towards."

Holt also mentioned that specific language was added that states, "with the funding subject to an annual audit by an independent third-[party] expert," even though that is not required by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

"That is our offer to the community to continue to engage and be transparent about how those dollars are being spent," he said.

Holt commented that TABOR rules around ballot measure wording "are sometimes challenging."

He explained that three separate values have to be presented on the ballot, with one indicating how much the matching ask is, a second value showing the maximum amount the community would pay back and a third value showing how much would be collected yearly to service the debt.

"We want it to be as clear as possible, but TABOR law adds awesome complexity to it," Holt said.

According to a press release from the district, "The estimated tax impact of the bond is approximately \$5.15 per month for every \$100,000 of a home's actual value, which is gener-

ally less than a home's market value."

Schick also encouraged the board to be active in communicating with the public about what exactly the district is asking voters to approve.

"For me, this accurately reflects the culmination of a long process of listening to the public," Lynch said, explaining that the district made progress in choosing to build a new school rather than continuing to invest money in its existing buildings.

He also mentioned that the district made a "hard choice to build in a better spot," with that being the uptown location.

He noted the uptown location would cost less and be a "better place" to spend public dollars, rather than compromising outdoor space by building downtown.

Lynch added that the uptown site is a "wiser" choice about "what's going to serve kids better."

Other comments from the board were made about the lack of information, or misinformation, amongst the community.

BoE member Butch Mackey commented that he's been surprised how "people do not understand that we already own that land," talking about the Vista Boulevard site.

Lynch explained that the district

has owned that land for almost 60 years.

Holt also pointed out that a unique feature of this ballot measure "is that it's contingent on us getting money from BEST. That means that if the ballot measure were to pass and we didn't get money from BEST, we would not collect those dollars from the community until we were given money from BEST."

He explained that, currently, the BEST program offers a 40 percent match on the total building cost, essentially giving the district an opportunity to get 40 percent off of a new school building "that we desperately need."

BoE member Tim Taylor mentioned that BEST dollars are guaranteed for next year, though the exact amount is not known yet.

He also noted that, going forward, it is uncertain if BEST will continue to be a long-term program.

Lynch added that the district has also received strong community interest on what to do with the old elementary and middle school buildings, mentioning that he hopes there will be a "real ripple effect" of adding other important assets to the community.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Access

■ **Continued from front**
with the property owners to have the access road repaired and properly maintained.

"It is not my desire to close Country Center [Drive] ... but it has been years that we have been trying to get any movement into repairing and maintaining the accesses off of Country Center [Drive] into the shopping center that has multiple businesses," Brown said.

Brown mentioned that the closure would affect businesses, stating that is not his intent with bringing forward the access closure.

He explained that his intent with the closure is to bring the property owners together "to form an agreement to get this done."

Brown then offered an anecdotal story of a constituent who spoke at a previous meeting claiming she had

been injured while driving on the access road.

"It would not be surprising to me," Brown said of that story.

He mentioned cars are often forced into large potholes in order to avoid oncoming traffic.

"We have to do something to have these businesses collectively come together and agree to get this done," Brown said, explaining that otherwise he fears the community will be met with the same resolution as it has in the past few years, "which is almost nothing."

He added, "I don't want to do this, but I don't know what else we can do."

Gonzalez mentioned that since the last joint meeting between the BoCC and the Pagosa Springs Town Council, one ownership group in the Country Center Drive complex had

indicated to the county that it is looking to do some short-term repairs to the access road.

Gonzalez also indicated that he and Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harris are working to coordinate a meeting with "hopefully all" of the property owners in the complex.

Commissioner John Ranson commended Brown's work on the matter, adding that that closure is a "bold move."

He explained that he was struggling on which way to vote on posting the closure notice, due to one of the property owners being the same owner of the Camino Real building that the county has recently been considering purchasing for its administration building.

"I'm willing to take that risk because I think it's more important for

our constituents to drive in and out of there," he said.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini explained that there are some public notice requirements that the county will have to meet in order to close the access road.

"We will take all the steps to make sure that we do have authority to close the road when that time period has been completed," she said.

In response to a question from Ranson, Giovannini explained that there are multiple parties involved in making sure the road is safe, "but not the county."

She explained that the county is responsible for maintaining North Pagosa Boulevard, but that the property owners are responsible for the access road into the Country Center Drive shopping complex.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Senior

■ **Continued from A7**
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, 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.

Monday, Sept. 7 — Closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, Sept. 8 — BBQ pork ribs; creamed corn, spinach and mushrooms; garden salad; fruit; chocolate cake; and milk.

Wednesday, Sept. 9 — Greek chicken wrap, cucumber salad, spanakopita, tzatziki sauce, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Sept. 10 — Chicken salad on a croissant, broccoli salad, deviled eggs, garden salad, fruit, hazelnut beignets and milk.

Friday, Sept. 11 — Chef salad with assorted meats and cheese with egg and avocado, tomato basil soup, focaccia bread, garden salad, banana, and milk.

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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.

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nient 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 Agen-

cy on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

Board vacancies

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

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

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

Support the Senior Center

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

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing

and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

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

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: www.psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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



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Town to discontinue summer camp program

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At the Sept. 1 Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis recommended to the council that the town-run kids' summer camp be discontinued.

Lewis explained that this recommendation came with a "heavy heart," as he launched and ran the K.I.D.S. (Kickin' It During Summer) camp since 2016.

He cited continued security and safety concerns with holding the kids' camp at the Ross Aragon Community Center since the building is open to the general public and as the state of Colorado has increased regulations around child security for camps over the last few years.

It would be "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to upgrade that building to

meet the security requirements, he explained.

If the camp continued in the Community Center building, "it would be very difficult if a situation occurred," he said.

The "stringent security thing is a big part" of why he stated he was recommending the town to discontinue the program.

It wasn't so much how it affected the kids, he added, but is more about "those trying to use the facilities that are not kids" when the camp is going on.

He cited adults who use the facilities for showers and the gym and how difficult it was to have the kids secure from the general population.

He said, "We need to find someone else to take over," adding that he had spoken to the director of the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI), Rebecca

Tenpenny, about taking this project on.

"She said that she feels like she can fill this gap," he said, "and it's time to move on from this and go down a different road."

He added, "If PCI could do it, I'd feel more comfortable."

The Parks and Recreation Department is also looking into doing "one-week camps, every other week — a variety of different camps that have different instructors," he said.

"You're not regulated by the state when you have those ... and we won't have to subsidize these camps," citing a \$42,000 cost for last year's town-run camp.

Council member Leonard Martinez stated that he was "caught off guard by this," saying that he didn't "know this was coming."

"I think about the families who need this in the summer time while

at work," Martinez said, adding that he worries that the cost of a camp run by PCI might be unaffordable to some families.

He also asked Lewis if this would impact town staff at all, with Lewis replying that the Parks and Rec staff wouldn't really be affected.

Council member Gary Williams suggested that the council should fund PCI at a higher amount, through its early childhood education funding, if it takes on the responsibility of the camp.

Council member Brooks Lindner suggested that if a new school facility gets built, the town could revisit running the camp in that facility.

When a motion was made to discontinue the program, it was passed by the council, with Leonard Martinez voting against it.

derek@pagosasun.com

Housing

■ Continued from front

to show how they intend to expand housing in the community.

At the meeting, Mary Chase, representing ECONorthwest, updated the two elected bodies about the progress being made on the housing action plan.

She explained that the draft housing action plan was based on a housing needs assessment adopted by both the BoCC and town council in 2025.

A slide show, presented by Chase, describes a housing needs assessments as telling "the story of housing needs in the community," while housing action plans "are 6-year action-driven guides to addressing those needs."

Chase explained that it's a requirement of the housing action plan to have a long-term affordability strategy, a displacement mitigation plan and to show "standard affordability strategies."

But, Medina pointed out that she noticed in the draft housing action plan a plan to set up a new multi-jurisdictional housing authority.

She claimed that it's not a requirement of the housing action plan, nor of Proposition 123, to set up a new

local housing authority.

"I feel like [this draft housing action plan] misses the mark on what's expected of us to do," she said.

She cited the fact that the Archuleta County Housing Authority (ACHA) already exists.

While not a direct department of the county government, the ACHA is a board with governing documents and often collaborates with the county on affordable housing projects.

The ACHA manages local housing complexes, such as the Rose Mountain Townhomes and Casa de los Arcos.

Medina questioned why "we would create another layer," or what she called "a duplicate agency," when the ACHA already exists.

"These are all things that cost a lot of money," and the county "doesn't have money to pay for another agency," she said.

"I agree, Commissioner John Ransom said. 'It doesn't make sense.'"

Commissioner Warren Brown questioned if the ACHA "might be at its capacity" and unable to take on a bigger role.

Medina responded that she does not think that the ACHA is at capacity,

saying she had not heard that from any of her conversations.

Later in the meeting, ACHA board chairman Clifford Lucero said, "We more than have the capacity to do everything you talked about tonight," in order to meet the requirements of the housing action plan.

Lucero explained that, most recently, ACHA helped "the apartment project by Walmart get going" and is looking to assist to purchase the building by McDonald's "to get that going."

"We have the capacity. You guys are more than welcome to come sit down with us to talk to see what we do and what we can do," he said.

He reiterated the ACHA has the capacity.

"We absolutely do have the capacity," he said, suggesting that it focuses on those in the 50 percent range of the area median income.

During a work session held by the BoCC the following day, Tuesday, Aug. 25, Medina explained that the ACHA is an established entity that is recognized by the state as the housing authority for Archuleta County.

She also indicated that the county could possibly help contribute fund-

ing to help cover the costs associated with managing the deed restrictions on the workforce housing being developed by the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC).

"Well, maybe that's a conversation we should have, maybe that is something the county could help foot that cost for the [ACHA] to manage that, because at some point ... we have an obligation to set some guidance or an objective for our housing authority," she said. "I think they've just been given free reign as far as not really hearing from the county commissioners on what should be done in the community."

Commissioner Warren Brown spoke about how the community's entities should be able to work together, indicating that he liked Medina's suggestion of bringing the ACHA, PSCDC, town and county together to have a housing-specific meeting.

Medina also expressed more dissatisfaction during the work session in regard to the housing action plan that was presented during the joint meeting, stating, "I was not happy with the document at all."

She explained that felt like there was no real plan, other than to create a multi-jurisdictional housing authority.

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By Allison Brown

At Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs, Dr. Justin Nylund, DDS, reminds patients that caring for their gums is an important part of protecting their overall health.

Periodontal disease, commonly known as gum disease, is a slowly progressing condition that can damage the tissues and bone supporting the teeth. Without treatment, it can eventually lead to loose teeth and tooth loss. Its effects may extend beyond the mouth.

Research has found associations between periodontal disease and several systemic health conditions, including diabetes and heart disease. Gum disease also has been linked to respiratory disease.

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Sports

FOOTBALL



Pirate running back Alex Pacheco breaks away from a Salida defender while rushing the ball during Pagosa’s matchup against the Spartans on Friday, Aug. 28. Pacheco led the Pirates in rushing yards on the night, racking 217 yards and three touchdowns on 14 carries.

Pirates take down Salida 41-6 in home opener

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team took down the Salida Spartans at home on Friday, Aug. 28, by a score of 41-6.

With the victory against Salida, the Pirates now own a 1-1 record after their first two games of the season, which also includes a 31-0 loss to the Centauri Falcons on Aug. 21.

Coach Nathan Morales explained that one of the main differences in the Pirates’ first two performances is that “we executed better offensively and defensively” against Salida.

“We got better this past week,” Morales said, adding that the team had “better” practices leading up to the game against Salida.

“We gotta continue to get better each week,” he said, indicating the Pirates have another tough matchup this Friday, Sept. 4, against the St. Pius X Sartans from Albuquerque, N.M.

“We’re working hard this week to

hopefully prepare ourselves for success on Friday night,” he said.

Morales also explained that St. Pius X is a “good football team” that competes in New Mexico’s 4A division.

He noted that the Sartans lost in the New Mexico state championship last season against the Bloomfield Bobcats.

Morales also talked about the importance of facing quality teams early on in the season and using that experience to prepare for the kind of teams the Pirates expect to face off against in the playoffs.

He noted that “there are a lot of good teams” in the Pirates’ league this year, as well.

“It’s good to get an early-season matchup like we do with playoff teams like Centauri and St. Pius,” he said, explaining that heading into league play with that experience is beneficial for the Pirates.

“So, we want to play tough teams, because... we know we’re a tough team and we want to get better,” he said. “We got some tough games on our schedule

this year, but we’re tough, too.”

In their game against the Salida Spartans, the Pirates put up a total of 390 yards on offense.

They were led by running back Alex Pacheco, who put up 217 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 14 carries, with his longest rush on the night going for 99 yards.

Colby Ross rushed for a total of 23 yards on five carries, and Gage Sams tallied 10 yards on two carries.

Hudson Mazur came up with the Pirates’ other two touchdowns, racking up 101 yards on seven carries on the night.

Kasen Limebrook completed two out of four pass attempts to Mazur for a total of 44 yards.

“Kasen made some good throws,” Morales said.

Morales also talked about the Pirates’ backfield, mentioning that there are multiple running backs “that really play off of each other.”

