Tourism board hears presentation — A4



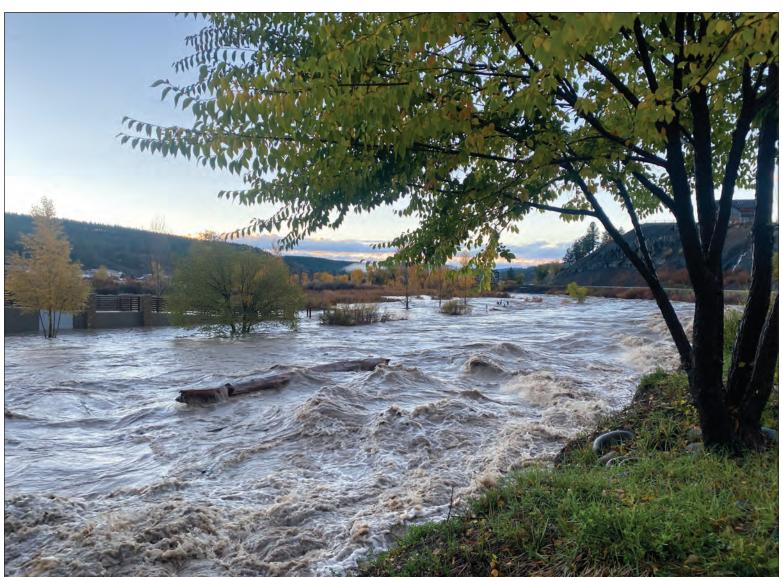
PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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VOLUME 118 — NO. 3, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

Historic floods







SUN photos/Randi Pierce, photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Police

Historic flooding occurred in downtown Pagosa Springs and across Archuleta County twice in recent days, on Oct. 11 and Oct. 14, with the floods ranking in the top five on record.

Tropical moisture results in historic flooding events

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

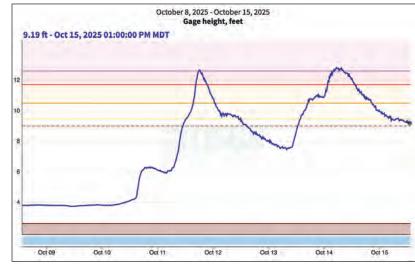
Pagosa Country experienced two historic floods in four days thanks to moisture from the remnants of a pair of tropical storms, Priscilla and Raymond.

The flooding for the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs peaked at 8,270 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 12.66 feet at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 and again at 8,560 cfs and 12.82 feet at 5:15 a.m. on Oct. 14, putting the two events as the fourth and third highest on record, behind floods in October 1911 and June 1927.

At 11 a.m. on Oct. 9, prior to the storms moving through the area, the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs was flowing at 71.4 cfs or 3.72 feet.

Then, according to Pagosa Weather's Shawn Prochazka, the Pagosa Springs area saw 2.45 inches to 6.93 inches of rain between Oct. 10-14, with mountain SNOTEL totals ranging from 8.7 inches to 9.8 inches.

■ See Flooding A8



Graph courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

Levels of the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs are shown before, during and after the week's flooding.

Infrastructure issues arise from flooding

By Randi Pierce

Staff Writer

The pair of historic floods that hit Pagosa Country in recent days have left officials dealing with a number of infrastructure issues, ranging from roads to sewer services.

Additional damage may come to light as the river recedes and additional assessments are completed.

Sewer services

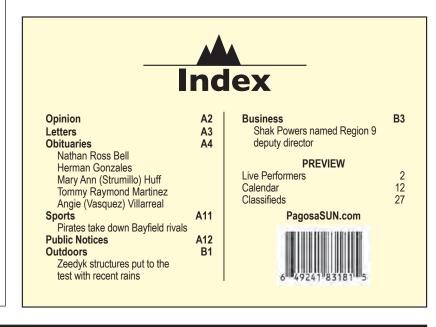
A press release from the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) explains that, the morning of Oct. 14, "floodwaters and debris caused a failure in the sewer lines beneath the 1st Street Bridge on U.S. 160."

The PSPD made the decision to close the bridge when it was noticed ■ See Infrastructure A8

Historic flood data

i iistorie iiood data						
	Date	Gage height	Streamflow			
		(feet)	(cfs)			
	Oct. 5, 1911	17.806	25,000			
	June 29, 1927	13.50	16,000			
	Oct. 14, 2025	12.82	8,560			
	Oct. 11, 2025	12.66	8,270			
	Sept. 6, 1970	9.02	6,580			

Data courtesy National Water Information Service



Opinion



The Pagosa Springs

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Weather data

•••	Cu			CL	utu	
Date	High I	Low	Precipitation			
		-	Moisture	Туре	Depth	
10/7	69	31	0.00	NA	NA	
10/8	71	40	0.00	NA	NA	
10/9	74	47	0.00	NA	NA	
10/10	56	50	0.46	NA	NA	
10/11	55	49	1.45	NA	NA	
10/12	60	37	1.27	NA	NA	
10/13	57	36	0.38	NA	NA	
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Our View

Weathering the storms

Simply put: Thank you.

Thank you to all of the emergency managers and personnel, governmental agencies and private entities and their staffs, elected officials, volunteers and community members who helped keep this community safe, functioning, informed and more during the flooding and inclement weather that just rolled through the area. We know if we attempt to list those who have worked tirelessly over the last almost week in more detail, we would miss someone and regret it later.

We would not be able to weather the storms as well (literally) without your work, dedication and willingness to cooperate. To have made it through two historic floods in a matter of days with no injuries or deaths is fantastic and a testament to our emergency management officials and the community as a whole.

We here in Pagosa Country are exceptionally lucky to not deal with most of the natural disasters and other tragedies we

see strike across the rest of the country and world, so when we encounter incidents here, it makes us realize all the more how truly lucky we are in so many ways.

A few things in particularly keep circling

We grew up knowing about and seeing photos of the 1911 flood (it comes with the territory when your family loves history and the history of our area) and understanding what nature can do.

But it amazed us as we stood on the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge and watched the large amount of debris — including huge logs and full trees, as well as what was evidently wood that had been through a forest fire — rush down our river. It was a perfect picture of the power of nature and one we won't soon forget.

And we realize what we just went through was minor compared to what Pagosa Springs dealt with in 1911.

We have amazing technology and experts now that weren't part of the picture in 1911, and we can't imagine how terrifying it would have been as the river started to rise and just kept rising.

Even with all the technology and knowledge at our disposal, both flood events we just witnessed surpassed forecasts and expectations.

That being said, we have said countless times to family and friends near and far this week that we are fortunate in that we have some of the best, most dedicated and most knowledgeable emergency managers and other folks around. We know that, even if an incident turns into more than expected like these floods or a fire breaks out or anything else happens, they will work tirelessly to protect this community and the people in it, pivoting as new information arises and traversing the county to make sure all areas are taken care of to the best of their ability.

It's up to all of us to meet that commitment to preparing for disaster — flood, fire, snow or something else.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs History Museum

The downtown area is pictured following the October 1911 flood, which stands as the worst in Pagosa Springs history.

