

County logs seven new COVID-19 cases in five days, sits at Level 2

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Seven new resident cases of COVID-19 were reported to San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) between Sept. 17 and Sept. 21, putting Archuleta County's cumulative case count at 55.

Of those 55, 34 have recovered, leaving 21 cases that are considered active.

To date, there have been 47 non-resident cases for Archuleta County reported to SJBPH. That figure does not include La Plata County residents who may have tested positive

at an Archuleta County facility.

Archuleta County remains at Level 2: Concern on the framework dial, which tracks a county's progress toward the Protect Our Neighbors phase of reopening and includes five levels.

A county's status on the dial is dependent upon eight criteria.

Archuleta County is currently meeting the metrics for four criteria:

- Sufficient hospital bed capacity
- Sufficient PPE supply

■ See COVID-19 A8

Mystery continues around abandoned car found at West Fork

By John Finebrock
Staff Writer

Law enforcement have not been able to track down the owner of an abandoned vehicle that was discovered buried



Baldonado

ied under logs and debris on Aug. 13 near Pagosa Springs.

"We can't find him," said Jim Van Ry, office administrator for the Mineral County Sheriff's Department, adding, "No one knows where he's at. We have done extensive searches through the FBI and all that and nothing. This fella has dropped off the face of the Earth."

■ See Mystery A8

Council approves first reading of ordinance to grant waivers to Land Use and Development Code

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

At a regular meeting of the Pagosa Springs Town Council on Sept. 17, an ordinance was approved on first reading that would amend the town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) and give town council the authority to grant waivers.

Planning Director James Dickhoff explained that Ordinance 942 was in response to some challenges that town staff has faced with "some of the interpretations" of specific language within the LUDC.

In conjunction with Town Attorney Clayton Buchner, it was discovered that there were a number of codes that have a similar language to what is being proposed with Ordinance 942.

"Truly, since town council has adopted the land use development code, it gives specific authority to town council to grant waivers to that land use development code," Dickhoff said. "The intent isn't to give waivers of large provisions of the

■ See Waivers A8

Sales, lodgers' tax revenues see more than 10 percent increases

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

Both lodgers' and sales tax saw increases within the past couple months, according to reports given at the most recent Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting on Sept. 17.

Lodgers' tax

For June, lodgers' tax was up "significantly," according to Tourism Director Jennie Green, specifically up by 24.4 percent.

In July, lodgers' tax saw a 30.99 percent increase over July of 2019, according to Green.

"This was the first month that we ever exceeded \$100,000 in collections. It was \$116,202. Rather surprising. All indications that I have received from area lodgers, August, September, and quite possibly October, are remaining rather strong," Green said.

According to agenda documentation, however, the town's lodging tax collections are down 2.98 percent through July, compared to 2019, or \$11,614.

Sales tax

Town sales tax for July, which was collected in September, showed in an increase of 11.1 in

total sales tax compared to July of 2019, according to Town Manager Andrea Phillips.

After the airport fund contribution, total town sales tax revenue is \$737,839.09. Additionally, \$368,920 of that total is going to the town's general fund and capital improvement fund.

In July of 2019, the town received a total of \$663,743 in sales tax revenue, according to agenda documentation.

Sales tax collections for last July are 20 percent higher than those in July of 2018 and 40.7 percent higher than those in July of 2017, according to Phillips.

■ See Revenues A8



Bobby Parker, of Oklahoma, flew his 1944 Beechcraft Staggerwing to Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Sept. 19. The plane, which was restored, was originally owned by John Wayne and also flew the likes of Bette Davis.

Fires, demand, pandemic spark price increase for building materials

By John Finebrock
Staff Writer

Due to a combination of a global pandemic; fires in Colorado, Oregon and California; and high demand, prices for building materials have doubled around Pagosa Springs and nationwide.

"Pretty well across the board everything has at least doubled, if not double and some change," said Dale August, lumber associate at Terry's Ace Hardware in an interview Tuesday. "Getting treated lumber has been just terrible ... We've never seen this before as far as this particular problem goes. We're basically — we're on standby just to get stuff in."

The SUN spoke to three different building supply companies in town, which each generally gave the same reasons for the uptick in prices:

- In March, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted and even closed down some sawmills due to health restrictions.
- As many people were home more through the spring and summer, do-it-yourself projects at home have become popular and

have increased demand for building materials.

- The amount of new home construction locally and nationwide has increased demand for building materials.
- Fires in California, Oregon and Colorado are occurring where many sawmills operate, or in forests where lumber is harvested, stifling the supply chain.

"One of our main distributors is out of Grand Junction," August said. "Well, they run rail cars from Denver to Grand Junction and you know, with I-70 and whatnot being closed, that was really a sticking point for us ... They're running cars now, but for about three weeks we were out of luck."

Of the fires happening in Colorado, Oregon and California, August said, "We're losing out on product that's actually burning ... The loggers themselves had to evacuate and they couldn't cut down anything. You know, that in and of itself — they're trying to log those forests that are on fire."

"The demand has been a lot higher than the mills have been

■ See Materials A8



Photo courtesy George Hunyadi

Twyne Regester's Watusi steer poses for a picture near Chromo this past week. In keeping with his breed, this Watusi shows off its large and dramatic horns.

			
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Opinion



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9/17	77	39	-	-	-
9/18	76	42	-	-	-
9/19	76	41	-	-	-
9/20	77	43	-	-	-
9/21	78	41	-	-	-

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EDITORIAL

Letters to the Editor

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

However, we were disappointed to receive a Letter to the Editor this week that contained numerous falsehoods pertaining to a local candidate running for county commissioner.

While we can't fact check every letter that we get, this one had so many inaccuracies we felt that it was worth investigating a little further.

We are disappointed when someone casts aside integrity to spread blatant untruths about candidates. Candidates running for office should be able to stand on their own merits without someone having to write a script in an effort to discredit their competition.

Last week, there was a letter aimed at bringing up old claims about the sheriff's office in order to discredit a candidate who is running for office. Those claims were found to be unfounded by the district attorney and should have been laid to rest last year.

While we don't always agree with letter writers' opinions, we print their letters in order to encourage open discourse.

Newspapers provide an avenue and self-expression through Letters to the Editor. We recognize the importance of publishing a diversity of viewpoints. A mixture of expertise, facts and opinions is healthy.

Letters to the Editor are the best place to voice philosophies, thoughts, opinions, possible solutions and more. It's a place where an individual can get the word out to residents, elected officials and the movers and shakers of our community. We believe that Letters to the Editor make for a more interesting newspaper.

Thinking about writing us a letter?

The following are some guidelines.

First, your letter should be 500 words or less. This week, a 600-word letter was submitted with an apology that the writer couldn't make it shorter and get his point across. We believe you can.

The SUN reserves the right to edit letters. Letters printed will be at our discretion, and there is no guarantee letters will be published.

Letters should be received at The SUN by noon on Tuesday (the deadline may move up due to a holiday).

While we won't print letters from candidates running for office, we will print letters in favor of or against candidates. Due to limited space, we may have to limit printing only one letter regarding a political candidate in each edition.

You can email your letters to editor@pagosasun.com. Please type your letter into the body of an email or send in a Word document file. Do not send PDF files.

When emailing a letter, please include your address and phone number. While we won't print your address or phone number, we may contact you to verify your letter.

And, if you bring in a letter to the office or mail it to us, remember to sign it and include your address and phone number, again, not for publication. Mailed letters should be sent to P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

We won't print form letters. Don't sign your name to a letter someone has written and encouraged you to send to us. We don't want those letters.

We do want to print your individual opinion in your own letter.

We will print letters signed by a couple or individual, but not by more than two people.

Letters complaining about local busi-

nesses should be routed straight to the business being complained about. Letters promoting businesses are considered advertisements and must be paid for. The advertising deadline is noon on Monday. When we receive a letter complaining about a business, we deliver it to the management of that business.

We could tell you so many stories about the letters we receive.

We once received a letter that wasn't signed and, upon further research, we discovered that the "author" had been deceased for about eight years. The writer of the letter was a coward and used a deceased person's name to hide behind. The writer even went as far as using that person's former address.

Another time, we received a letter talking about a business owner who paid their rent to the owner of a building and, according to the letter writer, for some reason the money never went to the bank and the bank foreclosed on the business. The letter contained names, locations, rumor and innuendo. The letter was libelous. Libelous letters, whether about a business or an individual, cannot be printed.

As hard as we try, there are letters that still manage to slip through our system.

Another thing we take very seriously at The SUN is plagiarism. We received another Letter to the Editor this week that was completely plagiarized. You plagiarize when you take someone else's work or ideas and pass them off as your own. If you come across something you want to share in a letter, attribute it to the original source. Then expound on that viewpoint with your own words, thoughts and ideas.

Do you have an opinion? Share it. Write a Letter to the Editor.

Terri Lynn Oldham House

LOOKING BACK

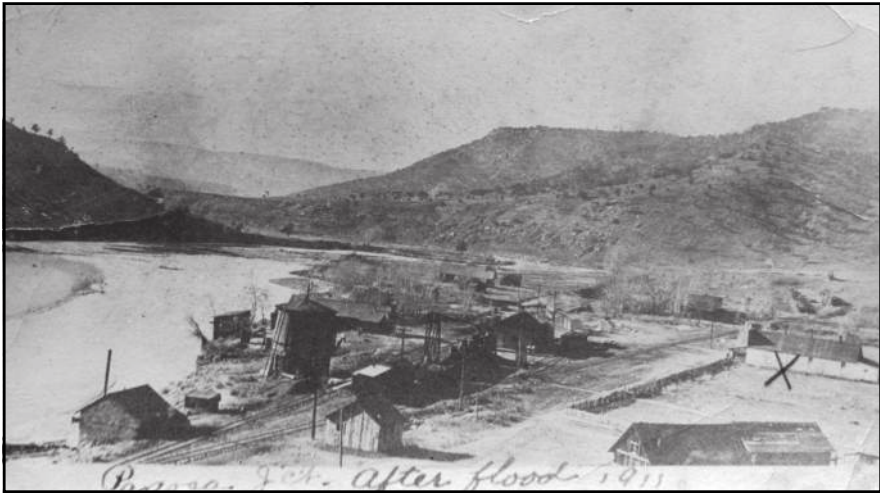
This postcard was shared by Marc Yalom. The front of the card reads: "Pagosa Jct. After flood 1911."

On the reverse of the card it reads:

"Aug. 11, 1926

"The X on this postcard is Uncle Walter's store. ... Mother."

A two-cent stamp is affixed to the card.

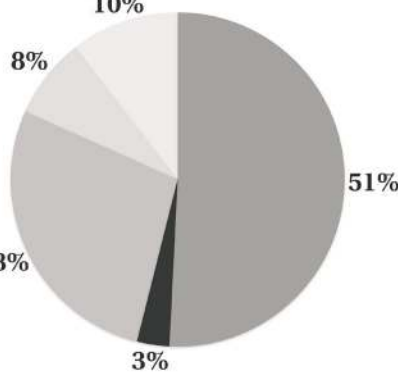


WHADDYA THINK?

What is your favorite thing about fall?

Poll results (191 votes)

Leaves changing color — 51 percent
Pumpkin spice everything — 3 percent
Roasted green chile — 28 percent
Football — 8 percent
Other — 10 percent



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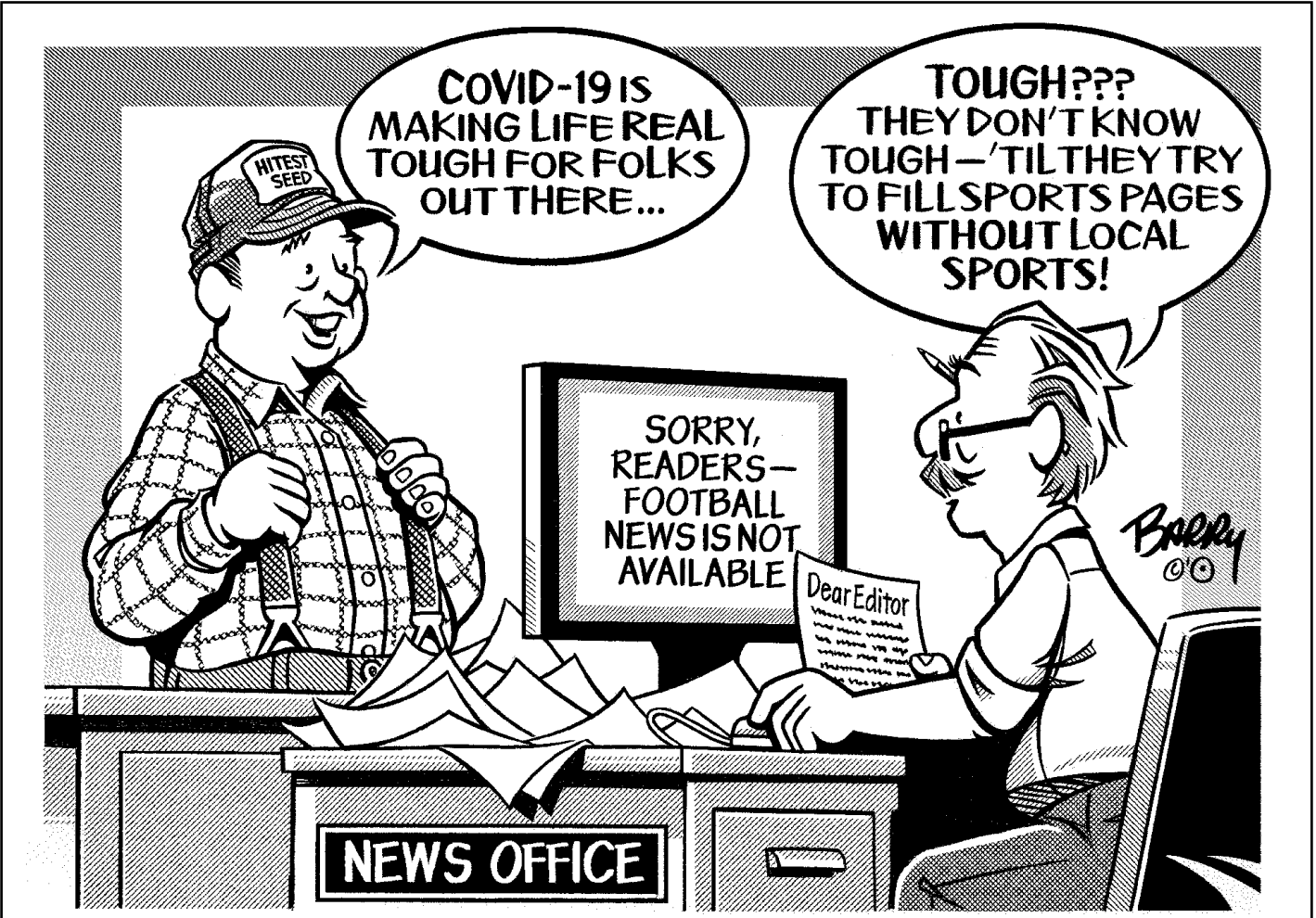
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Rory Burnett

rburnett@pagosasprings.co.gov



LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 17, 1920

The Margaret Voorhees collection of old jewelry was sold at public auction last Saturday by her guardian, Tom Mee, and the sum of \$120 realized.

One thousand dollars' worth of jewelry and nearly as much in silverware, just arrived at Hatcher Hdw. Co. Practically everything in the silverware line now in stock.

Mrs. Jennie Smith, humane officer, called at the Grant Shields camp Sunday. She reports all horses in fine shape and a good line to inspect — was proud to see such interest taken. She was entertained at Will Moore's and a good time was enjoyed by all present.

Robert Nossaman left yesterday for Boulder where he will continue his studies at the state university. Walter Zabriskie, Jr. of Pagosa Junction went with him and will enter that institution.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 28, 1945

Two Rio Grande Motorway trucks have been wrecked near Wolf Pass this past week. The first, with 24,000 lbs. of wheat on board, driven by Cecil Noble, Durango, jack-knifed off the road between Horseshoe Curve and Tunnel Fill Thursday of last week, about 11 a.m. The side and top of the trailer were crushed.

A second Motorway truck went off the road 4 miles out of Pagosa Tuesday and the driver, Bob Cuttender, was not seriously hurt but badly shaken up. The tractor was smashed up, and the trailer over on its side.

Sgt. Eldon Gibson, in the army 14 months before Pearl Harbor, arrived home Wednesday from California, again just "Mr. Gibson" and an honorable discharge in his pocket.

Jim Matthews writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews, that his outfit landed at Yokohama, Japan, Sept. 8th, to find that there simply was no town left.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 24, 1970

A new scoreboard will be on the scene at the homecoming football game this Saturday when the Pagosa Pirates meet the Dolores Bears. The large, new, electric scoreboard is being purchased with donations from various firms and individuals. The Lions Club has pledged \$250 towards its purchase. Merchants have already donated and many individuals have also made a donation. Cost of the scoreboard will be just over \$1500. It is electric, showing downs, score, yards, and time left in the quarter. Spectators, for the first time here, will have tie, yardage, and score information visible.

Homecoming activities for the Pagosa Springs High School will be held this weekend. Tom Gribben, former PHS coach for ten years will be honored guest at the ceremonies at half time at the football game when Pagosa meets Dolores.

Other homecoming activities by the students will include a parade, bonfire, selection of an all-alumni team, inviting graduates of long ago to the festivities, and a field day.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
September 28, 1995

Additional funding for the county jail operation was authorized Tuesday, after Dennis Hunt assured the county commissioners that revenues derived from housing prisoners for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe would sufficiently offset the expenditure. Whereas the county's 1995 budget designates \$75,000 for the jail's meal operation, Hunt said \$59,240 had been spent on meals as of Sept. 10. Hunt said based on this year's first nine months of operation, the \$75,000 mark would be reached before the end of the year due to the Southern Ute prisoners. Because the tribe pays the county \$40 a day for each Southern Ute prisoner, the county manager said the extra expenditure for meals would not cause a deficit in the general fund.

During a work session with architect Wayne Huff and County Road and Bridge Department personnel Tuesday afternoon, the commissioners considered deletions and revisions on plans for the new county maintenance yard. By eliminating an entrance foyer, a 20-foot wide concrete apron around three sides of the outside of the building, a meeting room and other "hoped for" features originally designed for the building, the commissioners hope to obtain an affordable bid on the structure.

Letters

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

We all know that our Pres. Trump has done so many good

■ See Letters A4

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■ Continued from A3

isting conditions, it does nothing to prevent insurers from simply denying coverage altogether, as they routinely did before the ACA. The ACA requires “guaranteed issue,” meaning that insurers must sell policies to people regardless of their health status. Now that these protections have become popular with the American people, Gardner wants us to simply forget his recent votes and policy positions. John Hickenlooper believes high-quality, affordable healthcare is a right, not a privilege. As Governor, he expanded Medicaid to an additional 400,000 Coloradans and cut the uninsured rate by almost two-thirds. Unlike Gardner, he has a plan for a healthier future for all Americans. See: <https://hickenlooper.com/issues/healthcare/>

Carol Cure

‘A matter of life and death’

Dear Editor:

This year’s election has become a matter of life and death. We have now lost more than 200,000 Americans to COVID-19 — a death rate nearly five times that of the rest of the world. The United States accounts for around 4 percent of the world’s population, but 21 percent of the world’s COVID deaths. If Americans deaths from COVID-19 were at the worldwide rate, we would have had about 40,000 deaths. Instead, we have had 160,000 more than that. These are Americans that would not have died if we had only done as well as the world as a whole in responding to COVID. But with a president and many enablers in his party who lied about COVID, minimized it, and failed to take decisive action, the cost was 160,000 preventable American deaths. We now know that Trump knew how serious COVID was back in February, but by his own admission he deceived us, saying that it was like the flu and that it would go away. This failure led to the deadliest disaster of our lifetimes. Equivalent to 67 September 11 attacks, 100 Hurricane Katrinas, and far beyond the death tolls of the Vietnam and Korean Wars combined.

But that, unfortunately, is not the end of it. Now Trump is doing everything he can to take health insurance from 20 million Americans in the midst of this horrible pandemic. He is even willing to pack the Supreme Court in a desperate effort to take away our health insurance, and to take protections for pre-existing conditions from 100 million Americans. Republicans said it was too close to the election to fill a Supreme Court vacancy ten months before the election when the president was a Democrat, but now they say six weeks is not too close when the president is a Republican. You cannot have a democracy when there is one rule for one party and a different rule for the other party. And you cannot fight a pandemic by taking health insurance away from 20 million Americans. We know that the death rate is far higher for those without insurance than for those who have it. Taking it away from 20 million Americans will cause tens of thousands more preventable

deaths every year, and even more during a pandemic. Please, vote as if you life depends on it because it literally could. Please vote for Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, John Hickenlooper, and Diane Mitsch Bush. They will do everything they can to stop COVID rather than denying it, and everything they can to keep Americans insured through this crisis, rather than making them uninsured. Like I said, this is a matter of life and death.

John Farley

‘We need new and better ideas’

Dear Editor:

The General Election is upon us and I still support Warren Brown in his run for Archuleta County Commissioner, District 1 – we need new and better ideas.

I believe even more strongly now than in May that Warren is the best candidate for County Commissioner for several reasons, not the least of which is the position advocated in a recent letter to the Editor. The ‘Balance of Power’ letter in last week’s paper questioned the wisdom of electing more than one person at a time to the Board of Commissioners who had previously served in the Sheriff’s Office for fear that their loyalty might be to the Sheriff’s Office, not the residents of Archuleta County — you know, the people that they had previously been willing to put their lives on the line for, if necessary. The letter went on to include a gratuitous comment about “Then we have the missing assets, unaccounted for in the Sheriff Department which leads to the commissioners saying the Sheriff doesn’t work for us. Another story.” which the Editor promptly ‘fact checked’ at the end of the letter pointing out that “... Sheriff Richard Valdez and his staff have been completely cleared of any wrongdoing and the allegation has been deemed to be entirely unfounded.” Maybe instead we should look at where the ‘unfounded allegations’ about the Sheriff’s Office originated and who pushed them up to the state level for investigation rather than just asking Sheriff Valdez to explain where the property in question came from and what had happened. As the author said – “Another story.”

Warren has spent almost 27 years in law enforcement, literally putting his life on the line to protect citizens like you and me. Over half a lifetime serving his community, first in Montrose for 20 years and now here for the last five years – he knows what it means ‘to serve’ and he wants to continue doing it here in another capacity.

Warren sees that Archuleta County has a systemic problem, the lack of a well written and communicated plan. As a result, inadequate infrastructure maintenance (roadways and community buildings) and a single-sourced tax revenue stream (tourism) plague our county. He knows there are limited tax dollars and understands that a good plan makes it possible to earmark specific resources to address maintaining and developing our existing infrastructure and development.