He commented that Mazur and

■ See Football A11

SUN photo/Randi Pierce



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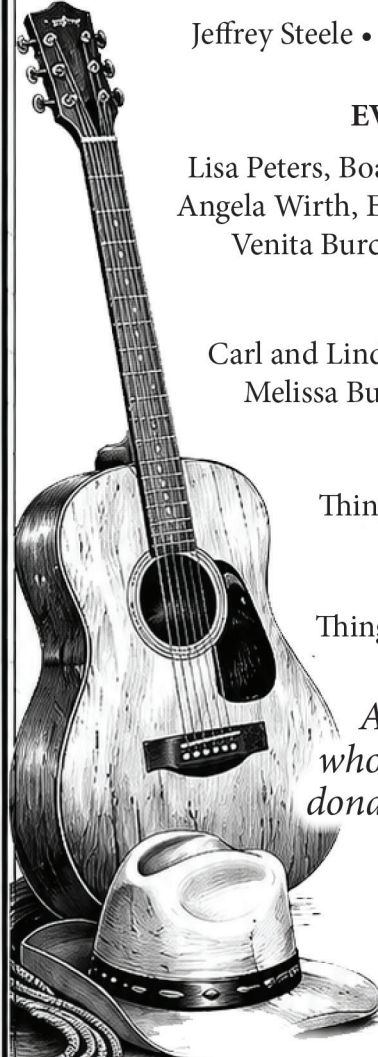
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Soccer

Pirates show ‘great foundation’ in loss to No. 1 Piedra Vista

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team lost its season opener to the No. 1 5A squad in New Mexico on Thursday, Aug. 27, despite leading for three-quarters of the game.

The Pirates, who had a tournament in New Mexico canceled earlier this season, had to wait longer than they expected to step onto the pitch for the first time.

Piedra Vista was 3-0 coming into the game against Pagosa Springs and had only conceded one goal all season.

Coach Trevor Gian explained he was just excited that the team was going to get a chance to play together at game speed for the first time.

Gian's main message to the team was to slow the game down early and to not get behind early, that's exactly what they did, he noted.

"We came out fantastic," Gian said. "I think the way we started the game, our approach to it was amazing."

In the first 10 minutes of the game, the Pirates had a goal called back for offside, but Gian indicated it showed the boys that they could get in behind the defense. Shortly after, Ryder King received a cross in the box and buried the ball in the back of the net to give the Pirates 1-0 lead.

The score stayed that way for the rest of the first half.

"We were kind of dictating the way we wanted to with our formation, with our plan going into that game, with our tactics, and [we were] definitely excited," Gian said. "The way we started that game, obviously going 1-0 at halftime, I was extremely happy and proud of the team."

In the second half, Piedra Vista started to wear down the Pirates,



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Ryder King works to control the ball during the team's season opener against Piedra Vista on Aug. 27. King notched one goal in the matchup.

emphasized Gian, and in the final 20 minutes they scored three goals and won the game 3-1.

Gian explained he could tell that the boys were tired and that their fitness wasn't all there yet.

Once Piedra Vista scored its first goal, the Pirates got out of formation and stopped executing, noted Gian, and the goal proved to be a big momentum swing.

Despite the loss, Gian remained positive.

"All around a great foundation for our season to start a game like that

against that team," he said. "Yeah, ... extremely excited about that."

Gian highlighted the efforts of King on offense, Niilo Pietila and Hudson Davis in the middle of the field, and Ryder Davis and Oliver Samu on defense after the game.

Up next, The Pirates will face the Aztec Tigers from New Mexico, who are 0-1, on Saturday, Sept. 5, at home.

Aztec lost some players earlier this year and couldn't field a varsity team. Their lone loss was a forfeit.

"They [are] probably going to be

on the younger side and less experienced," Gian said. "We're hoping to get into that game and work on some of the stuff in the game situation that we want to work on in training. Kind of put it to practice there."

Gian explained he wants his team to work on controlling the possession and adding in more build-up play against Aztec.

"I was very impressed with our team, with how they played, and excited for what we'll be able to do going forward," Gian said.

jsellner@ourorkemediagroup.com

Football

■ Continued from A10

Ross "run the ball well" and that the Pirates are able to get the ball to four or five different players just by handing it off on misdirection plays.

Morales mentioned that Pacheco is "physical" and "fast," noting that it was good to have him back after he missed the first game against Centauri.

Morales also praised the Pirates' offensive line, explaining that a few changes were made from week one, and that it may get tweaked again for this Friday's game.

"The line, I thought, did a great job," he said.

Morales mentioned the Pirates are still figuring out their best offensive outfit and finding which players fit in the best roles.

"We're figuring that out," he said.

On the defensive side, Zander Lefthandbull led the Pirates in tackles for the second week in a row, tallying five solo tackles on the night.

Morales also praised the Pirates' defensive line, mentioning it is "wrecking havoc" on pass and run plays, while also controlling its gaps.

"They're doing such a good job," he said.

Lefthandbull and Jimmy Elledge each recorded one sack on the night.

Morales also commented on Lefthandbull's importance to the team over the past few seasons.

"He's been such a good player for us the last couple years. He just has a nose for the football," he said.

Morales explained that Lefthandbull also "does his job," and "that's what makes him special."

He added, "He's a very special player for us," noting that he wants the team to continue to follow Lefthandbull's example.

The Pirates' defense also came up with three interceptions on the night, with Limebrook, Sams and Mazur each snagging one.

Noah Bellina converted one of two extra-point kick attempts, and Mazur converted four of four extra-point kick attempts.

Morales also spoke about the support from the community and the encouragement the Pirates get from playing at home.

"It's always good to see that the community comes out and supports us," he said, explaining that the goal is to go out and make the community

proud and "give our best effort no matter what."

"We take pride in our football family, but also taking care of our school and our community," he said.

Morales spoke more about the game against St. Pius X, and how this is the last nonleague matchup for the Pirates this season.

He noted he wants the Pirates to continue to grow each week and "do it for each other."

He explained that by facing tougher opponents early on in the season, the Pirates will have the opportunity to learn from mistakes and hopefully avoid making similar mistakes deeper into the season against tough league opponents.

"I'd rather fix those now," he said.

Morales also stressed that "every game matters" with the Pirates being in a bigger league this year with a total of seven teams.

"We just got to play together," he said, noting that the Pirates "would love" to see fans in the stands again Friday night.

He also mentioned the Pirates have more than 50 players on the roster this year and that it takes everyone doing

their job in order to be successful.

"It takes all of us to be a good football team," he said.

The Pirates will host the Sartans at Golden Peaks Stadium on Friday, Sept. 4, with kick off scheduled for 7 p.m.

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GOLF

Pirates face wet conditions at Panther Invitational 2

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate golf team was able to return to action earlier than expected, taking part in the Panther Invitational 2 at Conquistador Golf Course in Cortez on Monday, Aug. 31.

The Pirates anticipated not seeing official competition again until Sept. 8. Unfortunately for the golfers, it was a soggy day where it was difficult to even hold onto a club, according to coach Mark Faber.

He called the day a “really good learning experience.”

The Pirates took fifth out of five teams at the rainy event.

Tyler Dimond led the Pirates with a 79 on the par-72 course, which landed him tied for fourth out of 46 golfers.

Faber highlighted that Dimond started off “incredibly,” shooting three under through four holes after logging an eagle, a bogey and two birdies.

He ended the day shooting eagle on one hole, birdie on two and par on six holes.

Maximus Ibram shot an 85 on the day to finish in a three-way 14th, shooting birdie on one hole and par on six holes.

Faber noted Ibram played “probably the best round he’s played in the rain.”

Chatwin Pickering shot a 92 to take 27th, with his effort including shooting birdie on one hole and par on five holes.

Logan Lamoreaux followed in 28th with a 93, shooting birdie on one hole and par on three holes. He tied with one other for 28th.

Treyson Cotts shot a 104, which included shooting par on three holes.

“They stayed after it,” Faber said of the team in the rainy conditions. “They tried.”

He added it was frustrating to end up as low as they did as a team, but that they’ll talk about what they could have done to be more prepared.

He added that, golf-wise, they were prepared, but they weren’t prepared to not even be able to hold onto the clubs in the rain.

He added the best thing they can

do is let it go, especially with the week ahead.

“It’s going to be a busy week,” Faber said, noting the toughest thing for the team will be playing three days in a row — something the team doesn’t do often.

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, the team will be in action at Dalton Ranch Golf Club in a tournament hosted by Durango.

“Dalton is a real test,” Faber said. “It’s a good golf course.”

The following day, Wednesday, Sept. 9, the team will host the Pagosa Springs Invitational at Pagosa Springs Golf Club beginning at 9 a.m., with the coach indicating the Pirates like the opportunity to play at home.

Then, on Thursday, Sept. 10, the team will head to Salida for the Butch Braswell Memorial at Salida Golf Club.

Faber noted the team has never played in Salida, and no one on the team has experience there.

“That’ll be an interesting trip for us,” he said, adding the team will see a little bit of everything next week.

randi@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

The Pirate golf team poses for a photo after a wet and challenging Panther Invitational 2 in Cortez on Monday, Aug. 31. Coach Mark Faber reported the steady rain made it difficult to even hold onto a golf club.

Mountain bike team takes seventh at Cloud City Challenge

By Justin Sewell
DUST2

The Pagosa Springs Mountain Bike Team (DUST 2) had its first race of the season in Leadville, Colo., on Aug. 29.

The Cloud City Challenge being at 10,000 feet elevation makes it one of the harder courses.

The course has a 6.2-mile loop and 620 feet of climbing. Rocky descents and steep road climbs distinguish Leadville from other races.

Most athletes completed two laps, totaling 12.4 miles, while varsity riders completed three laps, totaling 18.6 miles.

At Leadville most families camp near the race venue, making it even more fun. Sitting around the campfire with your team telling stories is a great way to start off the weekend. The theme for the race was tattoos. The team captains, Adelyn Hittle and Justin Sewell, made custom tattoos with coaches’ faces on them to show spirit.

The first to race was the junior varsity (JV) boys.

Racers Jackson Chaney, Aaron Sowle, Heath Leentjes, Henley Pickering, Van Halterman, John Grimes and River Wilson make up the category for Pagosa.

In the cool morning air the boys started their race. Chaney finished 12th with a time of 1 hour, four minutes and 34 seconds. Sowle finished 20th with a time of 1:07:00, Leentjes finished 52nd with a time of 1:15:42, Grimes finished 62nd with a time of 1:18:58, Pickering finished 72nd with a time of 1:23:49, Halterman finished 76th with a time of 1:26:32, and Wilson finished 84th with a time of 1:34:05.

After the JV boys was varsity.

The team now has two riders, Sewell and Hittle.

Sewell finished 15th with a time of 1:32:50 in the varsity boys’ category. Hittle finished sixth with a time of 1:41:36 in the varsity girls’ category.

Hittle also competed in the Yeti Skills course and won the female category for the day.

Up next were Amon Phillips, Ward Halterman, Drake Anderson and Max Roukema in the sophomore boys’ category.

Phillips finished 23rd in with a time of 1:10:06. Ward Halterman

finished 24th, less than a second behind Phillips, with a time of 1:10:07. Anderson finished 43rd with a time of 1:19:45, and, unfortunately, Roukema was not feeling well and did not complete the race.

Next was the JV and sophomore girls.

Gianna Shaeffer was the only girl to race in the JV category. Shaeffer got fifth with a time of 1:13:14, earning a spot on the podium.

Quinn Howard was also the only girl in her category of sophomore girls. Howard got ninth with a time of 1:19:57, rounding out Pagosa’s female racers for the day.

To finish off the day, Elias Gorman and Rogan Almon raced in the freshman boys’ category.

In the first race of the freshman category, the racers start in groups of four in an effort to spread out riders because of varying skill levels. Gorman finished 17th with a time of 1:12:47, and Almon finished 29th with a time of 1:23:09.

Points-wise, Hittle led the team with 531 points, followed closely by Shaeffer with 504. Sewell scored 471 points, with Chaney netting 454. Howard added 434 points, with Sowle close behind at 410. Gorman scored 385, and Phillips finished with 356. Ward Halterman scored 352, and, lastly, Almon scored 332 points. The team took seventh in our division with 4,229 points overall.

Even with the cold and elevation, DUST 2 had a great time at the Cloud City Challenge at Leadville. Most riders met and exceeded their goals for the race and are excited to race at Eagle in two weeks.