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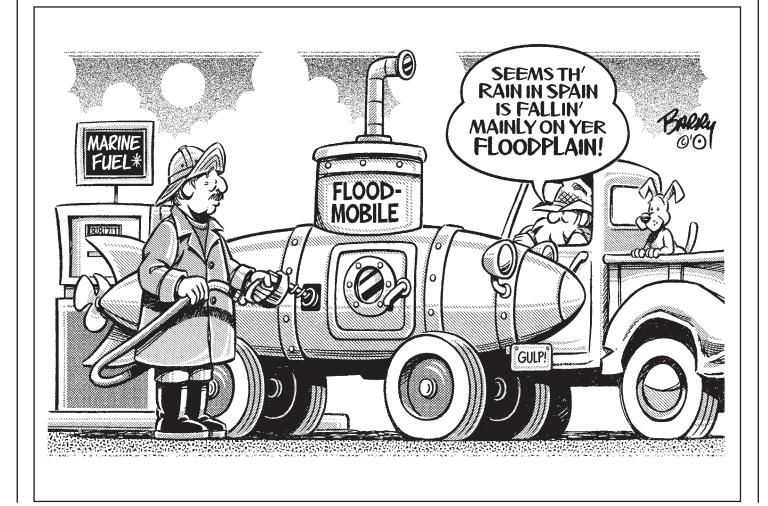
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Leonard Martinez Imartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov Gary Williams gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov



LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago Taken from SUN files of

October 16, 1925

Though much has been split concerning an alleged increase of taxes in Archuleta county during the past twenty years, we - who have somehow at least always managed to pay our prescribed allotment — do not mind the levy increase, providing the taxpayers get something for their money expended.

Neither do we mean to imply that they are not, for the past few years have seen marked advances in public improvements. The days of gang rule in Archuleta county, when debts were piled upon the citizenry for twenty years to come — and without one material to show for the expenditure except some canceled warrants — are, fortunately, over.

And gone, too (thank heaven!) are the days when the taxpayers had to be content with cow trails — designated "county roads" — and unbridged streams and the on-horse school. Pride, progress and the automobile have changed all that — for which let us all arise and give thanks!

The heavy rain storm of Sunday and Monday reminded those who were here at the time, that the past week was the 14th anniversary of the disastrous flood in Archuleta county in October, 1911.

75 years ago Taken from SUN files of

October 20, 1950

The opening of the 1950 Colorado big game hunting season on deer, elk and bear is now so close that officials of the State Game and Fish department have announced the location of checking stations for hunters. The big game season opens Sunday, Oct. 15, in most areas of western Colorado and in North Park and the San Luis valley, and on Oct. 20 in the balance of the areas east of the Continental Divide. The season extends thought Oct. 31 in most areas of the state.

'The 1950 big game hunting season promises to be the best in the history of Colorado if we have reasonable suitable hunting weather," Cleland N. Feast, department director says. "Pre-season serial and ground checks of deer and elk herds indicate we have an abundance of game animals, due to a relatively small loss of fawns and elk calves last winter and the good condition of the range."

Hunting season this year, if the excellent reather continues, should find one of the largest crowds in history present for the opening day.

50 years ago Taken from SUN files of

October 23, 1975

The UFO, religious cult, mass suicide talk, etc., has really cooled off this week. Local law officers say that to the best of their knowledge the group was never here, and some doubt that there is even such a group or cult. At any rate the story made big headlines all over the nation and there sure have been some weird people here in the past, but then there are probably a few dingalings everywhere.

Are there as many hunters as last year? That seems to be a big question hereabouts this week. There is no definite way to determine since many now buy licenses early to be eligible to apply for a cow elk permit. Many licenses are purchased elsewhere. However, WCO's contacted say that generally the number of elk hunters is down, the kill is down, and violations of hunting regulations are fewer.

25 years ago Taken from SUN files of

October 12, 2000

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, concerned with the use of treated water to irrigate playing fields at Pagosa Springs High School, has notified the school district it will begin pumping river water for irrigation next year.

The Board of Education of Archuleta School District 50 Joint heard the proposal Tuesday when Superintendent Terry Alley reported on conversations with PAWS representatives.

He said PAWS will install a diesel powered pump at river's edge adjacent to townowned property east of the athletic fields.

Costs will be borne jointly by the town, school district and water supplier, with installation expected to take place in late spring or early summer. Alley said the town-owned property is expected to eventually be developed into additional athletic facilities. Asked by Director Russ Lee if the untreated water will cost the district less, Alley said the district's water use is not metered now. "PAWS gave us an option of using river water or going on meter," he said, "and river water should definitely be more economical."

On to state



Ten athletes from the DUST2 mountain bike team qualified for the state championships in Glenwood Springs. The races will be taking place Oct. 18-19. From left are Quinn Howard, Gianna Shaeffer, Adelyn Hittle, Max Roukema, Justin Sewell, Jackson Chaney, Weston Phillips and Amon Phillips. Not pictured are Kaylee Hensle and Eric Smith.

Commissioners hear county's draft budget

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The 2026 Archuleta County budget was presented during a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Oct. 7, with Accountant Allison Wylie presenting the proposed budget.

Wylie noted that the budget work sessions would take place between Oct. 14 and 28, with the BoCC scheduled to approve the final budget and appropriate funds during its Nov. 18 meeting.

Wylie explained that the forces driving the 2026 proposed budget include external forces, internal strategic considerations, and statutes and county policy.

Those internal strategic considerations include a 1 percent growth of core operations budgets, staffing levels maintained at 2025 levels plus a cost-of-living adjustment, continued needed road maintenance, and increasing revenues and grant funding, according to Wylie's presentation.

According to Wylie's presentation, the proposed budget includes an 18 percent decrease in revenue from the 2025 budget, going from \$50,396,873.32 to \$41,510,780.05,

with total expenditures listed at \$44,239,679.75 in 2026. This equates to \$2,728,899.70 more in total expenditures versus total revenues for 2026.

Revenues listed for the 2026 general fund total \$22,419,789.60, with total expenditures listed at \$24,815,561.66.

The road and bridge fund has \$7,093,124,32 listed for total revenues and \$8,188,269.03 listed for total expenditures.

The Department of Human Services projects \$3,065,860.84 in total revenues and \$2,265,147,22 in total expenditures.

The Public Health Department lists a total of \$1,339,591 in revenues and \$1,330,097 of total expenditures.

The combined dispatch fund shows \$1,286,230.27 in total revenues and \$1,244,713.60 in total expendi-

The Conservation Trust Fund has a total of \$175,000 in total revenues, with \$175,000 listed for total expenditures, as well.

The Justice System Capital Fund has \$818,400 listed for total revenues, with \$818,400 listed for total expenditures as well.

The Fairfield Settlement Fund has \$20,000 listed in total revenues, with ■ See Budget A7

PAWSD offers district manager position to **Andrew Connor**

By Josh Pike Staff Writer

At its Oct. 9 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted to offer the district manager position opened by the upcoming departure of District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey to Andrew Connor, who currently serves as PAWSD's operations manager.

This decision followed the board interviewing district manager finalists Connor and Dillon Cottingham at its Sept. 29 meeting.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that he appreciated the work the board's hiring subcommittee had done in finding two "solid candidates."

