



Snow tops area peaks while fall colors show lower on the mountains during a break in the storm on Saturday, Oct. 4. The area is expected to receive more moisture in the coming days, with snow again possible on the mountains.

County names sole finalist for manager position

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) named a sole finalist for the county manager position — Loginos Gonzalez Jr., from Colorado Springs.

The board had two agenda items relating to the county manager position on its Oct. 7 agenda.

The first was for an executive session for personnel matters “in order to discuss the two finalists for the County Manager position.”

Following that was a new business

■ See Finalist A8

Ballots to be mailed for Nov. 4 election

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Ballots for the Nov. 4 election will soon be hitting area mailboxes.

According to an election notice from Archuleta County, mail-ballot packets will be mailed to every active voter registered in Archuleta County beginning Oct. 10.

To be counted, mail ballots must be returned to and “in the hands of” the Archuleta County clerk and recorder no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4, according to the notice. Postmarks do not count.

The following information is from the notice.

Returning voted ballots

Voted ballots can be returned via mail, polling locations, the county’s secured drop boxes or drop-off locations.

■ See Ballots A8

Commissioners vote to rescind recent decision on engineering, design services for new administration building

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Oct. 7, the board voted unanimously to rescind a bid from Anderson Hallas Architects for the engineering and design services of a new county administration building.

The matter was discussed earlier that day at a work session with all three county commissioners expressing concerns over the original request for proposal (RFP) sent out for the project and wanting to wait and revisit the project at a later date.

During the work session, Interim County Manager Mike Torres explained that at a previous BoCC meeting, the board had voted to move forward with the bid from Anderson Hallas, but that after reaching out to ensure that the county’s RFP guidelines were met, Torres explained the RFP “is incomplete.”

He explained the RFP is “great,” but that “what they provided us does not match” what was in the county’s RFP.

“Therefore, our proposal is incomplete with Anderson Hallas,” he added.

Torres noted that two of the original bids received for the project came in at \$298,824 and \$414,499, and the third was \$1,291,155.

He noted that the two lower bids only sent the first stage of the design and engineering process, “before we even get to what the building is gonna look like.”

■ See Rescind A6

Pagosa Springs named Colorado Main Street Community of the Year



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Main Street

The Colorado Main Street network recognizes Pagosa Springs Main Street as Community of the Year and Kathleen McFadden as Manager of the Year. From left to right are Matt Gordon, Colorado Main Street specialist; Larry Lucas, Colorado Main Street architect; McFadden; Gayle Langley, Colorado Main Street coordinator; and Traci Stoffel, Colorado Main Street specialist.

Pagosa Springs Main Street

The Colorado Main Street network has recognized Pagosa Springs Main Street as Community of the Year and Kathleen McFadden as Manager of the Year, honoring their exceptional leadership, innovation and results in downtown revitalization.

Though presented as one combined award, the recognition celebrates both the strength of the Pagosa Springs Main Street program and the leadership driving its success.

Pagosa Springs was selected by peers from across the state for its efforts to support downtown

■ See Community A6

Water districts take steps to terminate mining on Running Iron Ranch

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

In a Sept. 30 letter, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) legal counsel Marcus Lock, of Law of the Rockies, issued a cease-and-desist notice to the Weber family that it cease all activities on the Running Iron Ranch except reclamation of its gravel mine on the property.

The property is jointly owned by PAWSD and the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and was purchased from members of the Weber family in 2008.

PAWSD and the SJWCD are currently engaged in litigation about if PAWSD can sell the property to relieve the debt the district holds on it despite the SJWCD’s objections.

In addition to demanding that the Webers cease their longstanding gravel mining at the site, Lock’s letter, which was reviewed and approved by SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane, also lays out several conditions and deadlines for the Webers in moving forward with reclamation of the gravel mine on the property and departing from it.

It indicates that the last lease extension that PAWSD and the SJWCD entered into with the Webers expired on Jan. 3, 2024, although this lease extension included a clause that, at the discretion of the owners, the Webers might continue to access to the property to complete reclamation obligations if they could not be completed during the period of the lease due to circumstances, like weather, beyond the Webers’ control.

This lease includes restrictions on the sale of gravel by the Webers to entities other than PAWSD and A and M Construction, a construction company for which Donald Andrew “Andy” Weber is the registered agent,

■ See Mining A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pagosa Springs High School homecoming queen Heidy Renteria and king Milo Deitemeyer are crowned during halftime of the football game on Oct. 4 at Golden Peaks Stadium.

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

Questions

In August, we implored the Archuleta County commissioners take the time to carry out a transparent and thorough hiring process to find a professional, experienced county manager who can set a positive, professional tone for the county on a daily basis.

While the hiring process is moving forward, we've so far been left with more questions than answers on several aspects of that hiring process.

The commissioners held a series of executive sessions relating to the county manager position. We didn't them state that anyone other than the commissioners and county staff were going into those executive sessions, leaving us to wonder if they were interviewing unnamed candidates or simply discussing what that position should look like moving forward.

Then we began hearing talk that there were finalists and Tuesday's meeting agenda came out.

The first iteration of the agenda we saw listed an executive session for personnel matters "to discuss the two finalists for the County Manager position."

We began making phone calls and scouring the county's website and Face-

book, trying to figure out if we'd somehow missed the announcement of the finalists and who they were.

The next day, we noticed the agenda had changed.

We still hadn't determined if and when the county had declared finalists, so we were surprised to see that the agenda had been amended to include a decision item relating to the selection of the county manager.

We made more phone calls, still confused as to how we could have missed the announcement of the finalists two weeks prior (as dictated by state law) and remained clueless about it for the entire two weeks.

During the meeting, when it came time for the commissioners to go into executive session, Commissioner Warren Brown finally addressed the matter, stating the county had not selected two finalists.

The commissioners then proceeded to come out of executive session and name a sole finalist, but stated no offers would be made for 14 days.

Let's just say we're not convinced the commissioners hadn't narrowed the field down to two finalists prior to the meeting,

and we're not calling the process transparent.

We just hope if this finalist is ultimately hired, that he's a strong fit to help lead the county.

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors, on the other hand, has been very open with its search for a new manager who will take over for Justin Ramsey when he retires, which we commend.

The PAWSD board recently named its finalists, then carried out interviews with and discussed its finalists in primarily open fashion, only conducting a portion of its discussion during an executive session.

We can't imagine that was comfortable or easy for the majority of people involved, but it was very interesting to hear the questions and responses, as well as to see what stood out about each candidate.

If and when the board makes a decision, which could be this evening, thanks to PAWSD's open process, we know a lot more about about what to expect in the future and why the board is moving in that direction, regardless of which candidate is chosen.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 9, 1925

The following dispatch was sent from Denver by the Associated Press on Oct. 1st and appeared in the Durango Democrat last Friday morning. This is good news to every resident of the San Juan basin, who hope the governor's promise will be effected:

Governor Morley today announced he intends to make provision in the state highway budget next year for widening and improving Wolf Creek pass road, regarded as the principal artery from eastern Colorado over the mountains to the Mesa Verde park region. The executive contemplates the assignment of 300 convicts to work on the road and estimates the cost of rebuilding it to be \$100,000.

Governor Morley was a visitor in Durango a few days ago, driving in by automobile. He is said to have been awed by the "death trap" over Wolf Creek pass and immediately pledged himself to do all in his power to alleviate conditions.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 6, 1950

The water department this week completed the installation of another several hundred feet of water main in the southwest part of town. The four inch main now reaches to the corner just north of the Gus Apostle house. This will do much to eliminate the water shortage in that part of town and will give the residents added fire protection.

The water committee of the town board stated that this was part of the plan to rehabilitate the water system and to give more consumers a plentiful water supply. Heretofore the system in that area had been a network of small inch and a half pipes.

The new addition to the water mains will not give the town much added revenue in water rents as most of the inhabitants there had been on the old system of small pipe.

The annual Library Drive has started. Every year the Women's Civic Club sponsors a drive in October to raise funds to finance the public library. The chairman of the drive this year is Mrs. Dick Devore. Collections are being made from business houses and also from residential districts. Some twenty women were appointed to do the collecting. Banks are placed in various places of business for those who would like to contribute. Be sure you are helping in some way.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 9, 1975

The big excitement this week seems to be about the report that some sort of a religious group is headed this way. In this case it is not the Christian religion but rather a group of people that believe that some beings from outer space will be arriving to pick them up and take them to their version of heaven. To date there are not signs of the group but authorities say that it is possible that they will be in the area. They are, at least for the time being, classed as not dangerous to the general public.

Oiling is now in progress on Wolf Creek Pass and if the weather holds just a very few days it will be completed. The work is going ahead very rapidly and by winter time the highway should be in good shape. Ed Teem, weather observer up on Wolf Creek, said this week that the plows have been out once when 1/2 inch of hail was received September 21. September was dry on Wolf Creek and temperatures have been moderate. There was some new snow on the high mountain peaks Tuesday of this week.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 5, 2000

An anonymous donation of \$125,000 to the Upper San Juan Hospital District has allowed the district to begin the process of bringing two paramedic employees back to full-time status and improving the district's ability to respond to medical emergencies. The donation was received Sept. 7.

Two paramedics were taken from full-time to part-time status in mid-August following discovery of a \$230,000 shortfall in the district's annual budget.

The budget shortfall was discovered in July by the district's auditor. It resulted from internal accounting errors on the revenue and expenditure sides of the ledger. The auditor found no misappropriation of funds, of missing funds, or of wrongdoing; but the new budget picture required cost-cutting measures and safeguards, including regular review of district bookkeeping practices were put into effect to avoid similar budget problems in the future.

Because of funds provided by the donation, the district now has one paramedic back to full-time work and the second will be on the job full time in the near future, said Bright.



The old Pagosa Lodge on U.S. 160 is pictured in the fall of 1979. Photo courtesy Betsy Carpino.

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10/2	74	34	0.00	NA	NA
10/3	72	38	0.00	NA	NA
10/4	65	35	0.25	NA	NA
10/5	66	28	0.18	NA	NA
10/6	66	30	0.01	NA	NA

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Letters

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Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for accuracy.

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

Health system

Dear Editor:

Our country has conquered many difficult problems and accomplished much. We have created Social Security and Medicare to rescue many seniors from poverty. We defeated the Nazis in WWII. We built the Interstate highway system. We have had the most robust economy in the world. Yet we cannot fix our unequal access to affordable health insurance. We have the most expensive health system and the worst outcomes of any developed nation. Why is this?

I think we just don't have the will to do it. The Democrats in Congress have been trying to and have partly succeeded in expanding coverage. Just as the number of people who are uninsured is dropping, the Republicans have pulled the rug out from under the Affordable Care Act by refusing to extend subsidies to middle income families. Many of the 24 million people who get their insurance through the ACA will no longer be able to afford it. These are people who are self-employed, or own small businesses, or work for small businesses that cannot get affordable group coverage. Additionally, the Republicans have added so many requirements and red tape to qualify for Medicaid, that many who do qualify will not be able to negotiate the red tape. The Democrats have been asking since HB1 passed to negotiate continued subsidies. The Republicans, including Mr. Trump, have refused to even talk about it. Instead, they dared the Democrats to shut down the government. The Democrats were left with no choice. Could this problem be solved? Of course it could. The Republicans are repeating the tired old mantra, "It costs too much money!" The thing that costs too much money are the extension and expansion of tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations. Is not increased health insurance premiums a tax? Is not having to pay for all medical care out of pocket also a tax? The Kaiser Family Foundation has estimated that the average increase will be about \$700 a year. If your family is making \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year, \$700 is a lot of money. If you are in your late 50s or early 60s, your increase could be up to \$10,000 a year, more in certain parts of the country. You may not personally need Medicaid or the ACA, but you may need the Pagosa Springs Medical Center for an emergency. Without people with health insurance, PSMC is in jeopardy of closing or being sold to a large for profit system. PSMC is partly supported by our taxes. If we need to increase our taxes to help keep it running, in whose world is that not a tax increase?

Our representative, Jeffrey Hurd, has proposed a bill to restore ACA subsidies. Unfortunately, that is a performative action. It has no chance of passing. Hurd said he was in favor of keeping Medicaid and its support of rural hospitals. If a bill has so many things wrong with it, why vote for it in the first place? Ask him. (202) 225-4676.

Lynn R. Frederick

Town ballot measure

Dear Editor:

Voters within the town limits will have a chance to authorize a Town of Pagosa Springs sales tax this November, by voting 'Yes' on Ballot Measure 2A.

Those of us in Archuleta County currently pay a 6.9% sales tax on local and online purchases. 1.9% goes to the state of Colorado; 4% goes to Archuleta County, and is shared 50/50 with the Town government.

This proposed municipal sales tax will be collected within the town limits, and will accrue to the Town government, to be used specifically to address serious sanitation issues.

The Town of Pagosa Springs runs its own sanitation district, to serve about 900 downtown businesses and homes. I live in one of those homes, and currently pay \$71 a month for sewer service. This fee is scheduled to increase in 2026.

Businesses and residents west of Piedra Road are served by PAWSD sewer services, and a typical home pays \$47 a month.

Back during the Great Recession,

a previous Town Council began increasing sanitation fees to build a new, state-of-the-art treatment plant at th south end of town — but then changed course, and instead decided on a sewer pipeline, to pump our downtown sewage seven miles uphill to the PAWSD Vista Plant.

Unfortunately, that pipeline has been nothing but headaches ever since it came online in 2016.

One of the reasons town customers pay more than PAWSD customers? Millions of gallons of ordinary groundwater seeps into the downtown system through old, leaky pipes, and gets added to the water that must be pumped uphill and treated by PAWSD.

Recent studies by Roaring Fork Engineering have documented a downtown sewer system with serious deferred maintenance problems, on top of the issues with the uphill pipeline. Estimates suggest that a comprehensive solution to downtown sanitation issues will cost \$80-\$100 million over the next few decades. This cost can be addressed, long-term, by a 1% Town-only sales tax, which will be paid by locals and visitors alike.

Alternatively, the Town could — according to estimates from their consultants — increase the monthly sewer bills for our downtown homes from \$71 a month to around \$200 a month. Speaking as a person living mainly on Social Security, this seems to me a drastic alternative to a simple 1% sales tax.

This tax is not completely fair, because it will be paid partly by people who do not own homes or businesses downtown. I also recognize that, while no tax is 'completely fair', many of our downtown Pagosa businesses and households are already struggling financially and would be negatively impacted by a much larger sewer bill to pay each month.

Bill Hudson

Hurd hypocrisy

Dear Editor:

Rep. Jeff Hurd recently touted his co-sponsorship of a bill that would extend tax credits for health insurance premiums. His own press release said: "With the Enhanced Premium Tax Credit set to expire at the end of 2025, individuals in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District would face an average premium increase of 82%, placing a significant burden on working families across our rural district. Without the extension, millions of self-employed workers and small business owners would see their premiums increase by more than \$11,000 a year."

Senate Democrats are refusing to vote for a budget bill unless it includes a premium tax credit extension. Why? Congress has accomplished precious little this year except massive tax cuts for the wealthy and massive funding cuts for working families.

So, is Rep. Hurd encouraging his leadership to supports a budget that protects Coloradans from those 82% premium increases and ends the government shutdown? No. He's joined the Republican bandwagon blaming Democrats for standing up for the millions of Americans who purchase

healthcare in the marketplace.

Again, from Rep. Hurd's own press release: "Because of this income-based premium tax credit, a record 24.2 million people signed up for coverage during open enrollment in 2025. In fact, middle-income enrollees increased from 140,000 in 2021 to 900,000 in 2024."

The wealthy Americans whose big tax cuts were made permanent earlier this year don't need this premium tax cut extension. Rep. Hurd and his colleagues have access to health insurance provided by the federal government; they don't need the premium extension.

Democrats are holding out for the millions of self-employed workers, small business owners, and working families whose healthcare depends on an extension of premium tax credits. The budget bill provides their best chance of keeping those credits.

Candace Jones

Government shutdown

Dear Editor:

Friday we went by the NRCS office to see about buying some seed. Of course, it was closed because of the shutdown. This is hardly a crisis, certainly not when compared to the billions of dollars that are being withheld from Medicaid, approved state infrastructure projects, the Department of Energy and even counter-terrorism funding. Meanwhile Trump is looking to provide \$10 billion in relief funding to farmers who are being harmed by his tariffs, all while planning another round of mass layoffs of federal workers (like those at NRCS, USDA, Forest Service, etc)! The longest shutdown in U.S. history was a five-week interruption during Trump's first term, so look no further for who to blame. The Republicans control the Presidency and both houses of Congress. (You could even argue they control the Supreme Court.) They own it: they run the government and could keep it open if they wanted to.

You might say, "But what about the Democrats? Their votes are necessary to pass a short-term budget "band-aid" and they won't do it! They're to blame!" The Democrats might vote for a measure that restored drastic cuts to funding for Medicaid, but here are two things to know: 1) Because of the

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Oct. 9-18

Work activity

- 8th Street intersection: The north side of 8th Street will close on Thursday, Oct. 9, for construction to begin at the location. The businesses along Rosita Street have been alerted of the closure. The concrete barrier will be removed to allow access to Rosita Street from U.S. 160 in order to accommodate people that want to access the businesses along Rosita Street. This closure is anticipated to be about a month.
- 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard: Crews are moving west to begin concrete paving on the intersection of 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard. Much of the work this week will be weather dependent. Hand pouring of concrete continues. Concrete work between 1st and 3rd streets is approximately 99 percent complete.
- 3rd Street to 4th Street/Pagosa Middle School: Forming and pouring sidewalks continues.
- Curb and gutter and sidewalk paving may occur day or night. Pedestrian detours should be expected.

Upcoming work

- 4th and Lewis Street: Trenching and installation of conduit will take place. There will be utility work, grading and road base in advance of paving operations between 4th Street and Lewis Street through the end of the month.
- The 2nd Street and 4th Street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 will remain closed until utility work and paving are complete.
- Lewis Street and the sculpture garden: Excavation near the Tennyson Sculpture Park and Gardens is continuing for geothermal utilities. Pedestrians need to plan for sidewalk detours around the work at this location for the next few months.
- The Town of Pagosa Springs has several concurrent projects taking place in and near the U.S. 160 work zone. For more information, visit <https://www.pagosasprings.co.gov/home-page/page/summer-2025-road-projects>.
- Saturday work will continue on the project for the foreseeable future.

Watch where you walk and park

- Pedestrian crosswalks will be open at 1st, 3rd and 4th streets. Mid-block crossings between 4th Street and 5th Street are closed, but the crosswalk at 5th Street will remain open.
- Overflow parking lots are open at 323 Hot Springs Blvd. and 811 San Juan St. Other public parking is available throughout the downtown.

Safety tips for pedestrians

- Watch where you are going. Do not enter the work zone or climb over work zone safety barriers.

Construction work may be fascinating, but always prioritize navigating the work zone as safely as you can.

- Pay attention to posted signs in the project area and follow all workers' instructions. Cross streets only at open crosswalks or intersections; walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- Be alert for moving construction vehicles and other unexpected hazards, which often move suddenly and quickly. Stay off your phone when crossing the street or walking near the work zone.
- Look out for traffic before crossing the street make eye contact with drivers so you know they see you.

Safety tips for drivers

- Look out for pedestrians and bicyclists everywhere, at all times, and especially in areas near schools, parks, shopping areas and transit stops.
- Slow down as you approach the work zone. Give workers extra room and be prepared to stop.
- Stop before a crosswalk, not in it.
- Obey all traffic signals. All light signals are operational and must be obeyed.
- Put your cellphone down. Never drive distracted or impaired.

Please be alert when you are traveling through the new traffic configuration or visiting the downtown businesses, as heavy equipment will be frequently moving throughout the project limits.

Traffic impacts

- Motorists could expect up to 15-minute delays at various times through the work zone as equipment may need to be moved.
- There will be two-way traffic flowing in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 160 through the first season of operations.
- A 10-foot width restriction will remain in place 24/7 through Dec. 1.
- During inclement weather, project engineers will assess the roadway and work location to make determinations on work continuing depending on safety concerns for workers and commuters.
- Working hours are Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and subject to change.

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit your letter electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted to editor@pagosasun.com or via the form at www.PagosaSUN.com. Letters must not be in all capitals.

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
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- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

Letters will be limited to two per month per letter writer.

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



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School bus incident leads to arrest

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A Sept. 26 incident involving a school bus resulted in the arrest of one individual for menacing and criminal mischief.

According to an Oct. 2 press release from Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) Chief William Rockensock, at approximately 2:25 p.m. on

Sept. 26, PSPD officers “responded to a report of a male subject attempting to forcibly enter an Archuleta County School District bus by breaking windows. The incident occurred on Aspen Village Drive near Walmart.”

It adds, “According to witness accounts, a male exited a pickup truck, confronted the stopped school bus by standing in front of it, slammed his hands on the hood, and then shut-

tered the glass in the door of the bus. The bus subsequently left the scene and was contacted by officers in the parking lot of Ponderosa Lumber. No injuries were reported.”

A Sept. 26 letter from Archuleta School District Superintendent Rick Holt to families regarding the incident explains, “Some events occurred on bus route 9 today that led to a confrontation between the bus driver and

a rider’s parent. Law enforcement was called. No one was injured. Students were transferred to an alternate bus and, although delayed, students were transported home safely.”

According to the PSPD press release, “Following a thorough investigation, the suspect was identified as Bryan Rosario-Ortiz, a 40-year-old resident of Pagosa Springs.”

It adds that a warrant for the arrest of Rosario-Ortiz was issued on Sept. 30 for charges of menacing and criminal mischief, with School Resource Officer Brandon Bishop locating Rosario-Ortiz on Oct. 2 and taking him into custody without incident.

Both the PSPD and school district reiterated their focus on safety following the incident.

“The safety of students, staff, and community remains our top priority, we are grateful for the swift cooperation between law enforcement, school officials, and community members, which led to a safe resolution,” the PSPD press release states, adding, “The Pagosa Springs Police Department and the Archuleta County School District continue to work together to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff.”

In his Sept. 26 letter, Holt wrote, “Student safety is always our top priority. While we cannot share further details, we are working closely with law enforcement on their investigation and conducting our own internal review to fully understand what happened. Please know that we are taking this matter very seriously.”

randi@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Hand pouring of concrete continues. Once the roadway flat work is completed, crews prepare for curb, gutter and then sidewalks.

Letters

■ Continued from A3

Senate “filibuster” rule, certain measures, like this one, require 60 votes to pass (the Senate Republicans have 53). But it would take only 50 votes to pass a later measure that put the cuts back in! And this Administration has repeatedly shown that it has no intention to honor already approved Congressional funding. So, as analyst Matt Yglesias has pointed out, “Trump is now asking Democrats to provide cross-party votes for appropriations that they can unilaterally backtrack on and not even offering verbal promises to refrain from doing this.” 2) The Republicans can pass any budget measure they choose, whenever they want to re-open the government, without needing ANY Democratic votes. The filibuster is not chiseled in stone and can be dropped at any time with a simple majority of 51 votes, which the Republicans control. They can then pass the budget measure with 51 votes. In fact, less than a month ago, Senate Republicans changed the filibuster rule to allow the confirmation of batches of presidential nominees together, using a simple majority vote. They have done this on multiple occasions for other issues in the past. Don’t be fooled: they could do so now, but prefer not to so that they can blame a shutdown on the Democrats.

I think people are actually smarter than the Republicans give them credit for. On March 12 Trump’s approval rating was 48% approve and 48% disapprove. As of October 4 his rating was 43% approve and 54% disapprove (source: NYT/Siena University). Whatever your political affiliation, don’t be suckered: the Republicans own this one, and all its ill effects. Remember that come the mid-terms.

David Laufer

Town ballot measure

Dear Editor:

What is unfair and should be illegal? The 1-cent sales tax increase on the ballot in November. The town includes all of the commercial property along the 160 corridor and at least 90% of the sales in Archuleta county occur in the town and this area. The rest of Archuleta residents will be eliminated from the vote. This is “taxation without representation!”. This vote should extend to all county residents since almost all county residents will be paying the tax. If there is not a lawsuit to prevent this vote, there should be!

John Meyer

Political systems

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the last book in Alexandre Dumas’ series that begins with “The Three Musketeers” and ends with “The Man in the Iron Mask.” Though American films focus on the swashbuckling and daring-do exploits of Athos, Porthos, Aramis, and D’Artagnan, the first and last novels about these four heroes spend very little time on “action scenes.” The books are about political intrigue, shifting alliances, and obscure courtly conversations.