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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. 148819, COUNTY OF ARCHULETA, STATE OF COLORADO.
Purported common address: 75 W Pyramid Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.
THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE
The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.
THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 10/08/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer’s Office at 305 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys’ fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication 8/13/2026
Last Publication 9/10/2026
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs SUN
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 06/10/2026
Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: 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, 20, 27, September 3 and 10, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (311623)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: CARL KRAUTER; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY at 1129 Buttercup Drive Pagosa Springs CO
Case Number: 2026 CV 30046
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #15302

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
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Case Number: 2026 CV 30046
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #15302

7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwillkenning.com

SUMMONS
TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, and October 1, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (315413)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: ALLEN KUDERCA aka ALLAN J. KUDERCA; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY at 25 Sweetwater Drive Pagosa Springs CO
Case Number: 2026 CV 30045
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwillkenning.com

SUMMONS
TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
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Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published September 3, 10, 17, 24, and October 1, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (315282)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
CIVIL ACTION NO. 2025CV030045
DIVISION NO. 3
INITIAL COMBINED NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO CURE AND REDEEM
Plaintiff, Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association v. Defendants, G H PAT ETHEREDGE et al
Regarding: Subdivision: Pagosa Trails, Lot: 46, PT Sec: 30, Twn: 35, Rng: 2W
Also known as: 27 Paisley Ct, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS, Please take notice:
You and each of you are hereby notified that a Sheriff’s Sale of the referenced property is to be conducted by the Civil Division of the Sheriff’s Office of Archuleta County, Colorado at 9 a.m., on the 4th day of November 2026, at 85 Harman Park Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; phone number 970-264-8430. At which sale, the above-described real property and improvements thereon will be sold to the highest bidder. Plaintiff

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makes no warranty relating to title, possession, or quiet enjoyment in and to said real property in connection with this sale.
****BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CASH OR CERTIFIED FUNDS SUFFICIENT TO COVER THEIR HIGHEST BID AT TIME OF SALE. ****
Further, for the purpose of paying off, curing default or redemption, as provided by statute, intent must be directed to or conducted at the above address of the Civil Division of the Sheriff’s Department of Archuleta County, Colorado.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.
First Publication: 09/03/2026
Last Publication: 10/01/2026
Published In: Pagosa Sun

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CURE AND RIGHT TO REDEEM
RE: Sheriff’s Sale of Real Property pursuant to Order and Decree of Foreclosure and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq.
This is to advise you that a Sheriff sale proceeding has been commenced through the office of the undersigned Sheriff pursuant to a Court Order and Decree dated May 15, 2026, and C.R.S. 38-38-101 et seq., by Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, the current holder of a lien recorded on July 22, 2024, at Rec. No. 22402972, in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The judicial foreclosure is based on a default under the Declaration of Restrictions Pagosa, recorded on June 24, 1970 at Reception No. 73297 in the records of the Clerk and Recorder of the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado. The Declaration and notices, as recorded, establish a lien for the benefit of Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, **WHICH LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS.** You may have an interest in the real property being affected, or have certain rights or suffer certain liabilities or loss of your interest in the subject property as a result of said foreclosure. You may have the right to redeem the real property or you may have the right to cure a default under the instrument being foreclosed. Any Notice of Intent to Cure must be filed no later than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. **A notice of intent to cure filed pursuant to section 38-38-104 shall be filed with the officer at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the first scheduled sale date or any date to which the sale is continued.** **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.** **A notice of intent to redeem filed pursuant to section 38-38-302 shall be filed with the officer no later than eight (8) business days after the sale.** In this regard, you may desire and are advised to consult with your own private attorney.

IF THE BORROWER BELIEVES THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN SECTION 38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN SECTION 38-38-103.2, THE BORROWER MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE FEDERAL CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB), OR BOTH. THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.
Colorado Attorney General
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203
(800) 222-4444
www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov
Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 4503
Iowa City, Iowa 52244
(855) 411-2372
www.consumerfinance.gov
Further, you are advised that the parties liable thereon,

the owner of the property described above, or those with an interest in the subject property, may take appropriate and timely action under Colorado statutes, certain sections of which are attached hereto.
In order to be entitled to take advantage of any rights provided for under Colorado law, you must strictly comply and adhere to the provisions of the law. Further, you are advised that the attached Colorado statutes merely set forth the applicable portions of Colorado statutory law relating to curative and redemption rights; therefore, you should read and review all the applicable statutes and laws in order to determine the requisite procedures and provisions which control your rights in the subject property.
DATED in Colorado this 8th day of August, 2026.
Sheriff of Archuleta County, Colorado
By: /s/ Mike Le Roux
Mike Le Roux, Sheriff
ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
1445 Market Street, Suite 350
Denver, CO 80202
Statutes attached: §38-37-108, 38-38-103, 38-38-104, 38-38-301, 38-38-304, 38-38-305, 38-38-305.5, and 38-38-306, C.R.S., as amended.
Published September 3, 10, 27, 24 and October 1, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (315755)

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)

FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
Applicant has applied for LPEA TRANSMISSION LINES, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, FINAL REVIEW, RURAL Sec: 26 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W 35-2W SEC 26 SE4SW4NE4; NE4NW4SE4; 26-35-2W. (PLN 26-028). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Planning Commission on September 24, 2026, at 6:00p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published September 3 and 17, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313409)

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)

Notice is hereby given that **Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District** (District) has completed the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades which included the construction of an 82-foot clarifier and upgrades to the headworks and activated sludge pumping systems. The District is providing this notice to all subcontractors, suppliers, material vendors, and other parties that furnished labor, materials, equipment, or services for the project.

If you believe the general contractor has not paid you for work performed or materials or services provided in connection with this project, you are requested to contact the District promptly. Please provide the following information:

- Company name and contact information
- Name of the general contractor
- Description of the labor, materials, equipment, or services provided
- Invoice numbers and amounts claimed to be unpaid
- Copies of any supporting documentation

Claims or inquiries should be submitted to:
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District
Attention: Justin O. Ramsey, PE, District Engineer
100 Lyn Avenue
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone: (970) 585-4345
Email: [justinr@pawasd](mailto:justinr@pawasd.org)



The Pagosa Springs Smashers took a bronze medal for their division in the Colorado Special Olympic State Games on Aug. 23 at Leon Young Park in Colorado Springs. Athletes playing for the Smashers were Servando Ramos, Christopher Brown, Andy Arnold, Levi Brown, Samuel Kelly, Zack Irons, Michael Schmidt; Partners Valerie Lucas, Kate Smith, Jim Smith, Thomas Jones; and coaches Bryan Loooper and Bill Arnold. Meredith Irons took a silver medal in skills. Andy Arnold opened the tournament by singing the national anthem.



Photos courtesy Joanne Irons

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Licensed and Insured

Certified
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The only Company with
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and full inventory of repair parts for
water heaters, boilers
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PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT FOR THE 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Available for up to 15 hours per week at participating local
schools within Colorado's Universal Preschool (UPK) program.

REGISTER NOW TO CONFIRM A SPACE

Pagosa Springs Elementary Preschool
(970) 264-2229

Pagosa Springs Head Start
(970) 264-2484

Seeds of Learning
(970) 264-5513

Wings Early Childhood Center
(bilingual program)
(970) 507-7155

CONTACT US
How can families register?

Online:
Help.UPK.Colorado.Gov
Email:
universalpreschool@state.co.us

Phone: 303-866-5223, available
Monday through Friday
from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates set to return to action again Durango, Centauri

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

Ahead of playing six games in 12 days, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team is working on increasing its speed of play while also staying focused on recovery.

The Lady Pirates, who are 1-4 on the season, haven't played a match since they lost to Dolores on Aug. 25, but this week they'll face 4A Durango and 3A Centauri, two strong teams, according to coach Chelsea Caler, as they begin the stretch run of the season.

Caler and her staff have used this past week to really focus on increasing the girls speed of play and transition game, she indicates in an email to The SUN.

"We're setting some benchmarks for how quickly we can move from defense into offense and from serve receive into offense," wrote Caler. "A big focus has been learning to earn our points."

She has also emphasized to the girls the importance of cutting out the silly, unforced errors that they can control and that have haunted them

so far this season, she notes.

The girls have impressed Caler with their willingness to learn and hold each other accountable, she adds.

"Practices have been tough, but also a lot of fun and good energy," wrote Caler. "They keep showing me that we can do hard things."

The girls will be back in action starting on Thursday, Sept. 3, when they play at Durango beginning at 6 p.m.

The Demons are 3-0 on the season.

The Lady Pirates will then close out the week with a league game against Centauri at home on Saturday, Sept. 5, beginning at 1 p.m.

The Falcons are 1-1 on the season. Caler mentions that she has a ton of respect for both teams and their coaching staffs, and she knows that they're each going to play a fast game.

"We're focused on our side of the net, making sure we're improving our own game and being ready to compete," Caler wrote.

Ahead of the busy part of the season starting with their game against Durango, the Lady Pirates are being very intentional about taking care of themselves and focusing on recovery, emphasizes Caler.

"We're excited for the challenge and looking to play with confidence, earn our points, finish plays and win," she wrote.

jsellner@ourkemediagroup.com

CROSS-COUNTRY



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Pirate Stetson Osborn trades off with fellow Pirate Rylan Ash at the Durango Relay Carnival last weekend. At the carnival, the team split up into teams of two and ran 8 miles, alternating a mile lap at a time. According to coach Josh Kurz, Ash had the quickest average time per mile on the day, while Osborn was the most consistent.

Pirates take part in Durango Relay Carnival

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country team competed at the Durango Relay Carnival last weekend.

The team split up into teams of two and ran 8 miles, alternating a mile lap at a time.

The other two teams at the meet, Durango and Dolores, made coed teams, but coach Josh Kurz explained he didn't have enough girls to make coed teams with the Pirates.

In an email to The SUN, Kurz calls the meet a unique, hard workout that challenged the kids to work together and encourage one another.

Each athlete ran a total of 4 miles at the meet.

Kurz timed each athlete's mile times and averaged them out.

On the boys' side, Rylan Ash averaged a time of 5 minutes, 17 seconds. Weston Sweet averaged a time of 5:44. Jacen Easling averaged a time of 6:07, Hawkin Kofke averaged a time

of 6:09, Miles Dempster averaged a time of 6:14, Kieran Kurz averaged a time of 6:23, Stetson Osborn averaged a time of 6:41, Isaac Hanto averaged a time of 6:51, and Silas Yost averaged a time of 6:55.

Wells Witting averaged a time of 7:03, Matthew Mars averaged a time of 7:10, Liam McKnight averaged a time of 7:15, Jacob Freeman averaged a time of 7:19, Micah Tyler averaged a time of 7:42, Davyn Leiker averaged a time of 7:47, Breland Bridges averaged a time of 7:55, and Eli Hanto averaged a time of 8:59.

On the girls' side, Elsy Wood averaged a time of 8:18, Adi Oelking averaged a time of 8:49, Izzy Ratcliff averaged a time of 9:05, and Skylar Leiker averaged a time of 10:02.

Josh Kurz mentions that many of the athletes ran personal best times in their first mile of the relay race, with Sweet and Easling taking off the most time from last year.

He also notes that Osborn was the most consistent runner on the day.

The Pirates have Labor Day week-

end off and won't race in another meet until Sept. 12, when they head to Alamosa for the 33rd Joe I. Vigil Open.

In the meantime, Josh Kurz indicates they'll switch practices to the afternoon due to the heat and this Friday, Sept. 4, they're going to complete their high altitude training.

The training consists of running from the top of Wolf Creek Pass to Lobo Overlook, which is just under 3 miles and around 1,000 vertical feet of elevation gain.

The tradition has been going for 20 years or so, notes Josh Kurz, but last year it didn't happen, so this will be the first time a lot of the runners have done the training.

"I just hope the Lobos [training] is going to make everything, all the other races seem easy because it's going to be very similar to their race distance, but at altitude and all uphill," Josh Kurz wrote.

After the training, the team will get three days off to rest and recover before revamping training ahead of the meet the following weekend.

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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners stand with local first responders from the Pagosa Fire Protection District and Pagosa Springs Medical Center Emergency Medical Services after reading a proclamation at its Sept. 1 meeting. The proclamation proclaims Sept. 11, 2026, as the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and national day of remembrance in the county, and urges citizens to recognize the heroism of firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members and the many volunteers who responded to these tragic events with courage, selfless compassion, determination and skill; and to remember the victims and innocent lives lost because of the tragic events on Sept. 11, 2001.

State’s chain law in effect until May 31

Colorado State Patrol

Temperatures remain high in many areas of the state, but there are locations in Colorado that are seeing things change. Summer snow is not that unusual at higher elevations.

That’s why, from Sept. 1 to May 31, Colorado’s Chain Law and Passenger Vehicle Traction Law take effect for all drivers. The Colorado Traction and Chain Law applies to more than just large commercial vehicles.

“Preventing traffic gridlock is top of mind as we start to think about winter conditions across Colorado,” stated Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. “Snow and ice can impact a vehicle of any size, so now is the time to check the condition of your tires and check that you have chains. The inconvenience of sitting in traffic due to a crash or being rerouted miles out of your way due to highway closures is something we can all help prevent.”

According to Colorado’s current traction and chain law, all vehicles must be prepared with adequate tires and equipment when traveling in Colorado during the winter.

Following is what you need to know based on your vehicle type.

Larger vehicles, including recreational

and commercial motor vehicles

As of Aug. 7, 2024, all commercial motor vehicle drivers must carry chains from Sept. 1 to May 31.

This applies to vehicles with a combined weight of more than 16,000 pounds used in commerce or as a means of transport for at least 16 passengers (including the driver) on public highways.

Commercial vehicles and buses have a larger footprint on roadways where chains are required. CMVs must carry chains or ATDs on all the following roads regardless of current weather:

- I-70 west of milepost 259 (Morrison) to the Utah border.
- Colorado 9 milepost 63 to milepost 97 (Frisco to Fairplay).
- Route 40 milepost 256 (Empire) to the Utah border.
- U.S. 50 milepost 225 (Salida) to the Utah border.
- U.S. 160 milepost 304 (Walsenburg) to the New Mexico border.
- U.S. 285 milepost 250 (Morrison) to the New Mexico border.
- All of U.S. 550.