He added that he preferred Con-

nor due to his experience with the

He commented that Cottingham was "very impressive," but that he saw "many, many reasons organizationally why Andy is the best candidate for PAWSD."

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones stated that he agreed with Walsh, commenting that Connor has experience and support among other district employees to succeed.

Jones added that he would like to consider potentially hiring Cottingham to fill Connor's position as a way to hire him and include his skills in the district.

"I definitely think Andy, when it comes to Pagosa Springs and taking over Justin's position, is definitely the clear choice even though Dillon, I was ■ See Manager A6

Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Police Department

U.S. 160 is closed in downtown Pagosa Springs during the Oct. 11 flood event due to concerns about stress on the bridge and a sewer pipe hanging below the bridge. The pipe failed after being hit by debris during the Oct. 14 flood event.

Tourism board hears report on state of Colorado, local tourism

PAWSD board hears update on **Running Iron Ranch mining**

By Josh Pike Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) heard an update on issues with gravel mining at the Running Iron Ranch at its Oct. 9 board meeting.

This update followed board mem-

bers expressing concerns about the state of mining and reclamation at the ranch and the conduct of the Weber family, who leases the ranch, at a Sept. 29 PAWSD meeting. Legal counsel for PAWSD, with the

approval of legal counsel for the San Juan Water Conservancy District, who jointly owns the property, also sent a cease and desist letter to the Webers on Sept. 30, laying out conditions for them departing from the ranch and completing reclamation.

At the Oct. 9 meeting, PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey stated that he had visited the ranch and was able to ascertain current conditions on the property, although he could not "swear to" events in the past.

He indicated that the crushed rock at the site was rock reserved for PAWSD projects and that there is now no mining equipment on the ranch except for earth-moving equipment, with the Webers having removed their last screen and conveyor belt in the last week.

Ramsey explained that the mine area is largely covered in topsoil and that the Webers are "clearly moving forward" with reclamation, including purchasing and preparing to seed the topsoil.

He stated a staff member for the Colorado Department of Mining and Reclamation who recently visited the property with Ramsey concluded that the mining activity stayed within the boundaries designated in the mining permit with some small exceptions likely due to grading errors.

He added that he was not able to verify any reports of the Webers crushing rock at the site and that he believed that they are moving forward and are close to completing reclamation.

"It's so good to hear this," said PAWSD board member Bill Hudson.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer noted that he has customers in the area who have not heard rock crushing activity and that he checked with Archuleta County, whose representatives stated that no gravel for the county is being purchased from the Weber's mine.

Ramsey added that he also spoke to Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) staff who confirmed that A&M Construction, a company owned by Andrew Weber, is a subcontractor on CDOT's U.S. 160 reconstruction project in downtown Pagosa Springs, but that the gravel being hauled is not sourced from their pit.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis asked the board if they still ■ See Update A6

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

Chad Eaton on Oct. 9.

Eaton's report notes that the .73 percent increase translates to a total of \$12,169.21 more received in August 2025 than August 2024.

down of the current state of tourism in Pagosa Springs, an overview of the CTO's mission to meet goals through statewide collaboration and some of the efficiencies and headwinds met in 2024.

"We look to empower the tourism industry, to inspire the world to explore Colorado respectfully and responsibly," Wolfe said, adding that the office operates under three pillars: economic vitality, stewardship and industry leadership.

2024 tourism trend data

The CTO looks at total spending, tax revenue and jobs related to the tourism industry in order to provide interactive, county-specific data, as

well as an annual Economic Impact of Travel on Colorado Report through its website, Wolfe explained. Users can pull data either by county or by legislator to look at trends throughout each decade.

"You can see how many jobs, tourism jobs, or tax revenues are created by county or by legislator, and that's provided for you," he said. "We do that for the entire industry."

In 2024, Wolfe shared, Colorado generated \$28.5 billion in visitor expenditure, \$1.9 billion in tax revenue and more than 470,000 direct and indirect travel-related jobs.

International travel

International travel represents

nearly 10 percent of Colorado's tourism economy, Wolfe stated, and often includes high-value guests with

longer stays. Additionally, it is the highest intercoastal state tourism there is in the United States, according to CTO data, with Wolfe noting you have to be intentional to travel to Colorado and Pagosa Springs.

"We actually work in the Four Corners states, with New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, to do all kinds of travel itineraries to hit Pagosa Springs," Wolfe added.

The office works with other states that also have international travel and passes information through to ■ See Tourism A7

August sales tax collections up slightly compared to last year

national Trade.

By Ella Slade

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism

Board's Oct. 1 meeting featured a

presentation from Colorado Tourism

Office Director Tim Wolfe, who pro-

vided an overview of recent tourism

trends in both Pagosa Springs and

the state as a whole, including that

Pagosa Springs was a leader in overall

Springs' partnership and relation-

ship with the Colorado Tourism

Office (CTO), a division of the Office

of Economic Development and Inter-

The presentation included a run-

Wolfe also outlined Pagosa

occupancy revenue for 2024.

Staff Writer

Sales tax collections in Archuleta County for the month of August were reported to be up .73 percent compared to figures from August 2024, according to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director

Sales tax collections have been up in the county every month so far this year in the month-to-month comparisons with 2024, with the biggest increase coming in February, which showed a 11.6 percent increase, or \$143,191 more.

Sales tax collections in January were up 3.96 percent, or \$67,565.22 more than January 2024; March collections were up 9.12 percent, or \$129,489.44 more than March 2024; April collections were up 9.32 percent, or \$117,621.93 more than April 2024; May collections were up 3.07 percent, or \$43,987.42 more than May 2024; June collections were up 4.5 percent, or \$75,391 more than June 2024; and July collections were up 2.3 percent, or \$42,590.88 more than July 2024.

For the month of August, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,672,889.68 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax revenues, with \$834,586.48 going to the county and \$838,303.20 going to

Categories that were up in comparison to August 2024, according to Eaton's data, include:

· Construction at 3.99 percent, or

· Manufacturing at 27.53 percent, or \$17,326.81.

· Information at 1.86 percent, or

• Finance and Insurance at 4.58

percent, or \$111.10.

· Professional, Scientific and

Correction

In the Oct. 9 issue of The SUN, the article "County names sole finalist for manager position" stated the sole finalist Lognios Gonzalez regrets the error.

Jr. is a retired Air Force lieutenant general. Gonzalez is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. The SUN

Obituaries

Nathan Ross Bell

Nathan Ross Bell passed away on Oct. 3, 2025, from brain cancer. Nate was born Aug. 5, 1978. He was a resi-

dent of Pagosa Springs for eight years and could often be found fishing at a PLPOA lake, pulling a trailer with fishing poles behind his fat tire bike or chatting it up with the locals (or his voices)



Nate had a mental illness for much of his life, but as many members of the Pagosa community recognized, he had a kind soul and good heart. He loved meeting new people and would often share stories of "the new friends" he encountered. Nate's prognosis encouraged us to pursue bucket list items such as: a trip to New Orleans, Arches National Park, fishing as much as possible and eating out any chance we got. Nate taught us all lessons on how to be better people (whether he knew it or not). Our family learned so much from him, including: compassion, empathy, not to judge and to love like Nate. We will never forget him and will miss him terribly.