Last, Warren believes in service to others above self and has a long history of ethical and timely decision making. He has an ability to work with others and understands the value of compromise as well as the value of holding his ground and is willing to do whichever is best for the greater good of the community. He brings with him the broad perspective gained from living in both larger and smaller communities and has seen what works and what does not.

So, I urge you to vote with me for Warren Brown for Archuleta County Commissioner, District 1.

Jim Huffman

Gardner: Trump’s corner

Dear Editor:

Cory Gardner may attempt to campaign as a moderate independent Republican. However his voting record in lock-step confirmation of Trump’s cabinet members and judges places him clearly in Trump’s corner.

Gardner voted for:

Interior Secretary Zinke: Shrunk Bear Ears National Monument by 85%, will Rocky Mountain National Park be next? Resigned under pressure amidst six federal investigations, expensive travel and policy violations.

EPA Secretary Pruitt: prior to nomination sued the EPA 14 times. Rejects climate change. Resigned under pressure with 15 federal investigations of his conduct from criminal record destruction to corrupt allocation of funds.

Homeland Security Secretary Nielson: implemented policy of separating over 2654 children from their parents at the US-Mexico border. Resigned under pressure.

Commerce Secretary Ross: banker workth 2.5 billion, failed to disclose financial interest in a Russian company. Violated Administrative Procedures Act by attempting to add a citizenship question to the census, which would cost Colorado millions in federal funding.

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin: banker worth 385 million, requested military aircraft for several personal trips costing taxpayers \$811,000. Designed Tax bill giving huge cuts to the wealthiest and corporations.

Secretary of State Pompeo: Trump fired the Inspector General who was investigating Pompeo’s role in the administration bypassing a congressional freeze on arms sales to Saudi Arabia, releasing \$8 billion in arms which are used in the war in Yemen.

HHS Secretary Price: worth \$10 million, reported spending over one million of taxpayer funds for private charter jets and military aircraft.

EPA Secretary Wheeler: former coal industry lobbyist. worked to undermine regulations which protect clean air and water.

Gardner voted to confirm the entire wealthy corrupt cabinet, proving himself to be a devoted foot soldier for the Trump agenda. Like Trump said in Colorado Springs: “He’s been with us 100%.”

Scott Johnson
Loveland, Colo.

Supreme Court vacancy

Dear Editor:

On March 16, 2016, 8 months before the presidential election, Cory Gardner had this to say when President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to a Supreme Court vacancy: “[T]he next president of the United States should have the opportunity to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. ... [T]he Senate should not hold confirmation hearings for a Supreme Court nominee until after that year’s presidential election. Our next election is too soon and the stakes are too high; the American people deserve a role in this process.”

On September 21, 2020, a mere 42 days before the election, Gardner said that he plans to vote to confirm a “qualified nominee” to a vacancy on the Supreme Court created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. His flip-flop is a shameful and disgusting act of hypocrisy, but it is what we have come to expect from the Republican-controlled Senate and party, who are no more than spineless shills for a corrupt president Trump, intent on no more than whatever it takes to keep themselves in power. Republican Senators Collins (ME) and Murkowski (AK) have already stated that the vacancy should not be filled before the election; Collins saying it should be filled by the winner of the election. At least they are showing more guts and morals than Gardner. Let’s turn the bum out.

David Laufer

National Day of Prayer

Dear Editor:

I am hopeful and looking forward to the change taking place in our small community. There is no doubt we find ourselves uneasy with the happenings in our nation and around the world. It seems so divided at times and outwardly we see it manifested as lives are taken with disease, virus, self defense, murder and suicide. How do we find peace? Where do we go to escape? Let me tell you, we’re living in the safe place and many are coming here because they believe it true.

We’ve stayed safe because we’ve hunkered down. We’ve followed guidelines, we’ve worn our masks, we’ve been respectful of peoples space. We’ve grown as a community in giving and continueing to support business. We’ve had our season of rest with some worry and now we have to dig deep and manifest the faith that “Every little thing is gonna to be alright.” I am overwhelmed with the mercy of God. This Saturday September 26th is the Natioanal Day of Prayer in Washington DC and I am encouraging everyone to take the time to pray. It is a very important act of having unity even in our division.

Do not fail to ask forgiveness

■ See Letters A5

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Warren Brown
County Commissioner
District 1

I have a real plan for Archuleta County that promotes transparency, provides more consistent prioritization, greater fiscal responsibility and a more prosperous and diversified economy for our communities.

As a time-tested public servant for 27 years, I have a long history of proven, result oriented, competent and ethical leadership especially during difficult times.

As a local business owner, I understand the necessity to be a visionary thinker, so we are better prepared for tomorrow.

Contact me to learn how you can help.

Warren Brown for County Commissioner
 Instagram-Warrenbrown2020
Website info@electwarrenbrown.com

Paid for by Committee to Elect Warren Brown County Commissioner, Warren Brown, registered agent.

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CLIFFORD LUCERO
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
FOR DISTRICT 1

If elected, I will work toward:

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- Bringing back 5-year road plan
- Extending pavement on County Road 600
- Conducting county business professionally, effectively and efficiently
- Bringing back needed services to county residents
- Working toward sustainable growth
- Improving morale at all county levels
- Working toward getting as much as possible done on county roads with the resources available
- Improve operations at recycling center and landfill

- 4th generation native
- 30 years board experience — Archuleta County Commissioner-8 years, Archuleta County Housing Authority, School District 50 Jt., Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado Housing, Town Planning Commission, Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Town of Pagosa Springs Parks & Rec
- Served as one of the commissioners leading the county out of 2008 financial crisis
- Business owner solid waste company, construction company, retail tire sales company, home builder
- Previously employed as vice president of operations for Waste Management in southeastern New Mexico
- Volunteer coach 24 years, started Youth Football Program
- Driving force behind South Pagosa Park and recycling for Archuleta County
- Citizen of the Year 1999, Supervisor of the Year 1998
- Archuleta County Fair “Super Volunteer” Award 2006

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If you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly to discuss your hopes and concerns for the future or just to let me know what I can do for you. (970) 946-6803 • email cliffordlucero@yahoo.com

Paid for by Clifford Lucero.



■ Continued from A4

and give forgiveness. Yom Kippur is upon us. The ten days we purpose in our heart to repent of our wrong doings, knowing full well, God is faithful to forgive. We begin the New Year with hope for our nation. A nation built on the laws of God, obviously not always well practiced, but it is the foundation we now know is under attack. Let's take back what the enemy has stolen, let's lay down our burdens, let's surrender and know God.

June Marquez

Candidate forum

Dear Editor:

Please participate in a Zoom forum on October 8th featuring candidates running for the U.S. House Representatives for the 3rd District, hosted by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of La Plata County. The LWV is non-partisan; they do not support a particular candidate or party. They are dedicated to educating the public so that they can be informed voters.

The LWV invited both candidates to participate in the forum. Only Diane Mitsch Bush accepted the invitation; Lauren Boebert declined.

Having reviewed both candidates' websites to get a better understanding of their positions, I was hoping that the forum would provide more details about their specific plans to address the following issues:

The pandemic has been more devastating and fatal to us because our government has gutted our social safety nets. We lack accurate tests that give us results in a timely manner; we have lost over 1,000 healthcare workers, primarily from a lack of PPEs. If elected, how would you begin to rectify those problems?

How would you balance environmental protections and minimize our recurring wildfire crisis?

The pandemic is worsening our housing situation, which is on the verge of a crisis. How would you

Bennet invites residents to schedule fall telephone listening sessions

Sen. Michael Bennet's office

Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet's Durango staff will be holding weekly telephone office hours this fall.

Bennet and his team are committed to answering Coloradans' questions, listening to their concerns, and helping them navigate federal agencies — including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration and more.

"There's no greater responsibility as Colorado's senator than being responsive to the needs of Coloradans across our state. I'm pleased to announce that — even in these challenging and virtual times — our office is holding telephone listening sessions this fall in every region of Colorado," said Bennet. "If you're having issues navigating a federal agency or receiving benefits, or have any questions, comments, or concerns, I encourage you to schedule time to talk with our team."

Through Nov. 5, Janet Wolf, Bennet's constituent advocate in Durango, will hold telephone office hours for Coloradans on Thursday mornings.

Coloradans who live in Gunnison, Hinsdale, Archuleta, San Juan, Ouray, San Miguel, Montezuma, Dolores and La Plata counties are encouraged to schedule an appointment with Wolf by emailing: janet_wolf@bennet.senate.gov or calling 259-1710. Constituents are welcome to call any of the Bennet offices at any time for assistance and do not need to wait for office hours to ask for help or share opinions.

Traditionally, Bennet's staff has held in-person listening sessions. Due to safety concerns amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the office will be holding 2020 office hours via phone.

For more information about navigating federal agencies, please visit the "How Can We Help" page on Bennet's website: www.bennet.senate.gov. For more information about Bennet's 2020 telephone listening sessions, visit www.bennet.senate.gov/listening-sessions.

Letters

create new jobs reducing financial hardships in our district?

How would you make changes and improvements to our badly broken healthcare system that serves adequately only those with high incomes?

I am disappointed that Ms. Boebert declined to participate. However, I would welcome responses to the above questions from both candidates.

Jan Phillips
Durango, Colo.

'Vote Or Miss Out'

Dear Editor:

VOMO. Vote Or Miss Out. There is a local election for Board of County Commissioners (BoCC). Two of the three seats on the BoCC are up for election. District 1: Vacated by Wadley. Clifford Lucero, former 8 year Commissioner, versus Warren Brown versus Matt Witt. District 2: Ronnie Maez, incumbent running for second term as Commissioner, versus Natalie Carpenter.

Several tout experience. Others speak to new ideas, transparency and accountability. Look beyond party affiliation. Make an informed decision by looking at candidate websites and watch for the candidate interviews in The SUN. Ask yourself — who has an open mind, relevant skills and the ability to create solutions? Also, who's willing to put in the work by having office hours, engaging with community members and spending time at the job, not just at BoCC and other

required meetings.

Those under 50 years old — today's decisions will affect your future in this county. Each voter can vote for one candidate in each district, regardless of the district you live in. Please research your candidates and vote.

Lisa Scott

Beliefs

Dear Editor:

Secularists insist that Christians keep their beliefs to themselves. This is arrogant, ignorant, and counterproductive. For our national ethos and our highest ideals are balanced upon these few words in our Declaration of Independence, "We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights..." In its historical context, "our Creator" is the God of the Bible; not any other philosophy or holy book. So, allowing Jesus back into the public arena to share his wisdom, is merely to acknowledge the underpinnings of who we are as a blessed, free people.

President Eisenhower said, "Without God, there could be no American form of Government. Or any American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, most basic, expression of Americanism. Thus, the Founding Fathers saw it, and thus, with God's help, it will continue to be."

As well, President John Adams warned, "Our Constitution was made for a moral [self control] and religious [respect for God] people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Tellingly, after seventy-years of keeping God out of our schools and our national conversation, we find ourselves far along on the road to disunion.

Jesus told his enemies, "You are of your father the devil, and the evil desires of your father you do." The clear differences between the two major political factions tells the tale. Per America's history of the peaceful transfer of political power, if it's a fair fight without blatant corruption [the norm], a Biden win will result in the Right peacefully returning to their lives and families. But if Trump is re-elected the Left will attempt to burn America to the ground. [For proof, listen and read their own words in "Millie Weaver — Love Trump Hate Us" on U-Tube, and American Thinker, 9-20-20: "The Left Threatens Death, Destruction and Fire..."]

Which outcome is consistent with our founding principles, and which one displays the insanity of evil? Merely to look is to see, though many refuse to. Sadly, even some of my Christian friends.

Listen as Jesus speaks allegorically of good and evil. "A corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit...nor can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit ... and by their fruits you shall know them." Historically and currently the Left opposes God, they always have. Moving our nation's foundation from the blessings of liberty to the clinched Marxist fist, from 'We the People' to 'Power to the People,' will be our undoing as a free and prosperous nation.

Charles Wenzel

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201 Crestone Place • MLS 772956
Hilltop log home on 7 acres in Meadows, fully furnished



3 Bedroom, 4 Bath • \$555,000

40 Mule Deer • MLS 770905
Great lake house, 3700 sq. ft., 7 garages, 1.66 acres



4 Bedroom, 1 Bath • \$550,000

301 Barton Circle • MLS 773798
Fenced pasture, water rights, fruit trees, 28 acres



3 Bedroom, 2 Bath • \$399,000

35 Harman Park Drive • MLS 773338
Historic Fred Harman home on 2 acres, panoramic views



Under Contract

3 Bedroom, 2 Bath • \$395,000

155 Hurt Drive • MLS 772948
2.5 acres, greenhouse, horse setup w/ barn



79.69 Acres • \$365,000

1243 Country Road 332 • MLS 770671
Agricultural opportunity, 80 water shares



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AmeriCorps members to serve in local organizations

Serve Colorado

Serve Colorado, which administers Colorado's AmeriCorps State program, announced recently that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awarded \$6,671,711 in federal grants to place AmeriCorps members in Colorado.

In addition, Serve Colorado has released its request for proposals for organizations interested in applying for funding to host a 2021-2022 AmeriCorps program. The deadline for concept papers for new proposals is Oct. 1, 11:59 p.m. Organizations can apply at www.colorado.gov/servecolorado.

"This year, Colorado will have a record number of AmeriCorps members. Now, more than ever, our families and communities need the support of AmeriCorps to provide critical tutoring support, food security, preschool readiness and so much more to Coloradans," said Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera. "I am looking forward to learning about the impactful ways potential, new AmeriCorps programs propose serving Coloradans during the upcoming grant competition."

Over the next 15 months, AmeriCorps members will serve with the following organizations:

- Colorado Youth Corps Association: Youth Corps for Colorado will place 451 members who will conduct disaster mitigation and relief; conserve and steward public lands; and conduct energy and water weatherization and retrofitting in low-income households across 48 counties in Colorado.

- La Puente Home Inc.: The Rural Alliance for Dignity program will place 39 members focused on meeting critical needs such as providing housing, emergency food assistance, nutrition education, and social, emotional, and academic support services. This program serves Alamosa, Archuleta, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Dolores, Fremont, La Plata, Las Animas, Mineral, Montezuma, Park, Rio Grande, Saguache and San

Juan counties.

- United Way of Southwest Colorado: Team Up AmeriCorps will place 15 members focused on the well-being of children from "cradle to career." Members will provide school readiness, social-emotional learning, youth and family engagement and housing services. This program serves Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata and Montezuma counties.

Organizations, local governments, and state entities interested in hosting an AmeriCorps program can access application instructions and additional resources at colorado.gov/servecolorado. Concept papers for new AmeriCorps programs are due to Serve Colorado on Oct. 1, 11:59 p.m.

AmeriCorps members under these grants who successfully complete their term of service receive a Segal Education Award. The education award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training or to repay qualified student loans. While in service, members receive a modest living allowance, student loan deferment and professional development. Full-time members are also eligible for health insurance and child care.

This funding is provided by CNCS, the federal agency for volunteering, civic engagement and national service programs like AmeriCorps. For more than 25 years, over 1 million dedicated Americans have joined AmeriCorps and pledged to "get things done." This year, the 75,000 AmeriCorps members serving in schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations will do the same as they rebuild communities, support veterans, fight the opioid epidemic, prepare students for success, foster economic opportunity and more. Those interested in serving can learn more at AmeriCorps.gov/join.

To learn more about Serve Colorado's programs and grant application process, visit www.colorado.gov/servecolorado.

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Pagosa Springs Town Council work session. 5 p.m. See town website for participation information.

Monday, Oct. 5

Joint Archuleta/La Plata/San Juan counties district attorney budget meeting. 9 a.m. Zoom meeting.
San Juan Basin Public Health budget meeting with Archuleta/La Plata/San Juan counties. 10 a.m. Zoom meeting.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. 1:30 p.m. Call 264-8300 one to two days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Thursday, Oct. 8

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District regular meeting. 5 p.m., 100 Lyn Ave.

Monday, Oct. 12

Groundbreaking Ceremony for County Justice Center. 10 a.m., construction site next to 85 Harman Park Drive.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m. Call 264-8300 one to two

days before the meeting to obtain the login information.

Archuleta County Republican Women's meeting. Noon, The Break Room, 2045 Eagle Drive.

Town Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments and Design Review Board work session and regular meeting. 4:30 p.m. work session, 5:30 p.m. meeting. See town website for participation information.

Archuleta School District Board of Education meeting. 5:30 p.m. See the agenda on the district website for participation information.

Upper San Juan Health Service District special board meeting. 5:30 p.m. Join Zoom meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96904926293>, meeting ID: 969 0492 6293. Phone in using: (346) 248-7799.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation regular board meeting. 5:30 p.m. Zoom meeting. Visit www.pagosaspringscdc.org for login information.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Archuleta County Republican Central Committee meeting. Noon, Pagosa Brewing, 118 N. Pagosa Blvd. Subject to cancellation due to COVID-19.

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosasun.com with "Public Meeting" in the subject line. The deadline is noon Monday each week prior to publication for that week's issue.

Obituaries

Coit D. Valentine

Nov. 23, 1950-Sept. 17
Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, Coit was the fifth of eight children. Under



the guidance of his father and grandfather, he learned to work with draft horses on 40 acres of logging land. Upon graduation from high school, he chose to proudly join the U.S. Navy upon the advice of his older brothers who had been drafted. Coit discharged from the Navy after the Vietnam War and settled in San Diego, where he served the United States Postal Service for 30 years.

In the late 1990s, Coit brought horses back into his life by purchasing an Arabian mare with funds returned by the government for overpayment of child support. In 1998 after two random meetings and an exchange of phone numbers, Coit and Mary Jo found they shared a love of horses that eventually led to their marriage in 2001. On their second date, which was the Fourth of July, a pinto Arabian colt named Firecracker entered their life and they became a threesome. As their horse family grew with three horses (... a cow named Daisy ... and chickens),

they found a need for land, so upon retirement they came to Pagosa Springs in 2005.

After Firecracker suffered a broken leg, Coit returned to San Diego and brought back Firecracker's pinto Arabian daughter, A-Patchy. Coit enjoyed training A-Patchy to be a mountain trail horse alongside his Arabian mare, Elegant.

Coit was seen by many riding Elegant, most notably carrying the U.S. flag during Fourth of July parades for the San Juan Back Country Horsemen, of which he was a founding member. His passions including anything to do with horses — riding trails, team roping and training. Coit loved all animals and dogs took a close second to his love of horses.

As a veteran, Coit was assisted by the Veterans for Veterans group and special friends like Rodney Pepper. Services provided by Visiting Angels and by Davita Dialysis in Durango, made his life more manageable in his later years during his lengthy fight with complications from diabetes. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo, and their animal children.

A celebration of life will follow on Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. at the John Paul II Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Outdoor Pavilion. Hood Mortuary is handling his final services. In lieu of flowers, donations in Coit's honor can be made to the Pagosa Springs Veterans or the United Kidney Foundation.

Keely Lindsey Whittington

1973-2020

Keely was born in Florida and moved west after college in Georgia and Kentucky to begin a career



with family in real estate and hospitality. Fluent in Spanish, she ran janitorial, maintenance and security teams at her properties in New Mexico before moving her focus to leasing of commercial and retail properties, including the revitalization of the Santa Fe Outlet Mall in 2007. She eventually moved to Pagosa Springs for several years to spearhead the design and construction of the first Gold LEED-certified hotel building in Colorado at The Springs Resort and Spa. She retired from her companies and served a short stint with the Town of Pagosa Springs before she began a new career in marketing with Adworks followed by Splash Marketing. She brought creativity and customer service to all of her professional endeavors and made all she worked with feel special. A naturally generous person, she

encouraged everyone to treat each other with kindness, bestowing small gifts to everyone in her life whenever she could. She freely gave of her time to many organizations including the Albuquerque Del Norte Rotary club and the Little Miracle International Adoption, while also volunteering at her children's schools. She loved her children and their menagerie of animals, from cats and dogs to lizards and guinea pigs. Dedicated to her children, she coached sports, enjoyed the sidelines and researched craft projects to continually pique their interests in life.

She is survived by her children: Cristobal Reyes, Jay Reyes and Paloma Whittington; her parents, Patricia Whittington, Bill and her stepmother Tricia Whittington; her brother, Scott and his wife, Jennifer, their children William, Reilly and Hudson; as well as her sister, Nerissa and her husband, James, their son, Bolden, but preceded in death by their son, John.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations in memoriam for one of the many charities she supported, including the Amniotic Fluid Embolism Foundation (afesupport.org)

Due to COVID-19, no large public gatherings will be held at this time.

Memorial Service

Nicholas Karas

There will be a memorial service, including military honors, for Nicholas Karas at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club clubhouse.

The service will be held on Sept. 29 at 8:30 a.m.

He supported our veteran groups with passion and energy and will be greatly missed.

Card of Thanks

NSDAR

Thank you to Steve Wadley, Ronnie Maez and Alvin Schaaf, the commissioners of Archuleta County, for their swift response to our request to proclaim Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week. A special note

of thanks to Mary Helminski and Jamie Jones for their assistance achieving this request.

Regards,

Tanice Ramsperger, regent, Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, NSDAR. Durango-Pagosa Springs

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Business



Unemployment numbers down across the state

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

After a dramatic spike in unemployment cases being filed earlier this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Colorado has seen a gradual decline in cases over recent months.

Although unemployment rates are declining as we move into the last quarter of the year, a press release from the state suggests numbers are still not exactly back to normal.

The press release states, “while Colorado’s employment-to-population ratio continues to improve since April, when it was 58.3 percent, it is still well below the February level of 67.7 percent.”

Unemployment rates for Archuleta County are following similar trends compared to the rest of the state.

The unemployment rate for Archuleta County decreased from 7.4 in July of this year to 6.5 percent in August, according to the press release from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) on Sept. 18.

The press release gives an update on the Colorado unemployment situation as of August based on county statistics, household surveys and business surveys.

From July of this year to August

of this year, Archuleta County had a decrease in labor force from 7,147 to 7,009. Of the 7,009 reported for August of this year, 6,554 were reported as employed, meaning 455 people were reported as claiming unemployment.

For July of this year, 527 people were reported as unemployed in Archuleta County.

Last year, 209 people were listed as unemployed in Archuleta County for the month of August.

Gilpin County was reported to have the highest unemployment rate for August at 10.7 percent, down from 12 percent reported for July of this year. Huerfano County was reported to have a 9.4 percent unemployment rate for August.

Baca County was reported to have the lowest unemployment rate percentage for August of this year at 2 percent, which is up slightly from the August 2019 report of 1.7 percent.

Looking at the state as a whole, Colorado’s unemployment percentage dropped from 7.4 percent in July of this year to 6.6 for August.

The state’s labor force dropped from 3,105,010 to 3,100,236 from July to August of this year. However, the state’s labor force participation rate was unchanged from July at 66.7 percent.

The average work week for all Colorado employees increased

from 33.6 to 34.2 hours. Average hourly earnings also increased from \$30.12 to \$30.79, which is over a dollar more than the national average hourly earnings of \$29.47.