The penalty for noncompliance with winter driving restrictions: Up to a \$500 fine plus a \$79 surcharge, or, if you are stuck and blocking any traveled portion of the roadway, the fine is \$1,000 plus a \$157 surcharge.

Smaller vehicles, including two-wheel and four-wheel drive

All motor vehicles with a GCWR/GVWR less than 16,001 pounds traveling on any portion of I-70 between mile point 259 (Morrison) and mile point 133 (Dotsero) from Sept. 1 through May 31 must have:

- Tire chains for two or more drive tires; or
- An approved ATD for two or more drive tires; or
- Tires with a tread depth of at least 3/16-inch and which are rated for either “All weather” or “Mud and Snow” (indicated by an “All Season,” M+S, M/S, etc. on the sidewall) by the manufacturer. This is indicated on the side of the tire by “M+S,” “M/S” or an icon of a mountain with a snowflake.

The penalty for non-compliance: \$50 fine plus a \$17 surcharge.

Chain law restrictions are announced through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

At a minimum, they will notify the public on static and electronic variable message roadway signs.

Additionally, this information is regularly announced through 511 traveler information, the official CDOT travel website (www.cotrip.org) and various media outlets.

Archuleta Seniors, Inc.
Presents

Masquerade Ball

September 26th
6-9 PM
at the Ross Aragon Community Center

*Featuring an evening of music, dining,
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Archuleta Seniors, Inc. Masquerade Ball is more than an elegant evening out, this IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER HELPS SUSTAIN PROGRAMS that older adults in Archuleta County depend on every day.

Funds raised during the Masquerade Ball directly SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT HELP OLDER ADULTS remain healthy, connected, and independent; such as Meals on Wheels which provides nutritious meals and regular wellness checks to seniors who may otherwise be isolated.

Donations also support caregiver resources, wellness programs, educational opportunities, Monday-Friday in-dining and take out meals, and social activities that STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY AND SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.

Tickets on sale now!
www.psssenior.org
or call 970-264-2167

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

Pagosa Springs Head Start: Now Enrolling, Now Hiring!

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

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

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

preview

ARTS & LIFE

Masquerade Ball

6-9 p.m. • Sept. 26 • Ross Aragon Community Center



Photo courtesy Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. to host second annual Masquerade Ball

Archuleta Seniors Inc.

There is a certain kind of magic in watching a community put on its finest gowns, suits and masks for a cause it believes in.

This year, that magic will take place in the grande ballroom of the Ross Aragon Community Center, where Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) will host its second annual Masquerade Ball on Sept. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Masque-R-Aid fundraiser invites the Pagosa Springs community to gather for an evening of live music from SoulFire, dinner prepared by our own award-winning chef Cynthia Sperry, dancing, a costume contest, a silent auction featuring fabulous getaways and a cash bar of beer, wine, a signature cocktail and hard seltzer.

But, behind the glamour and mystery of the masks lies a very clear purpose: Every ticket sold and every dollar raised helps ASI to continue delivering meals, connection and care to Archuleta County's senior community.

ASI has spent years quietly doing some of the most essential work in the region.

Through its Meals on Wheels program, the organization delivers hot, nutritious meals directly to homebound

seniors who might otherwise go without and fosters connection over shared meals in our community café. But the mission extends well beyond meals. ASI also provides health resources, educational programming and a variety of social opportunities designed to help local seniors age with dignity, independence and connection to their community.

For many of the seniors ASI serves, these programs are not simply conveniences; they are lifelines. A warm meal delivered to the door is also a wellness check, a familiar face and a reminder that someone cares. As the cost of living continues to rise and more seniors find themselves isolated, the need for these services has only grown.

That is where the Masque-R-Aid Ball comes in. Fundraising events like this one allow ASI to sustain and expand its programs, continuing to offer these services by suggested donation or free of charge to the seniors who rely on them. No senior is ever turned away for an inability to donate.

Every gown twirled and every mask worn on Sept. 26 will be doing double duty: creating an unforgettable night out and quietly funding a year of support for our

■ See Ball on next page

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open Mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Totally Happy Campers, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Horizon, 6 p.m.
East Side Market: Jacques Grant, 11 a.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Max Miller, 6 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: The Life Jackets, 5 p.m.

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

Some questions that will be discussed include:

Is there more to life than this?

Who is Jesus?

Why and how should I read the Bible and Pray?

How does God guide us?

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



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

Ball

■ continued from previous page
neighbors who need it most.

Guests are encouraged to embrace the tradition of masquerade with their most elegant or creative attire, whether that means classic sophistication or bold, imaginative flair. A costume contest will award first, second and third place prizes for best costume, giving attendees even more reason to make an entrance.

"This event is about more than a great party," said Crystal Gillich, ASI board member. "It's about our Pagosa Springs community coming together, behind the masks, to make sure our seniors are seen, supported and cared for."

Gather your friends, choose your finest disguise and join ASI for a night of dancing, dining and giving back. Because behind every mask at the Masque-R-Aid Ball is a neighbor helping a neighbor.

Tickets for the second annual Masquerade Ball are available now. Those interested in attending, sponsoring or donating are encouraged to visit ASI's website or contact the organization directly for ticket information.

For tickets and more information, visit www.psseniors.org or call (970) 264-2167.

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

■ See Stargazers on next page

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Pagosa Springs Karaoke

Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting to focus on photography trips to Costa Rica

By Andy Butler
Pagosa Springs Photography Club

At the Pagosa Springs Photography Club's Sept. 9 meeting, club member David Lenderman will speak about photo opportunities in Costa Rica.

The meeting will be held at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St. Feel free to arrive anytime after 6 p.m. to socialize; the program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Photography Club meetings are open to the public. This will be a hybrid meeting, also available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to members; others who wish to attend may request the link by email to abulter@mac.com.

Lenderman is an avid photographer specializing in underwater, wildlife and travel photography. He traveled to Costa Rica on photography trips in 2021 and again in 2025.

A popular destination for nature lovers, Costa Rica offers many amazing opportunities for photographers. Seascapes, mountain scenes, waterfalls, birds, monkeys, and amphibians are just some of the photo subjects found in Costa Rica.

Lenderman's presentation will begin with a presentation overview of Costa Rica, including its diverse climate zones, seasons and special photo destinations. Lenderman will share detailed itineraries and photography gear suggestions based on his two wildlife photography trips to Costa Rica.

The second part of the program will be a music-synced show featuring some favorite videos and photographs from his time in Costa Rica.

If you are considering a trip to Costa Rica, or if you simply appreciate beautiful nature photography, come out and enjoy the meeting on Sept. 9.

Join the club

The Photography Club offers programs, outings, competitions and workshops designed to help

Stargazers

■ continued from previous page James Webb Space Telescope.

We certainly haven't learned much more about black holes, but we have learned enough to ask some 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



Photo courtesy David Lenderman

Costa Rica has many colorful birds and animals to photograph, such as this toucan. At the Sept. 3 meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club, David Lenderman will share about photography trips taken to Costa Rica.

photographers of all levels enhance their skills.

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

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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It's not too late: Why fall is the ultimate season for your garden

Healthy Archuleta

While many gardeners hang up their trowels as August heat gives way to crisp morning air, seasoned gardeners know a quiet secret: Autumn isn't the end of the gardening year; it is the foundation of the next.

This is especially true in Archuleta County, where our short growing season makes fall the peak harvest period, meaning we truly have to make hay while the sun shines.

While spring gets all the fanfare with its sudden burst of greenery, fall offers far superior conditions for critical soil building and plant establishment. The soil remains

warm from months of summer sun, encouraging robust root growth, while cooler air temperatures reduce moisture loss and heat stress.

If you want a thriving garden next year, the work begins right now.

Our 2026 September in the Garden program will be your roadmap to maximizing your autumn landscape, plus a fantastic opportunity to gather outdoors, learn directly in a community garden space and share experiences with fellow local growers.

Join us at the Vista Lake Community Production Garden for three morning sessions focused on fall garden success.

Whether you are a seasoned

gardener or a novice, come join the conversation as we learn various fall gardening techniques and strategies.

These sessions are free and will take place on Wednesdays, Sept. 9, 16 and 23, from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

The sessions will take place in the PLPOA Vista Community Production Garden, next to the administration building. Interested community members can register for this and other events, including the 2026 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo, by visiting our website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

To learn more about Healthy Archuleta and discover future events, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

Community invited to gather for 25th anniversary 9/11 Remembrance and Day of Service

By Shawna Snarr

American Legion Post 108

Friday, Sept. 11, will mark the 25th solemn anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In observance of Patriot Day and the National Day of Service and Remembrance, local community organizations are coming together to host a commemorative ceremony and community lunch honoring the fallen, our nation's heroes, and all local first responders who serve Archuleta County.

The remembrance event is organized through a joint community collaboration featuring:

- Vets 4 Vets of Archuleta County.
- American Legion Post 108.
- Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

• Pagosa Fire Protection District.

The ceremony will pay solemn tribute to the nearly 3,000 lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, while recognizing the enduring dedication of first responders throughout the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County — including our local firefighters, town police officers, county sheriff's deputies, emergency medical services and dispatch personnel.

Following the formal ceremony and moment of silence, organizers invite all attendees, first responders and community members to join together for a complimentary community appreciation lunch.

The gathering provides an opportunity for neighbors to connect, reflect on the spirit of unity that defines Patriot Day, and celebrate the daily sacrifices made by those who protect our mountain community.

It will take place at Veterans Memorial Park beginning at 11 a.m. sharp.

The San Juan Squadron will start our ceremony with a missing man formation.

The community lunch will take place immediately following the ceremony.

The event will be free and open to all members of the public.

Residents are also encouraged

to participate in the National Day of Service by performing acts of kindness, supporting first responders, collaboration, teamwork and flying flags at half staff from sunrise to sunset.

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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 Tuesday, 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 are 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 Tuesday, 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. This year, fees for concert attire for women will be \$40 and for men \$36. 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 Wonder-

land” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” along with some lesser-known Christmas pieces such as “Candlelight 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 Tuesday, 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.

Kids Kare to begin Sept. 9 for ages 3-5

By Yonnie Kimbro

Kids Kare

Have your little ones ever wished they could go to school with big brother or sister? We have a program for them; it is called Kids Kare.

This program is designed for little kids ages 3-5 years old and takes place each Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 9.

We meet at Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive (behind Wells Fargo Bank) each Wednesday unless there is a snow day.

The program includes Bible time with interactive stories, songs with motions, memory verses and lots

of other activities. The children also enjoy crafts, games and snacks. They meet new friends and a wonderful staff of screened adults who take great care of them.

There is no charge for the program, and all little kids are welcome to come, including kids who are home-schooled for kindergarten. (If you child is not potty trained, a parent must attend with them.)

To register your child for Kids Kare, call or text Yonnie at (561) 693-7421 or email her at ariyonnek@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing your little ones at their special program.

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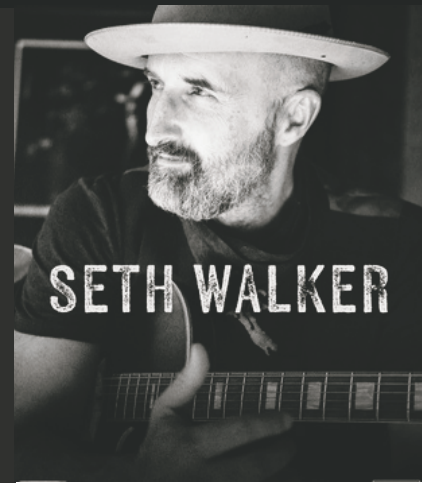
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Debra Ferrari

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September 10th

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*Mark your calendar for our Plein Air Wet Exhibition on September 24th.



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Curtains Up Pagosa announces Sept. 17 and 18 auditions for ‘Honk!’

By Anthony Aldwell
Curtains Up Pagosa

Curtains Up Pagosa (CUP) is pleased to announce its fall show will be the musical comedy “Honk!,” which will be performed four times on the Pagosa Springs High School stage on the evenings of Nov. 19, 20, and 21, with an afternoon matinee on Nov. 21.

Auditions for this production will be held in the Pagosa Springs High School music room on Thursday, Sept. 17, and Friday, Sept. 18, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The audition will require candidates to present a one-minute song and read from selections from the script. A short dance number will be taught to those auditioning as part of the audition process.

All community members are invited to join this production as the cast

will feature both adults and children (at least 8 years old). Past CUP shows have featured performers from ages 8 to 80, thereby demonstrating this is truly community theater.

“Honk!” is a modern musical based on Hans Christian Andersen’s heart warming story of “The Ugly Duckling” and features Ugly, a baby swan who is mistaken as an ugly duckling upon falling into his mother’s nest. It soon becomes clear that he is no ordinary duck. Mocked on the farmyard and pursued by the ever-hungry Cat, Ugly finds himself lost on a nearby marsh in the middle of a duck shoot and embarks on an odyssey through the countryside, meeting a battery of colorful characters and finding himself, and love, along the way.

All audition candidates should review the link at bit.ly/4xoNwWd - in which “Honk!” Director Jeannie

Abbas details the audition process, rehearsal schedule and descriptions of the show’s characters. An audition form can also be accessed and completed from this link, as well as the script selections from which candidates will read as part of the audition.