What keeps the plots churning in Dumas’ work? Loyalty. Who is really loyal to the king? Who will gain the king’s favor by loyalty, and who might have his fierce loyalty undercut by deception? In courts, countries, and economies overseen by royals, loyalty is the sole currency that matters. “The Man in the Iron Mask” ends with nobility of extreme wealth falling into disgrace by a single word from the king, and another of little means gaining glory by dedication to the same king.

For someone like me, who grew up living in a nation governed by a Constitution and written laws, the world of Dumas’ novels seems like a fantasy. We don’t need to worry about our accounts getting drained by our state Senator because the po-

litical winds have shifted. We know the rules, and we know that there are layers of courts and judges to interpret those rules. This makes the country I live in a relatively reliable and predictable place because we have a system of governance based on a written document.

There is a problem, of course. Working under a constitution means that change is slow. Committees, boards, or congresses of elected officials make interpretive decisions, which means adaptation comes only after long argument and compromise. If we want change fast, it is easier to allow someone to rule by fiat. When one person runs the whole system, things get done. We are in a political moment now in which Americans want things done faster at the higher levels—even if the system is not designed to allow them that kind of power.

What comes hand-in-hand with this kind of leadership is the power of loyalty. Like Dumas’ King Louis XIII and XIV, rule by fiat also allows destruction of opponents. When we accept people in power who “get things done,” we invite the possibility that we shall be done away with.

There is a trade-off inherent in these two political systems. If we invest our political capital in a document that describes a system of laws, then our political process will be one of continuing debate in which everyone is welcome. And change will be slow. If we invest that capital in leaders, changes will come fast and dissenting voices will be removed or destroyed.

Because we tend to believe strongly that we’re right, our politics inevitably moves toward having a king, a monarch, an executive director. Keeping a deliberative system of government that embraces both majority rule and minority voice takes constant effort. Will we put in that effort?

Emrys Tyler

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Obituaries

Kyle Martin Horn

Kyle Martin Horn passed away on Sept. 20, 2025, at the age of 33 in Durango, Colo. He was born in Durango on Jan. 14, 1992.

He grew up in Durango/Pagosa Springs, and also lived in Stillwater, Okla., where he earned a master's degree in agronomy. Wherever Kyle was, he was surrounded by family and friends who loved him immensely.

Kyle was a project manager for Steve Spriggs, who was also his hockey coach. When Kyle was in high school and in college, he worked for Roger and Rena Cole on their ranch, where he fell in love with farming and ranching. He was passionate about everything he did, whether it was his work, hockey (DAYHA), skiing, mountain biking (DEVO) or watching sports. Recently, he was planning to put together a hockey team with some of his Durango High School friends.

Kyle was eager to lend a hand to anyone who asked and accepted people for who they are. He loved "good" country music and loved getting his hands dirty working on cars, trucks and farm equipment. Kyle would light up a room when he came in and could strike up a conversation with anyone. If needed, he would give you the shirt off his back.

Kyle is survived by his mother, Yolanda; father Jim (wife Lynn); his sister, Hailey; grandmother Vita; aunts Isabel, Jennifer and Julia; cousins Natalie and Wendy; and so many other numerous relatives. We will all love and miss him so very much.

A celebration of life will be on Oct. 17 in Pagosa Springs. A prayer and reflection will be held at Sunset Ranch for anyone wishing to join the family at 4186 E. U.S. 160 at 10 a.m. At noon, the celebration of life will continue with a reception/lunch at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Vista Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

Tommy Martinez

1938-2025

Born as Thomas Raymond Martinez to Thomas and Mary Martinez Feb. 17,

1938. Tommy was raised in Pagosa; he had many friends and family that he loved hanging out with. Tommy loved his music. He started playing his guitar at the young age of 14. He played the saxophone for six years with Lawrence Duran, Alex Duran and Freddy Archuleta. They were called the Ladters. Then he played with the Regals for 15 years. After the band broke up due to death of the lead player, he started the Ladters again with Alex Duran and Freddy Archuleta. Then he played three years with Jose Luis Villescascas.

In 2013, Tommy fell to kidney failure; it was hard on him to keep up with plowing the snow or doing yard work. He also had a hard time carrying his instruments. He quit playing and he and Mary moved to Aztec, N.M. Tommy was really glad they did. He felt a lot better and did not need to use oxygen any more.

Tommy worked for the Forest Service for 32 years. He worked in recreation in charge of the campgrounds and maintenance.

Surviving is his wife, Mary; sister Tessie McCarty, Denver, Colo., Loretta (Fred) Campuzano, Cortez, Colo., Janice and Janette, Pagosa Springs; brother Gilbert (Frances), Pagosa Springs; children Michael

(Dee) Martinez, Oregon, Russell (Ena), Ignacio, Colo., T.J. (Crystal), Pagosa Springs; sister-in-law Sophie Winnett, Farmington, N.M.; daughter-in-law Vindred Martinez Qualls, Durango, Colo.; close friends Sesto Lucero, Nevada, Jake Trujillo, Colorado Springs, Colo.; friend and mother of his children, Josie Brinks; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; step children Christine (Louis) Rivas, Pagosa Springs, Tracy Salazar, Pagosa Springs, Denise (Ar-lan) Jordan, Colorado Springs, Colo., Pam Smedak, Grand Junction, Colo., Rovanna (Jessie) Moore, Colorado Springs, Colo., Belinda Rushing, Aztec, N.M.; 16 step-grandchildren; and 15 step-great-grandchildren.

Preceding Tommy in death were his parents; his wife, Juanita; brother Lenord; son Dino; daughter Nicole; grandson Christopher; and nephews Willie and Mathison.

Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, followed by burial at Hilltop Cemetery. Lunch will be served afterward at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

John O'Brien

John O'Brien passed away peacefully at home in Pagosa Springs on Oct. 4, 2025. John was born on Oct. 27,

1937, to Edward (Ted) and Louise O'Brien in Santa Rita, N.M. He spent most of his youth in Roswell, N.M., where he developed a lifelong love of Scouting. While in high school in Roswell, John saved a child from drowning during a flash flood. He went on to attend New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces, N.M. While in college, his U.S. Army Reserve unit was activated during the Cuban Missile Crisis and he spent nine months serving on active duty. John went on to graduate from NMSU with an undergraduate degree in business and spent several years in banking before starting at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

John met Mary Frances (Fran) in Los Alamos and they married in 1968 and moved to Pojoaque, N.M., in 1973. While hesitant, John accepted Fran's desire to have horses and he built a barn, corrals and outbuildings that at times also housed pigs, turkeys, chickens, guinea hens and pigeons. In Pojoaque, John once again became involved in Scouting as an adult leader and enjoyed seeing the development of his scouts and took pride in their accomplishments.

In 1993, John retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory and, in 2001, John and Fran moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo. John had a generous spirit and looked for ways to help others. In Pagosa, he joined the Knights of Columbus and enjoyed the friendship and service of his fellow knights. John often had a small clipboard in hand and enjoyed working on projects. He helped create the Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden and sparked the creation of the columbarium at the John Paul II Catholic Church campus. John loved socializing with his "coffee club" gang until the very end.

John is survived by his wife, Fran; children Patrick (Alicia), Greg and Deborah (Mike); grandchildren Liam, Brigid, Cailleigh and Emma; brother Walter; and many nephews and nieces.

A celebration of John's life will be held on Friday, Oct. 10, at the John Paul II Catholic Church in Pagosa Springs. The rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m., Mass at 10 a.m. and the interment of his ashes will follow Mass. A reception will follow in the narthex of John Paul II Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in John's memory to the Guadalupana Society. For information on donations, contact Kindra Martinez of the Guadalupana Society at (505) 328-7645.

Patty Sue Tillerson

Patty Sue Patton was born to Emma McInnis and Ray Vernon Patton in Muskogee, Okla., on Sept. 26, 1927. She completed her life here on earth peacefully and joined her ancestors in heaven with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Oct. 3, 2025.

From age 2 throughout childhood and early marriage, she lived in Wichita Falls, Texas. Upon graduation from Wichita Falls High School in May 1945, she worked for Texas Electric Service Co., then Standard Oil of Texas until her marriage to Bobby Joe Tillerson on Aug. 23, 1947. He preceded her in death in February 2018 at age 91. She loved him dearly. They were blessed with almost 72 years of marriage.

She spent the first 13 years of her marriage building a home of solid values, providing their children a good foundation on which to build their lives.

In 1958, Bob became a professional with the Boy Scouts of America, and years of moving around began. First, to Vernon, Texas, where she continued as a stay-at-home mom. Then Bob's work moved them to Stillwater, Okla., where she became a working mom in the College of Engineering at Oklahoma State University. Next to Huntsville, Texas, and the office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, Sam Houston State University. Finally, to Houston, where she worked as an administrative assistant at the Baylor College of Medicine until her retirement in 1987.

Beginning retirement in Pagosa

Springs in 1986, she was certified as an EMT with the newly organized ambulance service, serving for 12 years, doubling as a teacher's aide at the elementary school and later serving as a volunteer with the victims' assistance program responding to scenes of domestic crises.

Throughout the early years of their retirement, Patty and Bob traveled the country, making stops at genealogy libraries to research family history. Patty wrote and published four books tracing the histories of each of her and Bob's parents' families.

Her greatest honor was being in love with one man for 74 years, and the "title" of "Mom" to their children, who continue living their legacy of Christian beliefs and Scouting values, all raising thoughtful, responsible, loving families.

She is survived by two daughters, Jo Lyn Peters, of Round Rock, Texas, and Rae Ann Hamilton and son-in-law Lee Hamilton, of Ovalo, Texas; one son, Rex Wayne Tillerson and daughter-in-law Renda Tillerson, of Westlake, Texas; eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Patty was predeceased by her parents, Emma and Ray Patton; her brother, Tad Patton; and her sister, Reva McPherson.

A funeral celebrating her life will be held Saturday afternoon, Oct. 11, 2025, with viewing at 1 p.m. and the service at 1:30 p.m. at Owen and Brumley Funeral Home in Wichita Falls. Her body will be interred at Riverside Cemetery alongside her parents and her dearly beloved Bob.

Patty and Bob loved the community of Pagosa Springs and if you read her letters to the editor of The SUN, you know this parting phrase well: "Know you are loved!"

In lieu of flowers, the family would suggest memorial donations to one of the following: Veteran's Memorial Park of Archuleta County, Colo., Vetsmemorialpark.org, P.O. Box 2642, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 or a program of your choice troop, district, council with Scouting America (www.scouting.org).



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Community

■ **Continued from front**

businesses during a major two-year Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) reconstruction project.

Although the construction was not initiated by the program, Pagosa Springs Main Street quickly became a unifying force for the business community. The program formed the Cone Zone Care Committee, led a coordinated communications and visibility campaign and launched the Main Street Business Assistance Grant Fund, raising more than \$12,500 to help businesses navigate construction impacts.

The program's innovative approach has included the installation of parking and wayfinding signage, coordination of downtown events such as Wednesday Wine Walks and sidewalk sales, and collaboration with Colorado Main Street consultants to produce a 3-D fly-through rendering that helps residents and business owners visualize the improved streetscape once construction is complete. These events are designed not only to increase foot traffic downtown during construction, but also to encourage local spending.

Rescind

■ **Continued from front**

Torres also noted that the county does not really have the money to move forward" with the higher bid that would provide details on the actual building cost.

"I think we really need to reconsider our decisions and what we want to do moving forward," he said, explaining the BoCC could vote at its meeting to put the RFP back out, hold off, or even to purchase the Wyndham building that some of the county's offices recently moved into and entered into a two-year lease on.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that he found it "troubling" that local folks had not been notified of the RFP, recalling a "very specific conversation" with the former county manager about making sure local folks were aware.

"Obviously that was not followed up on," Brown added.

Brown also mentioned that he did not have the opportunity to view the RFP before it was put out, "which is also troubling."

He mentioned the county needs to be careful with its expenses at the moment, "but it seems to me like this has just been the perfect storm of not getting anything done."

Prizes and giveaways are purchased from downtown merchants or donated by community partners. Every effort helps keep dollars local and supports the businesses that give downtown its unique charm.

In addition to its support during construction, Pagosa Springs Main Street has leveraged its resources to deliver lasting public improvements.

The program turned a \$7,500 Colorado Main Street mini-grant into a \$250,000 CDOT Revitalizing Main Streets grant, funding a new sidewalk, lighting, benches and landscaping to improve accessibility between the middle school and downtown. The program also secured an AARP sponsorship to enhance walkability and safety between the Pagosa Senior Center and the downtown Riverwalk, creating a more accessible and inviting connection for seniors and pedestrians. This improvement expands access to one of Pagosa Springs' most scenic and well-used public amenities.

"This recognition is a true honor and a reflection of the incredible dedication of our all-volunteer Main Street Advisory Board and com-

munity partners," said McFadden. "I couldn't do what I do without them. They show up, work hard, and give countless hours because we all love Pagosa Springs and want to see our downtown thrive. Their commitment inspires me every day, and this award truly belongs to all of us."

This recognition also extends to the Pagosa Springs Main Street Advisory Board, whose members include Rick Holter, chair; Jeremy Martin, vice chair; Barbara Swindlehurst, secretary; and members Rosanna Dufour, Mario Garcia, Darren Gantt, Santos O'Cañas, Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown, Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce and Tourism Executive Director Jennifer Green.

Their leadership and countless volunteer hours continue to shape a vibrant future for downtown.

Pagosa Springs is one of 27 official Colorado Main Street communities supported by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. The program helps communities thrive by providing a framework for locally driven downtown revitalization, historic preservation and economic vitality.

Beyond its visible downtown im-

provements, Pagosa Springs Main Street continues to make meaningful progress through its heritage and culture initiatives by preserving local stories, celebrating historic assets and engaging residents in projects that honor the community's past while inspiring its future. From the Oral History Project to partnerships supporting the Pagosa Springs History Museum and Historic Preservation Month, these efforts ensure that downtown revitalization is as much about heritage and identity as it is about economic growth.

Pagosa Springs Main Street is an official Town of Pagosa Springs program operating under the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC), which hosts and administers the initiative. Main Street is one of the PSCDC's four primary programs supporting community and economic development.

To learn more about Pagosa Springs Main Street and how to support downtown businesses, visit PagosaMainStreet.org. For more about the Colorado Main Street Program, visit dlg.colorado.gov/main-street.

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Beware of virtual kidnapping ransom scam

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Scams are as old as mankind, and they continue to thrive and evolve. The internet age has enabled scammers to operate without coming face to face with potential victims.

What follows is information on a virtual kidnapping ransom scam that has targeted multiple Pagosa Springs residents in recent weeks and tips to prevent it from happening to you.

Virtual kidnapping ransom scam

The scam typically begins with a phone call saying your family member is being held captive. The caller may allege your daughter has been kidnapped and you hear a female screaming in the background.

Another variant of the fraud has a family member being held because he/she caused an auto accident, is injured and won't be allowed to go to the hospital until damages are paid.

Callers will typically provide the victim with specific instructions to

ensure a safe return of the family member. You may be ordered to stay on the line until money is wired. The caller may claim not to have received the money and may demand more payment.

The following is taken directly from a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) press release and explains how to avoid becoming a victim.

To avoid becoming a victim of this extortion scheme, look for the following possible indicators:

- Incoming calls come from an outside area code, sometimes from Puerto Rico with area codes (787), (939) and (856).
- Calls do not come from the alleged kidnapped victim's phone.
- Callers go to great lengths to keep you on the phone.
- Callers prevent you from calling or locating the "kidnapped" victim.
- Ransom money is only accepted via wire transfer service.

If you receive a phone call from someone who demands payment of a ransom for a kidnapped victim, the

following should be considered:

- Try to slow the situation down. Request to speak to the victim directly. Ask, "How do I know my loved one is OK?"
- If the callers don't let you speak to the victim, ask them to describe the victim or describe the vehicle the victim drives, if applicable.
- Listen carefully to the voice of the kidnapped victim if he/she speaks.
- Attempt to call, text or contact the alleged victim via social media. Request that the victim call back from his or her cellphone.
- While staying on the line with the alleged kidnappers, try to call the alleged kidnapp victim from another phone.
- To buy time, repeat the caller's request and tell them you are writing. request the demand, or tell the caller you need additional time to meet their demands.
- Don't directly challenge or argue with the caller. Keep your voice low and steady.
- Request the alleged kidnapper

allow the victim to call you back from his/her cellphone.

- At the earliest opportunity, notify your local police department.

To help prevent this scam, check privacy settings on social media accounts and revisit the information you publicize on those accounts. The more information available to the public, the more information scammers can use to convince you into believing a scam is real.

County to take over hosting Independence Day parade in 2026

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Oct. 7, the BoCC unanimously voted to host an Independence Day parade in Pagosa Springs in 2026.

Interim County Manager Mike Torres explained that the Town of Pagosa Springs has historically hosted the event.

The town ultimately decided not to put on a traditional parade in downtown Pagosa Springs this past summer due to disruptions caused by the reconstruction of U.S. 160.

Torres mentioned that through recent talks with the town, "they don't look like they're going to be doing that in 2026," while explaining that Commissioner Veronica Medina has

been involved in those discussions.

"I know it would be a great event for us to pick up," Torres added.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that it'd be "appropriate" for the county to pick up slack wherever it can.

"I personally would like to see it downtown," he said, noting that it could help businesses struggling from the disruptions caused by the reconstruction of U.S. 160.

Commissioner John Ranson expressed support for hosting the parade, commenting that he echoed much of Brown's perspective.

Medina explained that the theme of the parade will involve celebrating the 150th anniversary of Colorado becoming a state and the 250th anniversary of the nation.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture is celebrating the anniver-

saries of the state and nation as the "Sesquicentennial," or the "250-150 for short."

"So, we can celebrate, not only our state, but our country," she said.

Medina motioned for the county to host the parade in 2026, which was unanimously approved by the BoCC.

For more information on the state's 250-150 commemoration, visit <https://ag.colorado.gov/home/about-us/america-250-colorado-150-commemoration>.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Community news.

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2026 PSMC EMT Certification Class

What: Informational Meeting

When: Tuesday, October 21, 5-7 p.m.

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To the Electors of Archuleta County, Colorado, in accordance with the provisions of Section §1-5-205 C.R.S., notice is hereby given that a Coordinated Election will be held in Archuleta County, on Tuesday, the 4th day of November, 2025.

Eligible Voters: All Active registered voters.

Mail Ballots: Beginning on October 10, 2025 the Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder will send a mail ballot packet to every active voter who is registered in Archuleta County. To be counted, mail ballots must be returned to and in the hands of the Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 4, 2025. **Postmarks do not count.**

Polling Locations: Beginning Monday, October 27, 2025 the Election Office located at 305 Village Dr. Pagosa Springs, CO, will serve as the official Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC). The VSPC hours are October 27 through November 3, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., November 1, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. and November 4, 2025, Tuesday, Election Day, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. ELECTION DAY ONLY – PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave., Pagosa Springs, CO.

Drop-Box Locations: Secure ballot drop-boxes will be open 24/7 with video surveillance from October 10 through 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 4, 2025. There are two locations: Pagosa Springs Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO located in front of the building to the left of the entry doors. Tara Community Center 333 Milton Lane, Arboles, CO.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES

Bayfield School District 10 JT-R Board of Directors (4-Year Term)

(Vote for Three)
(01) Rebecca Parnell
(02) Gary Maestas
(03) Matt Turner
(04) Robert Coronado Jr.

Ignacio School District 11JT Board of Directors (4-Year Term)

(Vote for Two)
(01) Christine Sage
(02) Leila C. Baker
(03) James P. Bulwan

Ballot questions referred by the general assembly or any political subdivision are listed by letter, and ballot questions initiated by the people are listed numerically. A ballot question listed as an “amendment” proposes a change to the Colorado constitution, and a ballot question listed as a “proposition” proposes a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes. A “yes/for” vote on any ballot question is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a “no/against” vote on any ballot question is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.

STATE BALLOT MEASURES

Proposition LL (STATUTORY)

Without raising taxes, may the state keep and spend all revenue generated by the 2022 voter-approved state tax deduction limits on individuals with incomes of \$300,000 or more and maintain these deduction limits in order to continue funding the healthy school meals for all program, which pays for public schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade?

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

Proposition MM (STATUTORY)

SHALL STATE TAXES BE INCREASED BY \$95 MILLION ANNUALLY BY A CHANGE TO THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD FOR COLORADO KIDS AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING THE HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, INCREASING STATE TAXABLE INCOME ONLY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE A FEDERAL TAXABLE INCOME OF \$300,000 OR MORE BY LIMITING ITEMIZED OR STANDARD STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS TO \$1,000 FOR SINGLE TAX RETURN FILERS AND \$2,000 FOR JOINT TAX RETURN FILERS FOR THE PURPOSES OF FULLY FUNDING THE HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL PROGRAM TO CONTINUE PAYING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHILE ALSO INCREASING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO PREPARE AND SERVE SCHOOL MEALS, HELPING SCHOOLS USE BASIC, NUTRITIOUS INGREDIENTS, INSTEAD OF PROCESSED PRODUCTS, AND ENSURING THAT COLORADO GROWN AND RAISED PRODUCTS ARE PART OF SCHOOL MEALS; SUPPORTING THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) THAT HELPS LOW-INCOME COLORADO FAMILIES AFFORD GROCERIES; AND ALLOWING THE STATE TO RETAIN AND SPEND AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE ALL ADDITIONAL TAX REVENUE GENERATED BY THESE TAX DEDUCTION CHANGES?

Changes in Income Taxes Owed by Income Category

Income Category	Proposed Change in Average Income Tax Owed
\$299,999 or less	\$0
\$300,000 or more	+\$486

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

Drop-Off Locations: You may also drop-off your voted ballot at the Election Office located at 305 Village Dr., beginning October 13 through October 23, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., October 27 through November 3, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. November 1, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., and November 4, Tuesday, Election Day, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The following are the official offices and ballot measures that will be voted on at the Archuleta County, November 4, 2025 Coordinated Election. Depending on your physical address, you may not be voting on all referred ballot issues.

WARNING: Any person who, by use of force or other means, unduly influences an eligible elector to vote in any particular manner or to refrain from voting, or who falsely makes, alters, forges, or counterfeits any mail ballot before or after it has been cast, or who destroys, defaces, mutilates, or tampers with a ballot is subject, upon conviction, to imprisonment, or to a fine, or both. Section 1-7.5-107(3)(b), C.R.S.

MUNICIPAL BALLOT MEASURES

Town of Pagosa Springs

Ballot Issue 2A – 1% Sales Tax for Sewerage and Wastewater Reuse Facilities

SHALL TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS TAXES BE INCREASED \$3,675,692 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR AND BY SUCH ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS AS ARE GENERATED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER FROM THE IMPOSITION OF A SALES TAX OF 1.00% AS SET FORTH IN ORDINANCE NO. 1014, (SERIES 2025); SUCH TAX INCREASE TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 1, 2026, TO:

CONSTRUCT, RECONSTRUCT, IMPROVE, REPAIR, BETTER, EXTEND, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN SEWERAGE AND WASTEWATER REUSE FACILITIES TO SERVE THE TOWN, INCLUDING FACILITIES OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SANITATION GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AND

FUND SUCH PURPOSES, SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE TOWN, BY PLEDGING THE REVENUES FROM SUCH SALES TAX FOR PAYMENT OF CONTRACTS, LEASES, LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS, AND BONDS, WHETHER ISSUED BY THE TOWN OR THE DISTRICT

AND SHALL THE TOWN BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND THE PROCEEDS FROM SUCH TAX AND ANY INVESTMENT INCOME EARNED FROM SUCH PROCEEDS AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE UNDER SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

SPECIAL DISTRICT BALLOT MEASURES

Colorado’s Timber Ridge Metropolitan District

Ballot Question 6A - Eliminate Term Limits for Board Members

Shall the Colorado’s Timber Ridge Metropolitan District located in Archuleta County, Colorado eliminate any term limits for members of the Board of Directors, allowing Board members to serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms?

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

Upper Pine River Fire Protection District

Ballot Issue 7B – Asking voters within the Upper Pine River Fire Protection District to approve a new 1.0% sales tax.