A total of 10,400 government jobs were added in August, with some positions being attributed to the 2020 census.

As stated in the press release, “Since May, Colorado has gained back 178,500 of the 342,300 nonfarm payroll jobs lost between February and April,” which translates to a job recovery rate of 52.1 percent, exceeding the U.S. rate of 47.9 percent.

The largest private-sector job losses were in leisure and hospitality, according to the press release.

Household survey data is used to estimate the total number of people unemployed.

Nonfarm payroll job estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, with the intent to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

County-level unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted, making them directly comparable to Colorado’s August unadjusted unemployment rate of 6.6 percent.

For July of this year, 230,335 people in Colorado were claiming unemployment benefits. For August of this year, only 205,082 people were reported to be claim-

ing unemployment.

According to another press release on Sept. 18 from the CDLE, the state has begun paying Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) benefits.

As stated in the press release, “Colorado has been awarded a total of \$553 million in LWA funds covering the six-week period beginning July 26 and ending September 5.”

The LWA program is a federally funded unemployment benefit program. As stated in the press release, the program will provide “Coloradans with an additional \$300/week for up to six weeks.”

According to the press release, “claimants will receive \$300 per week for each of the six weeks they are eligible, for a maximum total additional benefit of \$1,800.”

Payments for the first three weeks will begin on Sept. 18 and the payments of the final three weeks of LWA will begin on Sept. 25, according to the press release.

Coloradans who were receiving regular unemployment benefits or other federal benefits, along with pandemic unemployment assistance are eligible for the LWA program, according to the press release.

As stated in the press release, “Since March 29, nearly \$5 billion in state and federal unemployment benefits has been paid to approximately 714,000 Coloradans.”
clayton@pagosasun.com

Last week to complete the 2020 census

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area
Chamber of Commerce

It would have been a scary thought if the 2020 census ended at its regularly scheduled date of July 31. Due to activities surrounding the pandemic, the 2020 census count was extended until Sept. 30. This is the last week for you to get counted in Archuleta County and to help our community. As of the writing of this article, the Archuleta County self-response rate was 42.3 percent. This figure is still under the 2010 response rate of 42.7 percent and well under the current state response rate of 69.3 percent.

The census is safe, secure and is critically important to funding that comes to our community. For example, the CARES funding that has come to our community is based on population. If we underreport, then less money is extended to our community which in turn helps our businesses and nonprofit organizations. Less money for school lunch programs, less money for nonprofit assistance for mental health and seniors, less money for benefit programs such as Medicaid, SNAP and CHIP. Don’t forget our roads — less money for highway planning and repairs. These are programs that affect all of us. Wouldn’t you want to help bring money into our community to assist with the projects that keeps us healthy and functioning?

I hear people say the census isn’t safe and data could be compromised. The data is kept within the Census Bureau and used only to produce statistics. All federal, state and local governmental agencies cannot access individual responses. The information cannot be used by the government in any legal proceedings or released through a court order. The citizenship question is not on the survey. The census will take about 10 minutes to complete. It will ask how many in your household. This number should include people (children, too) who usually live in your household. If you are a renter that rents out a room in a house, the owner should be established as “Person 1” and everyone else living there would be considered part of the household. Don’t forget the children and seniors that live with you — count them.

If you need assistance filling out the census, contact the Chamber of Commerce and we will work with the regional census organization to have an enumerator come to your house to assist you. You can also go to the library to access a computer. While the staff there cannot assist you in completing the census, they can get you to the website where

■ See Census A10

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COVID-19

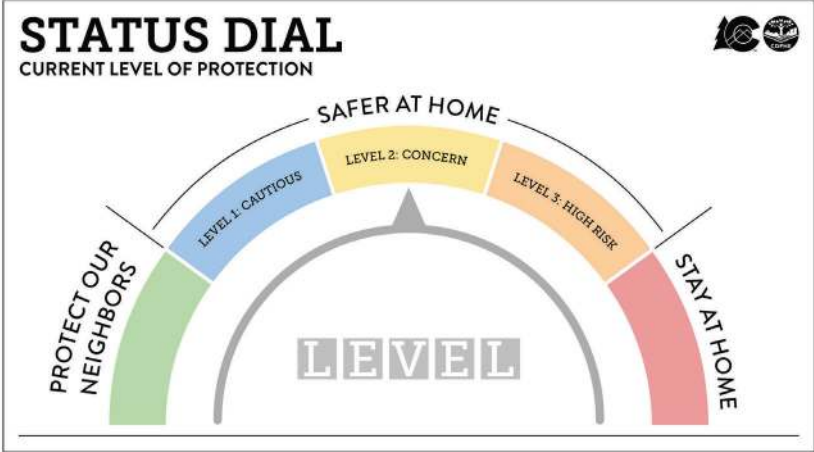
■ Continued from front

- Stable or declining COVID-19 hospitalizations
- Fewer new cases
- The remaining four criteria are marked as “Warning / Metric in Progress” for Archuleta County:
 - Sufficient testing capacity
 - Ability to implement case investigation and contact tracing protocol
 - Documented surge-capacity plan for case investigation and contact tracing
 - Documented strategies to offer testing to close contacts

The status dial for Archuleta County is available on SJBPH’s dashboard at <https://sjbpublichealth.org/Protect-Our-Neighbors>.

“Getting to the Protect Our Neighbors phase is truly a community-wide effort and relies on everyone - our hospitals, health-care partners, businesses, and local community members to ensure that we are taking the right steps and controlling the spread of COVID-19, so that we can safely move towards fewer restrictions,” said Liane Jollon, SJBPH executive director, in a press release announcing SJBPH’s dial dashboard. “Our goal has always been to emphasize that economic recovery requires control of the public health crisis. We are well on our way to achieving that goal, but we must remain vigilant in maintaining good public health practices to ensure that we continue to keep public health metrics favorable as we proceed with further reopening.”

A FAQ for SJBPH’s Protect Our Neighbors dashboard can be found at: <https://sjbpublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/>



Protect-Our-NeighborsFAQ.docx.

Cases increase across state

During his Tuesday press conference, Gov. Jared Polis acknowledged that cases are trending upward across the state, primarily among those 18-25 years of age.

“Our health officials are concerned about the recent increase in virus transmission across our state. The increase is most pronounced in 18-25 year olds, who have a much lower hospitalization rate, but sadly the rate is also increasing in Coloradans of all ages and we need to turn that around,” he said. “As a state, our success is measured by our collective efforts to support and protect each other. We all must do a better job of wearing face masks, avoiding large crowds, and physically distancing ourselves.”

Regional case counts

As of noon Wednesday, La Plata County was listed as having 266 total cases with 152 recovered. As of 4 p.m. Tuesday, Conejos County is listed as having 31, Rio Grande is listed at 95, Mineral had 20 total and Hinsdale County still rests at three.

Neighboring and near Archuleta County to the south, Rio Arriba County lists 386 total cases and San Juan County, N.M., has had 3,276 total cases.

The Jicarilla Apache Nation, which largely falls within Rio Arriba County, had 257 total cases as of the morning of Sept. 22, with 243 recovered.

Safer at Home, other orders extended

Polis also recently amended and extended the Safer at Home executive order, which includes the last call order for bars and restaurants to stop serving alcohol at a certain time.

Under the order, the last call time is dependent upon what level a county is in, according to the dial. Last call is midnight in Level 1, 11 p.m. in Level 2 and 10 p.m. in Level 3.

Counties in Protect Our Neighbors may opt out and establish a local last call time as long as it does not exceed 2 a.m.

Polis also extended an executive order allowing voluntary or elective surgeries and procedures to proceed under certain conditions. randi@pagosasun.com

Mystery

■ Continued from front

On Aug. 13, an abandoned vehicle with New Mexico license plates was found buried in logs and debris near the West Fork Trail on the west side of Wolf Creek Pass.

The Mineral County Sheriff’s Department suspects the logs were stacked on the car with a piece of heavy equipment, which Mineral County Sheriff Fred Hosselkus explained in an interview Tuesday.

“There was a lot of big stuff that you know, if someone did with a shovel, it took ‘em a long time... We didn’t find any tracks or anything, but it was just so well done with stacking the logs around it and filling it up.”

Law enforcement determined that the car belonged to Gabriel Baldonado, of Albuquerque, N.M., who hasn’t been seen by his family in about two years.

“They did a real thorough search and found he never had any credit cards, he never had a cell phone, this is the only car he ever owned and there’s really no trace of any kind of thing. For instance like

money transfers, through banks and all of that,” Van Ry said.

Hosselkus mentioned that there was also a pentagram constructed about 300 feet from where the car was found, a symbol associated with occult rituals, but was unsure if there was any connection to the car or Baldonado.

Van Ry explained that, in 2017, Baldonado was married with three kids and living near Albuquerque.

He noted that Baldonado’s wife died suddenly, which led to him showing signs of being mentally unstable, and his kids ultimately went to live with family in the Seattle, Wash., area.

His family hasn’t seen him in about two years.

The Mineral County Sheriff’s Department searched the area around his car and brought cadaver dogs to the area, but no body was discovered.

The sheriff’s office does not believe foul play was involved.

Then, in a recent twist, two people filed separate reports saying they’ve seen Baldonado in recent weeks, hitchhiking near Pagosa

Springs and Durango.

“In the last couple of days, we’ve gotten a couple of reports of him being seen. He’s been picked up supposedly twice, the people picking him up were pretty sure it was him,” Hosselkus said.

Hosselkus explained that one car reported they picked him up near the West Fork of the San Juan River near Pagosa Springs, and he told the driver he’d been camping at West Fork.

The second report said they picked Baldonado up on U.S. 550 and dropped him off at the New Mexico border.

“So if that’s who it is, he’s made his way back to Albuquerque,” said Hosselkus.

Hosselkus explained that anyone with information about Baldonado can call the Mineral County Sheriff’s Department at (719) 658-2600 or the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office at 264-8430.

Baldonado is not facing any charges, besides “maybe” abandoning a vehicle in the National Forest, according to Hosselkus.

john@pagosasun.com

Waivers

■ Continued from front

code, but there is going to be some instances where projects comply with the general intent of a section but, for whatever reason, the language in the code is just worded in

a specific manner that the proposal doesn’t meet the specific language in that provision. But in general, it would meet the general intent of that provision.”

This proposed amendment

would allow for more flexibility when development applications are being considered, Dickhoff added later.

“Where is the check and balance to make sure that the waiver process can’t be abused?” council member Mat deGraaf asked.

According to Dickhoff, this revision is not meant to take the place of a variance application, noting that there is a specific process for a variance of the LUDC.

“This is not meant to supersede that process,” he said.

Buchner, also participating in the meeting, added that town council is the balance and the check is the planning commission.

“They have to come up with the reasoning as stated in the ordinance as to why this possible waiver is being requested,” Buchner said of the planning commission. “This really has to do with those conflicts, like we’ve had with some of those previous developments, where we have conflicting rules within the Land Use and Development Code that force into some sort of discretionary interpretation to either approve or disapprove a project.”

Mayor Don Volger added that he believes that this potential revision is a “good measure” to keep things moving forward on dealing with development requests.

chris@pagosasun.com

Materials

■ Continued from front

able to supply and one of the big reasons is the pandemic,” said Jim Eckhardt, general manager at Ponderosa Lumber. “A lot of people were home looking for something to do and that has caused a pretty big increase in demand, and when that happens, the mills are pretty much in charge. They have order files that are up to a couple months ahead, and when you combine that with some fires in Oregon, California ... It’s kind of a perfect storm in the lumber industry where all this is happening and they can’t supply it quick enough.”

Eckhardt said that these combined factors are “very much something that will kill the golden goose.”

“This area and the whole country has been doing pretty well in the building industry, but this definitely effects people that are thinking about building,” he said.

Rocky Day, manager at Day Lumber, explained in an interview Monday that some sizes of 2 inch by 6 inch lumber have seen price increases of about 150 percent, and commented on why he thought people were moving to the Pagosa Springs area and building new houses.

“I think there’s a lot of people moving out of the cities, moving into our area and they’re trying to get out of the big cities with all the population,” Day said. “So, they’re trying to move to places where the population is a lot less.”

August relayed a story that he’d heard from at least one local contractor, where they had a contract for a job, then the building prices increased, and the contractor actually lost money on the project due to the high cost of building materials that wasn’t anticipated in the already-signed contract.

He explained that he read a couple of weeks ago that just for the building materials, new home construction costs have increased about \$30,000 since the pandemic began.

August said that “the weirdest things” haven’t been readily available in the last few months, including interior plywood and an 8-foot closet rod, and that prices for oriental strand board, or OSB, have especially gone up.

Revenues

■ Continued from front

ording to agenda documentation.

“Early on in the pandemic, we had presumed a much more dire situation for our sales tax receipts and that has not borne out, thankfully,” Phillips said.

In adjusting projections for the town’s sales tax revenue scenarios that were originally presented to town council by town staff in March and April of this year, Phillips explained that the new projection outlines a 10 percent reduction for the remaining months of the year in sales tax revenue.

According to Phillips this scenario, entitled Scenario H, projects that the town’s total sales tax revenue for the year would be \$3,043,560 in each fund, which would be 4.6 percent above the sales tax revenue budget for the year.

“We do feel that based on numerous factors within the community, we feel that we’re actually going to end the year stronger than that,” Phillips said. “We are going to project in our annual budget for a year-end of \$3,250,500. We will continue to monitor that over the coming months, but we are pleased to see that our sales tax, thankfully, has been much stronger than we anticipated.”

In an email sent to The SUN on Monday, Phillips explained that, based on actual sales tax figures for March through July that were above budget, the town is 16.9 percent above its adopted revenue budget.

“If we look at actuals through July and then assume that each month hereafter will be at least what we budgeted, it would be \$3,174,421 in each fund,” Phillips wrote, noting that based on actuals for lodging tax and visitation numbers, that is where the belief is that sales tax revenues will be higher than Scenario H projects.

According to Phillips, the projected number of \$3,250,500 could change again by the time council adopts its final budget for next year.

chris@pagosasun.com

Day and August both noted that lumber prices fluctuate, though never before to this extreme, and that most likely prices for building materials will come down in the coming months.

“Typically in the spring, lumber prices tend to increase because of demand and usually in the late fall/winter they decrease because of demand, especially in this area where we don’t do as much building in the colder months,” August said.

Of the sawmills, Day said, “They’re probably grinning all the way to the bank when everything

doubled.”

“I really hope that this turns around,” August said. “I hope that we can see a change in our local stuff producing a bit more and them reevaluating their sources to supply the demand and you know it’s a real bummer that people are not able to do their projects and their projects are just being out-priced outright ... But I feel hopeful that if people slow down a little bit during the winter that we’ll have some time to catch up on that, but we’re just riding it out for now.”

john@pagosasun.com



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Medical Center asks county for funds for rapid COVID-19 tests

By John Finebrock
Staff Writer

At the county commissioners' work session on Tuesday, Pagosa Springs Medical Center CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb discussed a possible funding partnership that would secure rapid COVID-19 tests for Archuleta County.

"It is our understanding that for Archuleta County to apply and move forward to Protect Your Neighbor, the County must be able to provide at least 17 tests per day / 7 days a week. Adding 17 tests/day for 365 days is an additional 6,188 tests," an email from PSMC staff to the county commissioners reads, which was handed out at the meeting.

Protect Our Neighbors is the less restrictive phase of the state health department's five levels surrounding COVID-19 restrictions for local municipalities.

The email notes that an additional 6,188 tests would cost about \$253,000.

"PSMC already has Abbott machines capable of providing rapid PCR [polymerase chain reaction] testing for COVID. Test kits for these machines are \$41.00 each. 6,188 additional test kits at \$41.00 each would total \$253,708..."

In a phone call Wednesday, Webb outlined how PSMC does not currently have any rapid COVID tests.

"We don't have any rapid tests right now," she said. "The rapid test is the one we're trying to get that gets

results in about 15 minutes."

The county commissioners are expected to consider funding for PSMC for rapid COVID testing in the upcoming weeks.

County COVID money

In recent months, Archuleta County was awarded about \$1.2 million dollars to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, which it split with the Town of Pagosa Springs.

So far, the county commissioners have allocated money for local projects, which include giving money to the school district for remote learning equipment and improved wireless Internet access at local schools.

One request for COVID funds that has not yet been decided on by the county commissioners is a request from San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) for about \$150,000 to help that organization fight the pandemic.

Commissioner Ron Maez told The SUN over the last few weeks that the county is waiting for other proposals to come through, and was questioned about why they hadn't paid SJBPH at their meeting on Sept. 15 by local resident Lisa Jensen.

"I'm really concerned that you're not meeting your obligation," Jensen said during public comment at the meeting. "La Plata County, as you know, already ponied up the money. They did that right away without question."

SJBPH is the health department for both La Plata and Archuleta

counties.

Jensen told the commissioners she was watching the public meeting via Zoom between the La Plata and Archuleta County commissioners, and SJBPH where SJBPH asked Archuleta County for the money.

"At that time you said you needed more information from the health department, and they provided that information and you said you had to do more research to make sure you could use the money for that," she said. "I believe that you can. I think you should know that — you should've been able to figure that out by now ... I don't understand why — what's the holdup here with not giving the funding that they've asked for?"

"I can understand one thing Lisa — is that you don't know what you don't know," Maez said. "But we have it in mind, and we have that money set aside ... We want to make sure all our local entities have the first bite at that, before we disperse it all out. The other part is we've jointly kinda asked the town to help us with that too, on their half of the COVID money, but I know you don't know this because this isn't public yet, but it's in the works."

"I don't know it, because we only know what you tell us and what the media reports and what you tell them," Jensen said. "And we don't see anything about this intention."

On Sept. 15, Town Manager Andrea Phillips answered an email from The SUN inquiring if the costs

would be split between the town and county.

"I would need to bring this to Council for approval as it was not in the list of possible expenditures when I presented to them in August," she wrote, adding, "I feel that assisting SJBPH in contact tracing, data collection and disease monitoring related to COVID is important and a good way of using the CVRF [Coronavirus Relief Fund] funds if the county doesn't have enough to cover their request. But I don't make those decisions—I would need to have Council weigh in. I have not shared this idea with SJBPH, only talked with one of the commissioners about this briefly."

Jensen continued to press the commissioners at the Sept. 15 meeting.

"In the midst of a pandemic, this is not a time to be playing a silly game and not funding what is just our fair share," she said, adding, "I really don't understand what the holdup is. You have the information, you have the money, you have the obligation. What you don't have is, you don't have the right to jeopardize the health of Archuleta County residents because you're playing some game."

Maez said the county was "in the process of allocating the funds."

"That may be set up for the next meeting, depends if everybody's got all their requests in before that," Maez said.

john@pagosasun.com

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Calls for service over week: 305.

Sept. 14 — Trespass warning, U.S. 160.

Sept. 14 — Information only, Hatchery Circle.

Sept. 14 — Found property, USFS 629/County Road 600.

Sept. 14 — Disorderly conduct-petty, Clemente Court.

Sept. 15 — Information only, no location listed.

Sept. 15 — Under investigation, no location listed.

Sept. 15 — Second-degree burglary/criminal mischief, Carrico Street.

Sept. 15 — Drove vehicle without insurance, expired license plates, County Road 119.

Sept. 16 — Found property, Canyon Drive.

Sept. 16 — Information only, Mid-iron Avenue.

Sept. 17 — Defacing public/private property, obstructing highway or passageway, harassment by phone or computer, violation of restraining order, disorderly conduct-petty, Holly

Tree Circle.

Sept. 17 — All other thefts, first-degree criminal trespass-theft from vehicle, Navajo Trail.

Sept. 17 — Drove vehicle without insurance, drove vehicle when license suspended, expired license plates, operated a vehicle with defective head lamps, South 10th Street.

Sept. 18 — Third-degree assault-simple assault, Twin Creek Circle.

Sept. 18 — Third-degree assault-simple assault, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Fireside Street.

Sept. 19 — Trespass warning, Summit Trail.

Sept. 19 — County warrant, Hurt Drive.

Sept. 20 — Third-degree assault-simple assault, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, domestic violence, Quien Sabe Street.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Calls for service over week: 124.

Sept. 13 — Warrant arrest, Pagosa Street.

Sept. 13 — Criminal trespass, Pagosa Street.

Sept. 13 — Warrant arrest, South 8th Street.

Sept. 13 — Harassment, Pinon Causeway.

Sept. 16 — Menacing, tampering with a motor vehicle, illegal discharge of a firearm, South 9th Street.

Sept. 18 — Warrant arrest, South 8th Street.

Sept. 18 — Reckless driving, open container in motor vehicle, DUI, South 10th Street.

Sept. 19 — Trespass warning, San Juan Street.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Sept. 15 — Christian Michael Peterson, nuisance dog-second offense no injury, total fines and costs — \$76.

Sept. 16 — Eric M. Godward, driving while ability impaired, total fines and costs — \$806.50.

Sept. 16 — Tony J. Waupekenay, driving under the influence, total fines and costs — \$1,920.50.

Sept. 16 — Carrie L. Walker, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs — \$210.50.

Sept. 16 — Levi Alexander Karmes, speeding 5-9 over, total fines and costs — \$257.50.

Sept. 16 — Eric O. McRae, license plates expired, speeding 10-19 over limit, total fines and costs \$261.50.

Sept. 16 — Toby Garcia, registration-unregistered vehicle, total fines and costs — \$191.50.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Sept. 15 — David Yerton, animal

running at large, contempt-failure to appear, contempt-failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$110.

Sept. 15 — Terry Yerton, animal running at large, interference with animal control officer, contempt-failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$135.

Sept. 15 — Clinton Manzanares, shoplifting, contempt-failure to appear, restitution — \$134.71, total fines and costs — \$135.

Sept. 15 — Lucas Bealmer, animal running at large, total fines and costs — \$110.

Sept. 15 — Lucas Bealmer, prohibited acts in town parks, resisting arrest, contempt-failure to appear, total fines and costs — \$335.



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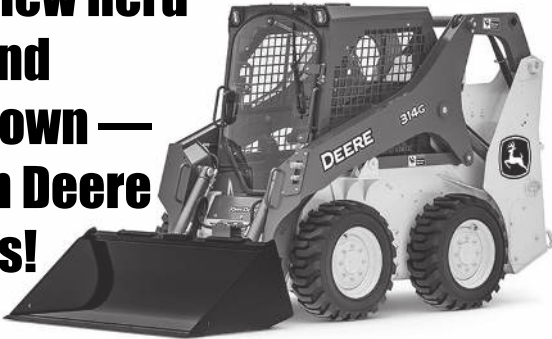
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Council approves first reading of ordinance regarding marijuana businesses

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

On Sept. 17, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved an ordinance on first reading pertaining to changes in the town's municipal code regarding marijuana business establishments.