Nathan was preceded in death by his father, Truman Bell, and is survived by his mother, Connie Bell, of Pagosa; sister, Jordan Bell, of Anchorage, Alaska; brother, Mitch (Erin), and two nieces of Cleburne, Texas. He is also survived by his grandmother and extended family.

Per Nate's wishes, we will hold a private family celebration based on his DNA results in Ireland.

Herman Gonzales

Herman Gonzales, 89, passed away on Oct. 9, peacefully at home with his loving wife at his side. He

was born Sept. 13, 1936, in Allende Coas, Mexico. Herman was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and greatgrandfather. He was a proud member of the United States



Army's 101 Airborne Division. He owned Harry's Upholstery for more than 20 years and Better Than New Upholstery in Pagosa Springs. His proudest moments were coaching many of his grandchildren in multiple sports, winning multiple championships. He is survived by his wife, Doris; his daughter, Patty; sons Randy and Mark; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He now joins his beloved daughter in heaven, Shelly. A service will be held next summer in California.

Mary Ann (Strumillo) Huff

June 26, 1932-Oct. 6, 2025 Mary Ann was born in Kansas City,

Kan., to two loving parents who were

first-generation United States citizens, having immigrated from Lithuania. As a child, Mary Ann was known for boundless energy, with her mother of-



ten remarking that she never walked

Actual Guest Review:

anywhere but always ran, in a hurry to experience all that life had to offer.

Mary Ann first worked at Harry Abram's Pharmacy while she attended junior college on a scholarship. Demonstrating leadership and intelligence, she was the president of her sorority and later earned a scholarship to the University of Kansas. It was there, in a fateful coincidence, that her dormitory window faced straight at Bob Huff's dorm window, solidifying a relationship the two had begun earlier. This serendipitous arrangement led to a marriage that would span nearly 60 years.

The couple began their journey together in the territory of Hawaii, where Mary Ann's driver's license, issued for life, stands as a testament to their time there. They moved to Oregon, where Mary Ann taught elementary school and began raising two children. As child of the Great Depression, Mary Ann was a creative problem solver. To the enjoyment of all, she made Easter bonnets out of paper plates, created Mr. Moto and princess Halloween costumes out of items in her closet, encouraged summer snowball fights with the blooms from the snowball bush, made sleds out of plastic washtubs, and made her own beef jerky.

An educator at heart, Mary Ann embraced learning in all its facets from philosophical and thoughtful discussions to formal education. Her passion for learning was evident in her pursuit of multiple degrees in the varied fields of education, public administration and equine science. Though she considered herself a city girl, Mary Ann discovered a deep love of nature, enjoying back packing and cross-country skiing with her family. She found joy in so many things, from expansive mountains to the tiniest flowers.

Throughout their numerous relocations, Mary Ann embraced the unique offerings of each place she called home. In the early 1980s, she and Bob settled in Pagosa Springs, Colo., where Mary Ann quickly became an integral part of several organizations that helped strengthen the community. She dedicated her time to volunteering at the Chamber of Commerce visitors' center, participating in the League of Women Voters, contributing to the Ruby Sisson Library fundraising efforts through the Friends of the Library and the Women's Civic Club, engaging with Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, and joining the Pagosa Sparklers (light) Dressage Team, all while exploring the San Juan National Forest on horseback with Bob Whew

Mary Ann was a soulmate to Bob; a guiding force to her children, Steve and Susan; an inspiration to her granddaughters, Rachael and Jennifer; and a cherished friend to many. She will be missed.

Tommy Raymond Martinez

Tommy R. Martinez was born Feb. 17, 1938, in Pagosa Springs, Colo., to Tommy and Mary Martinez. He passed away Sept. 25, 2025, with his loving family around him. Those who could not be with him that he loved — they were in his heart.

In his early 20s, Tommy married Josie Archuleta. They had four children, Michael, Russell, Dino and Nicole. He later married Juanita Read and another son was born, Tommy J. Martinez.

Tommy grew up in Pagosa Springs, Colo. He loved to play sports in school. He played football and

basketball while developing a love of music that would last his whole life. He was an avid hunter in his younger years. He also loved boxing, always encouraging his children to participate. Tommy always had many stories to share. These wonderful stories included lifelong friends, some he grew up with and went to school with.

Tommy played in different bands, including the Ladters and the Regals. Tommy loved all his music family. He played guitar and saxophone by ear and in his 50s finally decided to learn to read music.

Tommy went to work for the Forest Service in Pagosa Springs for 18 years. Then, Tommy and Juanita moved to Mancos, Colo., where he lived and worked until his retirement 15 years later. Tommy then moved back to Pagosa Springs after retirement, where he was able to visit and enjoy his family and friends. During this time, Tommy enjoyed his passions, camping and fishing. East Fork was a very special place for him to camp; although he camped in many areas, he loved the mountains. After moving to Aztec, N.M., for health reasons the last 15 years, Tommy enjoyed the sunshine and didn't miss shoveling snow. Tommy was a soft-spoken man who had a mischievous sense

Tommy is preceded in death by his wife, Juanita; parents, Tommy and Mary Martinez; brother Leonard Martinez; his children, Nicole and Dino Martinez; and grandson Christopher Martinez.

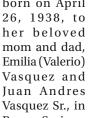
He is survived by his children, Michael Martinez/Deirdra, Russell Martinez/Ena, Tommy J. Martinez/ Crystal; brother Gilbert/Frances; sisters Theresa, Loretta/Fred, Janice and Jeanette; 12 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A special thanks to Belinda for taking care of our beloved Tommy until

Services will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, 2025. Rosary is at 9:15, eulogy after the rosary and Mass at 10 a.m. at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Angie (Vasquez) Villarreal

On Oct. 6, 2025, Angie (Vasquez) Villarreal, age 87, was greeted by the angels and went to her eternal home with our lord savior.

Angie was born on April 26, 1938, to her beloved mom and dad, Pagosa Springs,



Colo., where she was raised with her multitude of siblings.

Growing up, Angie had beautiful

Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

Obituaries

Obituaries up to 500 words are printed free in The Pagosa

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editor@pagosasun.com

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The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

bonds with all her siblings and par-

whom she adored and longed to be reunited with again. In 1962, she went on a blind date with her future husband, who she

would later call "mi veijito," and she would be his "mi veijita." On Feb. 6, 1963, they married and began their lives together for 22 years, raising their four daughters and a niece who became another daughter.

Angie worked at Jan's Cafe as a cook and later at Al's café as a dishwasher. She was then promoted to

Angie was a devoted wife until Henry's last breath in 1985, but her job wasn't done. She stayed being a devoted mother to her children and niece and all of their friends. Then her job became bigger when she became a grandmother.

Angie was involved in the green chile contest at the Archuleta County fair in the late 1990s to early 2000s. She won multiple ribbons ranging from first place to second place. She was also part of the Guadalupanas and would cook for those who needed meals for their loved one's funeral. She was a devoted Catholic who instilled her faith into her children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved like no other. No matter who it was, she always offered her hospitality to those who would visit her. Through the years she had countless adopted nieces, nephews, adopted children and adopted grandchildren. In her 87 years of life she made a lot of unforgettable memories and a lot of delicious food that one will never forget.