SHALL THE UPPER PINE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT’S SALES TAXES BE INCREASED \$490,000 IN THE FIRST FULL FISCAL YEAR AND BY WHATEVER ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE RAISED ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY THE IMPOSITION OF A SALES TAX BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, NOT TO EXCEED 1.0% (ONE CENT ON EACH DOLLAR), ON ALL TRANSACTIONS IN THE DISTRICT UPON WHICH THE STATE IMPOSES A SALES TAX, EXCLUDING SALES OF FOOD FOR HOME CONSUMPTION, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, DIAPERS, FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, FARM EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY AND MACHINE TOOLS, SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND ALL OTHER CATEGORIES EXEMPT FROM STATE SALES TAX COLLECTION UNDER TITLE 39, ARTICLE 26, PART 7, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, FOR THE PURPOSES OF;

PROVIDING ADEQUATE STAFFING TO ADDRESS INCREASING EMERGENCY CALL VOLUME

INVESTING IN TRAINING AND STAFF RETENTION

MAINTAINING FIRE AND EMS EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES TO EXTEND THEIR USEFUL LIFE AND REPLACING THEM WHEN NECESSARY

INVESTING IN UP-TO-DATE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY GEAR AND EQUIPMENT/TOOLS TO PROTECT OUR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND EQUIP THEM FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

IMPROVING AND EQUIPPING CURRENT AND FUTURE FIRE STATIONS TO MAINTAIN PROMPT RESPONSE TIMES

AND SHALL THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALES TAX, INCLUDING ALL INVESTMENT EARNINGS THEREON, BE COLLECTED, RETAINED, AND SPENT BY THE DISTRICT AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE LIMITS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE APPLY UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER LAW?

YES/FOR _____ NO/AGAINST _____

Kristy Archuleta, Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder
PO Box 2589, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, 970-264-8331

Ballots

■ Continued from front

Polling locations

Beginning Oct. 27, the Archuleta County Election Office located at 305 Village Drive will serve as the official Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC).

The VSPC hours will be Oct. 27 through Nov. 3, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. until noon; and Election Day, Nov. 4, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On Election Day only, there will be a polling location set up at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse at 230 Port Ave.

Drop boxes

Secure ballot drop boxes will be open 24/7 with video surveillance from Oct. 10 through 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4.

There are two locations: Pagosa Springs Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. (located in front of the building to the left of the entry doors) and the TARA Community Center at 333 Milton Lane in Arboles.

Drop-off locations

You may also drop-off your voted ballot at the Election Office located at 305 Village Drive from Oct. 13 through Oct. 23, Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Oct. 27 through Nov. 3, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Nov. 1 from 8 a.m. to noon; and Election Day, Nov. 4, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

What's on the ballot?

The following are the official of-

fices and ballot measures that will be voted on in the Nov. 4 election.

Depending on your physical address, you may not be voting on all referred ballot issues.

State ballot measures

Ballot questions referred by the general assembly or any political subdivision are listed by letter, and ballot questions initiated by the people are listed numerically.

A ballot question listed as an "amendment" proposes a change to the Colorado constitution, and a ballot question listed as a "proposition" proposes a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes. A "yes/for" vote on any ballot question is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a "no/against" vote on any ballot question is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.

There are two state ballot measures on the ballot.

Proposition LL centers on keeping and spending all revenue generated by the 2022 voter-approved state tax deduction limits on individuals with incomes of \$300,000 or more, and maintaining those deduction limits, to continue the Healthy School Meals for All program.

The program pays public schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all K-12 students.

Proposition MM centers on a proposed increase to state taxes of \$95 million for school meals and school assistance programs by increasing state taxable income for those who

have a federal taxable income of \$300,000 or more by limiting itemized or standard state income deductions.

That, the question indicates, would be for the purposes of fully funding the Health School Meals for All program to provide free breakfast and lunch; increase wages for employees who prepare and serve school meals; help schools use "nutritious ingredients, instead of processed products and ensure that Colorado-grown and raised products are part of school meals; and support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Municipal ballot measure

Town of Pagosa Springs voters will have the opportunity to vote on Ballot Issue 2A, which seeks a 1 percent sales tax rate increase for sewerage and wastewater reuse facilities beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

According to the ballot issue, taxes would be increased to "construct, reconstruct, improve, repair, better, extend, operate and maintain sewerage and wastewater reuse facilities to serve the town, including facilities of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District.

School district offices

Voters within Bayfield School District 10 JT-R will be voting to elect three candidates to four-year terms on the board of directors. Candidates include Rebecca Parnell, Gary Maestas, Matt Turner and Robert Coronado Jr.

Voters within Ignacio School Dis-

trict 11JT will vote for two candidates to serve four-year terms on the board of directors. Candidates include Christine Sage, Leila C. Baker and James P. Pulwan.

Special district ballot measures

Voters in Colorado's Timber Ridge Metropolitan District will be asked to vote on Ballot Question 6A, which concerns eliminating term limits for board members and allowing board members to serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms.

Upper Pine River Fire Protection District voters will see Ballot Issue 7B, asking voters within that district to approve a new 1 percent sales tax on transactions in that district.

The issue notes it would exclude sales of food for home consumption, prescription drugs, diapers, feminine hygiene products, farm equipment, machinery and machine tools, school-related activities, and "other categories exempt from state sales tax collection in the Colorado Revised Statutes.

It notes the revenue would go toward providing adequate staffing to address increasing emergency call volume, investing in training and staff retention, maintain fire and Emergency Medical Services equipment and vehicles to extend their useful lives and replace them when necessary, invest in updating firefighter safety gear and equipment, and improve and equip current and future fire stations to maintain response times.

randi@pagosasun.com

Mining

■ Continued from front

according to the Colorado secretary of state.

PAWSD was purchasing gravel from the Webers for the construction of its Snowball water treatment plant expansion.

At its June 13, 2024, meeting, PAWSD approved a sand and gravel lease with the Webers that formalized the terms for the Webers selling gravel to PAWSD.

This lease was signed by the Webers, according to PAWSD staff, and expired at the end of 2024.

Among its terms, it forbade additional mining on the property, although it did allow the Webers to sell remaining material at the ranch not needed by the PAWSD project with a royalty being paid to PAWSD.

The PAWSD board approved a draft final lease extension at its Jan. 30 meeting and directed staff to submit it to the Webers for comments, but a final lease was never approved.

Lock's letter followed a Sept. 29 special meeting of the PAWSD Board of Directors where the board discussed the conditions at the ranch and its difficulties with the Webers.

Following an executive session held partially to discuss issues at the ranch, PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges explained that the board agreed to have its attorney draft a document to send to the Webers — a decision that resulted in the Sept. 30 letter.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson asked, "Is it a good idea that our community knows that we're struggling with getting information about what the Webers are doing, struggling with the fact that they did not sign a lease that was offered to them to continue mining on the property, that we're struggling with the fact

that their possessions are still on the property, struggling with the fact that at least one of our board members was told that the property belongs to the Webers? Is that something that the public ought to be knowing that we're involved in these struggles with the former owners of the ranch that we have asked to do work for us and that are required to reclaim the gravel pits that they've created and that we

Tautges stated that PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey had sent the Webers a letter on May 9, 2024, outlining various tasks that needed to be completed at the ranch, many of which have not been done.

may be engaging in legal activity to reassert our right to the property and to San Juan's right to the property? Is that something we want to have in an open public discussion?"

Tautges commented that PAWSD should discuss these issues publicly to a "certain extent," in his opinion.

He noted that entities engaged in mining are subject to regulation by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) and that they have to provide a bond for a mining project to ensure reclamation is completed.

Tautges stated that PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey had sent the Webers a letter on May 9, 2024, outlining various tasks that needed to be completed at the ranch, many of which have not been done.

"In the interests of serving our customers, we certainly don't like to always be litigating but there's a certain point in time I think when litigation has to be considered because of the way certain parties are acting or whatever," Tautges said.

He added that the vast majority of PAWSD customers trust that the board is doing the best it can and may be confused by excessively detailed information, although he indicated that he agreed with Hudson's desire for transparency.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh responded, "I think certain things people understand. It doesn't take a lot of study to understand that the Webers, in a very insider traded deal by Fred Weber Schmidt, were paid 250 percent the market value for that property by PAWSD customers. They were then given a 15-year, no-volume-limitation lease for \$1 a year to mine the entire property and at the end of this, even though our customers have paid through the nose for it, the Webers are claiming to our board members that they own the property, they're behaving towards board members in a very obnoxious and aggressive manner, and they are dropping all sort of verbal hints that after getting their \$10.2 million price and their 15-year lease for \$1 a year, they might just walk away and leave a scarred property for the PAWSD customers. That's what they're doing."

Lock's Sept. 30 letter includes several clarifications and conditions

in addition to instructing the Webers to cease and desist activities not related to reclamation at the ranch, including mining, processing, selling and transporting gravel from the ranch.

It states that, by Oct. 3, the Webers must remove all equipment and personal property from the ranch not necessary for reclamation work.

It indicates that the Webers should continue to complete reclamation activities for the gravel mine on the property and that, by Oct. 15, the Webers should provide written confirmation of their intent to fulfill the reclamation obligations included in their previous lease with PAWSD and their state permit.

It also states that the Webers should provide a written schedule for the completion of the reclamation tasks by Oct. 15 and meet with PAWSD, SJWCD and DRMS representatives if available to discuss this schedule.

The letter states that the Webers must provide PAWSD and the SJWCD with "a detailed accounting of all material mined, processed, hauled, and sold from Running Iron Ranch from January 4, 2023, through October 15, 2025."

It concludes that the districts reserve the right to revoke the right for the Webers to access the property for reclamation contained in the lease extension that ended on Jan. 3, 2024, and to take possession of the premises and any equipment or personal property on them under the terms of this lease extension.

Multiple attempts to reach the Webers for comment about the cease-and-desist letter and the circumstances at the Running Iron Ranch were unsuccessful.

josh@pagosasun.com

University, according to his resume. clayton@pagosasun.com

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Pumpkin Patch
Pumpkin Bowling, Candy
Scrambles, and More!

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Finalist

■ Continued from front

item for the selection of a new county manager, with the agenda explaining, "This agenda item is for the Board to have discussions regarding the two finalists for the County Manager position, to possibly select one of the two finalists for the County Manager position, and to select one Commissioner to be the lead negotiator to negotiate the employment agreement with the selected individual."

Prior to entering into executive session, Commissioner Warren Brown explained that the meeting's agenda stated the county had named two finalists for the position, but clarified that "we have not formally named any finalists."

Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(3.5) states in part, "The state or local public body shall name one or more candidates as finalists for the position of chief executive officer. The state or local public body shall make public the finalist or finalists under consideration for the position of chief executive officer no later than fourteen days prior to appointing or employing a finalist to fill the position. No offer of appointment or employment shall be made prior to this public notice."

Brown motioned for the BoCC to enter an executive session for the pur-

pose of discussing personnel matters and potential selection of finalists, which was unanimously approved by the BoCC.

All members of the BoCC, Interim County Manager Mike Torres and County Attorney Cathleen Giovan-

Prior to entering into executive session, Commissioner Warren Brown explained that the meeting's agenda stated the county had named two finalists for the position, but clarified that "we have not formally named any finalists."

nini entered into the executive session that lasted for approximately 10 minutes before the regular meeting was reconvened.

Commissioner Veronica Medina then opened the floor for a motion,

with Commissioner John Ranson motioning for Gonzalez Jr. to be named as the sole finalist and for Brown to serve as the employment contract negotiator, "and that no offer shall be made prior to the 14-day" statutory requirement.

Ranson's motion was unanimously approved.

According to Gonzalez's resume, he is a retired Air Force lieutenant general and served as a county commissioner for El Paso County from January 2017 to January 2025.

Gonzalez has a Bachelor of Science in political science from the United States Air Force Academy and master's in science education from Florida International University. He also has a doctor of education degree from American International Theism

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Sports

FOOTBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Creede Dozier looks to connect a pass with Kasen Limebrook for a touchdown in the second quarter of the team's win over the Salida Spartans on Oct. 3. The Pirates won 57-8.

Pirates topple Spartans in first league win of season

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team picked up its second win of the season, and first Intermountain League win of the season, on Friday, Oct 3.

The Pirates hosted the Salida Spartans for their homecoming matchup, and walked away with a 57-8 victory on the night in what "was a good win," according to coach Nathan Morales.

"Kids have been working hard," Morales said, adding that the team has been "digging roots into what we're doing" and need to continue doing so.

Morales explained the Pirates started out strong with a big run play that was called back on a penalty against the Pirates, "but the kids stayed with it"

He explained that lightning delays affected the game with a start and stop energy throughout the whole night, "but the kids responded well." He added, "I thought they did a good job of managing that and staying in tune."

The Pirates now boast an overall record of 2-3, including a league mark of 1-0.

Morales commented on the importance of league wins, noting it is always good to come away with wins in league games.

According to stats entered into MaxPreps and shared with The SUN, the Pirates opened up the scoring on the night with a 17-yard rushing touchdown from Colton Lucero, followed by a successful extra-point attempt to put the Pirates up 7-0 midway through the first quarter.

Lucero put up two more rushing touchdowns in the first quarter, going for 61 yards and 30 yards, as the Pirates took a 21-0 lead into the second quarter.

Lucero kept contributing, opening up the second quarter with a 65-yard rushing touchdown.

The Pirates' defense then forced a safety on the following possession for the Spartans, increasing the lead to 30-0 with more than nine minutes still to play in the second quarter.

Aidan Vega is credited for the safety.

Following the safety, Lucero returned the kickoff for an 80-yard touchdown, adding to the Pirates' lead.

The only score for the Spartans came about halfway through the second quarter on a 62-yard passing touchdown, bringing the score to 37-8.

The Pirates were able to get on the board two more times before halftime with an 8-yard passing touchdown as quarterback Creede Dozier con-

nected with Kasen Limebrook and a 9-yard rushing touchdown by Lucero, which brought the score to 50-8 at halftime.

The last score of the game came in the third quarter on a 58-yard rushing touchdown by Hudson Mazur to put the Pirates up 57-8.

The Pirates put up a total of 348 yards on offense, with Dozier completing one of two pass attempts for 8 yards.

"Kids have been working hard," Morales said, adding that the team has been "digging roots into what we're doing" and need to continue doing so.

Lucero led the team in rushing, racking up a total of 234 yards and five rushing touchdowns on eight carries and scoring another touchdown from a kick return.

Mazur put up 71 rushing yards and one touchdown on his four carries.

Jeremiah Dean ran for 23 yards on four carries and Gage Sams ran for 13 yards on three carries, while Alex Pacheco ran for 5 yards on five carries.

Dozier had 4 rushing yards on two carries.

Lucero had a total of 125 yards on two kick returns.

Gavin Carter successfully converted seven out of eight extra-point attempts on the night.

On the defensive side, Lucero led the Pirates with five solo tackles, followed by Ty Garcia with four solo tackles.

There were 10 other Pirates who recorded one, two or three solo tackles on the night.

Jayton Ross and Noah Bellina each came up with one fumble recovery.

Morales commended the team as a whole, noting, "Our physicality was good that game."

He added, "We were definitely the more physical team up front, and that's something we gotta hang our hat on and continue to be."

He also explained that the Pirates implemented a new offensive system this season that was challenging at first, but "it's finally clicking."

Morales mentioned the Pirates are starting to understand the system and are executing better as a whole with the goal of improving each and every day.

He also commented on Lucero's performance on the night, noting that ■ See Football A10

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\$949,000

MLS # 824532

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, up-town near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Relax on the covered deck or backyard patio while taking in stunning mountain views. Inside, the open floor plan connects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appliances, and an island for extra prep space. The primary bedroom and bathroom are conveniently located on the main floor. A 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms and a full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space for entertainment or an office, plus a fourth bedroom set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS # 822945

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>



470 Terry Robinson Road
\$675,000

MLS # 828394

1.7 Acres without a property owners association and great views of Echo Lake and the East Range. 1 bedroom, 1 3/4 baths, an office, a large open loft and unfinished basement with a 2 car garage, 4 carports and RV parking, 3 covered decks, lots of storage and did I say it is only 4 miles from town. The circular driveway is large and the front porch is screened in. Close to shopping and dining and close to paved roads. Please note, the basement square footage has not been included with this listing as the basement is unfinished.



471 Deer Trail
\$346,000

MLS # 826138

Discover your mountain retreat in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath log cabin, in Aspen Springs 1 on well-maintained Deer Trail, just a half-mile from Hwy 160. This 1,205 sq. ft. cabin features a living room, dining area, modern kitchen, and a full bath on the main level, with two bedrooms upstairs. The kitchen boasts new cabinets, countertops, and flooring. A wood stove enhances the cabin's ambiance. The property is equipped with a state-of-the-art water filtration system, including reverse osmosis, water softener, and on-demand hot water, professionally installed.



109 Carol's Curves
\$250,000

MLS # 824583

The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dog's and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.



324/356/294 Sparrow Circle
\$325,000

MLS # 821243

3 separate lots 4.5 Acres total with no HOA or Covenants. This 2-bedroom 1 bath home is purged and is in very good shape. This is a very solid home with a well-constructed snow shed over the top. There is a 2-vehicle carport and a workshop behind the carport. There is a road behind the house going up the hill to get to a couple of nice building sites. The views are amazing up there. This is an awesome property and if needed the two vacant lots could be sold separately.



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30 High Drive — MLS # 794628 — \$55,900

38 Heron Court — MLS # 821320 — \$45,000



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GOLF



Pirates Johnathon Smith, left, and Tyler Dimond compete at the 3A state golf tournament in Eagle. Smith tied for 21st at the two-day tournament, while Dimond finished 56th out of the 84 golfers competing.

Pirates end season at state tournament

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate golf team's season ended on Tuesday, Oct. 7, with the close of the two-day 3A state tournament in Eagle.

Senior Johnathon Smith capped off his high school career as part of a four-way tie for 21st, while sophomore Tyler Dimond tied for 56th.

Smith advanced to state all four years of his high school career, with Dimond making his second appearance at the season's final tournament.

Coach Mark Faber noted the course was well-suited for the Pirate golfers and their practice rounds went well.

Smith finished with a two-day

score of 153.

Smith ended the first day with a 78 on the par-72 course, logging birdies on five holes and par on six.

Smith rebounded to shoot a 75 on the second day, notching birdies on four holes and par on nine holes.

"This just wasn't his day," Faber said, adding it was a struggle until the second half of the second day.

Faber highlighted that Smith rebounded and was four under par on the final 10 holes.

"I was real proud that he finished the way he did," Faber said of his last 10-holes.

Faber noted Smith had a "phenomenal" year, winning seven tournaments.

Dimond shot a 164 at the tournament.

He finished day one with an 83, shooting par on nine holes.

Dimond improved that score to an 81 on day two, notching birdies on two holes and par on seven holes.

"Tyler played well, he really did," Faber said. "He improved from day one to day two and improved from last year."

Faber added Dimond had a few holes that got away from him, but played well for the most part.

"Great kid, great attitude," Faber said. "Really enjoyable."

Faber noted the Pirates had a dozen golfers out this year, which is more than in the past and, while the team will lose several seniors, there are some "committed and pretty talented" underclassmen who will remain in the program.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Colton Lucero heads for the end zone in the rain during the team's Oct. 3 win over the Salida Spartans. Lucero totaled 234 rushing yards in the game.

Football

■ Continued from A9

he is a "special athlete," and is tough and coachable.

"He's fast; he's physical," Morales added, explaining that when all those things are put together, special things will happen.

"The line, I thought, played a lot better," Morales said, adding, "It's just a team game."

In previous weeks, Morales has mentioned the Pirates were close to firing on all cylinders and explained

that means "just executing on offense and defensive and special teams, and if we can do that we're gonna win a lot of games."

He noted it was good to enjoy the win for a short period of time, especially being the team's homecoming game, but that there are four more games for the Pirates to focus on this season.

"We're on to the next one," he added, noting the Pirates are preparing to travel to Bayfield this week

to take on their rivals, the Bayfield Wolverines, with kickoff slated for 7 p.m.

Morales noted the Pirates will be "continuing to work hard in practice and execute during the game, and all those things," noting they "gotta have a good week of practice" with Bayfield likely being ready to go as it is their homecoming week.

"We gotta make sure we have a good week of practice," Morales said.

clayton@pagosasun.com



Work hard, Pirates!



Photos courtesy Mark Faber

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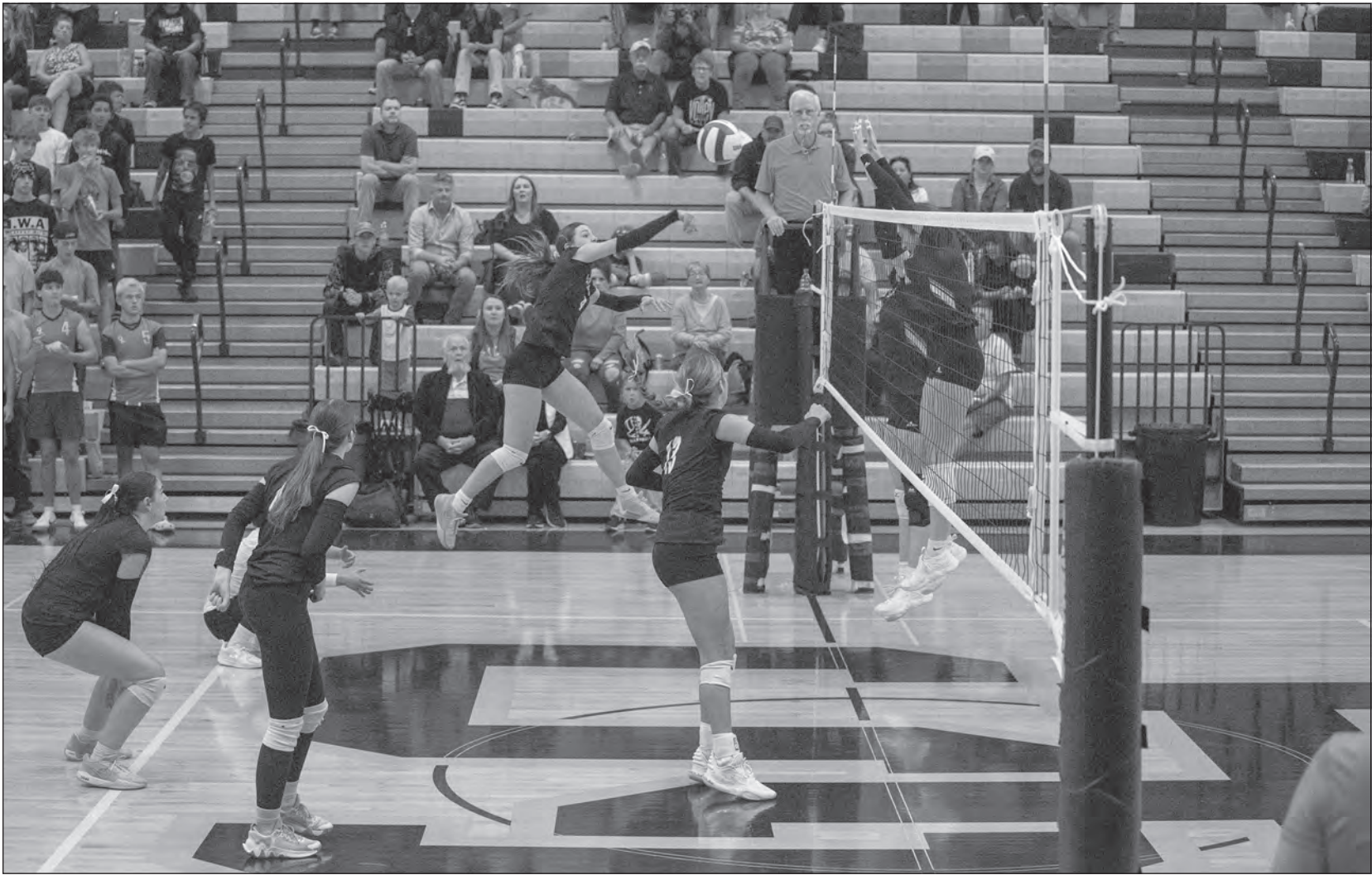
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FDIC

VOLLEYBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Lexi Campbell sends the ball into Mean Moose territory on Thursday, Oct. 2. Campbell led the team with five kills against Alamosa.

Lady Pirates demonstrate ‘incredible’ growth against Alamosa, Durango

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

“The growth in this team has been incredible,” Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball coach Chelsea Caler wrote in an email to The SUN Wednesday.

While the Lady Pirates dropped to a 2-13 record with losses to Alamosa and Durango over the last week, the coach highlights, “We’re communicating better, playing more cohesively and reading the ball on defense so much more effectively. The girls are scrappier, more confident and you can see the little details from practice showing up in live play. We just have to keep building and refining.”