According to agenda documentation, the change to the code includes state changes as well as the inclusion of a retail marijuana products manufacturer license type.

"The most recent laws have repealed the Colorado medical marijuana code and the Colorado retail marijuana code and recodified them as just the Colorado marijuana code and put them into a completely different Colorado Revised Statute section altogether combining both the medical and retail code language

into a single code," Town Attorney Clay Buchner said. "Instead of trying to put red lines through 80 to 90 percent of another code, I decided it would be more efficient to rewrite it. The jury is still out, but we do have a new marijuana code."

This rewrite was done from direction from town staff and included another request to include marijuana infused products as a possible license within the town, Buchner noted.

"Keep in mind, marijuana infused products, since the town council made that decision to go forward with that option, is no longer a thing. There's no such thing anymore, according to the code, as a marijuana-infused product," Buchner added. "The marijuana infused products turn into marijuana products manufacturer licenses, so we have a medi-

cal and a retail involved there."

Council member Shari Pierce raised a question on license transfers and whether or not they are allowed within the proposed amendment.

"I want to make sure that if a person who has a marijuana business and has a license for it and they decide to sell that business that they are able to transfer that license to the new owner," she said. "We only allow a certain number of licenses within the town and having that license is part of the value of having their business."

Buchner noted that licenses are nontransferable except for when it is in accordance with the regulations.

"The reason that they say that is because the license's specific to, and this is by statute, the license's specific to the owner, the location and the type of license that it is. You

can transfer a license, but you have to do it within the ordinance," he said.

When the town decided to allow six marijuana businesses, it decided to allow three on the west side of town and three on the east side of town, but Mayor Don Volger noted that he did not consider the possibility that there would be three in close proximity on the east end of town.

This has caused concern because of a variety of things, including traffic concerns, from other businesses in the same locations, Volger added.

"I know that other municipalities will have a distancing requirement and I would think that we couldn't go ahead and put these other businesses that are already operating out of business because they are too close to another marijuana business, but it's something I would like to see discussed and considered," he said. "It was an unintended consequence when we divided it up."

Council member Mat deGraaf added that he would use caution when "attempting to interfere with the free market."

Ordinance 943 that pertains to code revisions to marijuana business establishments was approved unanimously on first reading by town council.



Knights of Columbus Colorado State Deputy Christopher Foley presents Aspire Medical Services and Education Executive Director Marcy Mitchell with a \$24,950 check for a new ultrasound machine for the facility at an event on Tuesday.

SUN photos/John Finefrock

Outdoor business ordinance addressed by town council

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

An ordinance that proposes to amend the Town of Pagosa Springs' Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) regarding outdoor commercial establishments (OCEs) was approved on first reading by the Pagosa Springs Town Council at a regular meeting on Sept. 17.

This item was previously introduced and discussed by the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission at a regular meeting on Aug. 25.

During that meeting, Planning Director James Dickhoff noted that the current temporary use permit regulations allow a temporary business, defined as someone who is operating out of a nonpermanent structure, six calendar months per year.

Dickhoff noted that vendors have given the town feedback that they would want to operate longer than that with some wanting to operate

year-round and others wanting to operate only nine months out of the year.

During that meeting, various scenarios were presented to the planning commission about changes to the LUDC regarding OCEs.

The first scenario presented by Dickhoff were seasonal OCEs, which would allow these types of businesses to operate for up to nine months per calendar year at locations that are identified in an approved OCE permit.

Another scenario, entitled the event OCE, outlines that businesses with event OCE licenses will be able to operate within the boundaries of a permitted special event during the duration of the event with the permission from the event coordinator.

According to Dickhoff, those businesses would not need an OCE permit because they are permitted through the special event permit and are under the purview event coordinator for that event.

The final scenario was year-round OCEs, which would allow vendors with this type of license to operate year-round at approved locations that accommodate year-round operation, according to agenda documentation.

In regard to a fee structure, Dickhoff proposed a one-time \$35 application fee for seasonal and year-round OCEs, adding that if an OCE wanted to operate at another location, it would need to pay another application fee.

"We started this process back in 2019, actually, looking at amending our current code provisions for temporary use permits," Dickhoff said during the town council meeting on Sept. 17.

According to Dickhoff, the proposed LUDC amendment is "fairly extensive."

Later in the meeting, council member Matt DeGuise raised a question on whether or not there would be a situation where a town business license would not be required for these OCEs.

"Typically not. If you're conducting business in any manner within the town boundaries, you are required to get a town business license," Dickhoff responded.

Ordinance 941 amending Chapter 21 of the Pagosa Springs Municipal Code regarding outdoor commercial establishments was approved unanimously on first reading by town council.

Census

■ Continued from A7

online completion is the fastest and easiest way to complete the census.

You can fill out the census online at www.2020census.gov from your computer and smartphone. You can also simply call (844) 330-2020. Please, Archuleta County residents,

if you have not filled out the 2020 census, do so before Sept. 30. We need you to be counted and a part of this community no matter your political persuasion. We need all the assistance we can get for all of the programs that benefit our community.



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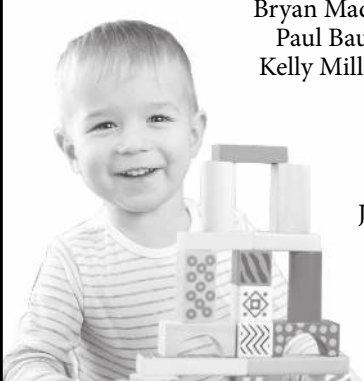
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Outdoors

Family Fridays at Four Mile Ranch announced

By Keith Bruno

Audubon Rockies and Weminuche Audubon Society

Family Fridays at Four Mile Ranch sessions will provide local students (target ages kindergarten through fourth grade) who might otherwise visit the ranch in the fall (via school) an opportunity to take an interpretive walk with their families.

A scavenger hunt handout will be provided to students to work through as they walk the signed

loop and check off their findings.

Additionally, we will provide some stations with enrichment content for the students and families to engage in while down at the ranch. Once registered, participants will receive additional directions and cancellation policy to the ranch. All activities will respect Colorado-mandated recommendations that pertain to COVID-19 symptom screening, mask wearing and social distancing.

Upon registration, folks will receive an email

confirmation with more specific directions on what to expect and how to proceed. If you have any questions, please email Keith Bruno at kbruno@audubon.org.

These programs will run on the following Fridays: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23, weather permitting. Registration is free, but you must register to attend the program. The link for registration can be found at: <https://rockies.audubon.org/event-type/community-naturalist>.

Leaf peeping on three southern Colorado byways

Colorado Department of Transportation

Three scenic byways in southern Colorado have joined forces to feature a road trip that offers an infusion of fall colors, wide open spaces and some very quirky stops along the way.

In this region of Colorado, the traffic is light, homemade pies are plentiful and local establishments are mostly one of a kind. The spectacular geological backdrop is shaped by the Spanish Peaks,

the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan Mountain ranges.

Trinidad and Walsenburg are gateways to the 82-mile Scenic Highway of Legends that boasts world-class geological features including a system of radial dikes unique in North America, the K-Pg Boundary (that marks the extinction of the dinosaurs) and the Dakota Sandstone Wall.

Fort Garland, Antonito, San Luis, Mosca and Alamosa are gateways to the 129-mile Los Caminos

Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway that reaches from Alamosa to the Great Sand Dunes National Park through the culturally rich San Luis Valley. Here, travelers can tour Spanish mission churches or ride the historic Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad.

Lake City and South Fork are gateways to the 117-mile Silver Thread Scenic and Historic Byway. Windy Point, located just east of Lake City, boasts superb views of five 14ers framed by

unending miles of goldenrod aspens. The North Clear Creek Falls is photographed more than any other waterfall in Colorado. This high-elevation byway has self-guided walking tours in Lake City and Creede, both historic silver mining towns. The Bachelor Loop Tour outside Creede connects visitors with ghost towns and an underground mining museum.

For itinerary details, see www.colorado.com/colo-road-trips.

National Public Lands Day forest-wide cleanup Saturday

By Lorena Williams

San Juan National Forest

The San Juan National Forest is coordinating a forest-wide cleanup for National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 26.

2020 has been a banner year for our public lands, with increased interest in the outdoors bringing

higher visitation and an unfortunate side effect: trash.

San Juan National Forest partner organizations will be hosting cleanup efforts across the forest to remove trash left behind at trailheads, along streams and on high-use trails.

Participating partners and their cleanup efforts can be found on the National Environmental Education

Foundation (NEEF) Event Search page at <https://www.neefusa.org/npld-event-search>.

The San Juan National Forest encourages the public to get involved with their public lands by connecting with our partners. Individuals who would like to perform a dispersed cleanup effort (on their own or with family or friends) are encouraged to

do so. Please register your "virtual" effort on the Individuals in Action event on the NEEF website.

The San Juan National Forest would like to recognize our local communities who have responded to the influx of visitors with fresh enthusiasm for Leave No Trace ethics and a willingness to pitch in and help clean up for those who haven't yet learned Leave No Trace principles.

For information on how to get involved with National Public Lands Day, contact Partnership Coordinator Lorena Williams at 422-2939 or by email at lorena.williams@usda.gov.

All offices on the San Juan National Forest are conducting business and providing visitor services virtually. For information on the San Juan National Forest, call 247-4874.

Seasonal changes for San Juan National Forest campgrounds

By Esther Godson

San Juan National Forest

The San Juan National Forest's campgrounds will start limiting services and closing through the fall season. Visitors should know before they go; check the San Juan National Forest's campground status webpage and be prepared for limited services.

Limited services mean there will not be camp hosts, trash pick-up, water or power available.

The Pagosa Ranger District's Ci-

marrona and Palisades campgrounds will remain open through Nov. 1, weather permitting, with limited services and half-price fees. East Fork and Bridge campgrounds are closed. West Fork campground closed Sept. 20. Remaining Pagosa campgrounds will be closed on Sept. 27.

The Columbine Ranger District's Haviland and Vallecito campgrounds will remain open with limited services; there will be no water and only one toilet available. Remaining Columbine campgrounds will be closed

with no services or facilities available Sept. 20 and Sept. 30.

For specific information, please check the campground status page and contact the local district office:

- Pagosa Ranger District, 264-2268.
- Columbine Ranger District, 884-2512.

All offices on the San Juan National Forest are conducting business and providing visitor services virtually. For information on the San Juan National Forest, call 247-4874.

Levels continue to drop in most lakes

By Clayton Chaney

Staff Writer

According to a press release from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District released on Sept. 21 by District Manager Justin Ramsey, all five local lakes are still down in terms of water levels.

Forest Lake was the only one to see a rise in water level, going from 93.94 percent full last week to 95.45 percent full this week, or 6 inches from full.

Lake Hatcher experienced the biggest drop. The water level dropped another 3 inches from last week, bringing water levels down to 46 inches from full, or 85.5

percent full.

Stevens Lake dropped another inch from last week, bringing the water level down to 44 inches from full, or 86.9 percent full.

Lake Pagosa is down another inch from last week, bringing the water level down to 6 inches from full, or 97.83 percent full.

Village Lake dropped 2 inches from last week's report, bringing the water level down to 16 inches from full, or 92.59 percent full.

Water production for Sept. 11-Sept. 17 is down from last week's report for Sept. 4 through Sept. 10. Total water production was listed at 13.75 million gallons for Sept. 11 through Sept. 17. Last year, the reported total

water production for those dates was at 15.09 million gallons.

Diversion flows remained at a total of 4.3 cubic feet per second (cfs), with the West Fork diversion contributing 3 cfs and the San Juan diversion contributing 1.3 cfs.

River report

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, on the morning of Sept. 23, the San Juan River was flowing at 38.8 cfs, not even half of the average rate of 175 cfs for this date.

Based on 84 years of water records, the lowest recorded water flow for this date was 11 cfs in 1953. The highest recorded water flow was 1,480 cfs in 2013.

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Sports

GOLF



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

Pirate senior Taylor Cotts walks away after shooting eagle on his final hole of Tuesday's regional tournament. Cotts shot a career-best 73 and advances to the state tournament.



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

Pirate golfers Dylan Manzanares, Taylor Cotts, Ethan Robel and Braylon Cotts pose at the Rye Invitational, where the team finished second.

Taylor Cotts earns state spot, Pirates take fifth at regionals

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs High School senior Taylor Cotts shot eagle on his final hole at Tuesday's regional tournament at Hollydot Golf Course, finishing off the best round of golf in his high school career and earning himself a spot at the state tournament in October.

Cotts finished the tournament with a 73, two over par.

"It's the first time he's ever broken 80, and to 73 and end up ... third ... it was really good to see," said coach Mark Faber. "It was something I expected would happen a little sooner, but, hey, perfect timing. He played really well."

Cotts was one of four Pirates competing at the regional tournament at Hollydot Golf Course Tuesday, with the Pirates coming in fifth overall out of 16 teams.

The regional tournament was the team's second go-round at Hollydot over the week, with the team

taking second at the Rye Invitational at the same site on Sept. 17.

At that tournament, the Pirates ended up second out of about 20 teams, Faber noted, calling it an "awesome day."

At the Rye Invitational, Cotts finished eighth overall with an 80, while Dylan Manzanares tied for 10th with an 83, Braylon Cotts tied for 14th with an 86 and Ethan Robel tied for 16th with an 88.

"Taylor tied his tournament best ever, and all three of the other ones had their very best tournament rounds," Faber said, adding, "They played as well as they could play, felt like they were really peaking at the right time, and everybody just played really, really well."

Faber indicated it was tough to see the team turnaround and not fare as well on the same course this week.

Faber pointed out that each had a couple of rough holes, pointing out that happens sometimes.

Robel took 25th at the regional

tournament with a 90, Manzanares finished tied for 32nd with a 94, and Braylon Cotts followed with a 95 to tie for 34th.

"I'm proud of all of them. ... They all stayed after it, they all played hard. They weren't any of them very far off, just a few shots here and there," Faber said.

Taylor Cotts will now set his sight on the state tournament, which will be held Oct. 5 and 6 at Dos Rios in Gunnison.

Whether or not the season is over for the team remains to be seen, Faber indicated, with talks ongoing concerning an Inter-mountain League tournament.

"The one thing we do know is that Taylor had a great day, he gets to go to state. The other kids were, a lot of them came a long way this year just to get to where they got to, and I wished they'd have had a little better day. They didn't, but they need to hold their heads up, they had a great year," Faber said.

randi@pagosasun.com

FOOTBALL

Fall football returning to PSHS

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) will have fall football and sideline cheer this year, with practices allowed to begin today, Sept. 24.

The local decision followed a string of guidance and decisions throughout the state.

On Sept. 16, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) released guidance for organized sports ranging from youth leagues to adult amateur leagues. The guidance includes information for each phase of the state's new dial framework that was released the previous day and addresses key topics like facility considerations, spectators, as well as tournaments, transportation, and travel.

Then, after previously voting to not amend its schedule that had football being played only in the spring, during Season C, the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Board of Directors voted 12-3 the evening of Sept. 16 to allow for additional outdoor sports in the fall: field hockey, football and sideline spirit.

The state approved playing the sports in season A with increased roster sizes for any county that is in

Protect Our Neighbors, Level 1 and Level 2, which a press release notes currently includes every county in the state, pending they follow all of the required guidelines.

Archuleta County is in Level 2.

Per the same press release from the state, the state is also requiring that:

- "All participants, including athletes, coaches, match officials, staff, and others, must wear masks while not actively playing or performing."

- All participants, including those listed above, must be 6 feet apart from non-household members on the sidelines or while not in active play.

- All participants must stay in their designated areas off the field of play, and may not go into spectator areas."

- All participants must wear masks and observe social distancing during transportation.

Roster limitations established by CHSAA must not be exceeded.

- "Cheer/Dance participants must follow the requirements laid out in other guidelines for performers and be at least 25 feet away from spectators and players at all times."

- "Athletic teams will be required to report and respond to cases and outbreaks under the same guide-

lines as schools."

CHSAA explained in a press release that schools will continue to have the option to play these sports in Season C, as previously upheld by its board of directors, if they elect not to play during Season A. The seasons will be treated equitably. Schools may not play in both seasons.

"A major factor in the Board's decision was the approval of the variances, and the COVID Response Team's approval that these sports could move forward in a safe manner, with all the recommended guidelines," the press release notes.

Specifically, CHSAA's press release states, these variances allow for 50 players, per sideline, to be on the field during a football game. Spirit roster size is based upon CHSAA classification maximums.

"Requested variances for the remaining fall sports — gymnastics, boys soccer, spirit, girls volleyball, and unified bowling — remain under consideration by the COVID Response Team," the release states.

CHSAA reported Tuesday that 78.99 percent of schools are opting to play in Season A, including 68.42 (26 teams) percent of 2A teams like PSHS. The remaining 12 2A teams will play in Season C.

■ See Football A13

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CROSS-COUNTRY

Pirates slated to host final regular-season meet

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate cross-country teams previewed the regional course at last week's 4-Corners Cross Country Classic in Durango on Sept. 18, and learned some valuable information to keep in mind.

"It looks like it's a really fast course," coach Rachael Christiansen said, noting that the teams found the course was spongier and not as quick as they had estimated.

Despite the slower speeds, the Lady Pirates finished fourth out of the six teams at the meet, which featured teams from multiple classifications. The Pirates finished third out of nine teams.

The Lady Pirates finished behind 4A Durango, Alamosa and Centauri.

Michelle Saucedo was the first Lady Pirate across the line, with Saucedo finishing ninth with a time of 22 minutes, 47 seconds.

"Michelle came back ... as our leading runner and I think she had a strong race," Christiansen said.

Sierra Liverett followed with a time of 23:39 to finish 12th of the 43 runners, and Megan Greenly followed with a time of 23:34 to finish 14th.

"Sierra finishing second on our team was huge," Christian said, adding the team "definitely" needs her in that front group to move on after regionals.

Ivory Carpenter finished 23rd in 25:14, and was followed closely by Nell Taylor, who finished 24th in 25:15.

Christian noted that Taylor dealt with bus sickness during the meet, but that she ran the best race she



Photo courtesy Rachael Christiansen

Ivory Carpenter, front, and RuthAnn Morehouse work to keep pace during the 4-Corners Cross Country Classic in Durango on Sept. 18. Carpenter finished 23rd and Morehouse finished 32nd.

could and was able to bring Carpenter along with her, which was "ideal" for Carpenter.

RuthAnn Morehouse finished 32nd in 26:46 — about 30 seconds off her personal record (PR), the coach noted.

The boys' squad finished third, behind Durango and Alamosa.

I think the boys, I think they raced really well. We decided to take ... a couple of risks," Christiansen explained, noting the team met its goal of placing third.

The Pirates were led on the day by Gabe Heraty, who finished sixth with a time of 17:24.

Christiansen explained that Heraty's goal is to break 17 minutes and, after talking with the coach, opted to go for that goal at the Durango meet.

He was in fourth for about the first two miles, the coach explained, but dropped off in the last mile.

She added she was impressed

with how long he ran with the race's lead runners.

"Overall, I'm really happy with what he did," she said.

Andrew Bowles also set out with a goal — to finish in less than 20 minutes — and ended 19th with a time of 20:18.

Christiansen highlighted Bowles' significant improvement from the prior week and noted that the race was the first time he's finished second on the team.

David Morehouse followed in 22nd with a time of 20:48, Levi Hinger finished 23rd in 20:57 and Sawyer Blakemore finished 24th in 21 minutes flat.

"They kind of ran in a pack together. They actually all finished really close to each other," the coach said, noting that it was Blakemore's first varsity race and he set a PR.

This week, the Pirates will host their final regular-season meet, set to

take place atop Reservoir Hill Friday and include 10 teams.

Athletic Director Marcie Ham explained that, due to COVID restrictions on the size of gatherings, PSHS is highly encouraging that there be only two spectators per athlete.

All spectators, she added, must wear masks and social distance between households.

Christiansen added that spectators are discouraged from gathering around the finish line, mingling with the athletes, and should not enter the athlete area.

The Pirates' home course, Christiansen explained, is rugged, and both teams hope to have a strong showing at a competitive meet.

In a change, the meet will also serve as the Intermountain League meet, which will determine league standings and all-conference honors.

randi@pagosasun.com

Football

■ Continued from A12

Fall football at PSHS

Archuleta School District Superintendent Dr. Kym LeBlanc-Esparza announced in a Sept. 18 letter that PSHS would take part in Season A football and sideline cheer.

The letter begins by explaining CHSAA's process of working with the state and considering the matter before stating, "While as a district we are disappointed that they would only select a few of our fall sports if they were going to grant an exception, we respect the authority of CHSAA to make this decision."

The superintendent's letter then explains, "Once we received the definitive word from CHSAA with all the required conditions, we began consulting with our local health authority, San Juan Basin Public Health. Their team has provided guidance for districts in their region, taking into consideration our local data and metrics. We also have met as a leadership team to

consider our current conditions and what would have to be done in order to allow students to play, while ensuring student athlete safety as well as ensuring overall school safety.

"In the end, given the collective decision making around our league and considering our community's COVID numbers, we feel that it is in our high school student athletes' best interest to provide them the opportunity to play football this fall season. If we choose to wait until the spring semester, it would likely result in playing many teams outside of our geographical area with extensive travel demands."

The letter later notes, "we have also reached a unanimous decision among middle schools in our area that it is best to wait until the defined spring season for middle schools to engage in football. We simply believe that the priority is returning to in-person instruction full time first."

Due to the splitting of football

between seasons, CHSAA also realigned leagues for the 2020 fall season. The Pirates, per CHSAA's website, will be in the Southwest League along with Alamosa, Bayfield, La Junta, Lamar and Manitou Springs.

CHSAA released the fall football schedules Tuesday.

With the new alignment and the six-game regular season, Pagosa Springs will face one nonleague opponent before taking on a series of league games.

In week one, which is slated to be Oct. 8-10, Pagosa will be on the road to face Middle Park.

In week two, Pagosa will host Alamosa.

In week three, Pagosa will travel to play Bayfield.

In week four, Pagosa will host Lamar.

In week five, the Pirates will host La Junta.

In week six, Pagosa will travel to play Manitou Springs.

PSHS Athletic Director Marcie Ham explained Tuesday that, to

stay within state guidelines and after working with San Juan Basin Public Health to determine how the limit on people allowed under Level 2 would be calculated, PSHS will allow two spectator ticket opportunities for each player, cheerleader and coach.

The remaining available spaces (the state's Safer at Home order allows for up to 175 people), she explained, will be used for visiting school administration, Archuleta School District administration, media and other such uses.

No visiting team spectators are allowed at this time, she explained.

All spectators and personnel must wear masks at all times, she added.

Ham noted that PSHS installed NFHS Network cameras on the field and the games will be broadcast through the NFHS Network, with PSHS expecting to release information on how to purchase a PSHS package in the upcoming weeks.