Rehearsals for our show will commence the afternoon Sept. 26 at PSHS, and then run from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday from Sept. 29 into early November. Rehearsals will extend to 9 p.m. from Nov. 9 until the first performance on Nov. 19.

As much of CUP’s essential work is behind the scenes, we also welcome those community members interested in being a crew member, as sets, costumes and backstage work require those specific skills to ensure this show is a theatrical success. If interested, drop by one of the audition sessions or early rehearsals during the last week of September.

CUP looks forward to presenting a highly entertaining performance of “Honk!” in November. To do so, we welcome all interested community members to participate in the upcoming auditions.

End of Life Education announces fall meetings, topics

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

End of Life Education will begin its autumn 2026 series of classes on Thursday, Sept. 17, and will also be meeting on Thursdays, Sept. 24, Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

If we need some extra times, we will add a few Tuesdays in October.

I realize that this is no one’s favorite topic of study, but I cannot count the times that people have said to me how important and helpful these sessions have been.

This fall we will be working with our county coroner and his assistants on a list of things that need to be done because most families are dealing with shock and grief and do not know what to do or where to begin. It is most important to face it that this is a crucial time that people are never prepared for. For people who have led a planned-for and orderly life, this can be even more difficult, and there is much to be learned to help everyone involved.

The meetings will begin at 1 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in the fellowship hall with the side door right off the parking lot. The front doors are often locked if there are no other activities.

On Sept. 17 we will be meeting with our Archuleta County coroner, Brad Hunt, and possibly some of his assistants.

The state of Colorado has made a coroner’s job much more involved with every person who dies in our state.

Hunt will tell us what needs to be done, plus with all the experience he has had, there is much that he knows

about death and dying. Bring all of your questions and we will stay until they are answered. You don’t know what all you may learn.

On Sept. 24, we are planning on hearing from our emergency response team who shows up with the ambulance when 911 is called. Here again is a crisis that is much better handled when people are prepared. This is when the do-not-resuscitate paper needs to be on the refrigerator. Huge decisions are made at this time, and being prepared can be a life-or-death situation.

Other topics for the fall of 2026 include a meeting with a local funeral director, a detailed presentation on the many new more natural options for burial and cremation, such as water cremation and terramation, which is quickly turning a body into soil, and more topics.

There is so much to learn. We are also planning on more time for large- and small-group discussions so you can explore your thoughts and feelings. I hope you will help yourself.



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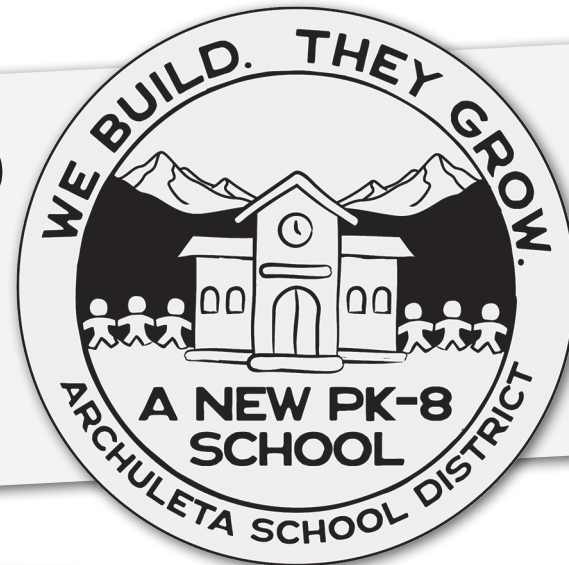
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Learn more about the bond issue for a new school to benefit our kids, families, staff and community.

Enjoy donuts, coffee and meet other community members.

Following this meeting, if you wish to assist, we will be dividing up areas to canvass in groups and answer questions about the bond issue.

Contact Dee McPeck to volunteer, designbyd70@gmail.com or 970-317-3224
Lisa Scott, campaign manager, 970-749-4268

.....★.....
Paid for by Citizens for ASD, Lisa Scott, Campaign Manager



Photo courtesy Pagosa Community Initiative

Children participate in the Pagosa Community Initiative’s Back-to-School Fair on Aug. 22.

PCI’s Back-to-School Fair doubles impact from last year

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

Pagosa Community Initiative’s (PCI’s) Back-to-School Fair was a resounding success, serving more than 140 children this year — doubling the number from last year — and providing 49 free haircuts for boys and girls.

The event, organized by Family Services Director Steven Viola, grew from a supply distribution into a full-scale community resource fair that gave families the chance to shop for exactly what their children needed with classroom supply lists in hand.

The fair welcomed multiple community partners, including PIRAC, 211, Painted Sky Dental, the Department of Human Services, San Juan BOCES and Pagosa Peak Strings, adding helpful services and information for local families. PCI’s own Chrissy Hancey also helped make the day special by applying hair tinsel for students.

Families were checked in and guided through the event by Viola and Randy Taylor, while Courtney Wieters assisted students as they selected gear and school supplies. Volunteers kept the event running smoothly, and PCI expressed deep gratitude to the generous donors whose contribution of school supplies made the day possible.

A special thank you also goes to the barbers and stylists who donated their time and talent, including Cade White, Taylor Neagle, Adolfo Valenzuela, Liliana Valenzuela, Sammie Lyons and April Velarde. Together, they delivered 49 free haircuts that helped students head into the school year feeling confident and ready.

PCI also thanks the volunteers who worked the event and staffed the donation table at Walmart, as well as the

Laura Jones church group, which came together with \$600 in donated goods to support local youth and families.

Rebecca Tenpenny, executive director of PCI, said the event showed what can happen when the community comes together to support children and families.

“This event is a powerful reminder of what is possible when people unite around local youth and families,” Tenpenny said.

Board chair Carrie Blue-White said the impact of even a small gift can be far-reaching.

“Seeing firsthand the need on Saturday was a reminder of how important community support is for our families and youth,” Blue-White said. “Any donation to PCI can make a large impact and help meet real needs right here in our community.”

PCI invites families to learn more about the support and resources available through its Family Services program.

Whether you are looking for encouragement, guidance, resources, or a welcoming place to turn, PCI is here to help support you and warmly welcomes each and every one of you.

For more information, contact PCI at (970) 585-6461, email family-support@pagosacommunityinitiative.org or visit 550 B Hot Springs Blvd. Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We look forward to connecting with you soon.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN264-2100

Seeds of Learning would like to thank everyone involved with the 1st Annual Hometown Voices and Nashville Stories fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without ALL of you.

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Carl and Linda Hayduke • Muriel Buckley • Nikki Macomber
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SPECIAL THANKS

Thingamajig Theatre • Pagosa Photography

And a sincere thank you to all who supported this event by voting, donating, and purchasing tickets. We are forever grateful to you!

Seeds of Learning

Early Care and Education Center



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

The 20th annual Mountain Chile Cha Cha, including the 18th annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic, is slated for Sept. 26 at Yamaguchi Park.

Green chile season is here: Mountain Chile Cha Cha, Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic set for Sept. 26

Mountain Chile Cha Cha

In the Southwest, fall has its own traditions, and green chile is one of them. As summer winds down and the days begin to cool, it's officially green chile season — a time for favorite recipes, family traditions and plenty of debate over what makes the perfect pot.

That tradition is especially meaningful to event organizer Jacquie Aragon. Her mother, Patty Aragon, owned Al's Café in Pagosa Springs, where her homemade green chile became one of the restaurant's most loved dishes.

"People still tell me how much they loved my mom's green chile," Aragon said. "The cook-off is a fun way to honor her, but it's also about keeping that love of green chile and the traditions surrounding it going."

The 18th Annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic will celebrate that tradition on Sept. 26 as part of the 20th anniversary Mountain Chile Cha Cha at Yamaguchi Park.

We are calling on home cooks, restaurants and businesses to bring their best recipes and help make the public tasting possible.

Here's how the competition works:

- Home Cook — Meat: First place wins \$300 and a trophy; second and third receive medals.

- Home Cook — Meatless: First place wins \$300 and a trophy; second and third receive medals.

- Commercial Competition: Meat and meatless commercial entries are judged together. The winner receives \$300, a trophy and a special prize, with medals for second and third.

- People's Choice: Every home and commercial entry is eligible. Festival-goers do the judging, with \$300 and a trophy for first place, and

medals for second and third.

Home and commercial cooks may enter meat, meatless or both, and private judging is blind. Home cooks may enter for \$15, and commercial cooks may enter for \$35.

Entrants simply drop off their chile the morning of the event, and Cha Cha volunteers handle the serving. Every entrant receives free admission to the Mountain Chile Cha Cha plus a special participant gift as a thank you for sharing their chile with the community. That leaves cooks free to enjoy the music, food and festivities instead of spending the afternoon behind a slow cooker.

The festival gates open at noon, with chile tasting beginning at 12:30 p.m. Admission to the Cha Cha is \$10, with children 12 and under free. Chile tasting is sold separately inside the event.

The mission of the Mountain Chile Cha Cha is to build community in Pagosa Springs and the Southwest by celebrating and preserving Hispanic cultural heritage through culinary and musical arts.

Think you make a great pot of green chile? This is the year to bring it to the Cha Cha.

Register now at ilovegreenchile.com.

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Preview Calendar

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

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.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids.

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

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

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

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 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.

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

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
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., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regard-

less 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.

■ **See Calendar on next page**



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Community invited to Peace Walk Pagosa Springs on Sept. 12

By Cheri Minnier
Peace Walk Pagosa Springs

The community is invited to join Peace Walk Pagosa Springs on Friday, Sept. 12, from 8 to 9 a.m.

Participants will gather at Town Park before walking along Hot Springs Boulevard to Yamaguchi Park, then continuing up the Riverwalk and to the Ruby M. Sisson Library, where the walk will conclude in celebration of the library's grand reopening.

The event carries a simple message: Peace is for everyone. All ages and paces are welcome to participate. Organizers ask that walkers leave signs at home, but flowers and

smiles are encouraged. The walk is entirely nondenominational and nonpolitical, focused solely on bringing the community together in a spirit of goodwill.

The Peace Walk Pagosa Springs draws its inspiration from the Walk For Peace, a 2,300-mile journey last winter from Fort Worth, Texas, to Washington, D.C., and organizers hope to make this a meaningful, unifying tradition for the Pagosa Springs community.

The walk's timing also allows participants to be part of the Ruby M. Sisson Library's grand reopening celebration, marking a joyful moment for the community.

If you have questions, contact Cheri Minnier at (928) 707-0235.

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SAT & SUN, Sept. 12th & 13th, from 8am - 11am

Stevens Field Airport, 61 Aviation Ct., Pagosa Springs

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
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., Centerpoint Church library, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through, are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You can register online or join at any class during the 13-week session. For more information, call Jim and Holly Shook at (951) 733-1893 or email jshookup@gmail.com, or the church at (970) 731-2205 or centerpointchurchpagosa@gmail.com. There is no cost for the program.

Tuesday, 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

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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

Pagosa 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.

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

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

Archuleta County 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.

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 10

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.

'Written in Bark — Aspens and Arborglyphs' Hike. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Buckles Lake Trailhead. The hike is free, but sign-up is required at SJMA.org.

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.

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

Tai Chi. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. An Archuleta Senior Center program.

Friday, Sept. 11

9/11 Memorial Reservoir Hill Hike. 6:45 a.m. The Pagosa Fire Protection District is hosting a 3.2-mile hike/ruck that will start at the East Side Market, climb over Reservoir

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Hill to the post office and return to the market through downtown. Entry is \$40 per participant. Call (970) 731-4191 with questions. A registration form can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CO/PagosaSprings/ResHillRuck>.

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.

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9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. 11 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park. The ceremony will pay solemn tribute to the nearly 3,000 lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, while recognizing the enduring dedication of first responders throughout the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. A complimentary community appreciation lunch will follow.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Montezuma-Cortez.

Saturday, Sept. 12

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

Birding at Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour is presented in partnership with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and affords a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about birds that are native to the area. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Peace Walk Pagosa Springs. 8 a.m., Town Park. Meet at Town Park before walking to Yamaguchi Park and the library from the grand opening.

Ruby Sisson Library Grand Opening. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Tour the finished library and take part in a lineup of activities to mark the occasion.

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.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

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

Night Sky Program. 7:30 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program focuses on the Ancient Puebloans who once lived here and studied the night skies along with interactive talks about the life cycle of a star, categories of galaxies and other relevant topics. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Sunday, Sept. 13

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

org or call (877) 444-6777.

Monday, Sept. 28

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 6:30 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.