The Lady Pirates hosted the state’s top 3A team, the Alamosa Mean Moose, on Thursday, Oct. 2, for a league affair.

“We really showed up to compete against Alamosa — it was some of the best volleyball we’ve played all season,” Caler wrote. “Our block came alive, and our defense worked together beautifully. We did a great job keeping their hitters out of rhythm and out of system for much of the match.”

The Lady Pirates lost in three sets: 25-16, 25-17 and 25-9.

Caler notes, “The shift in momentum during the third set was definitely tied to the long pauses and discussions with officials, which made it hard for both teams to stay in rhythm. Once Alamosa’s middle

found her groove and started putting balls away, their offense caught fire and we struggled to grab the momentum back.”

The Lady Pirates logged 12 kills in the match, with Lexi Campbell leading with five, followed by Dawson Iverson’s three and two each from Avea Bruce and Amber Snarr.

Alamosa tallied 39 kills in the match and nine serving aces.

Pagosa picked up one serving ace by Tatiana Monterroso.

The Lady Pirates put up three blocks, with Bruce logging one solo block, and Hayden Peterson, Bruce, Kaila Limebrook and Iverson each putting up an assisted block.

“Hayden and Amber had an outstanding performance shutting down their outside hitters, while Kaila and Avea both got strong touches and a few key blocks against their middles,” Caler highlights. “Dawson and Lexi also came up with some big blocks against their right side.”

The Lady Pirates tallied 33 digs, led by Snarr’s nine and Charity Domingo’s seven.

Peterson picked up all 10 of the team’s assists on the night.

The team logged 52 serve receptions, with three Lady Pirates in double digits: Snarr took 16, Domingo took 14 and Monterroso received 10.

“That match was a major confidence boost for us,” Caler wrote. “We played as a team, and we proved to ourselves that we can compete with the bigger programs. It was fun to

watch — and I’m really proud of the girls for how they showed up.”

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, the Lady Pirates hosted the 4A Durango Demons.

“We played some really solid volleyball against Durango,” Caler wrote. “Since switching up our defensive system a few weeks ago, it’s been paying off. The girls have been working hard on blocking and defense, and it’s showing. We’re also being more aggressive at the net, swinging more and finding ways to score. We’re staying right in step, score-wise, with our opponents.”

The Lady Pirates fell in three back-and-forth sets against the Demons: 25-18, 25-21 and 25-19.

The team had 20 kills in the match-up, with Iverson and Campbell leading with seven each.

The team had four serving aces, with Peterson notching two, and Domingo and Monterroso logging one each.

The Lady Pirates put up seven total blocks, with the coach highlighting Snarr and Campbell had two solo blocks each. Limebrook put up two block assists, and Campbell, Peterson, Bruce and Snarr each had one block assist.

The team picked up 49 digs, led by 12 from Monterroso, 11 from Campbell and 10 from Domingo.

Peterson had 16 assists. The team had 59 serve receptions, led by Limebrook’s 14 and 12 each from Snarr and Monterroso.

Next Tuesday, the Lady Pirates will travel to Bayfield for a rematch with the Wolverines.

Pagosa lost 3-0 to Bayfield on Sept. 16, with the Wolverines currently sitting as the No. 6 team in Colorado 3A volleyball with an 11-5 record.

“Bayfield is always a high-energy matchup, and I’m excited to show them the new and improved Pagosa team,” Caler wrote. “We’re ready to compete, and ready to win.”

randi@pagosasun.com



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If you were in last year’s veteran’s pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 31.

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2026 Proposed Town Budget Taking Shape

Your Town Council and staff have been busy developing a proposed annual budget to guide Town-wide operations in 2026. The budget serves as an important policy document and sets expectations for service delivery to

the community. It also aligns with the Town Council’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

Over the next few weeks, Town Council will discuss the budget at two separate public hearings. Share your feedback about the proposed budget and learn more about town finances at pagosasprings.co.gov.

- Public Hearing #1: Tuesday, October 21, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall
- Public Hearing #2 and Budget Adoption: Tuesday, November 6, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Election Season is Here

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, and residents are encouraged to make a plan to vote! There are several state and local issues for voters to consider. You may register to vote, check your voter status, or get additional information by visiting www.govotecolorado.gov or contacting Archuleta County’s election office at 970-264-8331.

Snow Know-How

As mild fall weather turns cold and snowy, please remember to be patient and follow local snow removal rules to keep our community safe. Did you know? The Town maintains 30 miles of streets in winter, plowing once snowfall reaches two inches or when roads become unsafe. Residents and businesses have snow removal responsibilities, too! Please remember to clear snow and ice from sidewalks next to your property within 24 hours after the snow ends. Learn about Town plowing operations, snow routes, your responsibilities, and more at pagosasprings.co.gov/snowremoval.



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By **Clayton Chaney**
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys’ soccer team picked up another win this over the last week, defeating the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers in Cortez on Saturday, Oct. 3, by a score of 2-0.

The Pirates now boast an overall record of 9-1, including a league mark of 4-0, putting them in first place of the Intermountain League (IML) and 17th in the state’s 3A division.

Coach Trevor Gian described the match against the Panthers as a “very tough, very physical game.”

He stated, “We got out of there with a win, which is huge.”

Ryder King was able to knock in two goals for the Pirates in the first half, one from a corner kick and one not long after with a “phenomenal effort” to beat the Panthers’ defenders, creating an open look on goal, Gian explained.

Gian noted the Pirates picked up a couple of yellow cards throughout the match, with Milo Deitemeyer and Gavin Carter each receiving one.

He noted that Jacob Castaneda was unable to finish the match after picking up an injury.

“We got pulled apart mentally,” Gian said.

He explained that the Pirates started out strong in some areas while being flat in others in the opening minutes of the game, noting that some touches on the ball in the early moments could’ve really dictated the way the game unfolded.

Gian mentioned he felt more comfortable after the Pirates got their first goal, but that the Panthers responded with pressure.

He explained that once King was able to knock in his second goal and the Pirates were able to take the lead into halftime, the rest of the match felt like a “dogfight.”

He noted that the Panthers were hungry for a win, explaining how the Pirates have only played two games over the past three weeks and are gearing up for a stretch of five games in seven days starting on Friday.

“We need to continue winning,” he said.

Gian also mentioned how the Pirates “luckily” had depth on their bench and quite a few players played important roles in the match who haven’t had much field time so far this season since the team was missing a few other usual starters.

“We tested that depth,” he said, explaining the yellow cards being issued became a factor, as well.

He also praised assistant coach Dyan Rice, noting she “had a lot of great perspective” throughout the match as the team did not want to lose any players to a possible second yellow and red card situation.

Gian spoke more about the Pirates’ depth with their roster, noting that Angel Ramirez did a “great job” stepping up, along with Edgar Castillo and Elmer Castillo in the midfield.

He commented on freshman Xavi Sanchez, who put in a quality performance, along with Hudson Davis, who “just did a great job.”

He explained that Oliver Samu also put in a strong performance, with Connor Kirkham stepping up, as well.

Gian mentioned that Jonathon Rodriguez was able to return from injury, noting it was “great to have him in there.”

Gian also praised Esneyder Paz’s performance on the day, noting he was able to get some time on the field and helped out.

Gian spoke highly of the team as whole, too, explaining how the Pirates “dug deep” and that all of the players

■ See Soccer A12

SOCCKER

Pirates dig deep to secure shutout against Montezuma-Cortez

CROSS-COUNTRY



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

The Pirate cross-country team poses with a plaque after finishing second in the Intermountain League meet in Alamosa on Friday, Oct. 3. Rylan Ash, left, also earned individual all-conference honors.

Pirates earn all-conference honors at Alamosa meet

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A trio of Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country runners earned all-conference honors at last week's Zaragoza Invitational/Intermountain League (IML) Meet in Alamosa.

The Lady Pirates had two runners garner conference honors, with one Pirate boy earning conference honors and the Pirate boys' squad taking second among IML teams at the meet.

"I can't remember the last time that happened, so that was phenomenal," coach Josh Kurz said of the Pirates finishing second among IML teams behind Alamosa. "Alamosa's pretty untouchable."

Rylan Ash earned second-team all-conference honors, with Kurz pointing out he was two seconds out of finishing in the top five and making the all-conference first team.

"On paper, it didn't look like any of our girls could individually get into all-conference," Kurz said before highlighting both Madisen Stretton and Lily DeClark earned second-team all-conference honors. "They raced really well."

Stretton was the top finisher for the Lady Pirates on the day, taking 10th out of 57 runners with a time of 22 minutes, 41.29 seconds.

Kurz noted Stretton has taken off 3.5 minutes from her time on the same course as a freshman, and dropped 3.5 minutes from the Pirates' home course, making her the team's Monster of the Week for dropping the most time from the previous week.

"We talked about bustin' loose," Kurz said.

DeClark finished 12th overall in 23:07.67.

DeClark has been battling a knee injury that flared up, putting her in pain during the race, the coach explained.

"That was probably her worst race, but she still was ... second-team all-conference. Overall, she still had a

great race, it just wasn't what she'd quite hoped for."

Kaiya Lyons finished 18th overall with a time of 23:50.58.

"Kaiya has stayed positive despite battling a stubborn hip injury," according to the coach.

Lucy Rivera finished in 23rd, logging a time of 24:41.69, with Kurz noting Rivera "definitely contributes" and helps the team be competitive.

"I don't think she knows how fast she can be," he said, adding she shows a lot of potential.

Bella Jackson followed in 26th with a time of 25:10.07 despite racing sick, according to the coach.

The Lady Pirates finished fourth out of six teams overall and third out of the IML teams at the meet.

Ash logged a time of 18:04.17 to take sixth overall out of 65 runners on the boys' side.

Weston Sweet, who finished 16th with a time of 19:54.86, is "really coming on strong," Kurz highlighted.

Merrick Tudor took 21st with a time of 20:19.25, with Kieran Kurz following in 22nd with a time of 20:22.80.

"It was great to have Merrick and Kieran back, too. They both were big contributors," the coach notes.

Dylan Dempster finished in 20:36.18 to take 24th.

Dempster was the Monster of the Week for the boys, dropping 2:41 from his race the previous week.

"Dylan wasn't super happy with his race at Pagosa," the coach said, explaining he used his disappointment to fuel him to run harder in Alamosa. Liam McKnight followed in 25th with a time of 20:36.18.

"He had another good race," the coach said, adding he dropped 2:14 and has had two "really good races in a row."

Eli Nehring, who was also battling injury, according to the coach, finished 26th with a time of 20:41.18.

Jacen Easling finished 31st with a time of 21:30.24.

Stetson Osborn finished 34th in



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Lady Pirates Lily DeClark and Madisen Stretton run at the Zaragoza/Intermountain League Meet in Alamosa on Friday, Oct. 3. Both Lady Pirates earned all-conference honors with their finishes on the day.

21:52.65, and Isaac Hanto finished 37th with a time of 22:11.93.

Josh Kurz noted there's enough depth on the boys' squad that when one has a bad race, there are three or four others who can "fill in the gap."

He added, "They're definitely working together."

The boys were second among IML teams and third overall.

"The boys are super proud of themselves," the coach.

This week, the team will head to Mancos for the Chicken Creek Challenge, which is set to begin at 9 a.m.

The coach explained that, as the season is drawing to a close, the team is doing more speed work, noting Mancos is a fairly fast course and the

team's runners should be closer to the times they logged in at the Joe I. Vigil meet earlier this season.

He added the team is hoping to have several other boys join Ash in running times under 19 minutes and to continue to tighten the pack.

The coach added DeClark would be taking the week off, but will race in Mancos, and he hopes Jackson rebounds from illness.

"I feel like the girls can pack just like the boys," he said, adding he's hoping Rivera and Jackson can close the gap.

He added the hope is for Lyons to have a pain-free race.

"I feel like we're mending," he said. randi@pagosasun.com

Soccer

■ Continued from A11

deserve recognition for "playing big again."

"The team as a whole, I just couldn't be more proud of who they are," he said.

Gian explained that not every match is "pretty and perfect" and that the Pirates had to clean up a bit of a mess, but to be able to still get a couple goals, secure a shutout and walk away with a win is huge for their season.

He added that although he was disappointed with a few things in the match against the Panthers, "I'm so proud of the team being able to dig deep, to dig through those moments and maintain that record, and maintain the win and get the shutout."

Upcoming schedule

The Pirates will host the remaining five games of the regular season over the next week, beginning with the Alamosa Mean Moose coming to town on Friday, Oct. 10, with kickoff scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Mean Moose are 0-9-1 on the season.

The following day, Saturday, Oct. 11, the Pirates will host the Crested Butte Titans starting at 3 p.m. and will

have just a couple days break before hosting the Bayfield Wolverines for their final IML match of the season on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 5:30 p.m.

The Titans are 8-2-1 on the season, and the Wolverines are 6-7.

On Thursday, Oct. 16, the Pirates will host the Lake County Panthers at 4 p.m. for senior night.

The final match of the regular season is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 17, when the Pirates will host the Fruita Monument Wildcats at 2 p.m.

Gian mentioned the Pirates are hitting this stretch where "we really gotta dial in who we are" and stay mentally strong and structurally and technically sound.

"I'm invested in these kids," Gian said, explaining that he is really pushing for the Pirates to earn a first-round home playoff game.

He explained that he is looking to "bring the physicality back to us this week" as that was one thing lacking against Montezuma-Cortez.

He explained that the past two matches the Pirates have played have been at a slightly different pace, but with the run of five games coming up the Pirates can get back to just going out and playing games without getting stuck in a rut of practices. clayton@pagosasun.com



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DUST2 team ends regular season at Chalk Creek Stampede

By Adelyn Hittle
DUST2

Putting an end to a spectacular regular season, the Pagosa Springs DUST2 high school mountain biking team attended its last race of the regular season in Nathrop, Colo. (elevation 7687 feet), on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The course is located at the base of Mt. Princeton, creating striking views across the venue. The course features a 6.7-mile loop running counterclockwise with 443 feet of elevation gain per lap, including a mix of sandy, cactus-lined singletrack; technical downhill that plunge into the beautiful bottom of Chalk Creek; and pedally double and singletrack to end the course.

Varsity raced three laps of the course and the other categories raced two laps. The theme of this race was “Bike Rodeo,” and all of the DUST2 members made sure to show off their western attire. On Saturday morning, the racers prompted a flash mob in which they danced one line dance and one western swing dance to try to win the team spirit contest for this race.

The freshman boys began the exciting day of racing bright and early.

At 8:30 a.m., the freshman boys began their race with four Pagosa racers and 67 athletes overall.

The first to race in was Max Roukema in 31st position with a time of one hour, seven minutes to score 326 points for the team. The next to come in was Ward Halterman in 38th position with a time of 1:10, scoring 306 points. Amon Phillips raced across the line in 41st position, earning 300 points, with a time of 1:12. Drake Anderson came in shortly after in 64th position, earning 272 points, with a time of 1:46.

At 10:15 a.m., the Colorado High School Mountain Bike League recognized all of the 2026 seniors with a senior sendoff where all of the seniors rode through the pit zone areas receiving applause and recognition from everyone present. Pagosa has two seniors, Kaylee Hensle and Weston Phillips, who are both legacy riders (they have raced all four years of high school). Since Phillips and Hensle are legacy riders, they received gold race plates at the beginning of the season, and commemorative belt buckles.

The next categories to race were the junior varsity, sophomore and freshmen girls at 11:05 a.m., with a DUST2 racer in each category.

Hensle sped in with a time of 1:25, placing 24th and scoring 392 points for the team. In the sophomore division, Gianna Shaeffer came in fifth out of 18 girls with a time of 1:09 and scored 464 points for the team with the only DUST2 podium finish of the day. In the freshmen category, Quinn Howard placed 11th out of 29 girls



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets
JV rider Van Halterman, junior, vies for his position in the JV boys' race at the Oct. 4 Chalk Creek Stampede in Nathrop.

with a time of 1:14, scoring 420 points.

The JV boys were the next division to roll out at 12:30 p.m. with four Pagosa athletes. The first to come in for Pagosa was junior Justin Sewell in 26th with a time of 59 minutes (384 points). Shortly after Sewell, junior Jackson Chaney came in with a time of 1:01 to place 32nd (363 points). Junior Aaron Sowle was the next Pagosa rider to come in at 43rd place with a time of 1:02 (336 points). Junior Van Halterman came in shortly after with

a time of 1:09 to place 78th out of 114 participants (298 points).

The last category of the day to roll out was the varsity division, racing three laps at 1:55 p.m., with two representing Pagosa athletes. In the boys' division of 36 riders, Weston Phillips came across the line in 27th with a time of 1:28 (415 points). In the girls' division, Adelyn Hittle finished in eighth position out of 17 girls with a time of 1:36 (516 points).

When asked about how the team did and what the athletes' training was like to get to this race, coach Janine Emmets responded, “It's been amazing to watch our team race this year. We started our training two weeks earlier this year and the results were evident. We placed fifth overall in our division this season, and had athletes finishing in the top 10 at every race. What sticks out the most about our team is the support that they show each other. If they aren't racing, they are at the sidelines cheering on their teammates and waiting at the finish line to congratulate them. The team camaraderie is such a joy for me to see.”

Overall, the race day was another huge success filled with grit, support, dancing and fun. Most of the athletes rushed home to finish the full day with the Pagosa Springs High School homecoming dance, making it a day to remember.

The athletes are excited to compete at Glenwood Springs for the state race to finish out the season on Oct. 18 and 19.



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets
Senior and Varsity rider Weston Phillips, senior, sprints to finish his 20-mile race at the Chalk Creek Stampede on Saturday, Oct. 4.

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CMAS results: Percent of students who met or exceeded expectations							
	Archuleta	Alamosa	Bayfield	Durango	Ignacio	Montezuma-Cortez	State average
Math Grade 3	35.7	36.4	40.5	43.4	12.0	26.8	41.2
Math Grade 4	27.7	18.7	30.5	42.6	*	25.3	36.5
Math Grade 5	23.6	26.4	35.1	42.5	15.8	12.4	39.1
Math Grade 6	27.3	5.6	18.3	26.4	14.0	15.9	31.4
Math Grade 7	24.4	11.8	13.8	35.4	14.9	18.9	31.8
Math Grade 8	28.8	20.1	27.3	37.9	*	15.8	34.7
English Language Arts Grade 3	32.7	32.0	35.4	49.3	20.0	31.2	42.0
English Language Arts Grade 4	30.9	26.2	52.5	56.0	22.2	35.6	42.0
English Language Arts Grade 5	40.0	47.1	47.9	51.2	32.8	25.0	48.0
English Language Arts Grade 6	50.0	20.3	25.6	44.1	30.0	28.9	44.2
English Language Arts Grade 7	45.4	36.0	41.4	54.6	44.7	37.5	48.8
English Language Arts Grade 8	46.8	35.9	37.7	47.2	35.9	26.7	43.9
Science Grade 5	34.6	31.7	40.2	45.7	30.9	14.5	39.0
Science Grade 8	30.8	22.2	32.9	37.6	28.2	22.2	36.4
Science Grade 11	20.7	14.4	17.3	38.3	33.3	26.4	25.0
PSAT/SAT mean scale score results							
PSAT Grade 9	864	790	861	926	758	799	880
PSAT Grade 10	882	823	856	957	805	834	917
SAT Grade 11	947	912	949	1029	914	898	987
An * denotes a sample size too small to report.							
Numbers listed above include all applicable schools within each district as provided by Colorado Department of Education.							

School boards discuss assessment data

By Randi Pierce and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

The staff and boards overseeing Archuleta County’s public schools recently discussed the district’s and schools’ spring 2025 standardized assessments.

The Archuleta School District Board of Directors and Superintendent Rick Holt discussed the district’s results on the Colorado Measure of Academic Success (CMAS), PSAT and SAT on Sept. 9, with the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Board of Directors and School Director Emily Murphy discussing PPOS’s CMAS results on Sept. 17.

ASD

At the Sept. 9 meeting, Holt presented the assessment data as part of a larger strategic initiative update.

He highlighted that the number of students who have met or exceeded standards has continued to grow in English language arts (ELA).

Overall for grades three through eight in ELA, 42 percent of students met or exceeded standards on the CMAS test during the 2024-2025 school year, even with 2023-2024, though the percentage of students in the category for exceeding standards increased from 6 percent to 7 percent.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 32 percent of students met or exceeded expectations, while in 2021-2022, that number was 28 percent.

“That number has continued to grow over time,” Holt said. “We didn’t see the kind of growth that we had seen from [2023] to [2024], but, frankly, that was such a big step that I was really please to see that we were, yeah, consistently making small growth there.”

Holt added the goal is to keep the number of students in the lowest category, not yet meeting expectations, closer to 10 percent, but that that is something the district is working on.

For 2024-2025, 17 percent of students fell into that category, up from 14 percent in 2023-2024. In 2022-2023, that figure was 18 percent, and in 2021-2022, it was 21 percent.

Holt noted the district was in a similar situation with its math performance.

In 2024-2025, 29 percent of students met or exceeded expectations, with 3 percent falling into the exceeded category. The year prior, 28 percent of students fell into the top two categories, with 2 percent exceeding expectations. In 2022-2023, 21 percent met or exceeded, with that figure being 18 percent in 2021-2022, with both years having 1 percent of students in the top performance tier.

“We held onto the growth we made,” Holt said. “I was very encouraged.”

For 2024-2025, 19 percent of students fell into the not yet meeting expectations category, compared to 16 percent in 2023-2024, 24 percent in 2022-2023 and 25 percent in 2021-2022.

Holt then presented on proficiency trends in the district, calling it “pretty remarkable” that ELA and math were both increasing by roughly the same rate each year, with equal growth in both areas.

He noted the growth was a little flatter last year, but that the district is still headed in the right direction.

He added that the state proficiency level has gained at a slower rate than the district’s.

Holt then noted it isn’t just about the district’s performance, but that it wants to be a value-add program that sees students growing.

He noted the district’s 2024-2025 CMAS ELA growth was in the 55th percentile, with math growth falling at the 50th percentile.

Holt then presented on proficiency trends in the district, calling it “pretty remarkable” that ELA and math were both increasing by roughly the same rate each year, with equal growth in both areas.

He added the goal is to stay between the 55th and 63rd percentiles.

“We need to keep that number up so that we continue to make growth towards state averages and that eventually exceed state averages,” he said.

Holt then transitioned to discussing the PSAT and SAT, which he explained are looked at in terms of a mean scale score, or the average score students are receiving.

Students take the PSAT in ninth and 10th grade, while students take the SAT in 11th grade.

Holt indicated there were slight increases in the PSAT and a slight decrease in the SAT, but nothing to be concerned about.

Holt noted the district’s minority students are performing closer to the state average in reading and writing than its nonminority students.

Holt acknowledged there’s more to growth and performance than the academic side and later explained that the schools can see the diagnostic results and make adjustments to what they are teaching.

PPOS

At the Sept. 17 PPOS board meeting, Murphy began by explaining there were a one-year, two-year, multiyear and 2025 CMAS report to review.

She noted the focus of the school is the current year CMAS results.

“What I’d like to focus on for this year is increasing the number of students who are meeting expectations” instead of focusing on certain percentile marks, she said.

Murphy explained that one of the main focuses of the school’s major improvement strategy is its math interventionist programs.

She noted that the first challenge to focus on is achievement in ELA, and then the math growth goal.

Murphy noted that when looking at percentages of students who met or exceeded expectations, it grew from 24.5 percent in 2023-2024 to 32.1 percent in 2024-2025.

In regard to growth in math, Murphy commented that “what is actually

interesting about this” is that 75 percent of students who met or exceeded expectations were returning students at PPOS, while only 25 percent of students who have not met or exceeded expectations were returning students.

Murphy commented that there “has to be more to this,” but mentioned that it indicated to her that if the school can hold onto its students, achieving the math growth goal is realistic.

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HOME COMING 2025



Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs High School
Homecoming at Pagosa Springs High School included a number of traditional activities last week, including a dance, pep rally, sports and more.

Outdoors

October Big Day, Migratory Bird Day activities planned for Oct. 11

By Jean Zirnheld
Weminuche Audubon Society

Two fall events that celebrate birds occur this week on Saturday, Oct. 11, and you can participate.

October Big Day brings together people who care about birds and contribute to the effort to understand how bird populations are faring worldwide. Every year the number of participants increases. The spring counterpart to this event, held in May, was tallied by 1.8 million birders from 204 countries, showcasing how the love of birds can unite people worldwide.