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4th in Family	347/433
5th in Family	347/433

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2nd in Family	558/697
3rd in Family	318/397
4th in Family	261/326
5th in Family	261/326

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LIBRARY NEWS

Last chance to participate in census — and Archuleta County needs your help

By Carole Howard

SUN Columnist, and the library staff

Have you completed your census questionnaire? The deadline has been moved forward to Sept. 30, so you don't have much time.

There's a lot at stake for our community if we do not participate as much as we should. Our response rate directly affects the number of representatives we have in Congress. It determines if we get our fair share of the \$675 billion in federal funding for the next 10 years — and our share of state funds — for local and regional agencies and projects like health clinics, fire departments, schools, Medicaid, assistance for American Indians, ESL and adult education programs, housing assistance, even roads and highways.

The current self-response rate of Archuleta County households is only 42.3 percent, compared to 69.3 percent for the state of Colorado and the national rate of 66 percent. This self-response rate is a reflection of households that completed the census online, by phone or by mail.

Before Sept. 30, Census Bureau enumerators will try to visit households of nonrespondents to ensure everyone is counted. The efforts of census enumerators combined with an area's self-responses give us the total number of households counted so far for that area. A lot of work remains for census enumerators in our community. The best way to help them is to answer the door if you hear them knocking and respond right now to the census if you have not already done so.

Our county needs your participation to get our fair share of these government dollars. If you have not already completed this important questionnaire, please do so now. You don't have much time with the Sept. 30 deadline looming.

It takes less than 10 minutes to respond to the census and your answers are kept anonymous. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used or shared by any government agency or court.

Please contact Brad or Josie at the library if you have any census-related questions or visit 2020census.gov for more information. Library computers, phone and staff are available to help you access the census questionnaire.

Tax lien information via Zoom

Next Thursday, Oct. 1, from 5 to 6 p.m., the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office will explain what a tax lien is and give you information on how to get started on investing in them if you want to do so. Zoom meeting ID: 856 6443 1537; password: 269665.

Voter tutorial via Facebook

Are you registered to vote? Do you know how to review your voter registration or update information to ensure you are eligible to vote? You can view an informative tutorial about these vital topics on the library's website or share with friends.

If you have a Facebook account, log in to Facebook and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, access the page by visiting our

website and clicking the Facebook icon (a lowercase f) in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Or, contact us and we can send you a direct link.

Summary of our partial reopening

- We're now open on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. with 1 to 2 p.m. reserved for seniors and higher-risk populations.

- Other hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for seniors and higher-risk populations. Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays: closed.

- We are accepting meeting room reservations for small groups, with library programs having first dibs on the rooms for our programs. In addition, you can schedule only so far out, usually two weeks to a month, depending on where we are in the month.

- Up to 30 patrons at a time can come into the building.

- Hand sanitizers are available and there will be frequent cleanings inside the building throughout the day. Please practice social distancing and wear facial coverings while you are in the building. If you don't have a mask, we are happy to give one to you.

- Nine computers are available. In most cases computer usage will be allowed for three hours per day. Staff will clean and disinfect the computers between uses.

- One early literacy computer is available for youngsters Monday through Saturday.

- For those not comfortable coming into the building or unable to wear a mask, curbside service continues Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except for Thursdays, when it's available from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phone 264-2209 when you are in the parking lot so staff can bring the items out for you. If you put a hold on something, please wait for your usual alert (email, phone call or text) before coming to pick it up.

- You now can drop your returns of books, CDs and DVDs in the drop box at City Market, as well as in the drop box at the library. No donations in the City Market box, please.

- Notary service is available during open hours on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The cost is \$5 per notary.

- You can place holds on items from other libraries. They are in different stages of reopening, so items may take longer than usual.

- We're happy to provide tech help in person or over the phone for our online resources.

Adult DIY on Facebook Live tomorrow

A free fall-themed DIY event will happen on Facebook Live tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 25, from 2 to 3 p.m. Join Brad to get some crafty ideas of how to create several fall-themed decorations. You also can watch the show later. If you have a Facebook account, log in to Facebook and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon (a lowercase f) in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Or, contact us and we can

send you a direct link.

New Storywalk for kids

Every other Thursday, Josie posts signs outside the library that follow the sidewalk up toward the elementary school detailing a new free Storywalk for kids. The Sept. 24-Oct. 3 theme is fall transitions. Get outdoors and follow the pages of a book telling a beautiful autumn story as you stroll along. After you finish, pick up materials for a craft or activity at the library. By popular demand, Storywalks will continue until the snow makes it too difficult to proceed.

ESL

Free in-person classes take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m. by appointment. Please register so we can keep it to a small group in our limited open spaces. No walk-ins.

Adult learning

GED classes plus HiSet, CDL and other free in-person tutoring from Mark is available on Tuesdays from 2 to 7 p.m. by appointment for both new and returning students.

Dungeons and Dragons moves to Google Meet

Join us on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. for Dungeons and Dragons free for teens and young adults. Note that this fun fantasy role-playing game has moved from Zoom to Google Meet. Contact claire@pagosalibrary.org for details on how to join.

Children's programs on Facebook

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m., join us on the library's Facebook page for free children's programs. Wednesday storytimes are on Facebook Live, so if you go to Facebook at 10 a.m., you can interact with Josie. Saturday's Discovery Times — with games, art ideas, science experiments, history and more — are prerecorded.

If you have a Facebook account, log in to Facebook and search for the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. If you don't have a Facebook account, access the page by visiting our website and clicking the Facebook icon (a lowercase f) in the upper left-hand corner of the screen. Or, contact us and we can send you a direct link.

Nonfiction

"No Rules Rules" by co-founder Reed Hastings and Erin Meyer describes the management philosophy of flexibility and innovation that has allowed Netflix to successfully reinvent itself several times. "Everything Beautiful in Its Time" by Jenna Bush Hager shares moving, funny and wise stories about the former first daughter and granddaughter's grandparents. "The Spy Masters" by Chris Whipple explores how CIA directors over the years have shaped American history. "Blackout" by political activist Candace Owens addresses the ways Democrat policies hurt the African-American community.

DVDs

"The Biggest Little Farm" is the true story of a couple who traded city living for 200 acres of barren farmland. "Project Blue Book" is inspired by the true story of a col-

lege professor recruited to a UFO project.

Books on CD

"Lifeboat" by Maggie Craddock describes the skills necessary to survive and thrive in today's turbulent times. "Six Days in August" by David King is the story of the hostage drama that created the term Stockholm Syndrome.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"Vince Flynn Total Power" by Kyle Mills is a Mitch Rapp thriller. "Troubled Blood" by Robert Galbraith is the fifth book in the Cormoran Strike series.

Other novels

"Monogamy" by Sue Miller unveils a ruinous secret in a seemingly perfect marriage. "The Library of the Unwritten" by A.J. Hackwith is set in the Unwritten wing of Hell where stories unfinished by their authors reside. "Sleep in a Sea of Stars" by Christopher Paolini is a sci-fi fantasy.

Donations

We are grateful to Lenore Bright for her generous monetary contribution in honor of Lou Poma, and to Robert and Jeanette Pike for their generous donation, as well.

Please put your material donations into the drop box at the library — not at City Market, which is reserved for returns. Donations will undergo the same rigorous three-day quarantine process as returns.

Quotable quote

"It's hard to overstate the importance of the census to everyday life in the United States. The vast amount of demographic information it gathers determines who gets how much political power in Congress and the states; it steers more than a trillion dollars in federal funding for health care and other critical services; it guides long-term economic decisions by governments, corporations and mom-and-pop stores; it helps determine the location of highways and schools, hospitals and housing, police and fire stations ...

"Of the more than \$1.5 trillion in federal funding allocated to the states based on census data, 75 percent goes to Medicare and Medicaid ... Census data will be especially important over the next decade as the country confronts the long-term public health impact of the coronavirus pandemic. This will include, among other things, tracking the incidence of the virus, conducting epidemiological research and providing funds for medical equipment.

"Such data are also essential to the functioning of the national economy. They provide large and small businesses with information about work forces and markets. They drive federal regulation of small-business loans, home mortgages and equal-employment practices." — Excerpted from an editorial in The New York Times, Sept. 13, 2020.

Website

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Michael W., Facebook

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Town staff and Alcon Construction representatives led a pair of progress tours at the site of the town's new consolidated maintenance facility. The tours were attended by town employees, members of the town council and other town boards, and members of the public.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Council establishes school zones

By Chris Mannara
Staff Writer

An ordinance setting school zone areas within the corporate limits of Pagosa Springs was approved on second reading at the regular meeting of the Pagosa Springs Town Council on Sept. 17.

Town council had previously approved the first reading of the ordinance, Ordinance 939, at its regular meeting on Sept. 1.

According to agenda documentation, town staff had previously discovered that there was no town-wide plan for school zones.

Furthermore, agenda documentation outlines that there are no legal school zones in Pagosa Springs despite there being several school crossings and some signage.

"The school zone is the roadway immediately adjacent to the school, usually extending one to two blocks in every direction, speed limits are often reduced, fines increased, and special signing is used - crossing signs, speed signs, school zone pavement markings - so that motorists know to treat the area with special care and attention - and it may have 'fines doubled' signage," agenda documentation reads.

Town staff held a stakeholder meeting to identify needs and wants pertaining to school zones, and from that meeting it was determined that doubling the fines would be the best approach to increased penalties, according to agenda documentation.

Additionally, 25 mph was determined to be slow enough for the school zones and the town would work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to get signing on U.S. 160 once the ordinance was passed, agenda documentation notes.

Archuleta School District provided a letter of support for the school zones that were presented, according to agenda documentation.

Town Public Works Director Martin Schmidt noted during the meeting that, due to Pagosa Springs Police Department Chief William Rockensock's preference, time limits for school zones are going to be 7:15-8:45 a.m. and 2:15-4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.
chris@pagosasun.com

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ARTS & LIFE

Welcome, Fall





Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

Six stars — Quinlan Quiros, Theresa Snyder, Gabriel Heraty, Jonathan Dobson, Blue Haas and Bob Bonham — will be dancing for the Mirror Ball Trophy or one of five other awards during Saturday’s Dancing with the Pagosa Stars event, which benefits Seeds of Learning.

Live Performers

Thursday
Riff Raff on the Rio: Anthony Leon, 6 p.m.

Friday
Pagosa Brewing Company: The San Juan Mountain Boys, 5 p.m.
Riff Raff Downtown: Anthony Leon, 6 p.m.

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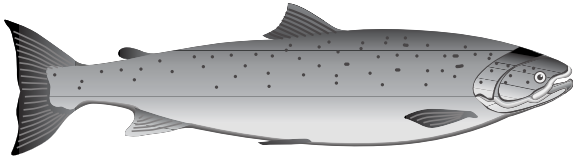
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“best fish and chips I’ve ever had”

- Los Angeles Times



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Get ready for a night of fun with Dancing with the Pagosa Stars

By Lilli Peters
Seeds of Learning

The lights are set, the cameras are in place and the Dancing with the Pagosa Stars crew is ready for action on the dance floor this Saturday evening. After a summer of practicing, planning and pinning for the Mirror Ball Trophy, our stars, coaches, emcees, volunteers and producers are ready to put on Pagosa's virtual dance show of the year, Dancing with the Pagosa Stars. This show will not only provide for an exciting Saturday night, but will also raise money for Seeds of Learning, a local early childhood education center.

Our six super stars, Quinlan Quiros, Theresa Snyder, Gabriel Heraty, Jonathan Dobson, Blue Haas and Bob Bonham, have been working hard to perfect their dance moves and rack up the votes for themselves and, most importantly, the children at Seeds of Learning.

Each \$1 vote goes directly to the school to help pay for critical costs like the teachers' salaries and providing a hot meal to each child. The star with the most votes at the end of the night will win the coveted Mirror Ball Trophy. It is still an extremely close race, so vote for your favorite star to help them win.

We have three easy ways to vote for your favorite star right now: 1) Visit dwtps.org; 2) Text dwtps to 31996; or 3) If you don't know who to vote for, visit <http://growingseeds.org/dwtps-stars/> to read their bios and vote for your favorite.

While your votes will help one lucky star win the Mirror Ball Trophy, a judging panel will determine the winners of the other five awards. The other awards include Best Showmanship, Best Male Dancer, Best Female Dancer, Best Costume and Best Video. Our judging panel will consist of volunteers from the Pagosa community that are passionate about Seeds of Learning. Make sure you tune in on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. to watch the performances and see which award your favorite star will receive. Don't have a ticket yet? Go to <http://growingseeds.org/go/dance2020/> to buy your virtual ticket.

In addition to those you will see on camera on Saturday, a slew of volunteers have worked behind the scenes to ensure for an entertaining evening. Professionals

like Leslie Carlson, Perry and Amy Harper, Dwight Peters and Jason Cox have been lending their skills to put together a polished show and tackle any challenges presented by utilizing a virtual platform. Committee members Lisa Peters, Terry McGaughy, Renee Smith, Connie Knief and Deb Jennings have been burning the midnight oil to coordinate every detail of this virtual party. And last, but certainly not least, we must mention our talented emcees Lisa Peters, Martin Rose and Corey Grindal. We are extremely grateful to all of

Whether or not your star wins the Mirror Ball Trophy, you will have the satisfaction of knowing you, too, are a "star" for changing the future for an at-risk child.

our volunteers, including the stars and coaches. Without them, none of this would have been possible.

After a summer of hard work, we can't wait to virtually host the Pagosa community for a night of fun, dancing and fundraising. Make sure you visit <http://growingseeds.org/dancing-with-the-pagosa-stars-2020/> to buy your virtual ticket and vote for your favorite star. Whether or not your star wins the Mirror Ball Trophy, you will have the satisfaction of

knowing you, too, are a "star" for changing the future for an at-risk child. From all of us at Seeds of Learning and Dancing with the Pagosa Stars, thank you for believing in our school and children.

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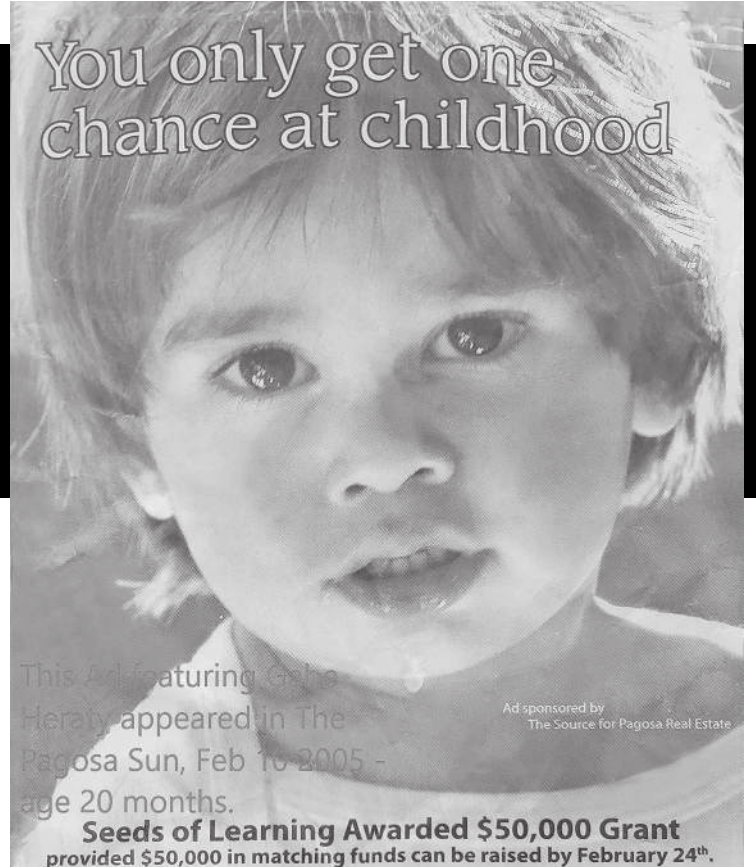
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This Ad featuring Gabe Heraty appeared in The Pagosa Sun, Feb 16-2005 - age 20 months.
Ad sponsored by The Source for Pagosa Real Estate
Seeds of Learning Awarded \$50,000 Grant
provided \$50,000 in matching funds can be raised by February 24th.

Vote by Saturday, September 26 by going to GabeHeraty.com



Who is Gabe Heraty?

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Pagosa Springs High School Senior
Cross-country runner
Learn more at GabeHeraty.com



Vote with your dollars to support Gabe Heraty.

Each star earns points through tickets sold in their name and through the number of votes they receive.

The star with the most votes wins the Mirror Ball Trophy.

Thank you for your support!
— Gabe Heraty



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For more information, see growingseeds.org

Ad sponsored by Pagosa Source Real Estate Advisors



Photo courtesy Sarah Platt Decker Chapter
The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution created a display and made available handouts regarding the Constitution at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library and Ignacio Library.

Daughters of the American Revolution stay active amid COVID

By Linda Hobbs
Sarah Platt Decker Chapter NSDAR

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) have adapted and stayed active

during these unsettling times of the pandemic.
On Tuesday, Sept. 15, the chapter, through Regent Tanice Ramsperger, petitioned and received from the Archuleta County commissioners a proclamation citing

the week of Sept. 17-23 annually as Constitution Week. Another proclamation, petitioned by the chapter, was obtained from the Durango mayor. The daughters created a display and made available hand-
■ See American on next page

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During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, #1Thing can make all the difference

By Ashley Wilson
Rise Above Violence

Domestic violence impacts millions of people each year, but it can be prevented. It requires the collective voice and power of individuals, families, institutions and systems — each whose “one thing” adds a valuable and powerful component to transforming our communities.

That is why this October, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Rise Above Violence is asking “What is the #1Thing you can do to end domestic violence?”

Many people care and understand that domestic violence is a serious public health problem. They want to do something but believe their actions can't make a difference. It feels overwhelming. But change can start with only #1Thing. Imagine if all individuals in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County each commit to doing just #1Thing to stop domestic violence. Well, we could really see some serious change.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in four women and one in nine men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Right here in Pagosa Springs, Rise Above Violence has served

329 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault so far, this year alone. That is why we need everyone — advocates, medical professionals, educators, survivors, researchers, policy makers, law enforcement officers, business owners, students and more, to do #1Thing to stop domestic violence here in Pagosa Springs.

#1Thing you could do to support victims and survivors:

- Be a caring and consistent adult in the life of a child.
 - Talk to loved ones about violence and oppression.
 - Create a culture of consent in your home.
 - Use social media to raise awareness among your peers.
 - Reach out to Rise Above Violence to learn how you can help.
 - Listen to and validate a survivor.
- See Awareness on next page

American

■ continued from previous page
outs regarding the Constitution at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa Springs and created a display in the Ignacio Library. Durango prominently hung our Constitution Week banner announcing the date to all passers-by.

Many thanks to the libraries and local governments for acknowledging the U.S. Constitution and the importance it plays in our daily lives.

Additionally, the daughters have also been busy making masks for the library and the hospital. This past weekend, daughters from Pagosa Springs, Durango and Cortez attended a veteran stand down event in Cortez. The stand down ensured veterans were being served meals and received various services. A stand down is an annual event held in many communities to support its veterans.

The daughters are overcoming not being able to meet in person with using a Zoom platform for meetings, leadership training and organizing events. Soon, we will be honoring our first responders and health care professionals.

If you are interested in information about the NSDAR, please email: spdregent@gmail.com.

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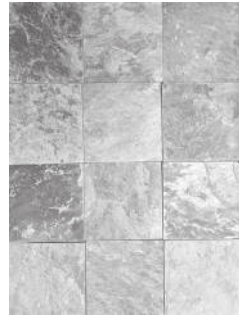
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Photo courtesy Bob Howard

Officers of the local Pi Beta Phi alumnae club presented a check for \$200 to Josie Snow, Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library’s early literacy librarian, standing left back, to be used for the library’s programs for children. The contribution was made to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the alumnae club’s founding in support of the sorority’s literacy objectives. Left to right, in front, are Lisa Scott, the club’s founder; Marilyn Chipps, treasurer; and Carole Howard, president. Said Snow: “It means so much to me, and to the library, that Pagosa Pi Phis thought of donating to us.” The local club also made an identical contribution to the national Pi Beta Phi Foundation to support their literacy programs. Pi Beta Phi’s 285 alumnae clubs worldwide and 135 collegiate chapters across the U.S. and Canada participate year-round in a wide variety of literacy initiatives in their communities.

Awareness

■ continued from previous page
vor of trauma.
• End the silence of domestic violence.

Ways you can get involved

- 1) Attend an event that supports Rise Above Violence, your local domestic violence agency. Upcoming events include Art, Sips and Treats — Tomorrow night and evening with wine, chocolate and cheese in the Art Above Violence gallery. Buy a ticket or bid on the art for the Art Above Violence show that will be held virtually on Oct. 10. More information on both events at www.riseaboveviolence.org.
- 2) Follow Rise Above Violence on Facebook and Instagram, and share the community messages, events and statistics to bring awareness.

3) Join our Snowball Club — a monthly giving club where every dollar contributes to a big change. Just \$10 supports one crisis call every month and ensures that every call is answered.

4) Volunteer your time. We need hotline volunteers and event volunteers; there is something for everyone.

This October, join Rise Above Violence as we connect with one another with a true sense of unity to end domestic violence.

Rise Above Violence is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides 24-hour support and advocacy services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault or other forms of violence, serving over 300 victims each year. Rise also works to eliminate violence through education for youth and our community. All programs and services are free and

confidential, including emergency prevention education and empowerment programs. Visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for more information or call 264-9075 to talk to an advocate today.

#1Thing unites our individual voices while highlighting the power of our collective action.

Veterans Crisis Line

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Clothing Giveaway

Saturday, September 26
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Free winter clothes, shoes and boots to everyone in the community. Must wear masks while shopping and there will be greeters to limit the number of people who can shop at one time.

Clothing Collection

Sept. 19, 21, 22, 23 • 9 a.m. to noon

Accepting clean winter clothes, shoes and boots in good condition.

We need: Men’s shoes, boots, jackets, shirts and pants.

Women’s all sizes pants, shirts, sweaters, outside jackets, boots and shoes
Children’s and Infant’s winter clothes, shoes, boots, sweaters, sweatpants and shirts, snowsuits.

If collection hours are not convenient, please call church office Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to arrange for drop off. Please do not leave clothes without talking to the office. (970) 731-5801



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Trisha Taylor
303-525-7037

The importance of before and after

Some words are worth repeating, like the words on a restaurant wall that read, “Feed me tacos and tell me I’m pretty.”

I doubt that tacos would make me feel any prettier. After all, my ears were holding up a mask, hearing aids and the temples of my eyeglasses that fogged over after every breath.

I told my family that the thing I missed most during COVID is eating out in restaurants. The thing I will never miss: using the word COVID in every sentence.

Frankly, I’m tired of talking about it. I’m tired of hearing about it, but it’s the only way to explain why we are doing what we are doing.

My family tells me that I am the only one talking about it. They have just gone on with their lives as if the pandemic never happened.

