Eleventh Judicial District Court

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San Juan County magistrate courts extend daily business hours

AZTEC – Magistrate courts in Aztec and Farmington will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each business day starting July 1.

Currently, the two courts close at 4 p.m. They have and will continue to be open to the public during the noon hour.

“The new operating hours will help better meet the needs of the public and expand access to justice,” said Eleventh Judicial District Chief Judge R. David Pederson. “People will have a greater opportunity at the end of the day to conduct business with the magistrate courts in San Juan County.”

With the change at the Aztec and Farmington courts, all district and magistrate courts in San Juan and McKinley counties will be open to the public during the same hours — from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including the noon hour, Monday through Friday. Courts close on holidays, such as the upcoming Independence Day holiday on July 4.

Magistrate courts have limited jurisdiction and handle misdemeanor cases, traffic violations, civil actions up to $10,000, and hold preliminary hearings to determine probable cause on felony charges.

District courts are general jurisdiction courts. They hear and determine adult and juvenile criminal cases as well as civil matters, including contract disputes, personal injury litigation and domestic relations cases such as divorce, child custody and child support enforcement. District courts also administratively oversee the magistrate courts within their judicial districts.

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