Adding to this important dataset

is easy. Simply list the bird species and numbers of each that you see in any location and enter your data on ebird.org. You may count for as little as 10 minutes anytime between midnight and midnight on Oct. 10 to participate. Count birds at your home or submit a list from your favorite location to watch birds. Every bird counts. If you are new to ebird, visit ebird.org to learn how to set up an account.

Also occurring on Saturday, Oct. 11, is World Migratory Bird Day. The goal of this global effort is to raise the awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

Migratory birds rely on good habitat at their winter homes, along the paths of their spring and fall journeys, and in their summer breeding areas to survive. They may travel through several countries each year.

The theme of this year's Migratory Bird Days is "Shared Spaces." This movement is dedicated to creating bird-friendly cities and communities.

Urban development and other human activities pose survival challenges to birds and other wildlife who share the earth with us. In addition to urging area officials and developers to utilize bird-friendly practices in new planning, there are simple actions that we can take to protect

birds. Among them are treating glass to prevent bird strikes, planting native plants in your home space, keeping cats indoors, providing clean water all year, eliminating pesticide use, keeping skies dark at night and purchasing sustainably grown foods like shade-grown coffee that support birds where they winter.

Following are some tips from Audubon Rockies for creating a bird-friendly yard.

This fall, go easy on yard cleanup. Leave those dead flower heads and ornamental grasses rich with seeds standing to provide winter food for birds. Protect over-wintering insects by raking leaves into tree and shrub beds or into small piles in your yard for winter insulation. If practical, provide a small brush pile.

And, plan for spring additions of native plants to your living space by checking out Habitat Hero resources on audubon.org/rockies.

Colorado wildlife on the move

Colorado State Patrol

Wildlife-vehicle collisions can happen year-round, but there is an increase during the winter migration season, especially between dusk and dawn hours, when animals move to lower elevations for the coming winter.

Many species of Colorado wildlife are highly vulnerable to being struck at this time of year because it is also their peak mating season. They are more mobile, easily distracted and more likely to be crossing roadways.

"Last year troopers responded to 3,777 crashes involving wildlife, with October, November and December as the most active months," explained Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol. "Whether it is elk in the high country or pronghorn on the plains, there is no area of our state that doesn't have wildlife. So, it is up to all of us to remove distractions and watch out for these beautiful animals."

Some of the most high-risk areas, according to Colorado Parks and

Wildlife, include:

- Interstate 70 (Floyd Hill, Mt. Vernon Canyon and Eagle).
- U.S. 285 (Morrison).
- U.S. 160 (Durango to Pagosa Springs and Durango to Mancos).
- U.S. 550 (north of Durango and from Montrose to Ouray).
- Interstate 25 (Castle Rock to Larkspur).
- Colo. 82 (Glenwood Springs to Aspen).
- U.S. 36 (Boulder to Lyons).
- Colo. 93 (Golden to Boulder).

Wildlife collisions cause heavy damage and frequently the animal does not survive. The most effective way to reduce the likelihood of a crash and the intensity of the damage is for drivers to drive the posted speed limit. And, if for any reason visibility is decreased, they should consider reducing speed further.

Tips for avoiding a wildlife crash

- Don't exceed the speed limit.
- Scan roads (or shoulders) for

movement, eye shine.

- Use bright lights at night when safe and flash your lights at oncoming cars to warn of wildlife on the road.
- If you have time and space behind you, stop for wildlife on the road/use hazard lights.
- Be aware of groups: Remember that if you see one animal, there may be others nearby.

If you encounter an animal and do not have time to safely brake in a straight line, the right choice is to drive through, keeping in your lane. If you are traveling in an outside lane with the white stripe to your right or a single lane, angle slightly to hit the butt of the animal. Never swerve or jerk your vehicle's wheel.

If you are involved in a crash with an animal, the Colorado State Patrol wants you to call 911 just as you would in any other emergency. In addition, if you witness wildlife in distress from possibly being struck on or near the side of the road, call *CSP for the proper resource to be notified and sent to the scene.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

Weed management on sensitive sites

By Ethan Proud and Cindi Galabota
SUN Columnists

Weeding is a quintessential part of gardening, whether it be vegetable or ornamental or nature's garden, for invasive species.

In sensitive sites, the best recommendation is usually to simply hand-pull the undesirable plant.

When it comes to species like field bindweed and Canada thistle, this recommendation comes with a lot of laborious hours spent on all fours teasing roots from the ground that will inevitably come back as the plants form a clonal colony and can have roots up to 30 feet long. That means that they have a lot of root reserves to feed aboveground growth, and you may have decades of weeding ahead of you.

In other cases, you may be managing a huge infestation of noxious weeds around a commodity that you want to protect and hand-pulling is not an option, and disking or tilling would also hurt the desirable species you want to keep.

In these situations, herbicides can be used judiciously to decrease the coverage of weeds and increase space available for the desirable species. The first step is to determine which areas need treated carefully and what level of nontarget damage is acceptable. If no nontarget damage is acceptable, you can use Solo cups or cardboard to create a physical barrier between the weed and the plant you want to keep. It's important that these barriers get discarded and not reused after the application.

Not all herbicides are created equal, as some have a longer residual and can be taken up via the roots of nearby plants. In sensitive sites, use herbicides that have a short soil residual to prevent damage after the application. It's important to also consider the volatility of a product and the temperature of the day you will be applying it so the product does not evaporate and damage nearby plants.

As always when using an herbicide, read the label; it's the law.

Other sensitive sites can include: around trees, riparian areas, drainages, etc. For these some of the same precautions can be used and, if applying near water, make sure that the product label permits such use.

Archuleta County Weed and Pest is your local resource for managing noxious weed populations and controlling other pests.

Be Prepared for an Emergency workshop

There will be a Be Prepared for an Emergency workshop with Cindi Galabota, CSU Extension director; Lacy Capre, Archuleta County Public Health outreach specialist; and guests on Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. at the CSU Extension building at 344 U.S. 84.

This free workshop will cover the best practices for preparing for and recovery from winter emergencies.

Women in Ag conference

The third annual Women In Ag state conference — "A Climate of Resilience" — will take place on Nov. 13 and 14 at the La Plata County Fairgrounds.

This is an engaging and empowering event focused on educational opportunities and networking for

women across the state involved in all types of agriculture, from small farms and nontraditional agriculture to large cow-calf ranches.

Save the date

Save the date: There will be a CSU Extension Open House on Nov. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Meet our team and learn how we can help you and help our community.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally on the third Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

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Photos courtesy Healthy Archuleta

The Oct. 4 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo was a success, providing a variety of services and information to community members.

Public Notices

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Archuleta District Court
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
YOLANDA HYLTON, ERNESTO J. MORENO, MARGARITA DELAROSA, CECILIA PERDUE, EDUARDO MORENO, JOSEPH DOMINGUEZ, LINDA DURAZO, LOIS AARON, MARIA E. ALVARADO, MICHAEL HANSON, FRANCES HENDERSON, DALE HANSON, REBECCA THORPE.
Plaintiffs,
v.
THE CHAVEZ FAMILY TRUST; CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of THE ESTATE OF JOSE NEMENCIO CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of THE ESTATE OF AURELIA CHAVEZ, and as an individual
Defendants,

JULIAN J. MORENO, MICHAEL MORENO, ANTONIO MORENO, MELVIN MORENO JR., DAVID MORENO, MARTIN JAMES, SEDONDINO MORENO, ANITA MORENO, MONA CERVANTES, LOLA MORENO, LIZA MORENO, LAURA MORENO, FRANCES P. AARON, and OTHER VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES HEREIN IDENTIFIED AS "JOHN DOES" OR "JANE DOES".
Interested Parties.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs:
Joseph N. Harrell, #52695
Stephen T. Scheffel, #54050
Thomas N. Scheffel & Associates, P.C.
3801 E. Florida Ave., Suite 600
Denver, CO 80210
Phone: (303) 759-5937
Fax Number: (303) 759-9726
Email: jharrell@tnslaw.com
Case No.: Div.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, individually
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35* days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within 35* days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
This action concerns the ownership and distribution of certain real properties previously held by the Estates of Jose Nemencio Chavez and Aurelia Chavez. Plaintiffs assert that they hold valid and enforceable ownership interests in the subject properties as heirs to the estates. Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment under Colorado Rule of Civil Procedure 57 to determine the validity and extent of their ownership interests in the properties. Additionally, Plaintiffs assert claims for unjust enrichment, alleging that Defendants have benefited from the use and sale of the properties without compensating Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs request an award of damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and any other relief deemed just and proper by the Court.
Dated this 30th day of September, 2025.
Published in the: Pagosa Springs Sun.
First Publication: October 9, 2025.
Last Publication: November 6, 2025.
TNS ASSOCIATES, P.C.

/s/Joseph N. Harrell
Joseph N. Harrell, #52695
Stephen T. Scheffel, #54050
3801 E Florida Ave., Ste. 600
Denver, CO 80210
Phone: (303) 759-5937
Emails: jharrell@tnslaw.com
sscheffel@tnslaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
(This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4(g), Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure. This form should not be used where personal service is desired.)
(TO THE CLERK: When this summons is issued by the clerk of the court, the signature block for the clerk or deputy should be provided by stamp, or typewriter, in the space to the left of the attorney's name.)

*Rule 12(a), C.R.C.P., allows-35 days for answer or response where service of process is by publication. However, under various statutes, a different response time is set forth; e.g., §38-6-104, C.R.S. (eminent domain); §38-36-121, C.R.S. (Torrens registration).
Published October 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275121)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Archuleta District Court
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
YOLANDA HYLTON, ERNESTO J. MORENO, MARGARITA DELAROSA, CECILIA PERDUE, EDUARDO MORENO, JOSEPH DOMINGUEZ, LINDA DURAZO, LOIS AARON, MARIA E. ALVARADO, MICHAEL HANSON, FRANCES HENDERSON, DALE HANSON, REBECCA THORPE.
Plaintiffs,
v.
THE CHAVEZ FAMILY TRUST; CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of THE ESTATE OF JOSE NEMENCIO CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of THE ESTATE OF AURELIA CHAVEZ, and as an individual
Defendants,

JULIAN J. MORENO, MICHAEL MORENO, ANTONIO MORENO, MELVIN MORENO JR., DAVID MORENO, MARTIN JAMES, SEDONDINO MORENO, ANITA MORENO, MONA CERVANTES, LOLA MORENO, LIZA MORENO, LAURA MORENO, FRANCES P. AARON, and OTHER VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES HEREIN IDENTIFIED AS "JOHN DOES" OR "JANE DOES".
Interested Parties.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs:
Joseph N. Harrell, #52695
Stephen T. Scheffel, #54050
Thomas N. Scheffel & Associates, P.C.
3801 E. Florida Ave., Suite 600
Denver, CO 80210
Phone: (303) 759-5937
Fax Number: (303) 759-9726
Email: jharrell@tnslaw.com
Case No.: Div.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Trustee of THE CHAVEZ TRUST
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35* days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within 35* days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
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Dated this 30th day of September, 2025.
Published in the: Pagosa Springs Sun.
First Publication: October 9, 2025.
Last Publication: November 6, 2025.
TNS ASSOCIATES, P.C.

/s/Joseph N. Harrell
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
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Published October 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275122)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Archuleta District Court
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
YOLANDA HYLTON, ERNESTO J. MORENO, MARGARITA DELAROSA, CECILIA PERDUE, EDUARDO MORENO, JOSEPH DOMINGUEZ, LINDA DURAZO, LOIS AARON, MARIA E. ALVARADO, MICHAEL HANSON, FRANCES HENDERSON, DALE HANSON, REBECCA THORPE.
Plaintiffs,
v.
THE CHAVEZ FAMILY TRUST; CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of THE ESTATE OF JOSE NEMENCIO CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of THE ESTATE OF AURELIA CHAVEZ, and as an individual
Defendants,

JULIAN J. MORENO, MICHAEL MORENO, ANTONIO MORENO, MELVIN MORENO JR., DAVID MORENO, MARTIN JAMES, SEDONDINO MORENO, ANITA MORENO, MONA CERVANTES, LOLA MORENO, LIZA MORENO, LAURA MORENO, FRANCES P. AARON, and OTHER VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES HEREIN IDENTIFIED AS "JOHN DOES" OR "JANE DOES".
Interested Parties.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs:
Joseph N. Harrell, #52695
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Email: jharrell@tnslaw.com
Case No.: Div.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Trustee of THE CHAVEZ TRUST
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint filed with the Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35* days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the Court.

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Dated this 30th day of September, 2025.
Published in the: Pagosa Springs Sun.
First Publication: October 9, 2025.
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
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Published October 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275123)

in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275123)

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON October 23, 2025

LPEA has applied for a utility substation, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT at 2140 County Road 500, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN25-079). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 284-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on October 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published October 9 and 16, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275118)

INVITATION TO BID: The Town of Pagosa Springs is soliciting bids from qualified entities for **Janitorial Services**. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosaprices.co.gov for details and instructions on the request for proposal.
Published October 9, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275077)

INVITATION TO BID: The Town of Pagosa Springs is soliciting bids from qualified entities to provide site clean-up to complete a **Quart Order to Abate**. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosaprices.co.gov for details and instructions on the request for proposal.
Published October 9, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275079)

INVITATION TO BID: The Town of Pagosa Springs is soliciting bids from qualified entities to replace the sewer pipe at **McCabe Creek**. Please visit the Town's website at www.pagosaprices.co.gov for details and instructions on the request for proposal.
Published October 9, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275078)

NOTICE CONCERNING PROPOSED BUDGET OF PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
NOTICE is hereby given to all interested parties that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District for the ensuing year of 2026; that a copy of the 2026 Budget has been filed in the office of the District at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where the same is open for public inspection; and on the District's website, www.pawasd.org and that such proposed 2026 Budget will be considered at a Public Meeting of the Board of Directors of the District to be held at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Any elector within the District may, at any time prior to the final adoption of the 2026 Budget, inspect the budget and file or register any objections thereto.
PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
By /s/ Gene Tautges
President, Board of Directors
Published October 9, 2026 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275057)

NOTICE OF INTENT FOR A CONTINUOUS PROGRAM TO INCREASE WINTER PRECIPITATION
Western Weather Consultants L.L.C. (WWC), P.O. BOX 58, Durango, CO 81302, has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District for the ensuing year of 2026; that a copy of the 2026 Budget has been filed in the office of the District at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where the same is open for public inspection; and on the District's website, www.pawasd.org and that such proposed 2026 Budget will be considered at a Public Meeting of the Board of Directors of the District to be held at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Any elector within the District may, at any time prior to the final adoption of the 2026 Budget, inspect the budget and file or register any objections thereto.
PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
By /s/ Gene Tautges
President, Board of Directors
Published October 9, 2026 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275057)

The program will run from November 1 to April 15 each year through 2030. Safety measures are in place for severe conditions, avalanche danger, and snowpack thresholds. The Permit Holder must annually supply emergency managers with an operational plan and coordinate with the WCWB to ensure safe operations as directed by the Colorado Revised Statutes. The intended effect of all operations is to increase precipitation and snowpack water content in the primary target area, benefiting natural habitats, agriculture, municipal water supplies, stock growers, recreation, tourism, and the local economy. Complete details are available from WWC by mail or by emailing westernweather@gmail.com. The WCWB will conduct a public hearing on the permit renewal application on October 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Comments can be submitted to Andrew Rickert, WCWB, 1313 Sherman Street, Suite 718, Denver, CO 80203, at 720-651-1918, or by emailing andrew.rickert@state.co.us to obtain Zoom access.
Published October 2 and 9, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (274629)

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
Archuleta County Combined Courts Case number 2001 C134 (Petitioner) Dale Stone & Corey Stone vs. (Respondent) Jason Chavez & Betsy Chavez (This publication will run for 5 weeks in the PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN October 9, 2025 through November 6, 2025 TO THE ABOVE NAMED Petitioner you are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Respondent with this court in this action, by filing with the clerk of the court an answer or other response You are required to file your answer or responses within 5 weeks of this publication. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publications. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court Archuleta county combined courts. If you fail to file your answer or other responses to the complaint in writing within 5 weeks of the publication, judgement by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the petition without further notice.
This action: Motion to dismiss permanent protection order
6/27/25

Archuleta Combined Courts 109 Harman Park Dr. Pagosa Springs, CO.
Jason X Chavez
jasonxchavez10@gmail.com
This summons is issued pursuant to the Rule 4(g) Colorado s of Civil Procedure, Rule 12(a), C.R.C.P., allows

for -35 days for answer or responses where service of the processes by publication
Published October 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275058)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received a design standard variance application for the property located at 1868B Majestic Drive. The applicant is proposing to install a steel storage building and is requesting a variance from the Town's design standards to exceed the maximum allowable 35% metal façade requirement. The Board of Adjustments will conduct a public hearing on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 5:30 pm to consider the Variance Application, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comment will be taken in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round Minutes and Agendas tab located along the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosaprices.co.gov. You may also view the application at mypsagosa.org/proposed-development-projects. We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions via phone at 970-585-8636 or email at kunnell@pagosaprices.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing.
Published October 9, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275119)

This notice is to inform Arthur Grine II, last known address: Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, that the items stored in unit B08 of Renner's Mini Storage located at 177 Bastille Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 will be sold or disposed of due to lack of payment. This notice will be published in the Pagosa Sun on both October 9, 2025 and October 16, 2025 with the sale or disposal of items taking place at a later date of our choosing.
Published October 9 and 16, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (275054)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Legal advertising

Deadline: Friday 4 p.m.*

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

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

2026 Business Happy Hour lottery now open

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The annual Business Happy Hour lottery is now open to all Chamber members throughout the month of October.

These networking events occur every month on the fourth Thursday of the month and are co-hosted by a Chamber member business and the Chamber of Commerce.

New businesses, businesses interested in showing off new products or services, or any that would like to gain more exposure are perfect candidates. Businesses can host a Business Happy Hour on their own, partner with neighboring businesses or collaborate with a business that may not have a storefront presence or a nonprofit agency that does not have much office space.

Hosting businesses provide light appetizers or other food, and the Chamber provides the beverages. You can plan fun activities, provide discounts or giveaways and make it a fun evening for the attendees. With the new date of Thursday evenings, it can be a fantastic way to kick off the

weekend by attending a Business Happy Hour, finding out more about the host business and networking with other business owners.

The process to enter your business into the lottery is simple. Choose the top three months that you would like to host a Business Happy Hour and contact Anna Snow, our membership coordinator, at info@pagosachamber.com with your interest by Oct. 31 with your preferred months.

The lottery drawing will take place on Nov. 3 and businesses will then be notified.

Hosting businesses will get exposure through marketing of the event, an opportunity to highlight their business and products, and potentially expose their business to new customers.

For more information about hosting a Business Happy Hour, contact the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

Self-nomination period for board of director candidates open

It is that time of year when many nonprofit organizations have a changing of the guard for their board of directors. The Chamber of Com-

merce Board of Directors is no exception.

Changing out board members and term limits is healthy for an organization. It allows the organization to have experience while welcoming innovative ideas and personalities onto the board. The Chamber of Commerce every year elects three new board members while three members rotate off the board after a three-year term.

The Chamber strives to have on its board a diverse group of business representatives since the organization has such a wide range of business types.

To self-nominate to run for the board of directors, the nominee must meet for the following criteria. First, the business must be a Chamber member business for a minimum of six months. If elected to the board, the term for the directors is three years. Attendance at monthly meetings is required and occasionally special subcommittee meetings. Volunteering at Chamber events and Business After Hours is also required.

A slate of six candidates is compiled and put before the Chamber membership. Of the six candidates,

three are elected to serve for a three-year term.

As many issues face our businesses and community, we are looking for business representatives to help us work on these issues and continue to assist our businesses with advocacy, education and support.

If you are interested in running for the board of directors, you can view the nomination form on the Chamber's website at www.pagosachamber.com under community and Chamber news.

Fill out the form and return it to Sandy Douthey at the Chamber by Nov. 7.

Should you like to learn more about being on the board, you can contact Douthey at the Chamber at (970) 264-2360 or director@pagosachamber.com, or reach out to any of our current board members. A list of those members can also be found on the Chamber's website at www.pagosachamber.com/board-of-directors-and-staff/.

We look forward to reviewing the self-nomination forms and we thank those in advance for their interest and dedication to commit your time and energy.

Water conservancy talks office relocation, end of lease

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 6 special meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed the relocation of the district's office following its lease not being renewed.

The district's offices are currently located at 46 Eaton Drive.

SJWCD board president Candace Jones explained that the district's landlords contacted her with a notice of nonrenewal on Oct. 1.

Jones stated that the landlords, who operate another business that is located in the building, indicated that they had no objection to the SJWCD as tenants, but that they recently secured funding to expand their business and now needed more room.

She added that the district's lease is currently expired, mean-

ing that its offices were the easiest place for the landlords to secure additional space by removing the district as tenants.

Jones indicated that the landlords provided 60-day notice, with the SJWCD being asked to leave by Dec. 5.

She stated that she asked if the district could have until the end of the year to prevent it having to move its office over Thanksgiving week, but the landlords did not respond to this request.

She commented that the district should have a strategy to leave by the middle or end of November by

either looking for a new space immediately or placing the items in its office in storage and looking for a new office later.

SJWCD board members Charles Riehm and Rob Hagberg commented that the district could hold its meetings at a variety of locations in the community.

SJWCD board member Joe Tedder volunteered to present office space options to the board at its Oct. 20 meeting, noting that he and SJWCD Executive Assistant Sally High have already been looking at alternative office spaces and there appear to be

Local reporting that matters.



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Our membership plan is a simple and affordable annual subscription that includes regular cleanings, exams, and x-rays at no extra cost, plus discounts off additional treatment. There are no deductibles, annual maximums, waiting periods, claim denials, pre-approvals, or other restrictions.

And your benefits start as soon as you sign up!

For only \$36 per month, you'll receive:

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PLUS, your plan includes **a 15% discount off** dental treatments!

To learn more and sign up today, go to clerri.com/BQ9S or contact us at info@pagosa.dentist or 970-264-9436

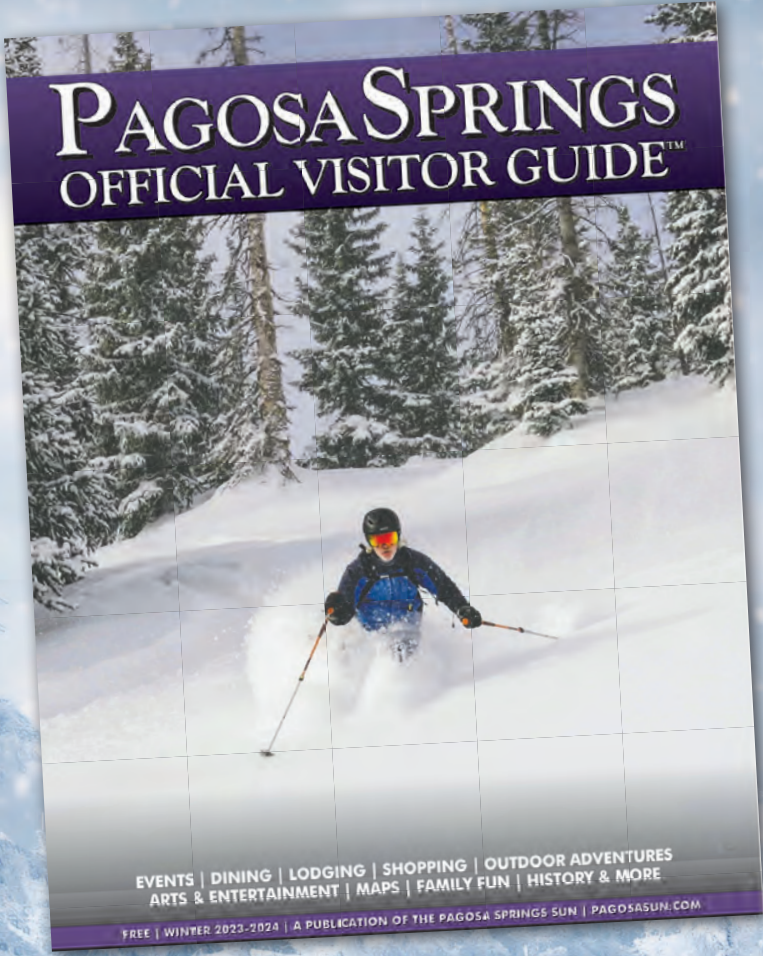


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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Friends of the Library Book Sale

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • Saturday, Oct. 11 • 277 Lewis St.