My Sweet Al told me, “You’re always stirring the pot. As soon as the stink settles, you stir it up again.”

I’m not sure what he thinks I’m stirring up. I bring up COVID because it is a point of reference that will undoubtedly mark this time in our lives for years to come.

At the first of the year, my Sweet Al and I planned several trips. We planned to fly here and there, and get in a road trip or two. Needless to say, none of it happened. Why? Because of COVID.

A friend called and encouraged us to reschedule a long overdue vacation. She had been cleaning out a closet and came across a box filled with letters that I wrote in the mid-’90s.

She said, “I’m not sure why I still have all of these, but they are filled with golden nuggets of truth. Why don’t you come visit me for a working vacation. We can go through these gems and see what we can do with them.”

Sunday devotionals offered by the Baha’i Faith

By Paulette Heber
Baha’i Community of Archuleta County

The Baha’i Community of Archuleta County hosts weekly devotionals every Sunday morning from 10 to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/884668836?pwd=bkdEeVlaSWN0bFRMdFhidXpzWjV5Zz09>, call-in number: (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 884 668 836,

A weekly theme is reflected in the prayers, music, poetry and selections from world religions and various sources. All are encouraged to contribute inspirational pieces. This Sunday, Sept. 27, our theme is joy.

“Joy gives us wings. In times of

Artist’s Lane

Betty Slade



I told my family that the thing I missed most during COVID is eating out in restaurants. The thing I will never miss: using the word COVID in every sentence.

I told her, “Hang on to my words until I get there. I’m glad someone is enjoying them.”

My family thinks that all I do is stir the pot. They quit listening to me if I dare say anything more than once.

The good thing about a great friend is that they value what we have to say. Yes, we still talk about COVID. Or, more specifically, how much it has altered our daily lives. But, more than anything, we value each other’s knowledge of God’s word. Even when we repeat ourselves, we stretch each other with our dialogue, like iron sharpens iron.

My friend and I have launched

several big projects throughout the years. We even taught art and Bible classes on television. Whether discussing an idea over coffee or being in the thick of our next big thing, ours has always been a working friendship. It has taken us to heights we likely wouldn’t have reached without each other.

Long before COVID, my friend and I had full schedules that were laced with conversations full of purpose. I have quoted her more times than I could count and she, me.

Post-COVID, and after our recent chat, it looks like we may have a new project on the board. We want to co-write a book filled with 30 years of words between friends that have stirred us inside, words that are worth repeating.

There is a scripture in Proverbs that says it all. “The truthful lip shall be established forever.”

COVID isn’t just an event on the calendar. It has become a baseline by which we can test for what is true. In the case of my friend and I, it marks when we will dip back in to a cardboard box to see if thousands of words between us have stood the test of time.

Final brushstroke: Regardless of our talent, nothing is more validating than to look back on our handiwork to see a reflection of ourselves. Between friends, nothing is more validating than seeing what that same handiwork means to each other, even after so many years.

Readers’ comments

Send your comments to betty@bettyslade.com.

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joy our strength is more vital, our intellect keener and our understanding less clouded. We seem better able to cope with the world and to find our sphere of usefulness.” — Abdu’l Baha.

The Baha’i Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all people of the world in one universal cause, one common faith.

To learn more about the Baha’i Faith, please visit the official international website of the Baha’i Faith at www.bahai.org. Our local contact is archuletabahais@gmail.com.

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Living a life worthy of their calling

By Richard Gammill
PREVIEW Columnist

The scandal that hit Liberty Christian University last month disappointed me and broke my heart. I want to stand up and point to the hundreds of Christian colleges and universities led by men and women of unimpeachable character and high integrity. They may be little known beyond their constituencies, while one of their number is held up to the scrutiny of the entire nation.

One president and his wife not only betrayed their sacred trust, but impugned the reputations of their peers. Deeply flawed, they fell. We must be careful not to allow a single transgression to diminish our high regard for all the leaders who serve their students with distinction. I pray for this couple to come to God's forgiving grace.

Looming large in my experience as a student at a Christian college in Idaho were the president and his wife. He was my spiritual hero, someone I wanted to emulate. He was dignified yet warm and approachable. His Friday chapel messages held to a high intellectual standard while they spoke to my heart. His wife, always gracious and caring, modeled Christian womanliness for the coed students, including the one who would become my wife. Together,

A Matter of Faith

they exemplified what a Christian couple could be.

Ten years later, my denomination appointed me to a position that took me to all the affiliated colleges once or twice a year. This opportunity acquainted me with all the presidents and, in most cases, with their wives. These couples often invited me to their home. These leaders worked hard and devoted themselves to the academic success and spiritual welfare of their students. Their wives, also, many known as women of prayer, set a standard for the female students. The Christian example of these presidential couples uplifted the campus.

Later, my oldest son, Jeff, enrolled in one of these colleges in San Diego. He told us about the girls he was dating. One outstanding classmate caught and held his attention — the president's daughter. They became engaged during their junior year and married in the spring of their senior year — the social event of the season.

I share four precious granddaughters with that college presi-

dent and wife. The girls lost their daddy to cancer just before the oldest one graduated from high school. Three of them have since graduated from one of those affiliated colleges in Oklahoma City, and the fourth is now in her junior year. Each is a lovely example of Christian womanhood. I am grateful for their beautiful mother, whose parents bestowed on her a legacy of faith and character, which she has passed down to a new generation.

Christian college presidents — and their wives — challenge thousands of young students and graduates, by word and example, to live a life worthy of their high calling. I honor them all.

New Thought to discuss divine grace

By Lisa Burnson
New Thought Center
for Inspirational Living

"Problems will dissolve if you knew how worthy and deserving you are of all the joys life has to offer." — Anita Moorjani.

All are welcome to join New Thought Center for Inspirational Living this Sunday, Sept. 27, at 10 a.m. for our presentation: "Divine Grace — Accepting Your Good: Your Right To Receive." Many of us are proficient at giving, but reluctant to receive. We are in need of allowing and accepting good from others, and allowing the Law of Circulation to continue.

We will have spirited live music.

Upcoming events

Meditation Circle is held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. All are welcome.

There will be a Masquerade Party Oct. 30. Please call 309-6067 for more information.

Prosperity Class is beginning soon. Date and time to be determined. Call/text 309-6067 for more information.

About us

The New Thought Center promotes living a spiritually centered life, and promotes the philosophies of Centers for Spiritual Living and Agape Centers. New Thought honors all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the divine.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. Participate, learn or contribute your insights, beliefs, knowledge and skills.

New Thought events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of Best Western Lodge (elevator available).

Request prayer treatment or obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling 309-6067. Find us on Facebook (Pagosa Community of New Thought) or YouTube (Pagosa New Thought Channel).

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Thanks to our supporters, GGP will continue to

- beautify the Rotary garden and the Native Plants Garden
- donate food to community members who need it
- welcome community dome gardeners
- educate students about growing food sustainably year-round, conserving water, and using renewable energy
- look forward to Breakfast with Balloons 2021!

Clothing giveaway at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church set for Saturday

By Lynne McCrudden
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

This Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., lots of winter clothes will be free to anyone who stops by to shop at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., next to Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC).

This event has been a yearly event for over 20 years in our community. Although things will be slightly different this year, there are still plenty of clothes to choose

from and lots of smiling faces (behind masks) to help you shop.

Because of the COVID-19 virus, we are required by the Episcopal Diocese to ask everyone to wear a mask; we will be asking the all-too-familiar screening questions and getting contact information.

The event will take place in our parking lot, rather than inside the Parish Hall. Our hope is to keep you safe by social distancing and limiting the number of people who can shop at one time. Please do your part and keep a safe

distance between you and other shoppers.

Parking is available in the PSMC parking lot and we suggest you park on the south side of the hospital and then use the stairway which is towards the southwest side of the parking lot to gain access to our parking lot. There will be handicap parking available.

St. Patrick's parishioners will be wearing green and white aprons to help with parking and answer questions. We thank everyone who took time this week to donate clothes. This sharing of warm winter clothes would not be possible without the community's support. If you have any questions, please give the church office a call, weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: 731-5801. In case of rain, the giveaway will be held Saturday, Oct. 3.

Community in Conversation: New book discussion group launching

By Sarah Riehm
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Announcing a new opportunity for the people of Pagosa Springs: Community in Conversation will offer free weekly Zoom community discussions beginning Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

"Our purpose is two-fold," said organizer Sarah Riehm. "First, we hope to equip people with the tools they need to have meaningful conversations on difficult yet important issues. Second, we hope to discover together some common ground, to find out what unites us rather than divides us."

The first book will be "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life," by author Karen Armstrong, which will run every Tuesday evening from Oct. 6 through Nov. 24. The facilitator will be the Rev. Lyn Burns, new interim rector for St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

"This book and discussion are not limited to the faith community," said Burns, "We hope to include anyone in Pagosa Springs who wants to have a deeper conversation about the challenges we all face in these turbulent times."

Burns was born and raised in South Africa. Growing up witnessing the evils of the apartheid system there, she developed a deep commitment to community building, unity and healing efforts since she immigrated to the U.S. in 1984.

Armstrong's book is not only about learning to develop empa-



Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Lyn Burns, interim rector for St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, will facilitate upcoming Community in Conversation discussions.

thy, listening and communication skills, but also how to practice self-compassion.

From the Amazon website: "Karen Armstrong believes that while compassion is intrinsic in all human beings, each of us needs to work diligently to cultivate and expand our capacity for compassion. Here, in this straightforward, thoughtful, and thought-provoking book, she sets out a program that can lead us toward a more compassionate life. She suggests concrete ways of enhancing our compassion and putting it into action in our everyday lives."

The Community in Conversation series will take a break during the holidays, resume after Jan. 1, 2021, and continue through early

■ See Conversation on next page

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A ride on the ‘chicken’ train

By Joyce Holdread
PREVIEW Columnist

Reynosa is one of those rough border towns where even the waitress in Pancho's Diner warns you about the pickpockets scouring the streets in search of hapless gringos. David quickly switched his wallet from his back pocket to the front.

“Thanks for the tip. Could you also tell us how to get to the ‘chicken’ train? We’ve heard there’s a station on this side of the border.”

David and I had talked about an unplanned foray down south, hoping to connect with a ministry working among the poor in education or literacy. This was our initial venture.

The wrong side of the tracks was a euphemism for the condition of this train. Not only were animals herded on to it in record numbers, but also no provision was made for their defecating necessities. The poor beasts had to stand and sway in their own slop.

“I suppose some sort of cleaning goes on at stops along the line,” I surmised.

“I’ve learned never to take the obvious for granted,” David said as we mounted the section of the train reserved for human passengers. Cross ventilation was provided here simply and directly — broken windows. As the train rumbled through every pueblito along the track, little urchins poured out of their shacks to practice their marksmanship on a moving target.

“Duck; move to the center!”

Conversation

■ continued from previous page
summer 2021. Upcoming discussions, led by local experts and community leaders, will include addressing change, loss and grief during COVID-19. Herb Grover will lead a discussion on environmental stewardship. A scientist and professor, Grover taught biology and environmental science at two universities until retirement brought him to Pagosa Springs.

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library is bringing in 10 free copies for this book discussion. The lending limit is three weeks. Brad Glover, head of Adult Services, asks that if you borrow the book, please consider reading and returning it quickly to allow others to have access. Reserve your copy today. You can also purchase the book online.

The discussion will be held virtually via free Zoom software. Find out more about Zoom meetings at www.zoom.us. You’ll need access to a computer, laptop, tablet or phone with Internet connection.

If you would like to participate, please send an email to sarah.riehm@gmail.com. You will receive

The Writers’ Circle

shouted a man a couple seats down as we rounded a sharp turn and came upon a small village. Thankfully, the stones and glass fell directly to the floor. We managed all the way from Reynosa to Torreon with only minor bruises.

“There’s another ‘avian express’ we catch in Torreon,” David said. “It’ll take us to Zacatecas, from there to Irapuato, where we change again to a first-class train for Guadalajara.”

“Why don’t we spend the night on that train?” I asked. “We can sleep on the train and we won’t have to pay for a motel. I’d rather spend the money at a good restaurant or the market.”

The cross ventilation on this train paled in comparison with the first, but made up for it with other exciting accommodations. Somewhere between Torreon and Zacatecas, a vendor shuffled down the cars with a freshly dressed goat, holding it by the hind legs, blood still dripping from the head.

“I guess if you want some fresh goat, they just hack it off right here, drop it in a plastic sack, and voila, dinner in the bag,” David observed.

For any unforeseen medical emergencies, there were the origi-

nal snake oil merchants — sellers of potions to cure everything from ingrown toenails to severe arthritis in a matter of days. The Wild West had nothin’ over these guys — they were collecting pesos right and left as they worked their way down the aisle. Then came the niños, usually no older than 10 or 11, who boarded at almost every stop.

“Tamales, burritos, fruta, gelatina (Jello), refrescos (soda)! Señora, your children are thirsty. We have Coca with ice.” Aggressive little fellows, they had learned just the right amount of pressure, with the accompanying smile and tilt of the brow, to ply pesos from passengers. The confectioners of these goodies — their mothers — watched from the sidelines.

We arrived in Irapuato late at night and settled into our cushioned, reclining seats for the last leg of the journey. Despite the raucous snoring of the man directly behind, we snuggled into sleep. Hours later, we approached Guadalajara glimmering in the black wee hours like a jewel on a dark genie’s hand. We strapped on our packs and disembarked.

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Photo courtesy John M. Motter

Shown here is a circa 1890s photograph of the Pagosa hot springs.

Stopping at the Great Pagosa Hot Springs

In last week's column, we described the 1859 visit of Capt. John N. Macomb to the Pagosa hot springs. Macomb left us the first written description of the Springs.

During the year following Macomb's visit, Charles Baker led a party of prospectors into the San Juan Mountains and discovered gold at what became known as Baker's Park near today's Silverton. Baker retired that winter to Abiquiu, N.M. The following summer, he laid out a toll road from Abiquiu past Pagosa Springs and on to the Animas Valley diggings. Baker's road was chartered in New Mexico under the name Abiquiu,



Pagosa's Past

John M. Motter

Pagosa and Baker City Toll Road Co. A considerable number of prospectors, including one who lost his red shirt in the hot springs, followed Baker's toll road past Pagosa's mineral waters to Baker's Park.

Soon after Baker's discovery of gold, the Civil War erupted back in "the States." Most regular Army

troops and many of the able-bodied prospectors in the San Juans returned east to join in the combat.

■ See Past on next page



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Sat, Sept. 26 thru Sun, Oct. 4, 2020

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Online and Phone Purchases Only -

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1st in Family	\$723/903
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3rd in Family	318/397
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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Sept. 24

Wildlife of Chimney Rock. Chimney Rock National Monument. Southwest Colorado and the Chimney Rock area have a rich source of wildlife. Animals live here and travel through the area on their annual migrations. We'll travel through some of these animals' habitats and learn more about what animals need to survive. Bring binoculars in the event that we're lucky enough to see some of these fascinating creatures. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.chimneyrockco.org.

Sen. Bennet Office Time. Sen. Bennet's office will now be offering office time to Archuleta County residents. Meetings will be with Janet Wolf. If you have a question or concern about any federal issue such as Veterans Affairs, the IRS or Social Security administrations or another agency, you are encouraged to contact Janet and sched-

ule an appointment. Janet can be reached at janet_wolf@bennet.senate.gov or 259-1710. Please include your name, address, phone number and issue you would like to discuss.

Loaves and Fishes Free Community Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Hall, Lewis Street. Due to the COVID-19 threat, Loaves and Fishes will continue to offer meals to the community as takeout only. There will be no sit-down service. Guests should come to the front doors of the Parish Hall, where they can pick up meals to go. This practice will continue until further notice.

Tech Time by Appointment. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment or for more information.

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or

■ See Calendar on next page

Past

■ continued from previous page

Because of the scarcity of fighting men in the region, the Native Americans in the west grew bold. They increased raiding and plundering. Travel in the territories of Colorado and New Mexico became very risky. Baker's gold was largely forgotten and travel along his toll road past the Pagosa hot springs must have been slight.

When the Civil War ended, men again returned to the west and some of them sought gold in the San Juan Mountains. The Great Pagosa Hot Springs was once again a stopping point on the road between New Mexico and the upper Animas River Valley. Friction grew between Native American and miner. The Army began to think of building a fort in the San Juans to

hold down hostilities. Bt. Lt. Colonel E. H. Bergman passed through Pagosa Country in 1867 making a reconnaissance tour of the mining country. He advised against a fort at Pagosa Springs because his troops suffered from the deep snow and cold weather.

Starting in the early 1870s, health seekers, true to Macomb's prophecy, were bathing in the waters of the Great Pagosa Hot Springs. Many of them were travelers along the now well-used road. Others were miners, down from the mountains for a rest. The new camp of Summitville, a few rugged miles northeast of Pagosa Springs, was in full swing. From that direction came the Brown family.

Next week we'll repeat the written account of that venture.

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

email for more information and to make an appointment.

Principles Before Personalities

Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

Friday, Sept. 25

Christian Women's Retreat

This year, due to COVID-19, we will not have the usual format of one keynote speaker. We've invited Kathy Koy and Lisa Kraetsch to speak. Visit the website, <https://sites.google.com/site/pagosachristianwomen>, to get more information and register for this retreat. Because we are adhering to social distancing guidelines, space is limited.

HER Story

8:30-9:30 a.m., 140 Country Center Drive, Unit 2. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to grow and heal as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence.

Family Fridays at Four Mile Ranch

1-4 p.m., Four Mile Ranch, 5053 County Road 200. This week's edition will be hosted by Audubon Rockies and Weminuche Audubon Society. These sessions will provide local students (target age K-4th) who might otherwise visit the ranch in the fall (via school) an opportunity to take an interpretive walk with their families. A scavenger hunt handout will be provided

to students to work through as they walk with the signed loop and check off their findings. Additionally, we will provide some stations with enrichment content for the students and families to engage in. Once registered, participants will receive additional directions and cancellation policy to the ranch. All activities will respect Colorado-mandated recommendations that pertain to COVID symptom screening, mask wearing and social distancing. Visit <https://act.audubon.org/a/family-fridays-four-mile-ranch-20200925>. For more information, email Keith Bruno at kbruno@audubon.org.

Adult DIY. 2-3 p.m., Facebook. A fall-themed DIY video will be posted. Join Brad to get some crafty ideas of how to create several fall-themed decorations. Call 264-2209 for more information.

5th Annual Art Above Violence

Gallery Open. 2-5:30 p.m., Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Come check out the art and have a glass of wine (cash bar), learn more about the event and how to bid. Social distancing and limits on the number of people allowed in the space are in effect to ensure the health and safety of anyone who chooses to join us. Go to <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/together-we-rise-2020-14190>.

Art, Sips and Treats. 6 p.m., Tennyson Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. A wine, cheese and chocolate evening. Come out to support Rise and get a tasty treat. We plan on a three-wine flight with cheese and chocolate. We are limit-

ing the event to 30 people in order to ensure proper social distancing between tables, and are following the same guidelines restaurants are requesting around masks. Tickets are \$45. Visit <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/t/2020-art-above-violence-f82b827918>. If you are purchasing and in a party, please email ashley@riseaboveviolence.org.

Night Sky: Our Solar System

7:30 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program is timed for when the moon is present in the sky but not fully illuminated. This enables us to enjoy the night sky unimpeded by artificial lighting or the brightness of a full moon, and see many of the brighter objects that are visible. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.chimneyrockco.org.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Christian Women's Retreat. This year, due to COVID-19, we will not have the usual format of one keynote speaker. We've invited Kathy Koy and Lisa Kraetsch to speak. Visit the website, <https://sites.google.com/site/pagosachristianwomen>, to get more information and register for this retreat. Because we are adhering to social distancing guidelines, space is limited.

■ See Calendar on next page



We will be moving to 308 Pagosa Street in October.

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Clothing Giveaway. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd., 731-5801. Because of the COVID-19 virus, we are required to ask everyone to wear a mask; we will be asking the all-too-familiar screening questions and getting contact information. The event will take place in our parking lot. Our hope is to keep you safe by social distancing and limiting the number of people who can shop at one time. Parking is available in the Pagosa Springs Medical Center parking lot. There will be handicap parking available. St. Patrick's parishoners will be wearing green and white aprons to help with parking and answer questions. Call 731-5801 for more information.

Discovery Time: Plant Art. 2:30 p.m. Facebook. For all ages. New videos are posted to Facebook each Saturday. View to explore new games, art ideas, science experiments, history, activities and more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Peak Open School Fund-raiser: Car Hop Movie Nights. Dusk, 7 Parelli Way. Looking for something fun to do? Swing by and catch a movie in your car. Entrance is by donation. Concessions will be available for purchase. Email movies@ppos.co for titles, showtimes and to reserve your spot.

Seeds of Learning Presents Dancing with the Pagosa Stars. 7 p.m. Dancing with the Pagosa Stars will feature some great new talent with creative dance routines, followed by voting and a live awards ceremony. Tickets are available for \$55 per person and can be purchased online by going to <http://growingseeds.org/go/dance2020/>. Ticket purchasers will receive an Internet link to access the show the week prior to the event. For additional information, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Dancingstarspagosa, or website, <http://growingseeds.org>.

Sunday, Sept. 27

Christian Women's Retreat. This year, due to COVID-19, we will not have the usual format of one keynote speaker. We've invited Kathy Koy and Lisa Kraetsch to speak. Visit the website, <https://sites.google.com/site/pagosachristianwomen>, to get more information and register for this retreat. Because we are adhering to social distancing guidelines, space is limited.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta

■ See Calendar on page 20

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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 plumbeous vireo.

A seasonal inhabitant of our local ponderosa pine, Gambel oak and juniper forests, the plumbeous vireo is perhaps most detectable by sound when they arrive in the spring. Males typically arrive on breeding grounds here first, and seek to establish territories, singing their textured (often described as “burry”) song of ascending and descending notes. At it’s simplest, “Cheechurri?, Cheechuroo.” It can almost come across as a very melodic question and answer series. As the breeding season wanes, both sexes issue their harsher and more regular che-cheche calls, locating and scolding as they move through the forest.

In Latin, the word plumbum, and resulting chemical symbol Pb, refer to lead; thus, the name. Adult males and females both have a leaden gray upper portion (head/shoulders/rump) with white undersides and flanks that oftentimes have a light yellow or green wash. Their wings have two distinct white wing bars and most recognizable is a pair of white spectacles that wrap 3/4 around their eyes, bridging over their thick bills.

These birds will often move quite fastidiously through the tree canopy (difficult to locate for the photographer), efficiently gleaning insects, and occasionally stopping and tipping their heads curiously to locate prey. They seek out caterpillars, beetles, wasps, bees, spiders and occasionally fruit when available.

In addition to the slightly drabber warbling vireo, the plumbeous have a regional cousin known as the Cassin’s vireo. This species looks very similar, donning the same white spectacles, but have a greener back and a decidedly more olive casting on their breasts and flanks.

