

Security breach identified

Administrators at Alternative Sentencing DWI Facility figure out how a detainee escaped on July 5. **Page 7A**



Courtesy of San Juan County

Is Piñon Hills going to be widened?

Mr. Know-It-All explores how the city of Farmington decides which projects it plans to focus on. **Page 2A**

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NAVAJO DAM

Abe's Motel & Fly Shop open again under new ownership



CURTIS RAY BENALLY/Special to the Tri-City Record

A customer enters Abe's Fly Shop on July 4 in the Navajo Dam community.

Antiquated fuel dispensers replaced with 24-hour credit card-capable systems

BY LENORA LARE
TRI-CITY RECORD

For decades, Abe's Motel & Fly Shop has drawn many residents and tourists to the banks of the San Juan River. After sitting closed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the historic fly-fishing business

reopened recently under new ownership with extensive modernization plans.

Jarrett Johnson and his mother, Margaret Vandervalk, officially assumed ownership of Abe's on April 10. Johnson has managed the nearby Navajo Lake Marina since 2013, overseeing more than \$20 million in capital improvements and major expansions, and purchased Sims Marina in 2018.

"We're trying to take a legacy property that has a world of significance to the community, and to make it better, but not to

replace what was there," Johnson said of Abe's Motel & Fly Shop.

He said that reopening the facility was important to many, as the nearest gas station requires a long commute to Aztec.

"I've been in the area for 13 years, and drove by the property almost daily for 6 years, seeing it closed, and thought it was time to see it open for the community," Johnson said. "There's a lot of people here that rely on that facility down there."

Johnson's first order of business was replacing the anti-

quated fuel dispensers with 24-hour credit card-capable systems. Other planned upgrades include installing air conditioning throughout the grocery store, restaurant, bar and motel rooms, as well as updating the RV park and adding high-speed Wi-Fi. A new public pavilion will feature a horseshoe pit, barbecues and a corn hole area for guests.

Despite the digital and infrastructure overhauls, Johnson intends to maintain 100% of the property's heritage. The original

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