Photo courtesy Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

Friends of the Library to host book sale Oct. 11

By Katie Dobbins
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

Mark your calendars, book lovers. The Friends of the Library's pop-up book sale will be Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. You'll find new and gently used books at excellent prices, and a selection of fiction and nonfiction titles, children's books and much more. Members of the Friends of the Library, teachers,

nurses and first responders can buy one and get one free for up to 10 free items. The sale is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get there early for the best selection. Use the downstairs parking lot entrance. Not yet a Friend of the Library? Annual membership is \$15 for individuals or \$25 per family; a lifetime membership is \$150 for an individual. To learn more, visit www.pagosalibrary.org or stop by your Ruby Sisson Library.

Learn more about Locally Haiti's work empowering rural Haiti at Oct. 12 event

By Holly Boyd
Locally Haiti

Communities all over the world are suffering from natural disasters, warring factions and unstable governments that fail to provide for the basic human needs of water, food, medical care, education and employment. My heart is particularly moved by the people of Haiti after traveling there with our youngest daughter in 2013. Souls there have endured devastating earthquakes and hurricanes, government instability and gang violence in

the capital of Port-au-Prince. In the face of so many challenges, it was surprising to learn that hope for a better world begins in the rural community of Petit Trou de Nippes, Haiti. Several years ago, while surfing the internet for any good news from Haiti, I ran across the website for a Colorado-based nonprofit called Locally Haiti. Its stated mission: "We advocate for and invest in locally led initiatives to support the vision of our partner communities in rural Haiti." That vision is being realized in

Petit Trou through a partnership of more than 35 years between Locally Haiti and an ever-emerging group of talented and creative local leaders. As a result of this partnership, the community is thriving, even in the face of multiple challenges. The Petit Trou Community Hospital and Health Center was officially opened in February of this year. It was designed and built in partnership with local government and community health leaders and the Haitian Ministry of Health. Locally Haiti provided

■ See Haiti on next page

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Wonder Bread, 7 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: KNFRMST, 7 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock 'n' Rebels, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jonny Keys, 5 p.m.

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Healthy Archuleta to host Growers and Producers Forum Oct. 16

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is pleased to announce its upcoming Growers and Producers Forum, dedicated to

Haiti

■ continued from previous page

financial support and expert design and construction collaboration, and is funding salaries for some of the staff. The inauguration of the hospital was an inspiring event in the community; the prime minister and minister of health of Haiti came for the festivities, showing that this project is a “source of hope” to the entire country.

Through the years, Locally Haiti has provided high-quality education to more than 5,000 local children from pre-K through high school. About 698 students are currently enrolled there. The curriculum includes core academic subjects, as well as art, entrepreneurship, sports and agriculture. A robust girls’ empowerment program offers fun activities while teaching the importance of education, economic independence and self-advocacy.

Locally Haiti also provides scholarships to graduates to continue their studies at a regional university.

Many of the people of Petit Trou have been farmers, but their livelihoods have been threatened by lack of investment, soil degradation and the effects of climate change. As a result, access to healthy local food for families has been a serious issue.

Once again, the partnership between Locally Haiti, local leaders and farmers is resulting in practical programs to address that challenge.

St. Paul School has a student gardening club in addition to classroom instruction on botany, biology and horticulture. A local beekeeping expert manages hives and does continuing education with a local beekeeping cooperative. A 1.6 acre demonstration garden on the grounds of the new hospital has a variety of fruit trees, vegetables and flowering bushes where residents can receive training and seeds to start their own garden.

The creative collaboration between the people of Petit Trou and Locally Haiti provides a pattern for hope for other communities in Haiti and around the world.

Please join us on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 5 p.m. at the Liberty Theatre for a fun evening of food, drink and music by Locally Haiti’s director, Wynn Walent. A film made in Petit Trou will be shown that tells the story of Locally Haiti through the eyes of a local leader.

St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church is helping sponsor this event, and Wynn will be speaking there during worship that Sunday morning.

Holly Boyd lives in Pagosa Springs and serves on the board for Locally Haiti.

fostering a vibrant and resilient local food system in Archuleta County.

The forum will take place on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Community United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

The Growers and Producers Forum provides a crucial platform for community members, experienced

farmers and novice growers to gather, network, learn and share experiences.

These forums are designed to empower a sense of collective action and knowledge toward an equitable, health-promoting and sustainable community-based food system.

■ See Forum on next page

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow, Thingamajig Theatre Company
Laura Moore as Maria Callas demonstrates Lady Macbeth’s entrance to Samantha Luck (Sharon Graham), with Dale Scrivener (Manny Weinstock) at the piano in “Master Class.” Additional performances are set for Oct. 10 and 11 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

‘Master Class’ returning Oct. 10 and 11

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Terrence McNally’s *Master Class* is part lecture, part confessional and part gladiatorial match. At the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (PSCA), Laura Moore embodies Maria Callas with wit, ferocity and startling vulnerability. The result is a production that has captivated audiences and critics alike, earning praise as one of Thingamajig Theatre Company’s finest presentations. The premise is deceptively straightforward: Callas, once the most celebrated soprano in the world, presides over a voice class with three ambitious young singers. Yet the lesson is never simply about singing. Callas’ fierce critiques and razor-edged humor slip effortlessly into recollections of triumphs, betrayals and sacrifices that defined her

career. In this space, the line between teacher and confessor blurs — and the audience becomes witness to the cost of greatness. Moore’s performance is at once commanding and intimate, summoning the grandeur of Callas while revealing the raw humanity beneath the diva’s armor. She is matched by a strong ensemble: Ellie O’Hara, Trevor Brown and Samantha Luck as the brave students who weather her storm; and Dale Scrivener at the piano, who provides both music and dry counterpoint to the tempest onstage. Together, they give the play both bite and balance. Scott Morehead rounds out the cast as the unimpressed stagehand and plays an unintended and delightfully humorous foil to Callas. Audiences have responded warmly, with many praising the production’s sharp humor and emotional

depth. Critics have highlighted the clarity of the staging, humorous banter and Moore’s commanding performance. Performances have already sold out — a clear sign of the play’s resonance and appeal. For those who missed it — or those who want to experience it again — “*Master Class*” returns for a brief encore this weekend at the PSCA, with performances on Oct. 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are extremely limited and moving quickly. This is not just a play about music. It is about the price of ambition, the beauty of imperfection and the way art leaves its mark long after the curtain falls. At the PSCA, Callas’ lesson is clear: Theater at its best is as unforgiving — and as unforgettable — as life itself. For tickets and show information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Forum

■ continued from previous page
Attendees can expect discussions on various topics aimed at addressing the challenges and opportunities within local food production. Past forums have covered critical areas such as soil health, season-extension techniques, access to resources, and strategies for increasing local food supply and equitable distribution.

This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in local food production to connect, share insights and contribute to the growth of our community’s food system. Whether you are an experienced farmer, a backyard gardener or simply interested in learning more about local food, your participation is invaluable. The forum encour-

ages the sharing of opportunities and challenges, working together to create a vital local food system in our area. To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta and upcoming events, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send an email to fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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Tickets are also available by Calling 970-264-2167 or by visiting our office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.





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Locally Haiti presents
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Sunday, October 12
5pm: Drinks & Snacks
5:45pm: Program Begins

Free Entrance

Liberty Theatre
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Pagosa Springs

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Learn more at locallyhaiti.org

Healthy Archuleta to host professional cultural competency session in mental health

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy communities thrive on collaboration between health care providers and the community, recognizing diverse perspectives and cultural backgrounds.

To foster this essential understanding, Healthy Archuleta is pleased to announce an upcoming cultural competency and integrated mental health training facilitated by respected psychiatrist Dr. Jose Canaca.

This session will take place on Monday, Oct. 13, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Canaca, a board-certified psychiatrist and associate professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM), brings extensive experience working with vulnerable populations in rural communities across Latin America and New Mexico, including Native American, Hispanic/Latino communities and immigrants. He is a leader in cultural psychiatry lectures at UNM and has collaborated with COMISCA.

This professional development session aims to enhance ongoing intercultural development, self-reflection and understanding of cultural contexts, particularly within Archuleta County's rich Hispanic and Latino communities.

The training will emphasize cultural humility, encouraging health care providers to view each patient as unique, shaped by experiences such as heritage, migration, socioeconomic status and family.

Through active listening, valuing cultural knowledge and fostering collaborative relationships, the session will highlight how to honor traditions, build trust, reduce disparities and ultimately improve the quality of care for Latino individuals facing mental health challenges. A key focus will also be on addressing mental health stigma within the Hispanic and Latino community to encourage open discussion and seeking help.

Health care professionals interested in attending this vital training are encouraged to RSVP to fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

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Pagosa Community Initiative to host financial wellness workshop

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

A community-focused financial workshop is coming to the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) on Oct. 22 at 6 p.m., offering practical guidance on budgeting and the path to homeownership.

Organizers emphasize that seats are limited, and an RSVP is required by Oct. 17 to ensure adequate materials and dinner arrangements.

The event aims to provide attendees with relatable, step-by-step strategies for managing household budgets, saving for major milestones and understanding the basics of securing a home loan. Attendees will

■ See Workshop on next page

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Photo courtesy Al Myatt

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs’ annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance brings together friends and neighbors for a fun-filled, community-building evening. Every ticket sold helps fund Rotary’s many charitable programs in Pagosa Springs.

Kick up your heels for a cause at Rotary’s 10th annual barn dance

By Terri House
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

On Saturday, Oct. 18, the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse at 230 Port Ave. will be transformed into a lively western dance hall for the 10th annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance.

From 7 to 10 p.m., guests will enjoy the sounds of Vanishing Breed, featuring Colorado Country Music Hall of Famer and longtime area

favorite Odis Sikes. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The evening is packed with more than just great music. Guests can bid in a silent auction filled with unique experiences and treasures — from four rounds of golf with a cart at a South Fork golf club to a half-day guided fly-fishing adventure (valued at \$450), a Yeti cooler brimming with accessories, ski rentals for two, an overnight getaway with fine dining in Ouray, and even a horse-drawn

wagon ride paired with a two-night stay at a charming local bed and breakfast. Add in gift cards to popular

■ See Dance on next page

Workshop

■ continued from previous page

hear from a seasoned loan officer and receive resources designed to help families and individuals navigate financial planning in today’s housing market.

The workshop will be held at PCI, 550 B Hot Springs Blvd.

To RSVP, contact Carrie Blue-White at cblue@trustedrate.com or call/text (949) 683-4646.

Dinner will be provided.

What to expect:

- A practical look at budgeting fundamentals tailored to everyday decisions.
- An overview of the path to homeownership, including cost considerations, credit readiness and loan options.
- An opportunity to ask questions

in a respectful, zero-pressure setting.

This workshop is designed for community members who want clearer, more reliable guidance on financial planning and homeownership, whether they’re just starting to budget or ready to take the next step toward purchasing a home.

Attendees are encouraged to RSVP soon to help organizers plan for seating, materials and the dinner service.

The RSVP information and the workshop content are provided for educational purposes to enhance financial literacy in our community. The event is one of several community PCI offerings and is aimed at empowering residents with practical tools for managing finances and planning for the future.



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Project Sanctuary named finalist in 2025 Defender Service Awards

Project Sanctuary

Project Sanctuary, a Pagosa Springs-based nonprofit dedicated to helping military families heal and thrive, has been selected as a finalist in the 2025 Defender Service Awards.

The organization is competing in the Veteran and Civil Servant category, a recognition that honors groups making extraordinary contributions to their communities.

As a finalist, Project Sanctuary has already earned \$5,000. With the support of public voting, it has the chance to win a custom Land Rover Defender 130 vehicle and an additional \$30,000 to strengthen its mission.

At the heart of Project Sanctuary's work are therapeutic retreats that bring military families together to reconnect, recover and thrive. But, the work isn't easy and it requires vehicles that can handle the rugged mountain terrain of Colorado and beyond.

"Our current vehicles have over 200,000 miles and are no longer reliable," said Heather E. Ray, founder and CEO. "Yet we depend on them every day to pick families up from the Durango airport — 90 miles away — to haul gear and supplies through dirt roads, and to get families to essential outdoor therapy activities."

The new vehicle would allow staff to:

- Transport veterans, military families and first responders safely and reliably.
- Operate year-round in all weather and conditions.
- Support retreats in partnership with groups like the Chip Terry Fund

Dance

■ continued from previous page restaurants, and there's truly something for everyone.

Hungry dancers will be treated to hearty fare from one of Pagosa's favorite food trucks, serving up house-smoked brisket and chicken thighs with classic fixings, green chile mac and cheese, coleslaw, and dinner rolls — all for \$20 per plate (sold separately from the dance ticket).

To keep the fun going, contests for best dressed and best dancer will invite everyone to join in the spirit of the night.

And, the cash bar will debut a special signature cocktail: The Barnstormer. This bold yet refreshing blend of Canadian whiskey, peppermint schnapps, dark and white crème de cacao, and a splash of lemon juice is shaken over ice — the perfect sip to toast an evening of music, dancing and celebration.

The event's proceeds directly support the club and Rotary's scholarship program, which helps local graduates pursue higher education or vocational training. Over the past



Photo courtesy Lynn Shore

Participants take part in a group activity at a retreat at Project Sanctuary's Patriot Pines. The organization is a finalist in the 2025 Defender Service Awards.

and Shield of Sisters.

At Patriot Pines, Project Sanctuary welcomes military families and first responders for retreats that include shared meals, outdoor activities and a safe place to heal together. A dependable vehicle would ensure no family is left behind, no matter the weather, the road or the challenge.

"This vehicle wouldn't just serve us," said Heather. "It would serve hundreds of families every year, helping us grow from simply maintaining what we have to scaling what we offer."

Project Sanctuary is calling on the community to help make this vision a reality. By voting daily through Oct. 19, supporters can bring home the Defender Service Award and help ensure

military families have the resources they need to heal.

Vote daily at <https://www.landroverusa.com/experiences/events-and-sponsorships/defender-service-awards/index.html>.



2026 PSMC EMT Certification Class

What: Informational Meeting

When: Tuesday, October 21, 5-7 p.m.

Where: PSMC EMS Training Room
189 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PSMC will present class information including:

- Broader healthcare opportunities with EMT training
- Program expectations and schedule, must be 18 to register
- Potential program tuition and reimbursement opportunities

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Popular e-books and digital audiobooks available free 24/7 from Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library

By Taylor Worsham
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library

As people increasingly read and listen to books on their smartphone or tablet, they're discovering one of the best resources is their local public library.

Archuleta County residents can access a wide selection of popular digital e-books and audiobooks free from the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. With a library card, members of the community can borrow from the digital collection by downloading Libby, the award-winning reading app from OverDrive, or visiting <https://coloradodc.overdrive.com/>.

Assistant Director Taylor Worsham said, "All of us here at the library are thrilled to add Libby to our suite of electronic resources. Libby is incredibly user-friendly and the content selection is outstanding."

She added, "While we're going through construction at our physical location, it's important to remember that the digital library is always open."

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ics' 20 Best Apps of the Decade, Libby seamlessly connects first-time users and experienced readers with the Ruby Sisson Library's digital collection.

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Mountain Chile Cha Cha winners announced

By Jacque Aragon
Mountain Chile Cha Cha

The winners of the Mountain Chile Cha Cha's margarita contest and Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic have been announced and are as follows.

Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic

The Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic winners are as follows.

Home Cooks Veggie

- First place: Isabel Herrera, V5.
- Second place: Molly Witting, V7.
- Third place: Melissa Buckley, V4.

Home Cooks Meat

- First place: Crystal Young, M35.
- Second place: Herrera, M13.
- Third place: Andrea Archuleta, M15.

People's Choice

- First place: Brooke Spears, M28.
- Second place: Hank Beckman, M18.
- Third place: Ritual Pagosa, V1.

Restaurants

- First place: Ritual, M1.
- Second place: Boss Hogg's, M8.
- Third place: Mountain Pizza, M2.

Restaurant salsa competition

The winners of the restaurant salsa competition are as follows.

Traditional

- First place: Morena's Lonchera.
- Second place: Pagosa Peak Restaurant.
- Third place: Ritual.

Sweet

- First place: Ritual.
- Second place: Los Dos Charros.
- Third place: Pagosa Peak Restaurant.

Margarita competition

The margarita competition winners are as follows.

Judges' Choice

- Flavored:
First place: The Springs Resort.
Second place: Hidden Tracks.
Third place: Los Dos Charros.
- Traditional:
First place: Kip's.
Second place: Los Dos Charros.
Third place: Riff Raff.

People's Choice

- Traditional:
First place: The Springs Resort.
Second place: Riff Raff.
Third place: Los Dos Charros.
- Flavored:
First place: The Springs Resort.
Second place: Hidden Tracks.
Third place: Uncle's.



Escape to your private sanctuary on this lovely 3-acre treed lot, complete with a convenient circular driveway. Nestled in a desirable neighborhood where all properties are at least 3 acres, this home offers unparalleled privacy and a serene setting. Abundant local wildlife provides a daily connection to nature. Step inside from the covered front porch to a spacious kitchen featuring granite counters. Relax in the living room or formal dining room, where large windows frame breathtaking views of the East Range and Square Top. A partially covered deck off the dining room is perfect for enjoying the peaceful outdoors. Despite the quiet surroundings, you are only a quick five-minute drive from town via Highway 84. MLS #828583. <https://pspixeltree.com/120-Big-Horn-Ct>

Price Reduced



120 Big Horn Court • \$565,000

Discover an exceptional single-level home in the prestigious Ranch Community, nestled on a sprawling acre-plus lot. Meticulously crafted with every detail in mind, this residence exudes quality and sophistication. The thoughtful design features three spacious bedrooms and two bathrooms, seamlessly integrated with an open-concept kitchen, dining, and living area—perfect for modern living and entertaining. A dual-sided gas fireplace, connecting the living room and primary suite, creates a warm, inviting ambiance for cool evenings. Step outside to the expansive covered deck, complete with a private hot tub, ideal for relaxing while soaking in breathtaking sunsets. Positioned at the end of a tranquil road, this home offers serenity and convenience, with Lake Pagosa just a short stroll away and a premier golf course nearby. Properties of this caliber are rare—don't miss the opportunity to own this extraordinary retreat. MLS# 826768 <https://pspixeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>

Price Reduced



240 Glade Drive • \$1,125,000



33 Fawn Court
\$949,000

MLS # 824532

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, up-town near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Relax on the covered deck or backyard patio while taking in stunning mountain views. Inside, the open floor plan connects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appliances, and an island for extra prep space. The primary bedroom and bathroom are conveniently located on the main floor. A 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms and a full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space for entertainment or an office, plus a fourth bedroom set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS # 822945

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

To tour this home go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>

Price Reduced



470 Terry Robinson Road
\$675,000

MLS # 828394

1.7 Acres without a property owners association and great views of Echo Lake and the East Range. 1 bedroom, 1 3/4 baths, an office, a large open loft and unfinished basement with a 2 car garage, 4 carports and RV parking, 3 covered decks, lots of storage and did I say it is only 4 miles from town. The circular driveway is large and the front porch is screened in. Close to shopping and dining and close to paved roads. Please note, the basement square footage has not been included with this listing as the basement is unfinished.



\$7,500 in Buyer Concessions

471 Deer Trail
\$346,000

MLS # 826138

Discover your mountain retreat in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath log cabin, in Aspen Springs 1 on well-maintained Deer Trail, just a half-mile from Hwy 160. This 1,205 sq. ft. cabin features a living room, dining area, modern kitchen, and a full bath on the main level, with two bedrooms upstairs. The kitchen boasts new cabinets, countertops, and flooring. A wood stove enhances the cabin's ambiance. The property is equipped with a state-of-the-art water filtration system, including reverse osmosis, water softener, and on-demand hot water, professionally installed.

Price Reduced



109 Carol's Curves
\$250,000

MLS # 824583

The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dog's and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.



324/356/294 Sparrow Circle
\$325,000

MLS # 821243

3 separate lots 4.5 Acres total with no HOA or Covenants. This 2-bedroom 1 bath home is purged and is in very good shape. This is a very solid home with a well-constructed snow shed over the top. There is a 2-vehicle carport and a workshop behind the carport. There is a road behind the house going up the hill to get to a couple of nice building sites. The views are amazing up there. This is an awesome property and if needed the two vacant lots could be sold separately.



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30 High Drive — MLS # 794628 — \$55,900

38 Heron Court — MLS # 821320 — \$45,000



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Domestic Violence Awareness Month: What’s with all the purple ribbons?

By Phoebe Schroeder
Rise Above Violence

Every October, purple ribbons start appearing all over Pagosa Springs. But who’s putting them there — and why?

Turns out, it’s us. We’re Rise Above Violence, the same folks behind the Runway for Rise Recycled Fashion Gala fundraiser, and the Clothesline Project you’ll see this month at the high school and hospital. We are a local nonprofit that serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Twice a year, we hang ribbons around town to spark conversations about domestic violence and sexual assault, but also, more importantly, to remind survivors that they are not alone.

Did you know that if you filled the stands at a Pagosa Springs High School basketball game, the odds are that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men sitting there have lived through — or are currently experiencing — domestic violence?

That number can feel overwhelming, and we understand that. Which is why we love this year’s national theme for Domestic Violence Awareness Month: “Walk With Survivors.”

This theme captures the most effective, everyday ways any of us can support the people we know and love who are living with abuse.

Advocates and survivors alike tell us that three things make the biggest difference:

- Listening without judgment.
- Believing and affirming.
- Offering consistent support.

But, what do these look like in real life?

Listening without judgment means letting someone share their story without interruption, shame, or blame — and without jumping straight to fixing the problem (unless they ask for that).

Believing and affirming can sound like: “I believe you. I’m so sorry this happened — and thank you for trusting me with it.”

And perhaps the hardest, but most powerful, step is offering consistent support. Sometimes, when a survivor first opens up, friends and family rally around them. But when the situation stretches on, especially if they stay, people’s support can fade. Checking in, even months later, can make a world of difference. It lets survivors know they still have someone in their corner, no matter what.

These three actions — listening, believing and showing up consistently — are what it truly means to walk with survivors. They’re not grand gestures or expert interventions; they’re everyday acts of empathy that remind survivors they don’t have to walk alone. When we choose to listen without judgment, to believe someone’s story and to keep showing up even when it’s hard, we’re walking beside them on their path toward safety, healing and hope.

It’s not our job to walk their path for them, or to push them toward what we think they should do. Every survivor’s situation is different. When we respect their choices and keep showing up with compassion instead of judgment, that’s what true support looks like, and that’s what it means to walk with survivors.

This past weekend, our community truly embodied what it means to “Walk With Survivors” at our Runway for Rise Recycled Fashion Gala. Together, we raised more than \$78,000 to support those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. These funds will directly impact the lives of survivors, providing them with resources, support and hope when they need it most.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who made this success possible. To our generous sponsors who believe in our mission, our compassionate donors who gave so freely, and every attendee who showed up to stand with survivors — thank you for your unwavering support.

A special thank you goes to the 10 incredible teams who brought creativity, passion and purpose to the runway and to our dedicated volunteers who gave their time and energy. Your commitment to this cause reminds survivors that they are not alone and that their community stands ready to walk beside them.

Just like the purple ribbons around town, your presence at this event sends a powerful message: We are here, we are listening and we will continue showing up with consistency and compassion. Together, we’re not just raising funds — we’re raising awareness, raising hope and raising the possibility of a community where everyone can live free from violence. Together we rise.