These small insectivores breed as far north as southeastern Montana and fly south to winter in Mexico, often in mixed flocks. As with other long-distance migrants, these birds navigate a landscape that has seen habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss, so the more that we can provide native forage and shelter for them in our backyards, the better they stand to fare in future years.

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

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Lauren of fashion
- 6 Tread-bare
- 10 "Tip" or "rip" finish
- 14 Honda's luxury line
- 15 Not home
- 16 Steak preference
- 17 Gene carrier
- 19 Singer Campbell
- 20 Castle part
- 21 Loathsome
- 22 Scouted for a heist
- 23 Roll call calls
- 25 Go on and on
- 27 One with a hand out
- 30 Sword fight
- 31 Chic getaway
- 34 "Fringe" co-creator J.J.

- 35 Not taboo
- 37 Gravy dish
- 38 _____-panky
- 40 McNally partner
- 41 Letter holder
- 43 Like "Glee" music
- 45 Caustic substance
- 46 Blunder follower
- 47 Pint-sized
- 48 Mental condition
- 50 Angler's hope
- 51 Ryan's "Paper Moon" co-star
- 53 Arkin or Alda
- 55 Young yak
- 59 Shakespeare's stream
- 60 Hobo's ride
- 62 Kind of wolf
- 63 Monthly budget item
- 64 It comes from the heart
- 65 Washstand vessel
- 66 Bookie's quote

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
				23	24				25	26				
27	28	29						30				31	32	33
34								35				36		
37						38	39					40		
41					42					43	44			
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				48	49					50				
51	52						53	54				55	56	57
59							60					61		
62							63					64		
65							66					67		

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67 Do a host's job

DOWN

- 1 Billiards need
- 2 Masseur's target
- 3 Tackle box item
- 4 Breed plants
- 5 Lunch meat
- 6 Rationale
- 7 Military no-show
- 8 Defeated incumbent
- 9 Salon service
- 10 Church fixture
- 11 Sprinter's infraction
- 12 Complimentary
- 13 Mail away
- 18 Go beyond, as a target
- 22 Porter who wrote "Night and Day"
- 24 Holiday veggie
- 26 Earth-friendly activity
- 27 Biblical tower
- 28 Dark wood

29 Cemetery sight

30 "Homeland" actress

32 Kind of code

33 Throw for a loop

36 Guardian

39 Popped up

42 Rich soil

44 Big success

49 Radio knob

50 Entices

51 Something to spin

52 Acknowledge

54 Extend credit

56 "Race" anagram

57 Overdue

58 Campus house

60 To and ____

61 Old witch

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to pet care.

O M G R O R E

Answer: Groomer

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PET CARE WORD SEARCH

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

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CHRONIC
CLEANING
CLIPPERS
CONGENITAL
EXAMINATION
FELINE
FLEAS
GAIT
GROOMING
HIP DYSPLASIA
HYDRATE
INCONTINENCE
MATTING
NAILS
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Archuleta County Treasurer's Office to learn about tax liens. Zoom meeting ID: 856-6443-1537, password: 269665. Call 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

Principles Before Personalities Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

Friday, Oct. 2

HER Story. 8:30-9:30 a.m., 140 Country Center Drive, Unit 2. A women's group providing a safe, supportive space to grow and heal as you share your story. An opportunity to meet other women in your community in a peer-supported group focused on healing from trauma, abuse or violence.

Family Fridays at Four Mile Ranch. 1-4 p.m., Four Mile Ranch, 5053 County Road 200. These sessions will provide local students (target age K-4th) who might otherwise visit the ranch in the fall (via school) an opportunity to take an interpretive walk with their families. A scavenger hunt handout will be provided to students to work through as they walk with the signed loop and check off their findings. Additionally, we will provide some stations with enrichment content for the students and families to engage in. Once registered, participants will receive additional directions and cancellation policy to the ranch. All activities will respect Colorado-mandated recommendations that pertain to COVID symptom screening, mask wearing and social distancing. Visit <https://act.audubon.org/a/family-fridays-four-mile-ranch-20200925>. For more information, email Keith Bruno at kbruno@audubon.org.

Gaming. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. All ages. Enjoy video gaming on the Xbox 360 Kinect. Please note: Due to COVID concerns, we are only allowing a maximum of four participants in the gaming room. Masks must be worn at all times inside the library, and social distancing must be maintained throughout the program. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Peak Open School Fund-raiser: Car Hop Movie Nights. Dusk, 7 Parelli Way. Looking for something fun to do? Swing by and catch a movie in your car. Entrance is by donation. Concessions will be available for purchase. Email movies@ppos.co for titles, showtimes and to reserve your spot.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Discovery Time. 2:30 p.m. Facebook. For all ages. New videos are posted to Facebook each Saturday. View to explore new games, art ideas, science experiments, history, activities, and more. Call 264-2209 for more information.

Pagosa Peak Open School Fund-raiser: Car Hop Movie Nights. Dusk, 7 Parelli Way. Looking for something fun to do? Swing by and catch a movie in your car. Entrance is by donation. Concessions will be available for purchase. Email movies@ppos.co for titles, showtimes and to reserve your spot.

Monday, Oct. 5

Spin and Weave Week. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Yamaguchi Park terrazzo. Fiber artists will meet and demonstrate different types of weaving and spinning. Bring a chair, your weaving, spinning or other fiber art and a snack. All are welcome. Contact Annie at anniemay123@yahoo.com for more information.

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Breakfast meeting. Veterans and associated members are invited. Social distancing is required at this time. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

Tech Time by Appointment. Noon-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Make an appointment for one of three slots available. Brad will help one person or one couple at a time. Call 264-2209 to make an appointment or for more information.

PALS by Appointment. 2-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Adult education in person. Pagosa Adult Learning Services can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring, and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call 264-2209 or email ruby@pagosalibrary.org for more information or to make an appointment.

English as a Second Language by Appointment. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call 264-2209 or email for more information and to make an appointment.

Community in Conversation Book

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\$35 per year out of county

Discussion Group. 5-6:30 p.m. Offering free weekly Zoom community discussions. Our purpose is to equip people with the tools they need to have meaningful conversations on difficult yet important issues. We hope to discover together some common ground, to find out what unites us rather than divides us. The first book will be "Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life" by Karen Armstrong, which will run every Tuesday evening through Nov. 24. The Sisson Library is bringing in 10 copies for this discussion. The lending limit is three weeks. Reserve your copy today. If you would like to participate, send an email to sarah.riehm@gmail.com.

Principles Before Personalities Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 p.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Contact Charlotte or Ken at 903-9690 or Nate at 507-1004.

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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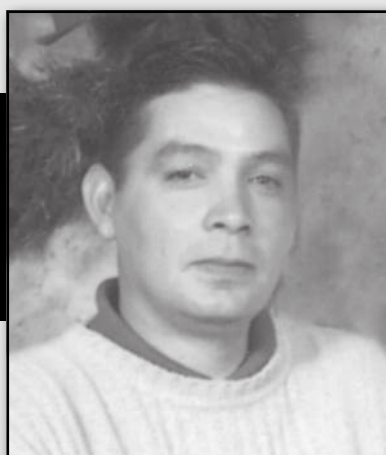
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- Improving morale at all county levels
- Working toward getting as much as possible done on county roads with the resources available
- Improve operations at recycling center and landfill

- 4th generation native
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- Served as one of the commissioners leading the county out of 2008 financial crisis
- Business owner solid waste company, construction company, retail tire sales company, home builder
- Previously employed as vice president of operations for Waste Management in southeastern New Mexico
- Volunteer coach 24 years, started Youth Football Program
- Driving force behind South Pagosa Park and recycling for Archuleta County
- Citizen of the Year 1999, Supervisor of the Year 1998
- Archuleta County Fair "Super Volunteer" Award 2006

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Country makes milestone commitment to prioritize suicide prevention for veterans and all Americans

The president's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) Office and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced recently 42 states and one U.S. territory signed the PREVENTS state proclamation pledging their prioritization of suicide prevention for veterans and all citizens in their jurisdictions.

Each state pledging promises to promote and amplify the REACH public health campaign that encourages everyone to reach out to those who are vulnerable and to reach out when they themselves are in need of help.

As part of the implementation of the president's roadmap, the PREVENTS Office is meeting with state and community leaders in all 50 states and territories to ensure best practices for suicide prevention are identified and applied, efforts are coordinated within the state and federal government, and the public health messages are promoted before the initiative concludes in March 2022.

"With the commitment of our nation's governors, this undertaking has moved beyond an idea to reality — as it is only viable when governors enlist the full authority and backing of their state to combat this crisis," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month and through the outpouring of support echoed by governors issuing state proclamations, their efforts assist with meeting the requirements of the president's White House Task Force for PREVENTS, which provides the nation with an essential, collaborative forum to address this national crisis through local and state-focused solutions to help us end veteran suicide.

To engage all 50 states and five U.S. territories, the PREVENTS office developed a state proclamation for governors codifying their full commitment to preventing suicide in their states, with a special focus on veterans and other high-risk populations, such as Native Americans, first responders, individuals age 10-34 for whom suicide is the second leading cause of death, people living in rural communities and LGBTQ individuals.

Additionally, the office is working with key community leaders — including veterans service organizations, military service organizations, business leaders, academic institutions and faith-based communities. To date, PREVENTS has held in-person visits in Arizona, California, Florida, Tennessee and Texas, and virtual visits in Indiana and Oklahoma.

"Collaborating with state and community leaders to advance the mission of suicide prevention

Veterans Corner

Raymond Taylor



for Veterans and all Americans is imperative," said PREVENTS Executive Director Barbara Van Dahlen, Ph.D. "As we move forward to change the culture around mental health in general and suicide in particular, we will continue to elevate and amplify the great work our states are already doing as we leverage lessons learned and best practices to accelerate our efforts to heal families and save lives."

PREVENTS was established by Executive Order 13861, March 5, 2019. The Roadmap, released by President Donald Trump June 17 emphasizes the critical role of states and local communities in suicide prevention.

PREVENTS is charged with creating an all-of-government and all-of-nation approach to preventing suicide among the nation's veterans and all Americans through a national public health campaign, enhanced community integration, prioritized research activities and implementation strategies that emphasize improved overall health and well-being.

Vets4Vets grant

Vets4Vets has received a grant from the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs. This is to support veterans in our community through the following assistance: housing, utilities, mental health counseling, dental services, travel assistance, automobile repairs, gas and food cards, and emergency veteran assistance.

Contact Vets4Vets at 799-VETS or www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.

Contact information

Veterans: Thank you for your service. Welcome home.

For further information on VA benefits, please call or stop by the Archuleta County Veterans Service Office (VSO), located at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center in the Ross Aragon Community Center on Hot Springs Boulevard.

The office: 264-4013, fax number: 264-4014, and email is raytaylor@archuletacounty.org. Bring your DD Form 214 (discharge)

for applications to VA programs or benefits for which the veteran may be entitled to enroll, and for filing in the Archuleta County VSO. Always leave a message and phone number to contact you.

The following veterans groups meet in Pagosa Springs:

- American Legion Post 108: second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., 287 Hermosa St.

- Veterans for Veterans: every Tuesday at 10 a.m., Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive. Breakfast meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact 799-8387 for more details.

- Combat Veterans PTSD Group: every other Tuesday at noon, Community United Methodist Church, Lewis Street. Contact Gary Hanneman at 946-2540.

- Women's Group of Spouses of Veterans: first and third Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., Dr. Carter's office; contact Charlotte at 903-9690.

Important information

- 799-VETS, www.Vets4VetsPSCO.org.

- Durango VA Outpatient Clinic: 247-2214.

- Farmington VA Center: (505) 326-4383.

- VAMC Albuquerque, N.M.: (800) 465-8262.

- VA Health Care Emergency Notification: (844) 724-7842.

The Veterans Crisis Line offers free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365. Call (800) 273-8255, chat online or text 838255.

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Education could promote better attitudes toward aging

By Kay Kaylor
PREVIEW Columnist

I advocate for residents in extended care and assisted living residences as the region's lead long-term care ombudsman. I also am a Senior Medicare Patrol and State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselor, all as an employee of San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging (SJBAAA). The many aging and care concerns will be addressed here.

Journalists cited in Generations SmartBrief, a collection of articles the American Society on Aging sends in emails, lately have stated it is time to end the use of "elderly." In one case, "elders" is suggested as a more respectful alternative. Other articles address ageism, stereotyping and discriminating

Area Agency on Aging

against people due to their age, in the workplace and in North American cultural attitudes.

"Changing Attitudes Key to Addressing Ageism," an article SmartBrief took from the Independent Record of Helena, Mont., is part of the Graying Pains series, a project of Montana Fourth Estate. The author, Kathi Beeks of the Valley Journal (Aug. 14, Ronan, Mont.), writes, "Lengthening lifespans require a more informed and positive approach to aging, both for

individuals and society."

Depictions of elders in the media, in the English language, and in marketing reinforce negative stereotypes about the aging process and cultural fears of aging and do not represent the actual experience, Beeks notes. For example, 95 percent of people over age 65 do not live in nursing homes and instead live in the community, although millions are "struggling to meet their monthly expenses," according to the National Institute on Aging. Beeks cites several sources in the article, including a study that found children begin to learn age bias at age 2, and this affects their attitudes about themselves as they age.

Instead, educating young students about the positive aspects of aging can create a more balanced understanding of life and influence how well people age. The trend of promoting intergenerational activities, such as tutoring or in housing, allow children to experience positive interactions with older adults.

Think of older politicians, Supreme Court justices, athletes and CEOs of corporations, as well as other ways people actively age — the examples can be found everywhere.

SJBAAA offers resources for people age 60 and older or on Medicare. For further information, please call or text 403-2165 or send an email to leadombudsman@sjbaaa.org.

Senior Center continues offering meals to go

By Cheryl Wilkinson
PREVIEW Columnist

The Pagosa Springs Senior Center is continuing its temporary closing of the congregate dining room due to coronavirus concerns.

In order to continue providing meals, we are offering take-out hot meals and a salad with a drive-up option under the portico at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

These meals will be available Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There is a \$4 suggested donation for lunch for those age 60 and better. If you need to have your meal delivered, please call 264-2167 to see if this option is available in your area.

The cost per meal for the public age 59 and under is \$8.50. The meals include a salad, hot meal, drink and dessert or bread.

Please call 264-2167 to make a reservation for pickup. We are also continuing our Meals on Wheels program.

There will be no games, classes, or presentations during this time. The staff will be available by phone. If you need to speak to a staff member, please call 264-2167.

The Community Café menu

Thursday, Sept. 24 — Curry chicken salad sandwich, pasta salad, chilled cucumber soup, milk, salad and oatmeal raisin cookies.

Friday, Sept. 25 — Baked white fish, polenta, broccoli with butter, milk, salad and lemon cream cake.

Monday, Sept. 28 — Beef Bolog-

Senior News

nese with spaghetti, Swiss chard with lemon and pine nuts, focaccia bread with butter, milk, salad and lemon cream cake.

Tuesday, Sept. 29 — King ranch chicken, charro beans, roasted zucchini, tomatoes and onions, milk, salad and German chocolate cake.

Wednesday, Sept. 30 — Bacon, vegetable strata, milk, asparagus, Caesar salad and peach cobbler.

Thursday, Oct. 1 — Bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich with avocado, potato salad, milk, salad and dessert.

For your convenience, you can make your reservations in advance or have a standing reservation on days you know you will always pick up. Please cancel if you cannot attend on your standing reservation days. We want to thank everyone for their support by observing our reservation policy. This helps ensure that everyone with reservations receives a meal and enables us to provide additional and healthier meals.

Due to COVID-19, food supplies have been affected. Substitutions will be made accordingly.

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The undesirable assignment: part two

By Daris Howard
Special to The PREVIEW

Ed worked for a national park in the summers. One summer, he was given the assignment of working with the park superintendent's son, David. Ed was only 21, and David was a rebellious 17. David had refused to pack the food Ed told him to take, taking only snacks instead. So, by the time they reached their assigned work area after four days of hiking, David was already out of food. Ed ended up needing to share his food, which meant they were both hungry.

Besides the bucksaw and ax they each carried, Ed had a small chain saw. The fifth day out in the woods, they started to clean the trail. That is, Ed cleaned. David just moped and complained about the work and being hungry.

"Well, you know," Ed said, "if you would get in and work, we could get this job done sooner and get back to park headquarters."

"How long will it take us?" David asked.

"Probably three days if we work long hours, and if we both work," Ed said. "Five days if I have to do it alone. Then we'll have the four-day hike back."

David gasped. "I'm supposed to go hungry for seven days and do this stupid work, too?"

"Well, I'm going hungry, too, because you didn't pack what I told you to pack," Ed said.

David angrily jumped up. "I've had enough of this garbage. I'm heading back."

"And just how do you plan to do that?" Ed asked. "You have a four-

day hike with no food, and you don't know the woods. You might get lost and not make it back."

"You should give me some food, and I will leave my pack so I can hike faster," David replied. "And I will just follow the trail."

Ed mulled that over a minute. If he gave David some food, would he just be enabling him? But if he didn't give him food, he could be blamed for David starving.

"All right," Ed said. "Since you will be hiking faster, I will give you what I would share with you for two days. That's all I can spare and be able to finish the job and hike out myself."

Ed gave David the food, and David complained it wasn't very much.

"I don't have very much because you didn't bring what you were supposed to," Ed replied.

Grumbling, David dumped everything else out of his pack. He then put back in the water and the food. He didn't even plan to carry his bedroll.

As David headed out, Ed yelled after him, "Don't forget your bear training in case you meet one."

Ed went back to work. He was hungry and wanted to get this job done so he could head back as well. He had just started cutting some small saplings with the bucksaw when he heard a scream. He turned to see David running across the meadow with a bear on his tail. David scurried up a tree, and Ed grabbed the chain saw as he headed in their direction. He jerked the pull cord as he ran, and the saw roared to life. The bear stopped at the base of the tree and turned toward Ed. Ed slowed to a

walk as he continued toward the bear. Ed kept pulling the throttle as he approached the bear. The roaring of the engine did the trick, and the bear ran off.

David was shaking when he climbed down from the tree. Ed shut off the chain saw and turned to David.

"Did you even read the bear-training guide for this job?" Ed asked. "That was a black bear, and black bears can climb trees. You would have been his lunch. Climbing trees will only help you when an adult grizzly is chasing you. They're too heavy to climb."

David's voice quivered as he spoke. "I thought that material was a waste of time."

"Well, you know," Ed replied, "you may consider there are reasons why people tell you something. They have been there before and are trying to help you avoid the same mistakes they made. Only a fool doesn't learn from others and must make all the mistakes on his own. And nature isn't forgiving. If you make just one mistake, it could be your last."

David said nothing for a moment, and when he did, he spoke quietly. "Maybe it would be better if I stayed and helped. Then we could hike out together."

Ed smiled. He knew David had learned another valuable lesson, and there was no use saying more. To be continued.

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A clear warning about the Colorado River

By Dave Marston
PREVIEW Columnist

For the West this summer, the news about water was grim. In some parts of California, it didn't rain for over 100 days. In western Colorado, the ground was so dry that runoff at first evaporated into the air. And in New Mexico and Nevada, the rains never came.

Bill Hassencamp is the manager of California's Metropolitan Water District, which provides treated water to 19 million people. What was most unfortunate, he said, was that "the upper Colorado Basin had a 100 percent snowpack, yet runoff was only 54 percent of normal."

In 2018, a variation happened — light snow and little runoff, which doesn't bode well for the future.

What everyone wants to know, though, is who loses most if severe drought becomes the norm.

Gary Wockner, who heads the nonprofit Save the Colorado, predicts that western Colorado ranchers and farmers will be among the biggest losers: "In any crisis situation, Colorado laws gives municipal water priority over farm water."

He added that "If push comes to shove, farmers on the Western Slope might get a very hard ask to stop diverting. That hard ask will involve a vast amount of money."

Which might explain why so many deep-pocketed speculators are buying up Colorado ranches and farms, especially near Grand Junction, Colo. Speculators include a New York hedge fund, Water Asset Management, along with Michael Burry, a Wall Street trader made famous in the movie "The Big Short."

Wockner thinks selling water rights to the highest bidder is a dangerous idea. "Any time you try to monetize a natural resource, the resource will get further exploited."

What makes the Western Slope of Colorado most vulnerable to drought is a pact among seven states signed in 1922. It bound the states to give priority in a water crisis to the Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada, potentially leaving the Upper Basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming high and dry.

A crisis could be approaching. The two giant reservoirs on the Colorado River are both below 50 percent of capacity. If drought causes even more drastic drops, the Bureau of Reclamation could step in to prioritize the making of electricity by the hydro plants at lakes Mead and Powell. No one knows what BuRec would do, but it would call the shots and end current arrangements.

Before that happened, California could "call" for the water it is owed — 4.4 million acre-feet annually. In that case, Wockner said, ranches and farms would be forced to go dry before city residents suffered.

For now, California has avoided flexing its muscle to get its fair share of the Colorado River. To stop the

Writers on the Range

Colorado River's reservoirs from dropping to "dead pool" where power generation fails, California acts as if serious drought never ended. Since 2000, when the punishing drought began, California has cut annual water consumption by 30 percent, using both carrot and stick.

California charges the highest water rates in the west and also pays for efficiency. Under a program called Cash for Grass, "A good size lawn removal can net a homeowner \$30,000," said Rebecca Kimitch, who works for the Metropolitan Water District.

The state also invests in smarter irrigation, piping leaky ditches in the Imperial Valley, the Colorado River's biggest irrigator. And it invests in desalinization plants and reuses some of its water via a program that was first derided as "toilet-to-tap." More recently, state-wide laws restrict personal daily consumption to a measly 55 gallons, declining to 50 gallons by 2030.

As for the Upper Basin, states continue to push not for water conservation, but for more dams and reservoirs that would drain water from the basin, such as the proposed St. George, Utah, Diversion from Lake Powell.

John Fleck, director of the water resources program at the University of New Mexico, said, "It's not a binary question of: Is there enough water? The way we need to think is that the system is at risk and every time you take more water, you create risks for

existing users."

Meanwhile, California is king of the Colorado River and wants you to know it.

"We'll never give up that right — our first priority among all Colorado River water users — and never say we'll give up that right," Hassencamp told me. "That's our fallback position, though we'll set it aside for now and try to work out a solution."

For Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico, this is a clear warning. As Hassencamp put it: "We recognize the pie is shrinking for good."

Dave Marston is the publisher of *Writers on the Range* (writersontherange.org), a nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West.