Angie is survived by her four daughters, Joann (Ray) Pacheco, Henrietta (Shane) Siron, Cathy Villarreal and Shana (Tracy) Stewart; and her three step-daughters, Josie, Connie and Lorrie. Angie is also survived by her grandchildren, step-grandchildren, adopted grandchildren, her great-grandchildren and numerous step-great-grandchildren, along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins who she loved very much.

She is proceeded in death by her parents, Juan and Emilia Vasquez; husband Henry Villarreal; all of her siblings; her daughter, Emily Villarreal, and her son, Felix Vasquez; her grandsons (who she loved so much) Jeremiah Villarreal and Steve Chavez; her beautiful great-grandaughter Felicia Carbajal; and her precious great-grandson, Trinity Talamante (her gordito).

Services were held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church by Father Samuel. The rosary was held Tuesday, Oct. 14. Services were held Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Angie is already missed beyond measure and through her family she will continue to live. We know you were tired and now

it's time to rest, Angie-Pangie. "Vaya con dios Madrecita. Nosotras siempre te amaremos.'

ents, especially her mom Emilia, her brother, Felix, and sister, Belen,



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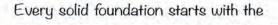
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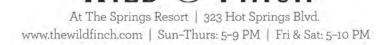




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and wines here, that we haven't seen anywhere else in town ... We

will continue to go back, and would highly recommend."



Letters

Letters to the Editor are printed as received and are not edited for grammar or punctuation, but may have been edited for content

Letters to the Editor are opinions and information in them has not been verified for ac-

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

Medicaid

Dear Editor:

In recent weeks, several commenters in the opinion section have made broad statements about Medicaid cuts while ignoring numerous states' legislative testimonies, and federal documentation detailing where Medicaid dollars have been going in recent years. In just one state for example, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General found that, in less than one year, the state of California had improperly claimed \$52.7 million in federal Medicaid funds for coverage of illegal immigrants. Such misused medicaid dollars should have gone to the vast number of the most vulnerable individuals, whose tax-paying families love, support and provide life-long care for them. The insensitivity and apparent ignorance of commenters who do not do their own due diligence, yet continue to state "facts" with bias and fragmented information is striking. Thousands of our most fragile US citizens, including our own family member affected with profound autism, are adversely affected by flagrant misuse of federal funds. Medicaid dollars should not be going to able bodied citizens in our country, nor to millions of noncitizens at the expense of the weakest members of society who live here legally.

Joan Kelley

Dangerous road crossing

Dear Editor: How Taylor Swift Nearly Got Me

On Sunday, my friends and I went to see the Taylor Swift: Showgirl movie. Now, I'm not exactly a Swiftie, but I do admire the woman. She's an empire in heels, a business mastermind who turns sparkle into strategy. And that movie? A masterclass in business wrapped in sequins.

Naturally, we decided to dress the part. My outfit? A flapper dress dripping with sequins, matching gloves, a headband, fishnet stockings, and, of course, heels that screamed bad decision.

At one o'clock, we met at the Liberty Theater bar for a pre-show drink, laughing like we were twenty again.

Afterward, I stopped by the San Juan Eatery to grab dinner for my husband, who, bless him, was at home painting. Not exactly a showgirl kind of Sunday.

Bag in hand, I headed toward my car parked across Highway 160. And that's where the fun ended.

If you've tried crossing 160 lately, you know it feels like playing a reallife game of Frogger. The flashing pedestrian lights in the middle of the highway are gone, and now we're forced to cross only at the traffic light. I pressed the button. A robotic voice barked, "WAIT." So I waited. The walk sign flashed, and I looked both ways, like a responsible, sparkly adult, and started across.

Less than halfway across the highway, the light on Hot Springs Boulevard changed. A man in a white pickup revved his engine. Loud. Angry. Fast. Coming directly for me. He meant to hit me, or scare the crap out of me.

In heels, running wasn't an option. I froze, heart hammering. The truck surged forward, stopping less than a foot away. I could've reached out and touched his hood. My sequins practically rattled from the

Now, I'm not one for confrontation because you never know who's packing, but the words flew out before I could stop them.

"Hey, [expletive]! I still have twelve seconds on the clock. Back off!"

He shouted something back, but over the roar of his engine, I couldn't hear a thing. I finished crossing, every muscle trembling, furious and shaken. What kind of person tries to mow down a pedestrian just because he can't wait twelve seconds?

For the record, that yellow flashing arrow means yield. As in, don't hit people in the crosswalk. Apparently, this guy missed that lesson in driver's

Later that night, I came to two conclusions: I'm done parking on

road is a death trap. Next time, if a truck comes at me, I'm clutching my chest and going full Southern drama queen. A slow-motion faint right in the middle of the lane. Heart attack. Call an ambulance. Let's see how he likes me shutting down the highway while the paramedics arrive.

Oh, and I'll have my phone ready to capture his bright, beautiful face. Why don't we have cameras at this intersection?

Come on, Pagosa, we're better than this.

Sylvia McDaniel

Peaceful protest

Dear Editor:

Recent news reports, including those from Reuters, suggest that the Trump administration is already preparing to accuse the upcoming October 18 national protests of violence. This maneuver is deeply concerning, yet not unexpected.

These attempts to preemptively vilify dissent are straight from the authoritarian playbook: discredit, divide, and intimidate citizens into silence.

Let me be unequivocally clear: our movement is committed to nonviolence as a core, foundational principle—not just a talking point. Our organized events strictly prohibit weapons, prioritize de-escalation training, and demand that all participants uphold this commitment to peaceful assembly.

The strength of any lasting movement lies in its discipline, courage, and values. Peaceful protest is our strength, and history proves it is the only way movements ultimately win.

The best defense against attacks on our fundamental rights is to fully exercise them. That's why we urge everyone to show up on October 18 firmly and strategically. Let's make this a powerful, peaceful demonstration with joy in our hearts.

The Trump administration's strategy is to fracture our movement. But we are building a united coalition together, across race, class, and geography, and we know that unity is the only path to victory. We are not backing down.

We invite you to be part of this national movement. Join Pagosa's peaceful protest at Town Park, 10:30 a.m., on October 18.

Paula Jo Miller

Vote yes on 2A

Dear Editor:

The November ballot will include local tax initiative #2A, asking voters to approve a 1% sales tax which will support the repair and replacement of our failing wastewater systems including the lift stations that transport waste to the main facility located in

Maintaining and upgrading community infrastructure is essential for the safety and functionality of aging assets. Communities all over the country are dealing with maintenance projects - Pagosa's Highway 160 CDOT project is another example.

There are no easy solutions for the financial support that these projects

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

up due to a holiday)

· include the actual first and last name of the author

• include the author's address and

daytime phone number • be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move

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

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

the far side of 160. That stretch of require. A sales tax increase is a good way to diversify who contributes.

We need an immediate solution for the repairs needed and comprehensive solutions for the future so we can count on reliable and modern infrastructure to sustain this community for the long term. Please vote YES on 2A.