You are not alone in this, if you or someone you know needs support, Rise Above Violence is here 24/7. Call (970) 264-9075 or visit riseaboveviolence.org.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS**
- 1 Baseball's Slammin' Sammy
 - 5 NBC's "Meet the _____"
 - 10 Babe in the woods
 - 14 Bearded flower
 - 15 Flaxlike fiber
 - 16 Direction at sea
 - 17 Young chaps
 - 18 Like some imaginations
 - 20 Shrub with olivelike fruit
 - 22 Gold Rush mill owner
 - 23 Computer data unit
 - 24 Bedtime request
 - 26 Give it a whirl
 - 28 Some IRS workers
 - 33 Consequential
 - 35 American relief org.
 - 36 Chilly attitude
 - 37 Circled the sun
 - 40 Goalie's gear
 - 41 Preparing a needle
 - 43 Cardiologists, et al.
 - 46 Poetic tribute
 - 47 "Green ____"
 - 48 Long time, to a Brit
 - 50 Man of many words
 - 53 Reservoir's outlet
 - 57 Lab worker
 - 59 Break bread
 - 60 Archipelago part
 - 61 Gill or Vaughn
 - 62 Bart's teacher
 - 63 Poker game
 - 64 Gardener's tool
 - 65 Within earshot
- DOWN**
- 1 Fodder building
 - 2 Kind of hygiene

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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43				44	45						46			
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50	51	52					53	54					55	56
57						58					59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

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- 3 Adjacent
- 4 Test, as ore
- 5 Keeps safe
- 6 Rant and ____
- 7 "Nature" essayist
- 8 Title for Galahad
- 9 Ticket type
- 10 Omega-3, e.g.
- 11 Stepped down
- 12 "____ Only Just Begun"
- 13 At no time, in verse
- 19 Rudely terse
- 21 No longer fresh
- 25 After-class aides
- 26 Loses one's footing
- 27 Go over
- 29 Royal home
- 30 Company that's "on your side"
- 31 What's hot
- 32 Wetlands plant
- 34 Without injury
- 38 Lawyer's fee
- 39 Swiss city on the Rhine
- 42 Sounding like a mad cat
- 44 Screen symbol
- 45 Get there
- 49 Like days gone by
- 50 Redding of soul
- 51 Take it easy
- 52 Rights org.
- 54 Walk to and fro
- 55 "Up in the Air" actress
- 56 Kendrick
- 58 Calendar span
- 58 El ____ (Spanish hero)

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Our Community Eats receives \$5,000 grant to support bread-baking program

By Katherine Solbert
Our Community Eats

Our Community Eats (OCE) is honored to announce that we have been awarded a \$5,000 micro-grant from the Colorado Grain Chain, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating a vibrant, community-centered grain economy in Colorado. This generous grant will allow OCE to purchase organic grains grown right here in Colorado for our food pantry program, The Giving Grain.

With this support, our team of bakers will begin baking fresh, nutritious bread using some of Colorado's finest organic grains — grains that are not only rich in nutrients, but also deeply rooted in local agriculture and heritage.

The Colorado Grain Chain is committed to shortening the distance between grain producers and consumers, thereby strengthening our local economy, promoting sustainability, and empowering small farmers and businesses. Its mission includes healing the soil through regenerative practices, celebrating ancient and locally adapted grains, and advocating for foods that offer superior nutrition and flavor.

Thanks to this micro-grant, OCE will be sourcing grains directly from farmers in the San Luis Valley, Mancos and the eastern plains of Colorado.

The varieties we will be using include:

- Organic hard red spring/winter wheat.
- Organic spelt.
- Organic Ryman rye.
- Organic white Sonora wheat.
- Organic Turkey red heirloom wheat.

Additionally, we are excited to of-

fer organic quinoa from the San Luis Valley through our pantry.

This gift from the Colorado Grain Chain will allow us to share wholesome, nutrient-rich breads with individuals and families in Archuleta County and surrounding areas, many of whom are struggling to access fresh, quality bread. There's something uniquely comforting about a

warm slice of bread, whether served with soup or made into a sandwich, and we are thrilled to be bringing that comfort to our community.

We are so grateful for the Colorado Grain Chain's support and excited to launch our bread-baking program.

To learn more about OCE or support our mission, please visit ourcommunityeats.com.

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Bread of survival, bread of soul

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

In February, 1990, Betty Lucero walked into my gallery in Albuquerque, N.M. She came in like a dust storm from Clovis, changed my displays, named my paintings and became my lifetime friend. Over the years, she introduced me to her Spanish family and culture. My life is enriched by this friendship.

I visited my friend and her family recently in Clovis, N.M. Her son, Eli Lucero, an artist in the kitchen, planned to cook a meal for my family and serve it when we arrived at 2 o'clock that Saturday.

I knew of Eli Lucero's passion in the kitchen, cooking authentic Mexican recipes. I didn't know he would tell the wonderful stories of his family as he served the food. That day was more than food; we were living the past from his family and culture.

One of the foods on the menu that day was his bread, cooked over pecan flames in a black iron skillet on his outside grill. This is one of his stories about the bread he served, a story about his grandfather, Antonio Salazar.

"El Cocinero del Campo": Story told by his grandson, Eli Lucero.

They call New Mexico La Tierra del Encanto, the Land of Enchantment. But, for me, it has always been more than enchantment. It is survival, it is culture, it is cultura. It is the

Artist's Lane

stories that smolder in the campfires of men who forged their way through grit, determination and fire.

And in those stories, in that smoke, one name rises again and again — my grandfather, Antonio Salazar, El Cocinero del Campo.

I pictured it as though I was there, in Sombrero, Vaughn, where the sheep camps scattered across the frontier. Dawn like a blade of light across the high desert, the bleating of sheep and the cold whistle of wind. Men waking tired, with dust in their throats and calluses in their hands.

My grandfather would dig the pit, lay the lumber and set the parrilla or the Dutch oven just so. And then the smell — smoke from mesquite and piñon, curling low, carrying the promise of warmth. In that smoke, I can almost hear the sound of bread rising against iron and flame.

They didn't call him Antonio in the camps. They called him El Cocinero del Campo, the Cook of the Camp. He knew the fire like other men knew their wives. He could read the coals, judge the wood, feel the heat without ever lifting a hand. Into

that heat he placed the dough, scored with his craft, sealed with patience and prayer.

Pan de campo. Field bread. Shepherds' bread. The bread of survival, the bread of soul.

For in those rough gatherings of men, far from home, it wasn't gold or railroads or politics that gave comfort. It was bread, pulled from the fire. Hot loaves torn open in rough hands, steam rising like incense. Bread that carried the taste of earth, smoke and

■ See Lane on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



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SUDOKU

5				6	2		1	
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4	3				1	7		
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Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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

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Lane

■ continued from previous page labor.

With every loaf, he gave them more than food. He gave them belonging. Even in the wilderness, far from pueblos and families, there was cultura. There was memory. There was God.

Decades later, I find myself lighting my own fire. I feel the heat on my hands, smell the smoke in my hair and I didn't know why I was so drawn to bread baked in Dutch ovens over open flame.

Until one morning, over a breakfast burrito and Guatemalan coffee, my uncle Benny, the son of Antonio, looks at me and says, "Did you know my father was known as the cook of the camp? He was known for making the best pan de campo in a Dutch oven over the fire."

In that moment, everything aligned. The sparks, the heartbeat of history I understood. I had not been cooking alone. The smoke and the fire that calls me back to the parrilla, the

dough rising in bowls on my counter, it isn't chance. It is blood. It is memory. It is Antonio's hand on my shoulder, guiding me back to the flame.

This is not just food. This is not nostalgia. This is cultura, the enduring culture of New Mexico. The Spaniards who came with sheep and song. The settlers (like my grandma Carmen) who plastered walls with blue clay dug from Sombrero soil. The men who laid rails across valleys and the women who raised families in adobe homes.

All of their lives, all who breathe in the bread. And all of this cultura is resurrected every time I kneel before the flame and place dough into the Dutch oven, just as my grandfather once did.

The sheep are gone. The camps are quiet. The frontier has changed. But the title remains. The honor remains. The name whispered through smoke remains. I cook with him still. I cook with El Cocinero del Campo.

Final brushstroke: Eli Lucero

served our family more than food. He gave us belonging. He taught us about his proud heritage and we discovered El Cocinero del Camp in his grandson, Eli Lucero.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service on Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. will be "Choosing a New Timeline for Your Spiritual Fulfillment- What Is Yours?" with Shayla Azriel.

A love donation will be accepted. The service will take place at Xanadu Retreat. Contact (970) 510-0309 for more information.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious

paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self." Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity.

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



2026 Proposed Town Budget Taking Shape

Your Town Council and staff have been busy developing a proposed annual budget to guide Town-wide operations in 2026. The budget serves as an important policy document and sets expectations for service delivery to

the community. It also aligns with the Town Council's goals and objectives for the coming year.

Over the next few weeks, Town Council will discuss the budget at two separate public hearings. Share your feedback about the proposed budget and learn more about town finances at pagosasprings.co.gov.

- Public Hearing #1: Tuesday, October 21, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall
- Public Hearing #2 and Budget Adoption: Tuesday, November 6, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Election Season is Here

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, and residents are encouraged to make a plan to vote! There are several state and local issues for voters to consider. You may register to vote, check your voter status, or get additional information by visiting www.govotecolorado.gov or contacting Archuleta County's election office at 970-264-8331.

Snow Know-How

As mild fall weather turns cold and snowy, please remember to be patient and follow local snow removal rules to keep our community safe. Did you know? The Town maintains 30 miles of streets in winter, plowing once snowfall reaches two inches or when roads become unsafe. Residents and businesses have snow removal responsibilities, too! Please remember to clear snow and ice from sidewalks next to your property within 24 hours after the snow ends. Learn about Town plowing operations, snow routes, your responsibilities, and more at pagosasprings.co.gov/snowremoval.



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View the town's monthly e-newsletter online at
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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

RUNWAY FOR RISE RECYCLED FASHION GALA

Photos courtesy Jeff Laydon

Scene ... walking with survivors at the Oct. 4 Runway for Rise Recycled Fashion Gala, where more than \$78,000 was raised to support those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault in our community. These funds will directly impact the lives of survivors, providing them with resources, support and hope when they need it most.



Unitarian Universalists continuing discussion on hope

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

People often ask, “What do Unitarian Universalist’s believe?” Being fully aware that it is not a question easily answered, here is what the Unitarian Universalist Association website states:

“We are people of all ages, people of many backgrounds, and people of many beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the world.

“Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. We covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries.”

This description may put words to answer the belief question, but it may also be an opening for curious minds and hearts to ask more questions. This week, our Sunday program is the Going Deeper Sharing Circle, where we gather to explore our own beliefs while listening deeply to one another in a safe environment.

On Oct. 12, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, we will continue to explore themes of hope, “a muscular hope,” as offered by Krista Tippet, host of the “On Being” podcast. This session highlights the work of Adrienne Maree Brown, who has been described as a “social creative, a scholar of belonging.”

In this circle we allow space for reflection and for whatever else is on our hearts. This is an open circle and all are welcome to practice the art of listening with others. Light refreshments are offered.

As part of our revised Action Sunday offering, we will move to a book group format on the fourth Sundays of the month. The first selection, “Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection” by Deepa Iyer, can be found at your favorite book dealer or

e-reader sites. More about the book is available at <https://uuabookstore.org/products/social-change-now>, and/or read the following comments by reader Pauline Benetti.

“I had just begun reading what appeared to be a very short book when I realized that much of its value lies in the self-interrogation ... which, if taken seriously, can take a very long time. It is literally a workbook that offers a framework for individuals, collectives and organizations on a social change journey. It defines the stages of the journey from readiness to weariness to wisdom; it maps a number of social change roles and in both instances asks the reader to self-identify. Finally, it identifies the promise of social change through connection and solidarity. My hope is that this slim volume will be the tool to help me transform outrage and despair into effective action appropriate to the role I have identified as mine. I hope you will join us for what promises to be enlightening discussion and learning.”

As a community hub, the Pagosa UU Fellowship offers its space for ongoing programs and events that are not directly UU, such as the weekly meditation practice led by a certified instructor each Sunday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sessions include meditation instruction, practice, study and chat. Beginners are welcome to jump in anytime. Bring a friend. A Zoom option is available for those unable to attend in person. Find our email on the website PagosaUU.org to be added to the list for notices from the instructor.

In addition, the Wise and Wakeful Circle will begin meeting at the fellowship space this month. The group will meet the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, starting Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m. Facilitated by Dr. Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, its purpose is to: “connect heart to heart in a one-hour gathering for meditation, inspiration through a spiritual reading and discussion, and healing affirmations to support our healing, awakening, and manifesting a compassionate life

and world.” It is open to all who align with the values of respect, peace and authentic connection.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located at Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. For more information about the fellowship, please see the website and look for our current newsletter.

Trinity Anglican Church



“Whoever exalts himself shall be brought low. But whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.” Come and humble yourself before the Lord, and join us for worship this Sunday at 10am.

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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 Wilson's warbler.

By this time of year, most of our summer wood warblers have departed for warmer winter ranges, but this one sticks around a little longer. Its breeding range extends farther north than others, and includes areas throughout Alaska and across Canada, south through the Rocky Mountains, and down ranges of the west coast. In Colorado, it breeds at higher elevations than other warblers.

Unlike warblers that spend their time high in the canopy, this one forages at lower levels and doesn't require neck contortions to spot. In the high country, it favors willow habitats that support abundant insect life like the ones bordering mountain streams, ponds and wet meadows. The majority of these warblers nest on the ground in low, dense stands of willows, alders and shrubs.

This is primarily an insectivorous bird that feeds on adult and larval forms of insects and spiders. It is an active forager seemingly always in motion, flicking its wings and wagging its tail as it hops within a shrub. It will also dart out to nab an insect flying by.

On their winter range in the highland oak forests of Mexico, Wilson's warblers also feed on the sugar rich secretions of scale-insects. These sap-sucking insects pierce plants to feed on the food-transporting phloem layer and excrete excess sugar and water in a sticky mixture known as honeydew.

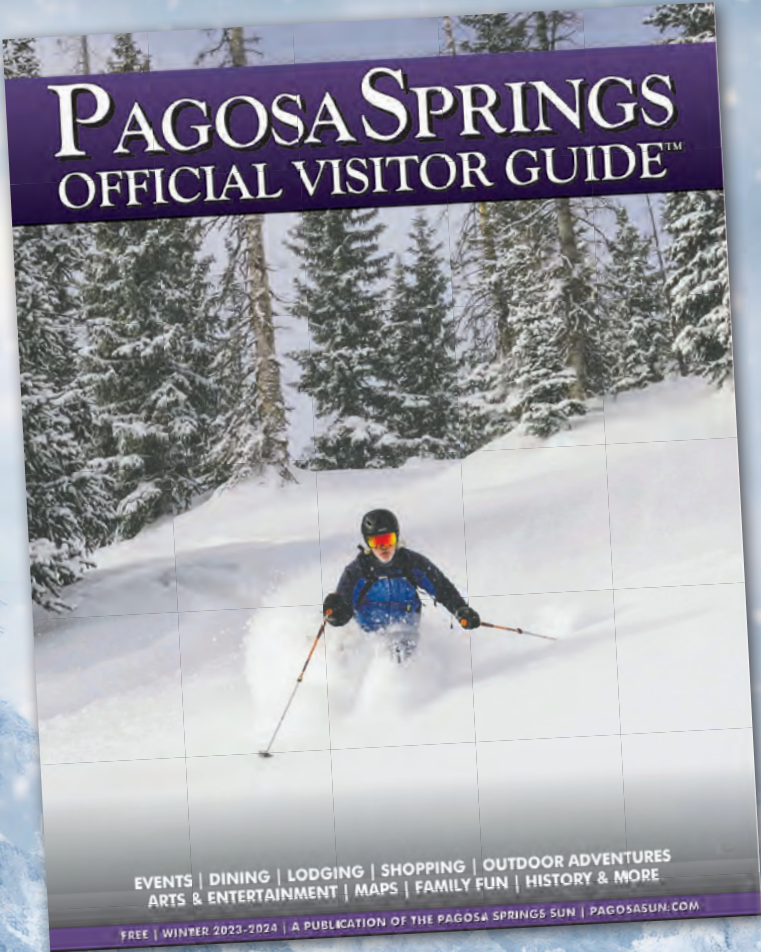
The Wilson's is one of North America's smallest warblers. They are bright yellow below, have olive-colored backs and black, beady eyes. Adult males wear a beret-like black cap of feathers. Some females show a small black cap, but most have an olive-colored crown.

Wilson's warblers were the test species used in developing a program that compares DNA differences in a single feather between populations to determine the breeding origin of birds encountered along their migratory pathways. This research has evolved into the Bird Genoscape Project, whose goal is to target limited conservation resources to areas where they are needed for North America's most threatened birds.

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



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Archuleta Health Fair and Expo celebrates health and wellness

Healthy Archuleta

The 2025 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo, held on Oct. 4, was a resounding success, bringing together a diverse array of health services, community organizations and enthusiastic participants for a day dedicated to well-being.

The event highlighted the importance of accessible health resources and fostered a strong sense of community commitment to a healthier Archuleta County.

The fair featured a wide range of activities and services, including hearing screenings, eye care services, a mobile vaccine clinic and blood pressure readings. Oral health screenings and dental hygiene instructions were provided along with breast exams, and student athletes were offered ECG heart screenings.

Educational booths covered topics such as wellness, physical health, mental and behavioral health, and dental health, offering valuable information and resources to attendees. The event also showcased a delightful farm-to-table lunch by Chef Todd Stevens, emphasizing healthy eating with local ingredients.

The success of the 2025 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo would not have been possible without the incredible support and dedication of numerous individuals and organizations. We extend our deepest gratitude to Pagosa Springs High School for sharing their space to host the event and our generous sponsors who made this event possible.

We also want to thank all the vendors and exhibitors who participated. Your presence and commitment to health education were invaluable.

A special thank you goes to the many community organizations that contributed to the fair, providing information and engaging with participants. The event was powered by the tireless efforts of our dedicated volunteers, including phlebotomists, lab runners, registration staff, navigators and lunch support. Your commitment ensured a smooth and welcoming experience for all attendees.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the entire community for showing up, engaging with the resources, and actively participating in a day of health and wellness. Your enthusiasm is a testament to our shared vision for a healthier Archuleta.

The Archuleta Health Fair and Expo serves as a powerful reminder that health is not just a single event, but an ongoing journey. We encourage everyone to carry the spirit of this day forward, making health-

■ See Health on page 19

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*Dr. Julie completed a 2 year fellowship at the **Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine** at University of Arizona

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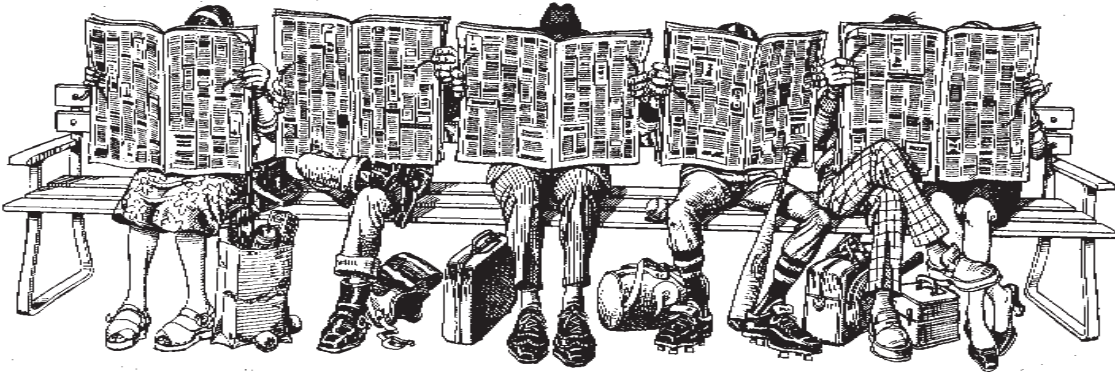
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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Oct. 9

'This Waterfall Rocks' Geology Hike and Fall Colors. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required at sjma.org/events.

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Great House Tour. 10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call

(877) 444-6777.
Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Online Author Talk. 5 p.m., virtual. Watch nationally renowned authors give hourlong presentations live via Zoom, or watch the recording later. "10 Years of Daring Heists and Lovable Outcasts in YA Fantasy" with

Leigh Bardugo. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Friday, Oct. 10

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour.
■ See Calendar on next page

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Health

■ continued from page 17
promoting choices every day and working together to create a community where well-being is a constant priority for all.

The Archuleta Health Fair and

Expo is an annual event dedicated to promoting health and wellness in Archuleta County by providing accessible health screenings, educational resources and fostering community connections.

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HEALTHY SELF

WALKING MAY SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER YOUR STRESS (part 2)

Continued from last week.

By comparison, the people who walked at a low-intensity pace but didn't meditate showed no improvements until the 14th week, and even then, the effects weren't as significant.

On the other hand, the people who engaged in mindful exercise experienced results that were very similar to those reported by the walking-plus-meditation group, suggesting that other mental techniques could yield stress-busting benefits.

According to Rippe, one of the most impressive findings from this research is the immediacy with which walking can relieve stress.

The study also provided good news for those who aren't able to engage in high-intensity exercise: They can capitalize on walking's stress-busting effects just by practicing meditation or another mental technique during their strolls.

And for those who find relaxation exercises tedious or boring, the study proved that a brisk walk can do just as good a job of short-circuiting stress.

Source: A Step Ahead of Stress: Discover how to optimize the stress-busting benefits of walking. By Maggie Spilner. <http://www.prevention.com/fitness>

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

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

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

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Isaiah 12:3

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural village and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for ages 5-12. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer. 5:30 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Alamosa.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Master Class.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Oct. 11

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8-10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Friends of the Library Pop-up Book Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St. Find new and gently used books at excellent prices while supporting the library.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, call Marie Roscoe at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church

at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Great House Tour. 10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Sit and knit or get help with your project. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome. A Sisson Library program.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer. 3 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Crested Butte.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Master Class.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Oct. 12

Great House Tour. 10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Locally Haiti Event. 5 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 418 Pagosa St. Join for a fun evening of food, drink and music by Locally Haiti's director, Wynn Valent. A film made in Petit Trou, Haiti, will be shown.

Monday, Oct. 13

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church

classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Great House Tour. 10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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

Stroll of the Three Sisters Tour. 1:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour along the Mesa Village Trail, where they will learn about an agricultural village and the crops and other foods grown and gathered there. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 and up and \$8 for ages 5-12. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Cultural Competency and Integrated Mental Health Training. 5:30-6:30 p.m., virtual. A Zoom training for health care providers. Those interested in attended are encouraged to RSVP to fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who are experiencing the hardship of divorce or separation. It features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or call the church at (970) 731-2205. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

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

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

Great House Tour. 10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.

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

HR Power Hour.

Noon-1 p.m., Zoom. The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado's HR experts will cover everything non-profits need to know to update and optimize their HR practices, including employment law, successful onboarding, preventing conflict in the workplace, required HR policies, staff contracts and building a culture of feedback. The cost is \$10 per session or \$50 for all the session. For more information and to register, visit www.swcommunityfoundation.org/hr-power-hour/.

Bridge.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center. **Ruby's Book Club.** 2-3 p.m., Archuleta County Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive. Join to discuss "The Women" by Kristin Hannah.

Good News Club.

3:15-4:45 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

English as a Second Language.

4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer.

5:30 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Bayfield.

PALS Adult Education.

5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, 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 (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Men's Fellowship.

6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

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

games and more.

Family Storytime.

10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Mountain High Gardeners.

10-11:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Join the last roundtable discussion of the growing season. Bring questions about preparing for winter and planning for 2026. All gardening types and experience levels are welcome.

Great House Tour.

10 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Therapy Dog Visit.

11 a.m., Sisson Library. Take a moment after storytime to visit with a certified therapy dog, Mia.

Bridge.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes.

1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Elementary Tutoring.

3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math.

Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.

Junior Youth Challenge.

3:30-4:45 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School music room. A weekly club for kids in fifth and sixth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

Mysteries of Chimney Rock Tour.

5-7:15 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House, and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for ages 13 and up and \$10 for ages 5-12, with those under 5 free. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club.

5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Thursday, Oct. 16

'Written in Bark' Aspens and Arboreglyphs Hike.

9 a.m.-1 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required at sjma.org/events.

Ruby's Writers Guild.

9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

■ See Calendar on next page



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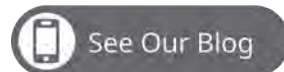


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October's Educational information is

"The Dangers of Waiting Too Long to Dry Out a Flooded Home"

When your home floods – whether from a burst pipe, storm, or appliance failure – it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But one of the worst things you can do is wait too long to start the drying process. Please see our blog for comprehensive information.



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October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month — a time dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of early detection, education and support for those affected by breast cancer.

The risk of breast cancer increases as you get older. Two out of three invasive breast cancers are diagnosed in women aged 55 and older.

Because of this, regular screenings and early detection are critical. Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers among women, and catching it early can significantly improve survival rates.

Communities across the nation are coming together this month

Senior News

with events, educational campaigns, and resources to emphasize the importance of women’s health and prevention.

Locally, the Archuleta County Public Health Department is offering screening services for breast and cervical cancers to uninsured women ages 21-64. These screenings are available for eligible participants who meet income guidelines. Women who qualify can access critical

preventive care at no cost, ensuring more community members receive the medical attention they need. For more information or to schedule a screening, call the Archuleta County Public Health Department at (970) 264-2409.

Upcoming events

Put us on your schedule. We have several events coming up, including our Masquerade Ball on Oct. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Keyah Grande; our non-alcoholic drinks bar at the holiday market at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse on Nov. 1 and 2; and our tree at the Festival of Trees on Dec. 5 and 6.

The Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) office, activities and lunch service will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, for Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to

■ See Senior on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library’s online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys’ Soccer. 4 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Lake County.

Growers and Producers Forum. 4-5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. A platform for community members, experienced farmers and novice growers to gather, network, learn and share experiences to create a local food system.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, 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 (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Friday, Oct. 17

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys’ Soccer. 2 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Fruita Monument.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football.

7 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Gunnison.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Master Class.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Oct. 18

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, call Marie Roscoe at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 8-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library’s LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents ‘Master Class.’ 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance. 7-10 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Kick up your heels for the 10th annual event hosted by the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs. Enjoy food, live music by Vanishing Breed and more. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 19

ThingamaWHO Teen Program Presents ‘Beetlejuice Jr.’ 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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OCTOBER!

Senior

■ continued from previous page

connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge

The game of bridge is hosted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom

On the second Wednesday of

the month, join the "Tappers," who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Come learn the technique on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ruby's Writers Guild

The Ruby's Writers Guild now meets on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The Guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

Tai chi chih

Come on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. for tai chi chih classes at the Senior Center.

Tai chi chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice.

The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy which is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

The Senior Center hosts free community bingo twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join the group on Oct. 17.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3

p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Silver Fox's Den in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call before 9 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Oct. 9 — Asian chicken salad with sesame dressing, potstickers with dipping sauce, poached pear and milk.

Friday, Oct. 10 — Aussie meat pie, sweet potatoes, Vegemite, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Monday, Oct. 13 — Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 — Vegetable curry over brown rice, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, tapioca pudding and milk.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — Beef stroganoff over egg noodles, glazed carrots, garden salad, fruit, cookies and milk.

Thursday, Oct. 16 — Chicken

■ See Senior on next page



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Local authors write a family memoir and tales of three western women, plus Friends book sale Saturday

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Two local authors who have donated their books to your library's collection help bring vibrant personalities and regional history to life in an interesting, enjoyable way.

"Patterson" by fourth-generation Pagosa resident Dean Cox is an 830-page nonfiction tribute to Julius Brice Patterson and his ancestors, descendants and associates with a multitude of drawings, pictures and even some beautiful paintings. Its subtitle, "Compelling times and events of a Rocky Mountain pioneer family," is an apt description of what's inside.

Much of this historical narrative is based on family stories plus an interview with Brice at age 92 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. As well, the author got help with research and site visits from friends and family.

Cox wrote much of the family saga over five years in a cabin he built in the mountains above Silverton which he visited every other week in summer and winter. There, Cox could look out the window and see two stunning 13,000-foot peaks that provided inspiration and atmosphere as he wrote.

Don't let the length of this book or the fact that it covers so many decades of family history intimi-

Library News

date you. The author's pleasant, unintimidating writing style helped by generous use of quotations and conversations make for easy reading.

Meanwhile, Sylvia McDaniel has donated "Desperate," the initial book in her Lipstick and Lead series, to go along with the other four novels in her series, "Deadly," "Daring," "Determined" and "Dangerous," already in our collection.

These stories feature three sisters burdened with the responsibilities of a homestead in a small town in west Texas who turn to bounty hunting to pay their bills and to save money so that they can pursue their dreams.

Sylvia has lived in Pagosa Springs for seven and a half years, after moving here from Dallas. Now that this series is complete, she plans to publish her newest book, a romance titled "Secrets of the Past," very soon.

You will find both authors' books in the Local Authors section at your library.

Book sale Oct. 11

Thanks to your generosity donat-

ing like-new books to their book drive in September, the Friends of the Library have accumulated enough treasures to host a pop-up book sale this Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Church of Christ, 277 Lewis St.

Friends, teachers, nurses and first responders will benefit from a buy-one-get-one-free offer for up to

■ See Library on next page

Senior

■ continued from previous page
fettuccine Alfredo, broccoli, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, Oct. 17 — Ginger-lime shrimp, cilantro rice, Caribbean beans, garden salad, tropical fruit, Key lime pie and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home

to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

Board vacancies

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

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

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

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On November 6, we will publish photo pages in The Pagosa Springs SUN to honor those who have served.

You can help sponsor these pages by contacting your advertising representative by October 31 at (970)264-2100.

A sponsorship ad is \$150 for each 2 column wide by 2-7/8" inch tall space.

The Pagosa Springs SUN Section B
The Pagosa Springs SUN — November 6, 2023

Honoring Our TROOPS & VETERANS

We proudly salute America's veterans and active-duty military whose courage and dedication have protected our freedom and our way of life for generations. We recognize their service and their sacrifice, their selflessness and their bravery, their hard work and their faith. Please join us in celebrating the men and women of our military, past and present, this Veterans Day.

Donald Arnold U.S. Army Private Pagosa Springs, CO	Chuck Allen U.S. Navy Seabee Pagosa Springs, CO	Howard Alston Army Air Corp 1st Lt. Burlington, NJ
Robert Arnold U.S. Army Specialist 4th Class Denver, CA	Tom Arnold U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Denver, CO	Mike Archuleta U.S. Marine Corps PFC Pagosa Springs, CO
Don Archuleta U.S. Army SP5 Pagosa Springs, CO	John Magin Archuleta PFC Pagosa Springs, CO	Bob Archuleta U.S. Air Force Commander Flagstaff, AZ
James Donald Bennett U.S. Army Pagosa Springs, CO	Don Biddick U.S. Army Freemont, NE	Richard Rutland Sp. 4
James Henry Rem U.S. Navy Pagosa Springs, CO	Floyd Gary Strawnell U.S. Army Pagosa Springs, CO	Earle Bosley U.S. Air Force Major Four Oaks, NC
Tom Richard U.S. Air Force Frederick, NY	Ryle Bell U.S. Army Sp. 5 Pagosa Springs, CO	Don Biddick U.S. Army Freemont, NE
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Library

■ continued from previous page
10 books.

We hope you'll take this opportunity to purchase new or lightly used books from the Friends at this event. Proceeds from their book sales are vital to the ongoing health of your library.

New services

On Oct. 1, we joined the Across Colorado Digital Consortium, which offers Overdrive e-books and e-audiobooks through the popular Libby app.

This purchase is funded by the State Grants to Libraries program through the Colorado State Library. While our Cloud Library subscription offers access to 9,615 items in our digital collection, membership in the Across Colorado Digital Consortium offers access to more than 19,000 items, many of them unique.

You, our library users, rank No. 1 among AspenCat libraries in use of CloudLibrary. We'll subscribe to both CloudLibrary and Overdrive in the coming year while we analyze your use of both services.

As well, we now are receiving a paper copy of The New York Times Sunday edition. The latest edition will stay at the library, but we will circulate past editions.

Construction news

Here's the latest news on your library's expansion construction project from Barb Brattin, library director:

"Rebar inspections have passed, with the first concrete truck on site and groundwater issues resolved. For the next several weeks we will see the foundation for the new addition come to life.

"The project remains on schedule, with a grand opening date expected sometime next summer."

Activity locations are changed

Now that we have much less space for our operations and no meeting rooms during construction, several of our regular activities and special events are happening in other locations.

Please check the listings in this column and on your library's website, <https://pagosalibrary.org>, for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

Online author talks

Our free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in October with three talks for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Thursday, Oct. 9, at 5 p.m. will showcase Leigh Bardugo discussing "10 Years of Daring Heists and Loveable Outcasts in YA fantasy."

Oct. 22 at 5 p.m. will feature Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize winner, who is also an educational activist, bestselling author and film producer from Pakistan.

On Oct. 29 at noon, we'll interact with Philippa Gregory, historical fiction author, on "Courtly Intrigue and Whispers as Weapons."

Adult knitting and needlework

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, Oct. 11, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Natural Grocers back room. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project. Any type of needleworker is welcome.

Conversational Spanish

The Conversational Spanish group will meet Monday, Oct. 13, from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

Ruby's Book Club

Ruby's Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14, to discuss "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. Copies are available at your library.

This free adult book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is welcome to attend.

During construction it is taking place at the new Harman Park Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive, next to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., kids are invited to a free visit with a certified therapy dog after

storytime. Visits are limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi."

Elementary school tutoring

Free after-school tutoring for kids in first through third grade takes place on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is required because of limited space, so call your library now at (970) 264-2209 to enroll your child.

This invaluable tutoring involves one-on-one and small-group help for math, literacy, writing and spelling.

Note that because of construction at the library these sessions will take place at the elementary school.

English as a second language classes

Free in-person evening classes happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Please help us pass the word about these classes.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free individualized PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. No appointment is necessary.

Two sources for downloadable books

CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection totaling 9,615 items, download the CloudLibrary

■ See Library on next page

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WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS!

We're running special photo pages in our November 6 edition for Veteran's Day to honor those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

Please send your service picture along with your name, branch of service, rank and hometown to:

shari@pagosasun.com or our office at P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 31.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**

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Library

■ continued from previous page

app on our website, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN.

As well, on Oct. 1, we joined the Across Colorado Digital Consortium, offering Overdrive e-books and e-audio books through the popular Libby app. This collection offers you free access to more than 19,000 items, many of them unique.

Visit <https://coloradodc.overdrive.com> on your computer or download the Libby app to your device. To get started, enter your location, select Across Colorado Digital Consortium, and select Ruby Sisson Library – Upper San Juan Library District to enter your library card number and four-digit PIN.

Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

DVDs

“Matlock” starring Katy Bates is season one. “Dark Winds” is season three. “The Hoenician Scheme” features a ruthless wealthy European. “Outrageous” is based on the true story of the Mitford sisters who played by their own rules. “What are UFOs?” is a PBS Nova program.

Short stories

“An Oral History of Atlantis” by Ed Park is a collection of 16 short stories spanning a quarter century.

Mysteries and thrillers

“Twist of Fate” by Se-Ah Jang features two women, both running away, whose meeting on a train changes their lives. “Milo’s Reckoning” by Joseph Oldhan follows a grad student tracking the mysterious death of his mentor. “The Good Liar” by Denise Mina tracks a widow who has to decide what to do when she learns her trial testimony was wrong. “We Solve Murders” by Richard Osman features a retired investigator and his daughter-in-law PI.

Other novels

“Animal Farm” is the classic George Orwell novel. “Tomlinson’s Wake” by Randy Wayne White is a Doc Ford story. “Caledonian Road” by Andrew O’Hagan explores British class, politics and money through five interconnected families. “Playground” by Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Powers explores the complex relationship between humanity, technology and the ocean through the interconnected lives of four characters. “Worth Fighting For” by Jesse Q. Suitanto features a woman

working for a private equity firm. “Among Friends” by Hal Ebbott follows lifetime family friends dealing with an unexpected act. “Beasts of Carnival” by Rosalia Rodogo is a historical fantasy.

Quotable quote

“There are never right or wrong decisions. The wrong decisions are the ones you never made. So whatever decision you make, go with it. You will always have time to correct yourself, because if you’re on the move you will have other opportunities. If you stay in one place, you won’t get that chance. ... So if you’re going to make a mistake, just make sure you’re still moving: going somewhere, believing in something, moving forward.” — Jose Andres, Spanish-American chef, restaurateur, cookbook author and TV host. He is the founder of World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.



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JOIN OUR TEAM

ADVERTISING
ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE





O'ROURKE
MEDIA GROUP

O'Rourke Media Group is recruiting for an Advertising Account Executive. We're seeking a proven sales professional that has a demonstrated track record of driving growth and new business development. Great opportunity for an experienced media sales rep, recent college grad or those looking to make a career change from outside of the media business. We offer an excellent compensation plan ranging from \$50K to \$100K+, great support and training, a fun work environment and lots of autonomy.

OMG is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. For more company information, please go to our website at www.orourkemediagroup.com.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Advertising Account Executive is responsible for managing client relationships, developing advertising strategies, and ensuring client satisfaction. This role requires a blend of sales, marketing, and communication skills.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Client Management:

- Act as the primary point of contact for assigned clients.
- Build and maintain strong, long-lasting client relationships.
- Understand clients' business objectives and advertising needs.

Strategy Development:

- Collaborate with internal teams to develop effective advertising campaigns.
- Present campaign proposals to clients and negotiate terms.
- Monitor campaign performance and adjust strategies as needed.

Sales and Business Development:

- Identify and pursue new business opportunities.
- Prepare and deliver sales presentations.
- Engage in networking activities.
- Meet and exceed sales targets.

Reporting and Analysis:

- Provide regular reports on campaign progress and results.
- Analyze data to identify trends and insights.
- Present findings to clients and internal teams.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Advertising, Business Administration, or a related field.
- Proven experience in sales or account management, preferably in the advertising industry.
- Strong communication, negotiation, and presentation skills.
- Ability to build and maintain client relationships.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving abilities.

SKILLS

- Client Relationship Management
- Sales and Business Development
- Strategic Planning
- Communication and Presentation
- Data Analysis

Interested candidates should apply directly with an email message and resume to Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com. Feel free to provide Linked In credentials as well.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

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JAND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, winter edition. Promote your business to your customers in 14,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com. Deadline for advertising is October 10, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in November. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

WANTED: CARPENTER TO BUILD an outside wooden staircase. Contact (970)731-1809.

PERSONALS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BINGO PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT Must Go \$2,500 Progressive Jackpot is at a Must Go level. Jackpot will be awarded no matter the number of balls called on Sunday, October, 19, 2025. Regular Bingo starts at 6 p.m., Early Bird Bingo starts at 5:45 p.m., doors open at 5 p.m. Must purchase a regular bingo packet to play the progressive game. Bingo held at John Paul II Catholic Church Narthex at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. No outside food and beverage please. Questions contact Mary Jo Coulehan at (970)903-7815.

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12 noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Women's Friday 12 noon at Yamaguchi Park. Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; Zoom ID 858319763, password 754234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, winter edition. Promote your business to your customers in 14,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com. Deadline for advertising is October 10, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in November. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30- 6:30p.m, Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. Ann: (303)918-8137. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

WANTED: CARETAKING POSITION in exchange for unfurnished housing. Middle-aged couple with a dog. Good with horses. Margaret Schaffer Schaffermargaret5@gmail.com (970)275-2037.

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RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CONSTRUCTION LABOR HELP NEEDED. Part time or full. Year round work. Pay based on experience. Apply in person at 172 Goldmine Dr. or call (970)585-1021.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

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Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS***CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**

The Pagosa Springs SUN is recruiting for a dynamic, versatile customer service representative. This position is required to work at our office at 457 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Hours 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Job Responsibilities

Account Management: Support the Advertising Department with account management activity that's associated with customers running ads in The SUN, PREVIEW, special publications and on our digital platforms.

Administrative: Handle postal paperwork, insertion order processing and payment processing for advertising and subscriptions.

Service: Provide personable, friendly customer service answering phones and interacting in person with customers that visit the office.

Communication: Serve as a point of contact for internal and external communications. Answer phones, respond to emails and direct inquiries to the appropriate team members.

Project assistance: Assist with special projects and initiatives as needed.

Requirements

3-5 years of experience working in an office.

Excellent attention to detail and accuracy in data entry.

Strong organizational and time management skills to meet payroll deadlines.

Excellent communication skills on the phone and through all communication channels.

High level of proficiency in MS Excel and other Microsoft Office applications.

Compensation Range/Benefits

\$17-\$20/hour depending on experience level.

Eligible for medical, dental and vision benefits on the 1st of the month after 30 days of employment.

Eligible to enroll in the company's 401 (k) retirement savings on the 1st of the month after 90 days.

16 days of PTO plus 4-5 paid holidays.

Opportunity for advancement and career growth within the company.

About the Company

O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come.

O'Rourke Media Group now operates in eight states and 28 markets with 41 publications and hyper-local websites.

*Bonus paid \$500 after 90 days and \$500 after 6 months.

Send your email or letter of interest directly to
CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa Springs SUN
an O'Rourke Media Group company

NOW HIRING:**Furniture Sales**

Full time, weekends and holidays required

Product or design experience is a plus; proficient computer skills, exceptional communication, people and customer service skills are a must have.

The right candidate is motivated, dependable, detail oriented, works well in a team, high level of professionalism and thrives in building long term customers through a dynamic service repertoire.

Spend your day creating beautiful spaces and helping customers furnish their home and life with comfortable, quality pieces.

Starts at \$18/hr depending on experience.

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Apply in person at 525 Navajo Trail Drive.

**We are hiring:****Small Engine Service Tech**

Full time, weekends and holidays required

We are looking for reliable, organized, motivated, team-oriented applicants that enjoy a fast-paced environment.

Must have experience with outdoor power equipment, problem solving, self-starting and customer service oriented.

Start at \$22/hr. depending on experience

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Apply in person Monday-Friday

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Starting at \$17 per hour, dependent on experience.

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LOOKING FOR LABORERS to help build fences. Starting wage \$20 /hour. Call (970)264-4447.

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MOUNTAIN SPIRITS IS SEEKING customer service associates. Must be available nights and weekends. We offer accrued vacation/ personal time, performance -based bonuses twice a year, and employee discounts. Please apply in person.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

HVAC SERVICE TECHNICIAN — Maintain, diagnose and repair heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems in residential applications. This role involves diagnosing issues, performing repairs, ensuring systems operate efficiently, and responding to service calls. Requirements: 5+ years background in HVAC, technical skills, Universal EPA certification, a valid driver's license with a clean driving record, excellent communication skills and customer service skills a must. A company truck is provided for use. Flexible hours (M-F availability needed), we do not require emergency (after hours /weekend) availability. Opportunity for additional hours if interested in installation /replacement of systems, etc. Pay DOE. Please provide resume to office@areabesthvac.com.

JAND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$16/ hour, part-time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

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HELP WANTED

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

NOW HIRING A SERVICE COUNTER ASSISTANT. Computer skills a must. Automotive experience a plus. PTO and paid Holidays. Monday –Thursday 7a.m. to 6p.m. Apply in person at Piedra Automotive, 505 County Road 600 or email resume to PiedraAuto@gmail.com.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL is hiring a morning and afternoon aid for our Preschool class. Please contact Molly Sprowle at (970)398-0064.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PART -TIME BARTENDER. The Keyah Grande Guest House is seeking a part -time bartender to join our team. Pay: \$16.72 / hour + tips. Experience: preferred. To apply, please send your resume to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

HELP WANTED

PART-TIME FRONT DESK Opportunity. Are you friendly, organized, and customer-focused? We are looking to add a reliable and enthusiastic member to our team! Shifts may include a combination of mornings, days, nights, and weekends. Our front desk is open 8a.m. to 10p.m. daily, including holidays. Download application at www.pshotsprings.com or stop by to pick one up. Resumes/ applications can be emailed to: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

FOR SALE

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD DELIVERED. Doug Fir /Pine mix \$250 per cord or \$1,400 for 6 cords. Call or text Kathie, (303)358-6218.

FIREWOOD. Tired of not getting a full cord? 4'x4'x8', \$265 full cord, pine or aspen or mix. Delivery extra. Just off Piedra and 160. (970)398-1928.

NEED FIREWOOD? Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$600. 1 cord loads \$300. Pine/Fir mix. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

WOODSTOVE, old-fashioned large 'chateau -style' top, Franklin -type doors, with fire grate. Comes with solid 10" pipe, fireplace tools. (970)731-4140. \$45 OBO.

PETS

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

HARD TO GET INTO YOUR GROOMER? Give me a call. Barb, For Pooch Sakes Mobile Grooming. (970)903-1290.

AUTOS

1988 FORD F250 XLT Lariat, extended cab. EFI 460. 5 speed manual. 75k miles. \$5,000. (970)398-0100.

2013 TOYOTA RAV4 Limited. Runs and drives perfectly, 180,000 miles. \$9,500. Text (970)946-6446.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

YARD SALES

FALL COLOSSAL YARD SALE. 48 Fisher Court, Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12, 8a.m. to 2p.m. Tools, yard equipment, kitchen items, etc.

NES ESTATE SALE. Saturday and Sunday, October 11 -12 from 9a.m. -5p.m. Furniture, kitchen items, canoe, outdoor essentials, exercise equipment and so much more. Don't miss this one at 151 Escobar Ave., Pagosa Springs.

YARD SALES

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, winter edition. Promote your business to your customers in 14,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com. Deadline for advertising is October 10, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in November. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

LARGE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL LOT in Cloman Park. 1.12 acre lot zoned industrial. Ideal for contractor, storage etc. Utilities are located in the street. Tenant to verify approved end use with Archuleta County. Please call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

SECURE AUTOMOBILE STORAGE this winter. • Flexible Plans: Short-term and long-term storage options available. • Easy Access: Access your vehicle whenever you need. Call us at (720)470-2653 or visit www.rowmanagement.com for more information.

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 - \$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, downtown, great views, washer, dryer, 1,250 sq. ft. \$2,300. (970)946-6962.

3 BEDROOM, 2-1/2 BATH furnished home on acreage in PLPOA. 2 car attached garage. Pets allowed. Beautiful view. Quiet. Washer /Dryer /Starlink /PAWS included. \$2500. (308)665-5973.

3/2 MOBILE HOME in Vista. \$1,450 per month. First, last, security. (970)398-0355.

BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM 2 bath home for rent on acreage with amazing mountain views, sunsets and direct National Forest access and only 5 miles down Hwy. 84 from Pagosa. Two story home with lots of room for the family and space to work remotely. Hike or bike right from the front porch. Available September 1. \$3,000 per month and includes utilities except propane. Don't miss this opportunity to rent an amazing Pagosa property which includes an unoccupied chicken coop and greenhouse. Call or text (970)398-0573 for more details.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 1 car garage townhome. All utilities included This is an 8 month rental which runs October through May of 2026. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

CABIN ON A PEACEFUL 5 acre lot. Close to town and amenities off a paved public road. 2 full bedrooms with a bedroom loft above. 2 full bathrooms. 2 car garage with an attached garage for storage. City water. Perfect for mid term or long term rental. Can be rented furnished. \$2,800. Call (719)510-1984.

DOWNTOWN OLDER 3 BEDROOM 3 bath home. One small dog allowed. Available for viewing with appointment. Call (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to view home. Available around September 10.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA SPRINGS APARTMENT for Rent. Modern 2 -bedroom, Energy Star Efficient - Brand new build. Available now - 7 month lease \$1,800. No smokers, no pets. (720)470-2653.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

NEWLY REMODELED 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath home, 1 car garage located uptown. One dog allowed under 50 lbs. with monthly pet rent. Nice wooded lot on a cul-de-sac. \$2,150/month. Available now. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

PANORAMIC VIEWS. OFF-GRID, one bedroom cabin in Cabezón Canyon near Chimney Rock National Monument. AWD required in winter, full bath. \$895 per month plus utilities. (970)883-2600.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

QUIET 1 PLUS BEDROOM, simply furnished cabin, 7 miles west of City Market. Water-hauling vehicle needed. \$900 per month plus utilities plus (first, last, security, utilities deposits). No smoking /pets. (970)731-5098.

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SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOME For Lease off North Pagosa near Village Lake and rec center. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath with 2 car garage. \$2550 per month includes H2O/ Sewer/snow removal. Text (512)626-8499.

SEEKING RESPONSIBLE, GROUNDED ROOMMATE for home 10 miles down 84. Furnished room, most utilities included, \$700 per month. Passive solar home does require a wood fire in the morning. Ideal for someone who wants quiet atmosphere or who works from home. Other roommate travels, is a professional, and is rarely at home. No smoking, no pets. (970)946-2728.

SWEET UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Pets allowed. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com. Available around October 1, 2025.

THREE BEDROOM, TWO BATH CONDO on Lake Hatcher. \$2,650 per month plus utilities, available January. (720)333-1622.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

UNFURNISHED SWEET 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2 car garage home located in Pagosa Lakes. Just up the street from the Rec. Center and all up-town amenities. Sorry no pets. \$2,400 /month. Available October 10th. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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(970) 759-8672



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3% FINANCING AVAILABLE for qualified buyers on this 2 BR home on 1.9 acres, plus a guest house, mature gardens and greenhouse. Home has power, permitted septic, cistern, and well. All appliances and furnishings included. Call Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker (970)946-0473 for more information. \$299,000. MLS# 824849.

FULLY FURNISHED 2/2 CONDO beautifully remodeled and appointed in quiet area, huge mountain and lake views, STRs allowed. \$349,900 Peggy Andrews Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

HOMES FOR SALE

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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

TWO ADJACENT 5 ACRES LOTS. Available Separately. Meadows 4. Details at www. BLANCA257.com. Scott (970)731-4421 or fscott409@outlook.com.



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