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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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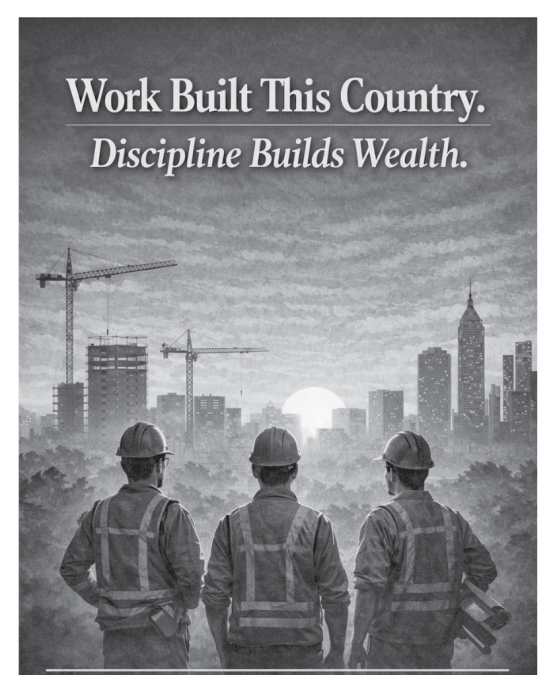
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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the horned lark.

When the American Birding Association chose the horned lark as its 2026 Bird of the Year, it was described as “adaptable, beautiful, bold and tough.” This is a bird of open-country, short-grass habitats that avoids areas with trees. It is the only lark species native to the Americas, but is also found in much of the northern hemisphere across the globe.

Its scientific name, *Eremophila alpestris*, describes it as desert loving and high mountain, but this bird has adapted to live in virtually any habitat with low vegetation. It is at home on beaches, sand dunes, deserts, grassland, tundra, alpine areas, pasture and agricultural lands. More than 40 subspecies are recognized which differ mainly in their color as seen from above, enabling them to match the color of the local substrate.

Brownish above and white below, males have a black mask and yellow on the throat and head. Tiny black, hornlike head feathers which give him a rakish look are not always visible. His high-pitched musical song is a delicate tinkling sound. Females are paler and lack the black face mask. Outside the breeding season, these sparrow-sized birds are social and often mix with other open-country birds.

Primarily, horned larks live their lives on the ground. A female chooses a nest site in a natural depression on bare ground or excavates one herself. She collects small pebbles, dirt clods or other small objects to construct a type of walkway beside the nest. The exact function that this pathway serves is unknown. On hot days, she stands over the nest with wings spread to shade the eggs or chicks.

Horned larks are often discovered when they are disturbed from foraging for seeds and insects along the shoulders of gravel roads. Cryptic coloration makes them hard to locate even when they are moving in small flocks across the landscape. They often forage in agricultural fields, where they are at risk of ingesting the harmful pesticides commonly applied to the seeds of commercial crops or the insects that they target.

Keep your eyes open for these interesting birds in open areas off Piedra Road, near the Riverwalk and Vista pond, and other open areas, including those at high elevation.

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



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SUNDAY: 11AM - 10PM

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IS SUGAR TOXIC?



Sugar: It’s like that good-looking, engaging, sweet friend/co-worker who acts as if he/she is your friend and has your best interest at heart, but ultimately blind-sides you by wreaking havoc on your life.

If you have a sweet tooth, you may voluntarily extract it after reading today’s excerpt.

On May 26, 2009, Robert Lustig gave a lecture called “Sugar: The Bitter Truth,” which was posted on YouTube the following July. Since then, it has been viewed well over 800,000 times, gaining new viewers at a rate of about 50,000

per month, fairly remarkable numbers for a 90-minute discussion of the nuances of fructose biochemistry and human physiology.

Lustig is a specialist on pediatric hormone disorders and the leading expert in childhood obesity at the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine, which is one of the best medical schools in the country.

He published his first paper on childhood obesity a dozen years ago, and he has been treating patients and doing research on the disorder ever since. It doesn’t hurt Lustig’s cause that he is a compelling public speaker. His critics argue that what makes him compelling is his practice of taking suggestive evidence and insisting that it’s incontrovertible.

Lustig certainly doesn’t dabble in shades of gray. Sugar is not just an empty calorie, he says; its effect on us is much more insidious. “It’s not about the calories,” he says. “It has nothing to do with the calories. It’s a poison by itself.”

If Lustig is right, then our excessive consumption of sugar is the primary reason that the numbers of obese and diabetic Americans have skyrocketed in the past 30 years. But his argument implies more than that.

If Lustig is right, it would mean that sugar is also the likely dietary cause of several other chronic ailments widely considered to be diseases of Western lifestyles — heart disease, hypertension and many common cancers among them.

Source: “Is Sugar Toxic?” By Gary Taubes. <http://www.nytimes.com>

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

“My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste” Proverbs 24:13

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After the smoke cleared

By **Betty Slade**
PREVIEW Columnist

When the smoke cleared, the Rio Blanco Fire, one of the worst in Archuleta County’s history — had left 1,388 acres blackened. From County Road 335, dark shadows stretched across the north face of the mountains, a solemn testimony to the fierce blaze that had swept through our little valley.

The fire began with a lightning strike near the top of Archuleta Canyon. Strong winds pushed the flames, which raced down the canyon, showing no mercy to the pine trees, brush and landscape in their path.

The ranch-style house at the mouth of the canyon stood its ground. Against overwhelming odds, and through the tireless work of firefighters who fought back the flames, the Wylie home was spared.

What could have been a day of sorrow became a day of gratitude.

The annual shrimp boil, hosted by Al and Allison Wylie, went on as planned. Guest gathered, not merely to enjoy an evening of shrimp, crab legs and fellowship, but to celebrate the preservation of a home, a community and the people who had worked without rest to protect them.

Everyone who attended had been touched by the fire in some way. Some had evacuated. Others opened their homes to the displaced Blanco residents and each person carried a story — of fear, hospitality, loss narrowly avoided and kindness freely given.

As I listened, one word came to mind: vestige — a visible sign, a footprint or a physical reminder of something from the past that remains.



The scarred forest was a vestige of the fire. So were the burned leaves resting against the bright flowers on the porch. They seemed to whisper of what had passed through as life continued around them.

For 17 years, Al and Allison Wylie have hosted their shrimp boil for neighbors along the Lower Blanco and throughout the community. This year, however, the gathering carried a deeper meaning. It honored the heroes of the Blanco: the firefighters who worked nonstop for 10 days protecting homes and safeguarding lives. County employees were also recognized for the many hours of service, energy and care they gave during the crisis.

The sheriff’s office guarded the entrance to the Lower Blanco Road, recording names and addresses of all who entered. Their presence helped protect evacuated homes and the precious memories they held. They remained at their posts until evacuation and pre-evacuation orders were lifted, allowing families to return and find their homes, as much as possible, just as they had left them.

That evening, 15 long tables lined the driveway, and there were nearly 150 people gathered around them as shrimp, crab legs and all the trimmings were poured onto butcher paper and spread the length of the

■ See Lane on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Yarn mop
- 5 Tools with teeth
- 9 Farm machine
- 13 God with a hammer
- 14 Mayberry kid
- 15 Flared-bottom dress
- 16 Ireland, poetically
- 17 Awareness
- 19 Goes on the offense
- 21 Passed, as laws
- 22 Hardly seaworthy
- 23 Gridiron move
- 25 MySQL, e.g.
- 27 Crafty
- 30 Set off, as explosives
- 33 Toyota pickup
- 35 Turn over ____ leaf
- 36 1965 march site
- 38 Alda or Hale
- 39 Baby's head-wear
- 41 Choir member's volume
- 43 Snake's sound
- 44 Flute's kin
- 46 Illinois college town
- 47 Marketing tactic
- 51 Behaves badly
- 54 Longtime Dodgers manager Tommy
- 56 Saints logo
- 58 Hit for the Kinks
- 59 Engine sounds on
- 61 Genesis garden
- 62 Grand Ole ____
- 63 Adjusts, as a clock
- 64 Danson and others

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59						60				61			
62						63				64			

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DOWN

- 1 Quite a bargain
- 2 Wedding color
- 3 Artery trunk
- 4 Reason for a tow
- 5 Puppet maker?
- 6 Religion defector
- 7 Hairpiece
- 8 Iroquois tribe
- 9 Finish second
- 10 Clothing fuzz
- 11 Way back when
- 12 Garden intruder
- 15 Flowering shrub
- 18 Place for a quill
- 20 Blue hue
- 24 Neptunium discoverer
- 26 Flavor detector
- 27 "Star Wars" pilot Han
- 28 "Hahaha," in a text
- 29 American, to a Brit
- 30 Light pats
- 31 Grandson of Eve
- 32 Addition column
- 34 Coupe's kin
- 37 High-principled one
- 40 Proofer's finds
- 42 Comes down with
- 45 Works a wedding, maybe

- 46 High-interest lending
- 48 Eat away
- 49 Ran in park
- 50 Indian flatbreads
- 51 Bushy do
- 52 Horse's beat
- 53 Eye drop?
- 55 Inquires
- 57 Deception

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Lane

■ continued from previous page
tables. Laughter rose into the evening air. Conversation continued. Children played. Neighbors hugged.

Only yards away stood the place where the fire had stopped. It was impossible not to recognize the narrow margin between destruction and deliverance, and many who felt deeply the faithfulness of God.

The wild turkeys provided their own kind the entertainment.

"The turkeys are confused," Al said. "Pushed back by the fire, and bears invading their peaceful space, they don't know where to go."

Cameras were aimed, videos recorded and smiles shared as the birds became an unexpected part of an evening no one would soon forget.

I chose a table where I knew no one except a writer friend. While others played Wiffle ball, I found myself in conversation with a man named John, whose stories became one of the highlights of the evening for me. He was the son of those with Gamble's store in Pagosa Springs, and he remembered the people and places that had shaped an earlier Pagosa.

He spoke of Ruby Sisson, who taught him math and algebra and, according to John, never missed a day of school. And I remembered seeing Ruby in her green 1966 Chevy, traveling snow-covered roads from the

Upper Blanco to teach her students. Today, the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library bears her name — a small but enduring footprint of a woman whose influence reached generations of Pagosa children.

Our conversation stirred memories of my own: two great floods that had raged through the Blanco, water spilling over the Rio Blanco's banks and coming within feet of our home. County crews filled sandbags and built a barrier around our house as the river surged nearby.

My Sweet Al and I are among the oldest couples still living on the Lower Blanco. We came full-time in 1976 and 1977, years marked by historic and bitter cold temperatures often 8 to 13 degrees below normal — and a river frozen hard by winter. So many of the old-timers we knew, including the Ross's and the Rackhams, are no longer with us. Their children and grandchildren now carry their stories forward.

Those stories, like the blackened mountainside, are vestiges. They are footprints left behind by people, seasons, hardships and acts of courage and mother nature. They remind us where we have been and who has helped us endure.

Final brushstroke: As guests departed from the shrimp boil that evening, it seemed that more than smoke had cleared. There was a

renewed appreciation for the generosity of Pagosa Springs, the Lower Blanco community and all those who stepped forward during the Blanco Fire of 2026. We are, indeed, a blessed people.

Send your comments to bettys-lade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



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- Morganne

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- Christy

Dr. Nylund's group that helped me through a tough time with an infected tooth comes highly recommended. The staff was stellar in accommodating me in a difficult time. I would be pleased to allow the doctor to work his expertise in my mouth. A great addition to help us here in Pagosa

- Lauren



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Photo courtesy of Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs
Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs emphasizes the importance of routine dental care and healthy gums as part of maintaining a healthy smile and overall well-being.

Protecting your smile starts with healthy gums

By Allison Brown

At Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs, Dr. Justin Nylund, DDS, reminds patients that caring for their gums is an important part of protecting their overall health. Periodontal disease, commonly known as gum disease, is a slowly progressing condition that can damage the tissues and bone supporting the teeth. Without treatment, it can eventually lead to loose teeth and tooth loss. Its effects may extend beyond the mouth. Research has found associations between periodontal disease and several systemic health conditions, including diabetes and heart disease. Gum disease also has been linked to respiratory disease. The American Academy of Periodontology notes that research suggests periodontal disease may contribute to the progression of other diseases, although a direct cause-and-effect relationship has not been conclusively established. That connection is one reason routine dental cleanings matter. Regular professional cleanings remove plaque and tartar that brushing and flossing alone may not eliminate, while exams help identify gum disease before it becomes more advanced.

For patients with periodontal disease, a typical six-month cleaning schedule may not be enough. Depending on the severity of the disease, Dr. Nylund may recommend professional scaling, root planing, polishing and cleanings every three or four months. Other treatments, such as antimicrobial rinses, laser therapy or antibiotics, may also be considered. Patients play an important role, too. Improving daily brushing and flossing habits, maintaining a healthy diet and avoiding smoking can support periodontal health. Black Diamond Dental provides preventive, periodontal, restorative and cosmetic care with personalized care. By making routine dental care a priority, patients can help protect their teeth and gums while giving their dental team a chance to spot potential problems early. Learn more or schedule an appointment at blackdiamonddentalofpagosasprings.com. *Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.*

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The
Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Photo courtesy Courtney Wieters
Team PCI, Wild and Styled teammates (left to right) Randy Taylor, Courtney Wieters, Rebecca Tenpenny and Chrissy Hancy are walking the runway in support of safety, respect and healthy relationships for our community youth. Runway for Rise is set for Oct. 3.

Investing in our youth: Rise Above Violence offers prevention education

Rise Above Violence

Beyond providing direct services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, Rise Above Violence works to end the cycle of violence at its source. One of the most powerful ways Rise does this is by stopping violence before it even begins.

Each school year, Rise youth advocates work with local youth to shape a safer, kinder future for Pagosa Springs by teaching healthy relationship behaviors early on.