Lisa and Bob Scott

Pagosa West

Dear Editor:

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received a revised application for a Sketch Major Subdivision for the Pagosa West Major Subdivision. The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 5:30 pm at 551 Hot Springs Blvd to consider this application.

The original map presented in March, 2025 included high density residential and commercial buildings over the entire 100 acres. It also required zoning changes and special permits. The revised proposal has deleted all parcels except two-those labeled for 88 WF housing apartments and a gas station located directly across from the hospital. The purpose of a subdivision sketch plan is to present the overall concept for the subdivision. This revision does not present a concept, rather seeks permission to move forward on the developer's priorities without any detail on how these two projects fit into a larger concept for the subdivision.

Per the LUDC, there are specific requirements needed to be submitted BEFORE a 'Sketch Plan Approval' (LUDC Section 2.2.4). Some of these include:

-Information on water supply including number of water taps, estimated water needed to serve the development;

-Sewage disposal information; -Lots and block with approximate

acreage or square footage for each lot; -Proposed gross residential density or intensity of commercial uses

on the property; -Location of public and private open space, including acreage or square footage calculations;

-Location of footprints or building envelopes for all structures, excluding single family residential units, if applicable.

The proposal is vague in terms addressing these issues. Because of the significant community negative

■ See Letters A6

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

• The project team is planning to work Saturday and Sunday this weekend to make up for some of the rain delays this past week.

• 8th Street intersection: The north-side 8th Street intersection is closed for construction. The intersection of Rosita Street near Patria and U.S. 160 is open

- 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard: Crews will begin concrete paving on the intersection of 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard.
- Pagosa Springs Middle School: Forming and pouring sidewalks continues. Pedestrian detours should be expected.

Upcoming work

Work activity

- 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 4th Street intersections on the north side of U.S. 160 remains 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.
- Parking lots are open at 323 Hot Springs Blvd. and 811 San Juan St. Other public parking is available throughout the downtown.

Mountain Express Transit bus stop information

The River Center stop, #18, has moved to 1st Street and U.S. 160 in front of the museum. Bus stop #19, 2nd Street and U.S. 160, has moved to 2nd Street and Lewis Street.

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

• 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

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 op-
- erational 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 fre-

Traffic impacts

• Motorists could expect up to 15-minute delays at various times through the work zone as equipment may need to be moved.

quently moving throughout the project limits.

- 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: Pagosa160reconstruc-
- tion@gmail.com. • Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.
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Town council passes resolution supporting ballot measure 2A to fund 'critical' sewer system upgrades

By Derek Kutzer Staff Writer

On Oct. 7, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved a resolution supporting the passage of ballot measure 2A in the upcoming November

If approved by town voters, it would create a 1 percent sales tax to be collected by businesses operating within town limits.

The revenues generated from the new sales tax would be used "for the purposes of funding critical wastewater infrastructure improvements within the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSS-GID)," the resolution states.

The PSSGID operates about 17 miles of sewer pipes, handling about 325,000 gallons of sewer per day and serving about 1,500 customers, according to the town.

Through a series of pump and lift stations, the PSSGID conveys its wastewater about 7 miles uphill to the Vista Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

A recent memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the PSSGID and PAWSD states, "There remains uncertainty as to the long-term viability of the [district's] main pipeline and two pump stations."

The town has described the state of the system's quality as "fair or poor," with the average age of the piping in the system being more than 50 years old and up to one-third of the system needing immediate critical repairs to remain functional.

The town has estimated that the cost of fixing the sewer system stands at \$80 million to \$100 million, with the most immediate problem to address being what the town describes as category 4 and 5 problems with the aging sewer pipes.

This problem might have been made worse by the recent flooding, said Public Works Director Karl Johnson at a meeting on Oct. 14 centering

on the recent flooding.

The swelling of the San Juan River caused extraordinary inflow and infiltration of unwanted water into the system, with Johnson saying that "some Cat 3s will likely become 4s, and 4s will become 5s," but that his team won't be able to fully assess the damage until they can inspect the entire system.

The most obvious damage to the system, as a result of the flooding,

Council member Mat deGraaf added that he did not like the "reactionary" approach of "when something breaks we fix it," which the town has taken to tackle the sewer problem, saying that 2A is a more "strategic plan to make something happen."

occurred on the main sewer line that hangs under the 1st Street bridge, he

The Pagosa Springs Police Department made the decision to close the bridge when it noticed that the pipe was taking hits from flood debris.

Johnson said that "a tree had wedged itself on the topside of the sewer main," explaining that it then started catching other debris until it "snapped" the line.

Town staff installed "a temporary bypass" of the sewer main on the bridge and was back in operation as of 11 a.m. Tuesday morning, Johnson explained.

The town had estimated that the category 4 and 5 problems with the piping would cost about \$15 mil-

lion before the flooding took place, but it's possible this cost could go up once the flood damage is fully assessed.

Johnson and Town Manager David Harris noted that they anticipate some state and federal funding as a result of a disaster declaration to address the damage caused by the flooding.

Town staff estimates that, if 2A passes, it would generate about \$3.6 million in revenues for sewer repairs in year one of its implementation.

Longer term, the town envisions the possibility of building its own sewer treatment plant downtown to get away from the current uphill conveyance system.

During a budget work session on Oct. 7, Harris presented to the council a "what if" budget scenario if 2A is approved by the voters.

Harris explained that the town would create a "new fund," called the Sewer Infrastructure Fund (SIF), that would be funded by the sales tax increase.

"We can do major projects in our new SIF fund," he said.

He added, "We can fund new sewer lines, engineering for a new treatment plant," among other things

related to the sewer system repairs, He noted that, if 2A passes, the town would likely add another employee to the Public Works Depart-

Council member Leonard Martinez suggested that the town should be strategic about planning ahead on the sewer repairs, saying that the first couple of years, if 2A passes, would be dominated by addressing the category 4 and 5 problems.

Harris agreed, saying that the wastewater treatment plant is seven to 10 years down the road, but he wanted the council to be aware that the sales tax increase would not generate enough revenue to pay cash" for a new plant, explaining that some debt would still be needed to complete such a project in that

However, he noted that the town would be in a much better position to take on debt to build a new townowned plant if 2A passes.

Mayor Shari Pierce suggested that although the town's sewer system customers only make up a small portion of the overall community, with the majority of the area's residents either being customers of PAWSD or on a septic system, that everyone uses the town's system at some point.

She noted that the town's sewer system "affects our greater community," adding that if you send kids to the schools, shop in the stores or use town parks, then the system is used.

"If we don't have a sewer system, then we can't have people here," she said, with Harris adding, "You took the words right out of my mouth, Mayor."

"We've been hemorrhaging money towards this problem since I've been on the council," council member Madeline Bergon said.

Touting 2A as a solution, council member Gary Williams said, "This approach provides that tourists will pay for a part of this," along with town residents and other visitors

He added that 2A is an "elegant solution for the problem that we

Council member Mat deGraaf added that he did not like the "reactionary" approach of "when something breaks we fix it," which the town has taken to tackle the sewer problem, saying that 2A is a more "strategic plan to make something happen."