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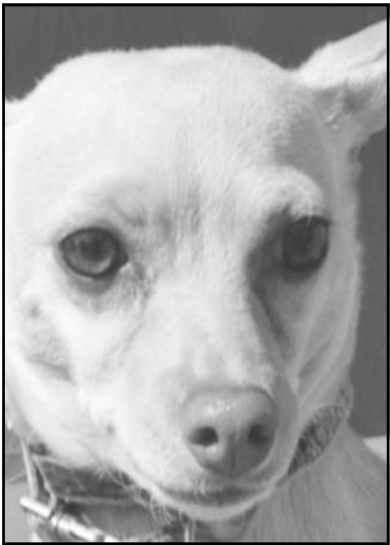
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THE PAGOSA SPRINGS GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA is now meeting every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30p.m. and Sunday at 10a.m. at 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). In accordance with the State, County and San Juan Basin Health masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Online meetings are Sunday at 10a.m. and Friday at 7p.m. Zoom ID 858-319-763, password 754234. For meeting schedule and information email aapagosa@gmail.com or call Marcia (970)946-8475, Kathi (970)946-1482 Ranza (970)731-9774 or central office (970)245-9649 or (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

PRINCIPALS BEFORE PERSONALITIES GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7p.m. at the Tennyson Building Event Center, 197 Navajo Trail Drive (between Boss Hogg's Restaurant and 1st Southwest Bank). Contact Charlotte or Ken at (970)903-9690 or Nate at (970)507-1004.

MEDITATION CIRCLE. 6p.m. every Wednesday at New Thought Center at Best Western, 3505 W. Hwy. 160. (970)309-6067.

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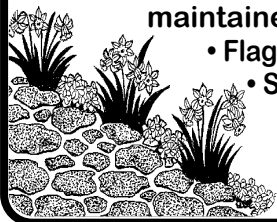
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PAGOSA FUNKY TRUNK IS hiring. Looking for friendly, experienced sales person. Apply within. (970)731-6040.

HELP WANTED FULL TIME. Must be able to work weekends and nights. Apply at Silver Dollar Liquor Store.

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT has the following job openings with complete descriptions located on the website www.mypagosa-schools.com under the "Job Postings" icon. Current openings: Bus Driver, Part-time Bus Aide, Part-time Cafeteria Worker, Material and Transportation Administrative Assistant, and Evening Custodian. For more information contact Laura Mijares at lmijares@pagosa.k12.co.us.

PEAK DELI HIRING IMMEDIATELY for skilled line cook with multitasking abilities and customer service skills; counter help also needed. NO CALLS. Stop in for application

SEEKING A TALENTED CHEF. As the Executive Chef, you will manage a small support staff of talented individuals eager to learn from you. You will be responsible for overseeing the production of meals, purchasing and receiving functions, and the compilation of various reports. Your schedule will support a healthy work-life balance with weekends free to pursue outdoor activities or just chill out. Send your resume today. cheryl@pseniors.org.

USE YOUR CAREGIVING TALENTS to help others stay in their home. Training and flexible schedule. LifeCare (970)516-1234.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

FRONT DESK- HEALING WATERS Resort & Spa is looking for another member to add to its front desk team. Strong customer service skills a must- comfort with computers a plus. Position may include mornings, days, nights and weekends. Employees receive FREE hot springs admission for you and your immediate family! Download application at www.pshotsprings.com/contact-spa-motel/ employment-opportunities/ or stop by our office at 317 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick one up.

CNA CLASS STARTING SOON. Full-time positions available. Alternating weekends off. Competitive wages and benefit package. Apply at Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa.

BEST OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is now hiring for a licensed Real Estate Agent. The right candidate will be a dedicated, organized, outgoing individual with strong communication skills both written and oral. Flexible schedule and fun work environment make this a great opportunity for the right person! bestofpagosapgs@gmail.com.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE, 214 Pagosa St. Experienced Kitchen Staff- starting pay \$15 an hour- increases upon performance reviews. Come work in our professional kitchen. Be a part of Chef Travis's team. Apply Wednesday-Friday in person, 1p.m.-4p.m.

NEXT GEN EXCAVATION is looking for an equipment operator/ laborer. Pay dependent on experience. If you're ready to work, call Michael at (970)946-7303.

CAREGIVERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Must be caring and compassionate. Visit us at www.peoplecarehs.com. Contact Deandra at dberes@peoplecarehs.com or (970)399-8257.

MASSAGE THERAPISTS NEEDED at massage and movement business. Focus is local clientele, needing therapists ready for repeat business. We are not a spa. Email resume and credentials to pagosamassageandbodywork@gmail.com to apply.

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Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY for anyone willing to learn how to be a top level dental professional. Training opportunities will include chairside procedure assisting and front office administrative assisting. Full time/ part time, paid vacations and holidays. Now is the time to get a new start in a new career with job stability and room for advancement. Send your resume to denprac@yahoo.com.

FULL-TIME LPN OR RN POSITION at Pine Ridge Extended Care. Apply in person, 119 Bastille Dr. Under new management.

HIRING FRAMERS AND CONSTRUCTION laborers. (970)507-0078.

NORTH PAGOSA SHELL HIRING for Deli position. Enjoy a Monday through Friday, 5a.m. to 1p.m. shift, cooking breakfast and preparing "to go" food items. Please apply at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

LOOKING FOR A CAREER OPPORTUNITY and being a part of your local community? 1st SouthWest Bank is hiring a Teller, offering a strong benefit package and career growth opportunities. EOE. Go to <https://www.fswb.bank/who-we-are/careers/> for more details & to apply.

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA is accepting applications for all departments: retail, ski school, lifts, ski patrol, base operations, ticket office, food and beverage, rental, vehicle maintenance and snow reporting. Please see details of job descriptions on Wolf Creek's employment page. Applications can be downloaded from WolfCreekSki.com employment page. Send resumes and applications to wolfcreekski@wolfcreekski.com or PO Box 2800, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. All jobs are winter seasonal (November- April) with competitive wages.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND GREENHOUSE PAGOSA are looking for happy, enthusiastic people to join our budding business. We are willing to train the right candidate if you're committed to being a part of this continually growing industry. Please send a copy of your resume to employment@jandjinc.net along with a copy of your **Colorado M.E.D. Badge**.

TIM BROWN CUSTOM HOMES is looking for a few high quality, detail oriented craftsmen to help in the framing, interior finishing and painting of our custom homes. We have been building homes in Pagosa Springs for 23 years. Work year around with us and enjoy top pay, paid holidays, paid vacation and a retirement plan. Please call (970)731-7071 or stop by the office at 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., Unit B16.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking to hire a **Registered Nurse** for Inpatient. The RN provides/administers nursing care to patients in a safe, efficient, and courteous manner; follows proper nursing procedures in accordance with hospital policies and procedures; demonstrates knowledge of the principles of growth and development over the life span and possesses the ability to assess data reflective of the patient's status and interpret the information needed to identify each patient's requirements relative to his/her age-specific needs. Applicant must have Colorado RN license. Pediatric experience preferred. Please submit resume to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

HELP WANTED

Business Development Specialist

Our multimedia organization has an opening for a business development specialist. Willingness to learn various multimedia platforms and a desire for growth in this position are a must.

We are taking applications for a part-time (up to 20 hours per week) business development position.

Successful applicant will have computer experience, organizational skills and demonstrate proficiency with spelling and grammar.

Position offers salary, plus commission. Work hours will be split between office and being in the field. Applicant must have reliable transportation.

Following local health department guidelines, including use of face covering and social distancing, is required.

Submit your resume to helpwanted@pagosasun.com or drop off at 457 Lewis Street. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. No phone calls.

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**
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457 Lewis Street

NOW HIRING MULTICULTURAL ADVOCATE, a part time position with Rise Above Violence. Rise is looking for someone interested in working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while building relationships with minority populations to ensure all areas of our community are being served. Spanish speaking is required with a minimum of a high school diploma. If you are interested in this position, please send resume and cover letter to christine@riseaboveviolence.org.

LOCAL LANDSCAPING COMPANY is seeking seasonal workers for landscaping and irrigation installations. Experience is a plus! Must have reliable transportation. Call Buck Frisbee Landscaping at (970)946-0996.

WANTED: LABORERS AND FORM setter finishers. Call James (970)560-0369.

MASSAGE THERAPIST WANTED at Overlook Hot Springs. Minimum pay- \$37.50/ hour, tips- 17-18%. Full-time, part-time or on call positions available. Apply in person.

LANDSCAPING LABOR NEEDED. Looking for individuals to perform general landscaping projects in beautiful outdoor Colorado. Call Charlie at (970)264-0913.

HIGHER GROUNDS NOW ACCEPTING resumes. Must be able to work weekends, able to multitask, dependable, enjoy customer service and a desire to learn about coffee, food and baking.

SONOCO IS NOW HIRING full or part- time cashier plus store services and maintenance. Requires good customer service and interaction with co-workers. Apply within.

FULL-TIME MONDAY- FRIDAY OFFICE help needed for parts receiving, shuttle and UHaul. Must be able to lift 30 lbs. Apply in person at Piedra Automotive 505 Piedra Rd. or email to acct.piedra@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

KITCHEN HELP, MORNING AND afternoon shifts. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule and competitive wages. Apply in person, Pine Ridge Extended Care, 119 Bastille Dr., Pagosa Springs. EOE.

MOUNTAIN PIZZA & TAPROOM is a fast growing, successful Pizza Brand. Are you looking for a career opportunity and not just a job? We are looking for full- and part-time people. Amazing opportunity for career progression. Wonderful teams- ain't no Family like a Pizza Family. Apply in person at 175 Pagosa Street. Pagosa Springs, CO.

CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR LABOR needed. Any experience is helpful. Must have own transportation. Call Bob 903-1921.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR part time or full time flexible fun to place to work? McDonald's is hiring for all shifts. \$14/ hour to start with advancement opportunities. Apply www.mchire.com or text CO160 to 38000.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Pre-Certification Specialist**. The Pre-Certification Specialist is responsible for obtaining authorizations for ordered services, timely and accurately, to ensure reimbursement for outpatient services. The specialist is responsible for providing complete documentation of clinical information to payers in support healthcare services to be authorized. Applications may be picked up at the hospital front registration desk, the human resources office, or downloaded at www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org. Please email applications and resumes to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or fax to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

SEEDS OF LEARNING is accepting applications for a full-time, year round assistant preschool teacher. This person must have a warm, friendly personality, be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others and able to work with and relate well with children, families and co-workers. Must have a minimum of an associate's degree in Early Childhood (or related field) or be in the process of completing the degree. This person will actively participate in planning and implementing the curriculum as well as assessing the needs of individual children. A resume with education and experience is required. Please call Lynne or Dee at (970)264-5513.

WANTED: PERSON WITH DRILL equipment to plant grass seed before winter sets in; on 2+ acres that have been previously cultivated with tractor with disc. Location: 1 mile on CR 119 from Pagosa Springs. If interested, please call (505)486-9802 before November 1, 2020.

COMPTROLLER POSITION. Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association is accepting applications for the Comptroller position. The Comptroller serves as the Department Manager for the Administration and Accounting Department. The Comptroller is responsible for finance, accounting, and human resources functions for the association and perform professional accounting and administrative work. Candidates must have bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration or related field and a minimum of three years of experience. This is a full-time position with great benefits. The selected candidate will start November 30. Interested candidates must submit a cover letter and resume to PLPOA, 230 Port Ave., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or plpoa@plpoa.com.

HELP WANTED

KITCHEN STAFF. FAMILY RUN, fresh vibes restaurant/ bar seeking kitchen prep staff, cooks and dishwashers. No experience needed, will train. Flexible hours. Excellent for people looking for work experience. Email us at owner@aquasolcafe.com.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for **Nutritional Service Workers** to prepare and cook food for hospital patients, staff, and visitors. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits including, paid time off, medical, dental, vision, life insurance, retirement and flexible schedule. Must have cooking experience. Scheduled hours between 6:30a.m. to 6:30p.m. Applications may be picked up at the hospital front tent, or downloaded at www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org. Please email applications and resumes to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or fax to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

GOOD EARTH MEDS RECREATIONAL seeks someone for sales and/or grow assistant. Full or part time possible. MED badge is required before starting and experience preferred. Call (970)946-8281 for information.

7TH/8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER needed at Del Norte Jr/Sr High School. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or higher and possess or be able to obtain a Colorado Teaching License with a secondary Language Arts endorsement. Please submit your application, resume, and cover letter to: Aaron Horrocks, DNHS Principal at ahorrocks@urtigers.co or contact Aaron at (719)657-4020. Applications can be picked up at the District Office or online at www.dncsd.org.

PART-TIME HELP FOR LANDSCAPING WORK. Must be experienced with mowing, weed eating, trimming. Call Eric, 946-2061.

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Monday- Thursday, 8a.m.-3p.m. until first week in November. \$15-\$30/ hour DOE. Text or call (970)946-5206.

SMALL HOTEL HIRING PART-TIME housekeeper. Must be available weekends. Pay rate depending on experience. Please call 731-5345.

NOW HIRING BARTENDERS, SERVERS, line cooks, prep cooks, seasonal meat wrappers and front counter sales staff at The Buck Stops Here Market & Eatery. Come join our team. Please apply in person at 19 Navajo Trail Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER is looking for a **Medical Assistant/LPN/LVN**. The MA/LPN/LVN assists the Provider in delivering high quality patient care. Accurately document all necessary information within the patient's chart. Perform in-house lab tests, EKG's, and assist with basic procedures. Administer and document medications and vaccinations appropriately. Follow-up with all outstanding patient orders and referrals. This is a fulltime position. Prior experience is required. Applications may be picked up at hospital registration and the human resources office or downloaded from www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org. Applications and resumes must be submitted to mitzi.bowman@psmedicalcenter.org or faxed to (970)731-0907. Pagosa Springs Medical Center is an EEO employer.

HELP WANTED- EVERYDAY STORE. Morning shift. Apply 300 E. Pagosa St.

264-2100

Classifieds

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Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN SAN Juan River Village. 1,200 sq. ft. cabin. WD, gas heating, internet connection. Available October 1st. Utilities included. \$2,000 or no utilities \$1,600. Furniture optional. No smoking. (970)406-1485.

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH UPSTAIRS apartment for rent on private residence. Seeking 1 or no more than 2 people to do some maintenance: shoveling in winter, mowing in summer. Renter must keep track of hours and it will be taken off of rent each month. Rent is \$1,100/ month, includes all utilities, and \$500 security deposit. For more information or to put in application, call or text (970)903-0966.

FOR RENT: 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath home at 256 Fireside Street. \$1,300/ month includes water and garbage. (970)398-0355.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2-car garage, 1,529 sq. ft. home located in Pagosa Lakes Community. Freshly painted on the outside with new carpet. Available 10/1. \$1,550/ month. (707)479-9022.

LONG TERM RENTALS available. Call Sunetha, (970)459-4411 or sunethaproperties.com.

LONG TERM RENTAL in San Juan River Village AVAILABLE NOW! Great views, quiet neighborhood, awesome location. 10 minutes from downtown and only 20 minutes to Wolf Creek Ski Area. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,000+ sq. ft. AND an oversized 3-car garage! \$2,000/ month plus deposit. Call Jeremy at (970)403-4323 for more information.

2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH TRIPLEX. Garage, laundry, paved road. Close in. \$1,400/ month. (970)264-9159.

LAKEFRONT LUXURY HOME FOR LEASE. 4 bedroom plus office, 2.5 bath, .60 acre lot on Village Lake. 2,500 sq. ft. fenced backyard. \$2,900 a month plus deposit. Background check required. Available October 1. www.NextHomeRMR.com. (970)507-8655.

LARGE 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1,750 SF duplex unit on the golf course. Includes one car garage. One small pet considered. \$1,300/ month and background check required. (970)946-3966.

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! www.NextHomeRMR.com (970)507-8655.

SEEKING CLEAN, QUIET, CONSCIENTIOUS tenant for 1 bedroom+ simply furnished cabin. 7 miles west of City Market. 4WD needed for hauling water. No pets/ smoking/ Dish. \$800/ month plus utilities and deposits. 731-5098.

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BEST VALUE IN PAGOSA. Newly remodeled 1/1, 2/2 apartment homes. Convenient location, walk to uptown grocery store. (970)946-4773.

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1. 1 bedroom, 1 bath with office space. Close to town. No smoking, pets OK, Call Becky 264-6938.

BEAUTIFUL, NEWLY UPGRADED 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath townhome located in the core of uptown Pagosa. Huge oversized 3-car garage with large storage room. Gorgeous views and walking distance to numerous restaurants, activities and amenities. \$2,000/ month, includes water, sewer, trash, snow removal, all outside maintenance and landscaping. Nonsmokers only, \$350 pet deposit per approved pet. References required. Available October 15. (970)903-9291 leave message.

TPRENTALS.COM FOR LONG TERM rental needs. (970)731-8599.

UNFURNISHED EFFICIENCY APARTMENT for one responsible person. One large room plus kitchen and bath. Quiet neighborhood in Pagosa Lakes. No pets, no smoking. \$800 per month plus deposit. Utilities paid, References required. (970)946-3105.

ONE BEDROOM FOR RENT in a 3 bedroom comfortable home. Use of kitchen and laundry. No smoking or pets. \$550 a month. (970)264-0826.

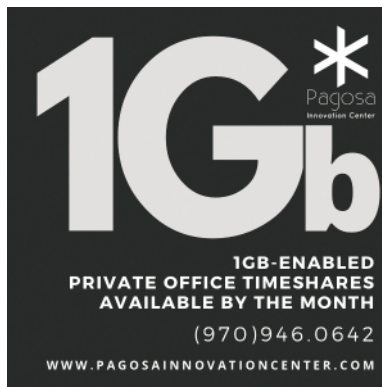
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ON SITE RENTALS and portable storage containers available for delivery. Rodent proof, the best storage around at Let's Store It. 731-0007.

UPTOWN OFFICE LEASE. 3 offices, reception and conference room. All utilities, plus internet included. Furnished or unfurnished. \$1,500. (970)903-5500.

NEED A SPACE TO RENT for a session, day or weekend? Call (970)903-9278 or visit www.pagosamassageandbodywork.com.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS



2,100 SQ. FT. SHOP, WAREHOUSE, INDUSTRIAL. 2- 250 sq. ft. office spaces. Reception area, break room, Internet, utilities. Call (970)946-0874.

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE. Locate your business in Pagosa's busiest shopping center. Country Center/ City Market Plaza. High traffic area with abundant parking. Common area maintenance included. For more information, please call Charlotte at (970)903-7690.

SMALL OFFICE FOR RENT downtown, upstairs in the Heritage Building. \$200/ month includes utilities, WiFi, conference room and shared kitchen. 946-2728.

TIRED OF YOUR HOME OFFICE? Quiet executive office available with high speed Internet. \$400/ month. (970)903-5500.

FOR LEASE: 2,348 SQ. FT. commercial building with an additional 8'x20' storage area. \$2,750/ month. (970)759-0310 or (970)903-6532.

1 GIG PRIVATE OFFICE TIME SHARE. Flexible and serviced 1G coworking office leased by the month: 10 days office plus 1 day conference room (\$299 p/m). Phone (970)946-0642 www.PagosaInnovationCenter.com/join.

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COMMERCIAL BUILDING WITH GREAT Highway 160 visibility. Possibilities abound for this 2,500 SF building with 2 9' garage bays, three separated rooms, and 4 entrances. Zoned light industrial, commercial, retail, office, live- work to name a few. 173 Goldmine. \$300,000. Call Jann C Pitcher Real Estate for more information. (970)946-1877.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PAGOSA TURNKEY BUSINESS for sale. Oxygen bar and retail shop. For more information, call (405)274-3955.

LOOKING TO PURCHASE A BUSINESS in the Pagosa Springs area. \$100,000 plus cash flow preferred. No restaurants. (843)813-1556.

ONE OF PAGOSA'S MOST profitable businesses may be for sale. Nets \$100k in 4 month season, June through September. Only 3 employees. Established 4 years, continuing to grow. Not a pot shop or a restaurant. Real estate not included but available for lease. If you are looking for a real business that makes it possible to live comfortably in this mountain paradise, send your information and inquiries to mkbradleytx@gmail.com. Asking \$750,000.

DOWNTOWN RETAIL STORE for sale. Turnkey and profitable. Inventory, POS system, website, email list and fixtures all included in sale. \$218,900. (970)759-0310 www.footprintspagosa.com.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR real estate, I am here for you! I care about helping you find the property that fits your needs! Call Robin Pehle, Independent Broker (970)946-0975.

FSBO REDUCED OFF GRID HOUSE. 3 story, 1 bedroom plus large loft. Solar plus propane generator. Second floor large deck, oversees Chimney Rock, oversized 2-car garage, skylights, vaulted ceilings. Cash only 946-3366.

SELLING OR BUYING? I am INDEPENDENT, I work for YOU! 18 years in Pagosa. Peggy Andrews, Independent Real Estate Broker (970)946-0473 www.peggyandrews.com.

RANCHES

88+ ACRES ON THE PIEDRA River. 4,000+ SF ranch house, 15 acres irrigated, orchard, fenced and cross fenced, excellent hunting, \$849,000. Peggy Andrews Independent Broker (970)946-0473.

PROPERTY

RIVERFRONT 3 ACRES on the Rio Blanco, owner financing! \$139,000. Peggy Andrews Independent Broker (970)946-0473.

READY TO BUILD. APPROXIMATELY 1/4 acre flat mountain view lot on Morro Circle. Just 5 minutes from Hatcher Lake, with all utilities easily available. \$25,000. Call Wayne (970)946-3720.

1/4 ACRE LOT AT 528 Morro Circle, Lake Hatcher Park. Spectacular Pagosa Peak view. Flat with Ponderosa pines. \$32,000. Call or text John at (970)903-2674.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com.



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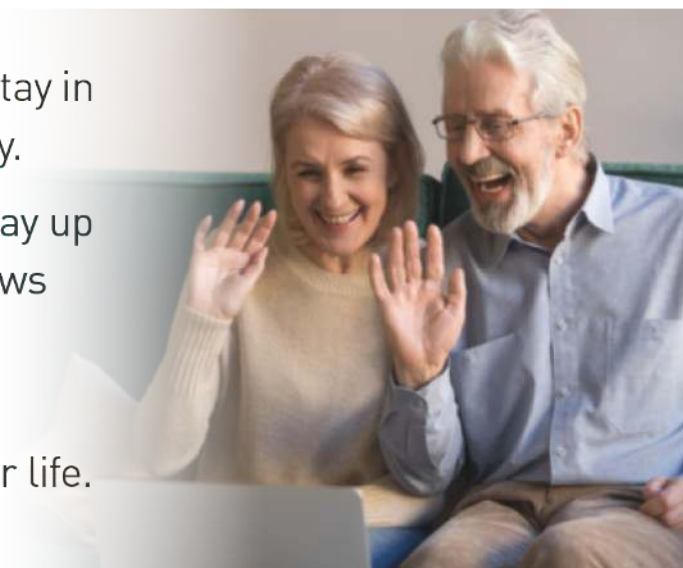
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