Their objective is clear: equip students with the self-esteem, knowledge and critical awareness needed to recognize red flags early and foster respectful, safe connections.

Through partnerships with schools and community organizations, Rise teaches young people to spot warning signs of unhealthy behavior before those dynamics turn abusive. These signs include isolation, extreme jealousy, possessiveness and controlling behavior.

Rise's work encourages students to learn where boundaries belong, how to manage conflict and how to build resilience against bullying,

drama and low self-worth.

The program also empowers area youth to advocate for positive change by having high schoolers lead campaigns like February's Teen Dating Violence Awareness and May's Mental Health Walk.

Girls on the Run: registration open now

Did you know, Rise hosts a Girls on the Run chapter here in the county?

This program is designed for girls in third through fifth grade, and registration is currently open for the fall season, which starts on Sept. 9.

Girls on the Run is an evidence-based youth development program designed to support the physical, emotional and social well-being of young participants.

Over the course of the season, girls attend educational sessions focused on confidence, emotional wellness, healthy relationships, goal setting, teamwork and communication skills while preparing for their end-of-season 5K.

Interested in finding out more or

■ See Rise on page 21

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FALL EVENINGS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ACORN
- AMBER
- AUTUMN
- BONFIRE
- BREEZE
- CHILLY
- CIDER
- CINNAMON
- COZY
- CRISP
- EQUINOX
- FLANNEL
- FOLIAGE
- FROSTY
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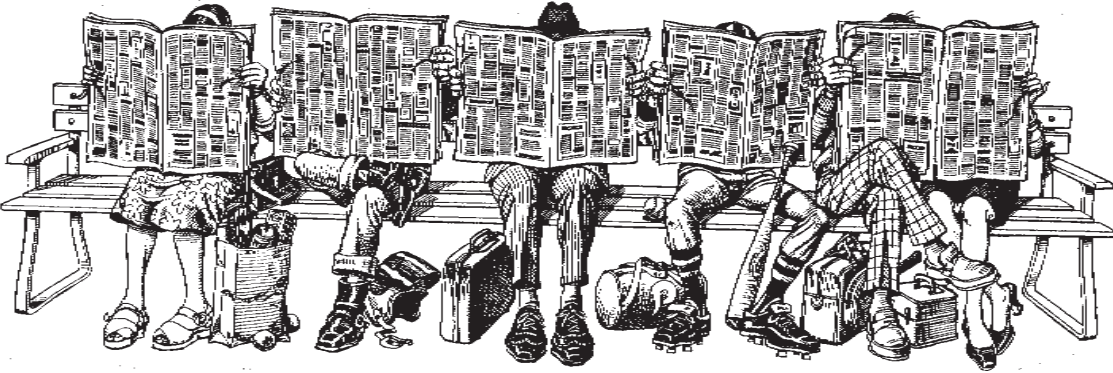
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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

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

- 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

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

Rise

■ continued from page 19

signing up? Email brenden@riseaboveviolence.org.

Runway for Rise: raising funds for youth programs

These essential youth education services don't happen without community support.

Money raised from the upcoming Runway for Rise event on Oct. 3 directly funds these programs.

During the 2025-2026 school year, Rise youth advocates provided prevention education to 624 students in the Archuleta School District.

As we start another school year, Rise is looking forward to expanding education services on healthy

relationships and reaching young people.

Meet Another Runway Team: Team PCI, Wild and Styled

The Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) is one of many local organizations Rise works closely with so that, together, we can all rise above violence. We are thrilled to have them as a Runway team this year and can't wait to see what they design.

Team PCI, Wild and Styled believes that every person deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued.

“We rise for the youth in our community — to help create a future where safety, respect and healthy relationships are the foundation for

every child to thrive," the team states.

Teammates Randye, Courtney, Rebecca and Chrissy stand with Rise in building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

How you can help

You can support Rise services and Team PCI, Wild and Styled by casting your vote at www.riseaboveviolence.org.

Tickets are also available for the Runway for Rise event to be held on Oct. 3. Don't wait; buy your tickets now and cast your vote.

If you or someone you know needs support, Rise Above Violence offers confidential help 24/7 at (970) 264-9075 for youth and adults experiencing violence in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.



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Robert Melton, AuD

Doctor of Audiology

Hearing & Tinnitus Care Specialist

Community United Methodist Church to close ‘Direction’ series with Labor Day Communion Sunday

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

The Community United Methodist Church will close its six-week “Direction: Following the Way” sermon series this Sunday, Sept. 6, with a Communion Sunday message titled “The Way Forward” drawn from John 14: 1-7.

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

The sermon brings the summer series to a close by returning to the question at its heart — “How do I find direction when the road ahead is unclear?” — and landing on Jesus’s

answer to Thomas: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

“Thomas wanted a map,” said Pastor Ken Daniell. “Jesus gave him something better. Not directions, a companion. I am the Way. Walk with me. That is the answer to every question this series has been asking.”

The sermon will cast a vision for what intentional community engagement looks like for a congregation called to go out rather than wait for people to come in, showing up at the food share, at community events and in the places where neighbors already are.

“Church growth is not an acci-

dent,” Daniell said. “It is intentional. And it starts with showing up where people already are and walking with them the way Jesus walked with people.”

Communion will be served at both services. All are welcome at the table regardless of background, belief or history with church.

Next Sunday, Sept. 13, the Community United Methodist Church will begin a new series — “Peace: Holding It Together” —exploring the longing for peace that is deep enough to hold us when life feels fragmented.

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

Pagosa Bible Church to present Alpha course

Pagosa Bible Church

If there is a God, and you could ask him one question, what would it be?

Come and watch a 20-minute video and then participate, or just listen, to a small-group discussion for each session. Dessert is offered, and it is all free.

Alpha is a series of sessions that explore the foundations of the Chris-

tian faith in an honest and non-judgmental environment.

Topics during this 9-week course include:

- “Is There More to Life than This?”
- “Who is Jesus and Why did Jesus Die?”
- “Why and How do I Read the Bible and Pray?”
- “How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?”
- “Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does He Do?”

- “Does God Heal Today?”
- “How Do I Resist Evil?”
- “What About the Church?”

C.S. Lewis famously stated, “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

Come and try Alpha starting Sunday, Sept. 13, at 6 p.m. at Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. RSVP to keeler828@msn.com.

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Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day

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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will focus on interdependence in September

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This is a season of beginnings. The harvest begins in the fields and it is a time of gathering.

Consider gathering with the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship as we introduce monthly themes to center our Sunday services and programs.

September brings new energy, and this month the focus will be interdependence, one of the six Shared Values of Unitarian Universalist faith foundation.

Join us most Sundays at 10:30 a.m., the first and third of which are worship-style services. We offer streaming through Zoom, and the information to join us virtually is in our monthly newsletter, which can be found at PagosaUU.org.

The September schedule is below, and, as a welcoming congregation, we are a community living our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

- Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m.: Sunday service — UU Water Communion Service.

This UU annual tradition, celebrated by many UU congregations, is held when all are welcomed back to the community after the summer. We will have special music, stories and sharing as we drop a pebble to create a ripple of interdependence and honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it. Those in attendance are invited to bring a small amount of water to be added to the common bowl. We will hold a ritual to bless this water as a symbol of shared community.

- Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m.: Going Deeper Sharing Circle.

This facilitated, small-group setting is where we invite sharing and deep a listening practice. We will explore the theme of interdependence more deeply. Come make friends and practice the art of listening with others.

- Sept. 20, 10:30 a.m.: Sunday

service — “Mabon: Celebrating the Web of the Harvest.”

Join us this Sunday as we celebrate Mabon; the autumn equinox. Let us come together with gratitude in our hearts, as we give thanks and prepare for the darker days ahead. A community potluck will follow the service. All are welcome.

- Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m.: Action Sunday. We engage our lived values in the world, taking actions to learn and respond to justice making.

The fellowship is located at 301 N. Pagosa Blvd. Unit B-15 in Greenbriar Plaza, on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. Find us online at PagosaUU.org for the current newsletter and programs.

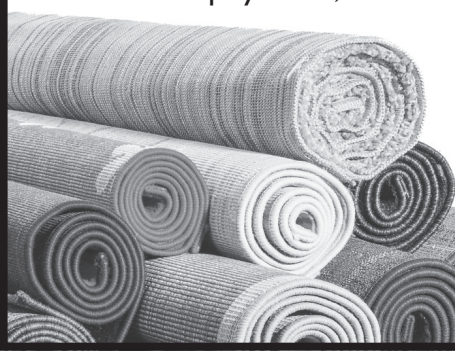
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SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

H&R BLOCK HAS A NEW LOCATION 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B8 Pagosa Springs, 81147. Ready to meet your needs. Calls or walk-ins welcome.

PAGOSA AA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: ID 858-319-763 password 754-234. For information call Kathi (970)946-1482, Ranza (970)903-3849 or (970)731-9774 or central office (888)333-9649.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

SERVICES

ASPENGLow LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061.

ASPHALT PAVING AND SEAL COATING. Driveways, parking lots, subdivisions. Local references, high quality, competitive rates. Icon Development Company, Inc. 30+ years experience. Call or text, (602)448-4936.

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HOME REMODELS and improvements at affordable prices. Bathrooms, kitchens, additions, decks, drywall, painting, siding and more. Call: (970)844-0554.

KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

NEED HELP WITH A PROJECT? Moving? Packing and unpacking. Organizing and decluttering. Something else? Call Marlene, (719)850-3055.

RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

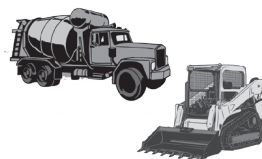
SEEKING A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE? Karli at (970)880-0981 for: true sidereal astrology, medical medium (truth about healing) conversations, myofascial unwinding massage therapy.

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to submit your classified.
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(970) 264-2100

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning and mitigation. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience **REFLECTIONS** Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 -FREE estimates.

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Detail Oriented, Trustworthy
& Reliable Cleaners
For All Your Housekeeping
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Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446

HELP WANTED

3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license. 40 hours a week available. \$23 per hour. (970)264-5160.

ALPINE APPLIANCE IS HIRING. Looking for a dependable, motivated person to join our team. No experience necessary —we'll train the right person. Starting at \$20 /hour. Apply in person at 2800 Cornerstone Dr., Ste A1 or email sales@alpineappliancepagosa.com.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CITY HALL CAFE looking for part -time and full -time dishwashers. Apply within. 2151 Eagle Drive.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES IS HIRING. Seeking a general laborer, clean driving record preferred. Responsibilities would include deliveries, construction site clean up and support, insulation and utility work. Pay starts at \$21+ per hour. Full-time, year round work. Consistent work start time and location, paid time off and paid holidays. To apply, come by 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application or send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com.

COLORADO ROCK & DIRT EXCAVATION is expanding our team. We are looking for experienced Heavy Equipment Operators. We offer competitive pay, health insurance, 401K and PTO. Please email a resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or contact the office at (970)264-3478.

HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST THIRST STORE – Now Hiring. The Community United Methodist Church Thrift Store in Pagosa Springs is hiring a **part-time position. Sales Floor Assistant** – Offers friendly customer service, operates the cash register, restocks items, and helps maintain a clean, welcoming store. Join a nonprofit, church-supported thrift store that makes a difference in our local community. **To apply or learn more, contact Rev. Ken Daniell** at pastor@cumcps.org.

FREE GOLF when you're employed by Pagosa Springs Golf Club! See us for details. Immediate Openings DOE: Grounds Crew \$17-\$19/hr, Outside Services \$16-\$17. Seeking reliable, outgoing & honest applicants with excellent customer service skills for our team. Will train. Apply in person at 1 Pines Club Place.

HAVE 2 BEDROOM TRAILER on the river, needs work. 1st month free if you fix it. I will provide parts. River water, solar, generator, 22 miles south of town. Rent \$800 per month. (970)264-2592.

HOUSE CLEANER- 22 miles south of town. (970)264-2592.

HOUSE KEEPING FIRESIDE CABINS are looking for Part- time housekeeper. 2- 4 days a week. Starting pay \$19 an hour. Great work environment, will train. No Laundry, Hours vary from 9am-3pm but are flexible. English not a requirement. (OFF ALL MAJOR HOLIDAYS) Fireside Cabins está buscando ama de llaves a tiempo completo o parcial necesaria 5 días a la semana. Comenzando a pagar \$19 por hora. Gran ambiente de trabajo, entrenará. No hay lavandería, los horarios varían de 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., pero son flexibles. El inglés no es un requisito. (FUERA DE TODOS LOS PRINCIPALES VACACIONES) Fireside Cabins 1600 E Hwy 160 Pagosa Springs. (East side of Pagosa just past Hwy 84 & 160 junction 1 mile from downtown Pagosa area) must be dependable. For more information call 970-264-9204 or email Johnjessharper@gmail.com

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call or text for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

LANTERN DANCER GALLERY IS HIRING! Join our floor sales team in a warm, friendly, comfortable environment. Stop by to apply or apply online at **LanternDancer.com**.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$18/ hour, full or part -time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LOOKING FOR STUCCO PERSON. 22 miles south of town. (970)264-2592.