When entertaining a motion to approve the resolution, Pierce noted that she is "very excited" about the prospect of 2A being approved by

"I hope this is the first in a lot of steps to solve the [sewer] problem,"

When a motion was made to approve the resolution supporting 2A, the council approved it unanimously. derek@pagosasun.com





■ Continued from A5

feedback over the prospect of commercial businesses such as another storage unit, another car wash, tiny houses on 1/6th acre lots, etc., I question whether the elimination of individual parcel detail in this revision isn't a way of making the proposal more palatable and hasten its approval without full review. This does NOT meet the LUDC requirements for sketch submission, and yet the Planning Commission is still planning on considering it.

Pagosa already has hundreds of miles of failing infrastructure roads, streets, water lines, sewer lines and needs new schools — that the tax base cannot support. Within a few hundred feet from the proposed 'Pagosa West' subdivision are acres and acres of vacant, undeveloped commercial and residential parcels. At last count, there are over 30 commercial properties for sale in Pagosa. 'Pagosa West' is not "needed", nor wanted by large segments of our community, not at this point in time, anyway.

Jane Weitzel

No Kings march

Dear Editor:

Just as the letters in this paper do not reflect everyone's views, the "No Kings" march won't either. It is merely a way for people to be heard that have a differing point of view on the direction our country is headed. They do

not hate America. The quoted comments from this past week below are lies perpetrated by Trump sycophants.

Mike Johnson and Senator Scalise have referred to the peaceful No Kings march that will be taking place all across our country on October 18th, as a "Hate America Rally".

Scalise said it was about one thing and one thing only: "to score political points with the terrorist wing of their party".

Tom Emmer, the House Majority Whip, called it a "terrorist" event.

Senator Roger Marshall described it as "a Soros paid-for protest" filled with "professional Protesters" and "agitators" and even made a threat to those who attend with a deployment of armed forces, like the ones being deployed to Chicago and Memphis. He also said, "I hope it will be peaceful, but I doubt it".

It's disturbing the Republicans are trying to incite violence, once again, by making false allegations. The No Kings march is about everyday people, from all walks of life, gathering together to exercise their First Amendment Rights. No one is being paid, no one is a professional protester (whatever that is), and it is not a terrorist event.

People participating in the march, by no means, "Hate America". When our citizens are no longer allowed to voice an opinion that differs from our leaders, we have become an autocracy.

Pagosa will have its peaceful, No Kings march at 10:30 on Saturday. October 18th starting from the Town Park, one of more than 2500 marches taking place across the US.

Dennis and Marcy Wyrick

Missing love

Dear Editor:

Letters

What is missing is love, in America, and in the World. They say that God's first four Commandments are to love God, and the last six Commandments are to love ourselves and others.

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37)." The second is Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself (Mark 12:31)."

It is easy to see, by what is happening in America today, that his commandments are not being followed. Obviously, Americans, have not been teaching our children at home and at schools, about God, the creator of everything. That includes me!

Our present and past leaders have failed to obey God. Humanity has forgotten that God's Ten Commandments became effective when he gave them to Moses. Government is to carry out God's laws, in order to have a loving and just society.

Those just commandments are, (1) You shall have no other gods before me, (2) You shall make no idols, (3) You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, (4) Keep the Sabbath day holy, (5) Honor your father and your mother, (6) You shall not murder, (7) You shall not commit adultery, (8) You shall not steal, (9) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor, (10) You shall

Bible history clearly shows that even Israel, God's chosen nation failed several times to obey God, and they were severely punished. Their many offences included throwing their children into the fire as an offering to their idol Gods. That same bible history shows

that, after their punishments, our loving and forgiving God, was able to turn them around.

The Holy Bible also shows that God punishes nations as well as their individuals. America, and most nations in the world today, are prime for such punishments. He will do it as he said he will, "in the Book of Revelation."

Just imagine, what a different world this would be, if humanity would do what Jesus said. He said, "love god with all your heart and soul," and love your neighbor" as you love your self. we are all his children, and we are all neighbors in this earth.

Manuel Ybarra Jr. Coalgate, Okla.

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Update

wanted to pursue placing cameras at the site to monitor activity at the ranch.

Hudson stated that he would suggest not placing cameras at the site based on Ramsey's report.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh commented that having cameras might be valuable since there are unoccupied structures and other potential hazards at the ranch.

PAWSD chairman Gene Tautges asked if PAWSD had received records of how much gravel had been taken from the ranch since Jan. 4, 2023, as requested in the district's cease and desist letter.

Ramsey stated that the district is working on accounting how much gravel it has acquired in the last three years and that the Webers claim that they have not sold gravel to anyone

else in that time.

Boehmer commented that he was not worried about squatters on the ranch during the summer while activity is happening on the ranch, but that it could be a potential concern during the winter.

The board concluded the discussion with the direction that no action on placing cameras at the ranch be taken at present.

Manager .

■ Continued from A3

very impressed," Jones said.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer commented that he feels Connor is best suited to lead the district given its current situation, but that Cottingham was "excellent" and "it's unfortunate we have to pick one."

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson commented that he agreed with the previous comments.

PAWSD chairman Gene Tautges stated that Connor would be a "great addition" and that he would "fully

support" hiring him. Hudson moved to enter into hiring

negotiations with Connor, which was approved unanimously.

Walsh then moved to nominate Boehmer to act as the board's negotiator in finalizing a contract with Connor, which was also unanimously approved.

josh@pagosasun.com

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Tourism

■ Continued from A3

Visit Pagosa Springs Tourism Director Jennifer Green, who then identifies which tour operators actually book and which hotels are actually listed in itineraries for the region, he continued.

Since the pandemic, Wolfe explained, the number of international visitors has been up and down for the state, reaching 97 percent of 2019's total in July 2025. The CTO also records data on the number of international travelers who visit Colorado, categorized by month and country of departure, since 2019.

"Mexico is really carrying the weight for Colorado; it's one of our biggest markets in terms of total volume and visitation, but we also track these other countries as well to try to drive visitation to Colorado," Wolfe said. "And, again, the key here is the tourism office empowers the tourism industry to inspire everybody to explore Colorado."

Wolfe explained the state has seen a slight influx in the CTO's international marketing budget over the last four years due to Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds.

Those funds run out in 2027, and the CTO goes back to its traditional budget, Wolfe noted.

"We're a little bit concerned about the future of international [marketing] when you look at 2028 and 2029," he added.

Efficiencies

In order to gauge its efficacy, Wolfe explained the CTO uses research agency SMARI to measure advertising effectiveness of both individual destinations and states.

"Nearly 3,000 different [Colorado] destinations are measured to figure out if their ads are effective or not, how their media spending is, so that we can see how well they're doing with visitation," he said.

Looking at the advertising impact in 2024-2025, Wolfe said, SMARI data found that the winter media return on investment (ROI) was the highest in the country for 2024, reaching an all-time high of \$978 in winter visitor spending for every \$1 invested in the media. Colorado's media spend is the highest ever recorded for the winter program, with a significant increase in ROI over the past eight to nine years.

With a 28 percent budget increase and adjustments to this year's winter media campaign, the CTO saw a dramatic increase in advertising effectiveness, he indicated.

"You can see that our ad effectiveness has dramatically increased in the past eight and nine years, and it's the highest ever recorded by SMARI," Wolfe said. "So, our office is doing a pretty good job of trying to do what we can."