HELP WANTED

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS WINE AND LIQUOR is looking for a dependable, friendly, part-time and full-time cashier to join our team. **We're looking for someone who:** Is reliable and punctual, Has great customer service skills, Is friendly and outgoing, Can work independently and as part of a team, Is available nights and weekends, Has a positive attitude. If you are interested, please stop by the store to apply. **Come join our team.**

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

PART -TIME BARTENDER. Keyah Grande Guest House, Part -time, Friday –Sunday position. Experience preferred. Must be reliable, friendly, and customer focused. \$16.72 /hour plus tips. Apply at theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

PHYSICAL THERAPY TECH — Rocky Mountain Physical Therapy has an opening for a full time Physical Therapy Tech. We are looking for a dependable, energetic multitasker who will enjoy helping people recover to join our team. No prior experience necessary. Benefits include paid holidays, paid sick leave, and 401k plan. Please submit resume to RMPT 117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste T or email to rockymountainpt@yahoo.com.

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

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com
to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

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



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

Apply in person.
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Applications at
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 Send applications & resumes to:
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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



**NOW HIRING –
TIPPER / LOAD HAND**

Join our waste collection team! Seeking dependable, hardworking individuals to assist CDL Drivers with residential and commercial waste collection. Must be able to perform physical labor, work outdoors in all weather conditions, and follow safety procedures. Starting pay \$19/hour, benefits, paid time off, and advancement opportunities available.

Apply at www.bruinwaste.com or fill out an application in person at 216 Industrial Circle EOE

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SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

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EXCELLENT HORSE QUALITY GRASS HAY. Barn stored. \$10. (970)264-6779. Please leave a message.

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\$26.00–\$29.00/hr DOE
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\$250 at hire • \$250 after 6 months

Full-time, year-round position.
Must possess a valid CDL,
safe driving record,
and strong work ethic.

Apply today at
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Email introduction and resume to:
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NOW OPEN!


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Archuleta Housing is looking
for an **Office Assistant** with the
following skills:

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2008 GMC ENVOY SLT 4WD. Excellent condition, leather heater seats. Garaged. Two sets of tires, summer and winter. 174,000K. Always serviced at Buckskin Auto. \$4800. (970)585-4528.

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SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? It's time to get stocked up. Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine mix. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

DRY, SEASONED DOUGLAS FIR and aspen for sale. Ryan Whitlow (970)585-4578.

FIREWOOD DELIVERED. Doug fir /pine mix \$250 per cord, \$1400 for 6 cords. Call Kathie, (303)358-6218.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$110 per cord. Round pine seasoned one full year. You load and you split. 10% discount for 5 cords or more. 3R Ranch, (970)264-5160.

PORTER CABLE CORDED PLATE JOINER in case. Never used. With box of biscuits. \$150. (505)263-6635.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

21' AEROLITE RV. Updates and title needed. \$600. (970)507-0132.

YARD SALES

GARAGE SALE lots of fishing stuff. Reloading bullets and primers. Carbon fiber kayak paddle and so much more. 55 Northbay Circle. September 4 and September 5. 9a.m. -2p.m. No early birds.

INSIDE GARAGE SALE rain or shine. 144 Wildwood Dr. 8:30a.m. -4p.m. September 4, 5, 11, 12. Lots of furniture, snow blower, massage chair, household items, 2012 van, firewood. Saturday 12, 25% off furniture, half off everything else. (970)398-1928.

MOVING SALE. 2 DAYS ONLY AUTOMOTIVE, tools, tires, towing, gas cans, battery chargers. CAMPING, tents, stoves, lanterns, ice chests, water jugs and propane. TABLES, oak with chairs, displayed. Saturday, Sunday, 9/5, 9/6. 9a.m.-2p.m. 412 Bastille.

ONGOING YARD /GARAGE SALE Go to thecountyguard.org/pagosaspringsyardsale for complete item list and location. (970)585-6469.

SALE RIVERSIDE BOOKS 75% off used non-fiction. 136 E Pagosa St. Sept 3-Sept 7. 11a.m. -3p.m. (505)699-3059.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND BAR for rent or lease. The Colorado Garden Company. Great for wine /cheese /beer /tapas. Great space in garden nursery. Ice cream trailer for rent in addition. Text (970)398-0518.

PRECISION GRANITE IS HIRING Full-time Granite Fabricator / Shop Technician. \$20–\$28 /hour depending on experience. Experience preferred, but we will train the right person. Looking for someone dependable, mechanically inclined, hardworking and interested in learning a skilled trade. Modern fabrication shop. Paid vacation and plenty of overtime available. Apply in person at Precision Granite, 151 N. 14th St., Pagosa Springs, or call at (970)749-8971 for more information.

SEASONAL EVENING CLEANER Seasonal evening cleaner for meat processing room at The Buck Stops Here. Must be reliable, job starts in September. Please call Kevin at (970)903-4481 if interested.

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

THE HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER animals need you. Do you dream of a career working with animals who need you? The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs has an opening for a full -time Animal Care Specialist. Must love to work with animals AND people, spend time outdoors in all kinds of weather, and get a lot of exercise throughout the day. Previous dog and cat handling experience is a plus. A positive attitude is a must. PTO, additional sick time, and great shelter and thrift store discounts as benefits. Hourly rate \$17 -\$18 DOE. Apply for the Animal Care Specialist role online <https://pagosahumane.org/> or stop in the Shelter and complete an application. Come join our team caring for the homeless pets of Pagosa Springs.

THE OVERLOOK HOT SPRINGS IS HIRING for front desk staff and massage therapists. Full and /or part time positions available, experience preferred. License required for massage therapist position. Please bring resume by to apply. We're located at 432 Pagosa St. or call us at (970)264-4040.

TWO LIVE -IN CARETAKERS WANTED – Pagosa Springs, CO. Year -round role managing a 25 -acre mountain retreat with 6 residences (includes caretaker home). **Duties:** Home /outbuilding maintenance, equipment upkeep, snow removal, tractor operation, and housekeeping. **Requirements:** Experience in estate /property management or hospitality, enjoys rural mountain lifestyle, and basic agricultural /hay knowledge. **Apply:** Send cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to lane@sta-mail.com.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

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

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL STORAGE. Flex/Hobby Garage. One unit available. Approximately 1800 sq. ft., 1 full bathroom, 14 ft. x 10 ft. door, high ceiling. Radiant floor heat. Finished drywall interior. \$2,000 a month. 218 Hopi Drive, Pagosa Springs. Call or text (903)327-3345.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AVAILABLE. Liberty Theatre building. Main Street access, parking, AC, fiber Internet, Eastern Range and river views, keyless entry. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE SUITE ON MAIN STREET, Hersch Bldg, upstairs, 675 sqft, 3 offices, reception area, closet, shared bathroom, utilities and fiber internet incl- Matt 303-263-2339.

LARGE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park. 112 acre lot— \$995 /month. and 1.27 acre lot— \$750 /month. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities are located at the street. Tenant must verify end use with the county. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

TWO ADJOINING OFFICES DOWNTOWN Upstairs. Rent one or both. \$350 per month per office. Includes utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

UPTOWN WAREHOUSE SPACE with office and bathroom for rent. 1400 sq. ft. 97 Hopi Dr. (970)946-5163.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH for lease. Enjoy stunning creek, canyon, pasture, and mountain views, including V-Rock and the San Juan Mountains. Situated on a private 35-acre retreat bordering National Forest, this property offers a private lake for paddleboarding, direct access to hiking and outdoor recreation, horse pasture potential, pet -friendly living (with approval), barn and storage use, and a large garage/RV garage with space for up to 5 -6 vehicles, RVs, or trailers. Perfect for an outdoor lifestyle in a quiet, retreat-like setting. \$3,500-\$6,500/month depending on included amenities and storage needs. Text (970)398-0518.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH manufactured home in Vista. Fenced yard on corner lot with two sheds. \$1650/ month. (970)946-3983.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, fenced yard, 1 -car garage, on Lake Hatcher, close to national forest. \$2400 monthly. Call (970)946-4906.

5 BEDROOM 3 BATH 2 car garage. \$3200. See Zillow for pictures. (970)749-3850.

BEAUTIFUL FURNISHED 3 bedroom 2 bath remote home on 35 acres in the Chimney Rock area.

Currently occupied. Available for 6 months starting in October 2026. Renewal available. \$1800 /month.

Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

BRIGHT, SUNNY, NEWLY REPAINTED 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath unit with attached garage, 2 outdoor parking spaces, sundeck and fireplace in downtown. Utilities included except for internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up). Background check and credit report required. All appliances except washer and dryer. No smoking, pets upon approval. \$2650 per month. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL, New build 7th Street—one and two bedrooms available. Walking distance to hot springs and shops and restaurants in old downtown. (720)470-2653.

FOR RENT. 2 bedrooms, near town. \$1000 month plus \$1000 deposit. (970)317-1071. Rob Snow Rd, Pagosa Springs.

FOR RENT. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1750 month. First and last with security deposit. 633 Prospect Blvd. (970)946-3983.

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UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 1 bath condo. \$1400 per month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com. Available NOW.

PARK YOUR CAMPER OR TRAILER and camp, or just store it. 22 miles south of town. (970)264-2592.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 2 bedroom 2.5 bath condo on Lake Pagosa. One year lease required. Available around October 1st. \$1800 /month. Currently occupied. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

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UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 2 car garage home in nice neighborhood. Water paid. \$2995 per month. Available NOW. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

UNFURNISHED UPPER LEVEL CONDO on the golf course. Loft bedroom. 1 and 1/2 bathrooms. Pet approved. \$2000 /month. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

OPEN HOUSES

DUAL OPEN HOUSE Thursday, September 3, 10a.m. -1p.m. 1288 Cloud Cap Ave #3 and 301 Talisman Dr #4319. Listed by Sherpa Real Estate. Refreshments provided.

OPEN HOUSE this Friday, September 4, 10a.m. -1p.m. 62 W. Golf Pl. 3 bedroom /2 bath /1288 sq. ft. Private backyard. Listed by Sherpa Real Estate. Refreshments provided.

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All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.



Photo courtesy Paula Byra

Local EAA Chapter 1679 is sponsoring a two-day event of Young Eagles flights on Sept. 12 and 13 from 8 to noon (weather permitting). Bring your kids ages 8-17 to Steven's Field/Archuleta County Airport for an experience of a lifetime. Space is limited and will fill quickly. You must register online at YEDay.org.

Food Pantry Network helps nourish Archuleta County

Healthy Archuleta

Residents of Archuleta County are fortunate to live in a community where organizations come together in support of our neighbors.

This includes the Archuleta County food pantries that have formed the Food Pantry Network. Supported by Healthy Archuleta, this group collaborates across individual food pantries to support healthy food access for our neighbors.

The Food Pantry Network formed in spring 2020, and the group continues to collaborate and support the community.

The Food Pantry Network includes independent food pantry locations across Archuleta County, including organizations in downtown Pagosa Springs, uptown Pagosa Springs, and Arboles:

- Downtown Pagosa: Community United Methodist Church.
- Uptown Pagosa: Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Our Community Eats.
- Arboles: TARA Community Center.

Each food pantry is open throughout the week, and the network includes a site open most days to accommodate working families and individuals.

Additionally, the Archuleta County Mountain Express Transit (MET) offers transportation routes that include some food pantries, and older adults who need a ride to a local food pantry can contact the MET to schedule a ride through its paratransit service.

For food pantry information and

schedules, visit Healthy Archuleta's website, foodcoalition4archuleta.org/food-pantry-network.html.

The strength of the Food Pantry Network relies heavily on local involvement.

Community members support the initiative through:

- Donations. Community members can donate nonperishable goods and fresh produce to the Food Pantry Network. The network is supported by donations from backyard growers, local ranchers and farmers, community gardens, Healthy Archuleta's hydroponic towers, and community donations of fresh produce and healthy nonperishable goods.

- Volunteering and Funding. Additional ways you can support the Food Pantry Network include giving time at food pantries, participating in quarterly food drives or contributing financially. The Community United Methodist Church is currently looking for volunteers to support its pantry and distribution operation. The next food drive will be Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Market. For more information and to learn about volunteer opportunities, email communityengagement@fsfearchuleta.org or call (970) 585-6885.

Through collaboration and local action, the Food Pantry Network ensures that nutritious food remains accessible to neighbors in Archuleta County. We welcome any and all contributions and acts of service to support the food pantries in Archuleta County.

To learn more and get involved, visit Healthy Archuleta's website, foodcoalition4archuleta.org/food-pantry-network.html, or send us an email to fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Archuleta Seniors, Inc.
Presents

Masquerade Ball

September 26th
6-9 PM
at the Ross Aragon Community Center

*Featuring an evening of music, dining,
dancing and community spirit.*

Archuleta Seniors, Inc. Masquerade Ball is more than an elegant evening out, this IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER HELPS SUSTAIN PROGRAMS that older adults in Archuleta County depend on every day.

Funds raised during the Masquerade Ball directly SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT HELP OLDER ADULTS remain healthy, connected, and independent; such as Meals on Wheels which provides nutritious meals and regular wellness checks to seniors who may otherwise be isolated.

Donations also support caregiver resources, wellness programs, educational opportunities, Monday-Friday in-dining and take out meals, and social activities that STRENGTHEN CONNECTIVITY AND SOCIAL INTERACTIONS.

Tickets on sale now!
www.pssenior.org
or call 970-264-2167

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





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