Between 2010 and 2019, Wolfe continued, the CTO received only five or six total awards.

"Now our office gets a number of awards every year on a national basis," he said, with 10 awards received in 2024.

Domestic market share in decline

Despite the CTO's national recognition and growing number of annual awards, Wolfe explained recent data found domestic overnight visitor market shares in decline. The state saw a drop from 2.3 percent to 1.8 percent of overnight domestic visitors between 2019 and 2025.

"We're losing domestic market share visitation numbers as a state compared to the rest of the country," he said. "We used to be right around 2.3 percent of overnight domestic visitors, and we've dropped to 1.9, so we're still struggling to try to make sure that we're getting our fair share of overnight visitors."

Pagosa Springs leading state

Wolfe explained that, according to the STAR (Smith Travel Accommodations Report), an industry-standard hospitality performance report that the CTO collects annually, Pagosa Springs is a leader in overall hotel occupancy revenue for 2024.

"Colorado is down in overall occupancy and related revenue rates," he continued, "But Pagosa Springs, along with Alamosa, is up 10 percent in occupancy points, which is leading the entire state in occupancy. So, congratulations to your entire community for your occupancy growth."

He added the area is "far exceeding"regions across the entire state through August 2025 compared

Lodgers' tax trends and

Wolfe pointed out that there are only 23 properties and 1,200 hotel rooms in Pagosa Springs reporting occupancy.

"There are some key players here that we would like to see that would report their data," he said, noting they can't see individual data from any property and pointing out The Springs Resort, one of Pagosa Springs' largest hotels, doesn't report.

Wolfe reported Pagosa Springs leading Colorado in occupancy growth in 2024, with a 10 percent growth in occupancy based on the reporting properties.

Wolfe noted he and Green are "a little bit handicapped" until they can get more" STAR data there.

He indicated the data could also help the lodgers detect trends and how they're comparing to their com-

Wolfe explained 57 percent of Pagosa Springs properties report their STAR data, compared with almost 80 percent in Denver, Wolfe

Wolfe noted they also look at short-term rental occupancy data, with the state down year to date.

Grants and partnership highlights

For the winter of fiscal year 2025, Wolfe explained, the CTO partnered with Green's local team to cooperate on a number of social and paid media campaigns, which were widely

The partnership turned an investment of \$27,500 into a \$58,100 media value, according to CTO data.

"There was spend there between the partnerships, both our side and their side, and the campaign basically crushed it," Wolfe said.

With 5 million impressions and 502,000 engagements at 5 cents each, the media campaign produced a 9.9 percent engagement rate. With the traditional average at 1.3 percent, Wolfe added, the CTO's partnership with Pagosa Springs resulted in almost four to five times what is traditionally done.

The summer 2024 campaigns produced similar results, Wolfe continued, reaching four times the industry average for paid media engagement rates, and three to five times on the social media side.

Over the last two years, Wolfe explained, the CTO has seen a difference made by combination grants that highlight some of Pagosa Springs' resorts and visitor experiences.

Examples include the fiscal year 2024 Tourism Marketing Grant of \$40,000, which aims to promote the south central Colorado communities of Pagosa Springs and Alamosa to international audiences through a Bridging Regions marketing campaign, and the current fiscal year 2025 Tourism Marketing Grant of \$49,999, aiming to elevate Pagosa Springs and Alamosa as desirable international travel destinations to audiences in the UK and Germany.

Colorado lodgers' tax trends

As Colorado has no state lodgers' tax, Wolfe noted, the CTO shares data with the governor's office each year to justify the annual budget. Additionally, in the last couple of years, short-term rentals have increased their taxes dramatically over that of the lodgers.

"Additional funds have been used across the state of Colorado for housing, day care and doing a lot of different things for their communities as voted by the voters," Wolfe said.

In total, the CTO's 2024 report found that Colorado received \$55 million from regional lodgers' tax and visitors to fund community in-

"It's important to make sure that we're marketing Colorado correctly, so that we can protect these investments in our community," Wolfe said.

less than 2025.

Branding changes were among other recent efforts made by the CTO to increase visibility and visitation, Wolfe explained, shifting to an editorial model for vacation guides

that allows individual destinations to explain what they are.

"AI is not going to pick up this type of advertising, but we will pick up this content in terms of trusted content when people are building out AI itineraries to travel to anywhere in Colorado," he said. "So, this is done intentionally to try to drive as much views as possible and to also extend the shelf life of the vacation guides."

Wolfe also announced the CTO's Digital Passport Program, where users can get digital stamps from different Colorado experiences around the state, and collect them on the My Colorado app.

Additionally, Wolfe shared that drone shows will be replacing fireworks this year, honoring Colorado's Indigenous communities through its animations, and including an individual two minutes of localized content for each show.

"We want to do a drone show in Pagosa Springs, and we're waiting for which type of experience that your community wants to do, and then for Jen to tell us how they want to have it in the sky," he said.

The drone shows are a collaborative effort with the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission, established to jointly celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States and Colorado's 150th year as a state.

Wolfe noted the Commission has already approved Pagosa Springs as a location for the shows.

2026 event funding

In other business, the board discussed event funding for 2026, hearing from Green on funding application criteria, and how it can change or fall short based on exceptional circumstances, like construction and event impacts.

Green explained the board made a decision to fund more events this year, as it has not funded summer events in the past, but made exceptions this year due to specific needs. She also proposed creating a subcommittee not affiliated with events to move toward grant funding and reduce potential conflicts of interest.

In 2025, the event budget increased to \$140,000, not including the \$16,000 allocated for Fourth of July fireworks, Green explained, with a budget of \$150,000 for 2026.

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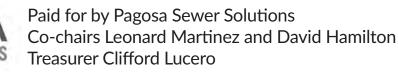
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showing \$20,207,577, for an increase

■ Continued from A3 nothing listed for expenditures.

Interim County Manager Mike

Torres indicated that those revenues may possibly be coming from interest received on that account. The solid waste fund has \$2,012,240

listed for total revenues and \$2,001,411.32 in total expenditures. The airport fund has \$955,544

listed in total revenues, with \$1,076,089.92 listed for total expenditures. The Fleet Management fund has

with \$2,325,000 also listed for total expenditures. Wylie also highlighted the 2026

\$2.325,000 listed for total revenues.

expenses by major type, noting that, in 2025, personnel costs came in at \$19,228,762, with the 2026 budget

Technical Services at 7.24 percent,

vices at 9.68 percent, or \$33,362.49.

month-to-month comparison in-

· Accommodation and Food Ser-

Categories that were down in the

• Retail Trade at 2.56 percent, or

■ Continued from A3

or \$1,051.02.

of 5 percent or \$978,815.

and services is proposed, going from \$15,983,902 in 2025 to \$16,079,277 in 2026. A decrease of 67 percent in capital

outlay expenses is being proposed, going from \$13,632,017 in 2025 to The debt service expense includes

a 509 percent increase, going from \$165,153 in 2025 to \$1,005,140 in 2026, and the total expense for transfers being proposed includes an 8 percent decrease, going from \$2,605,976 in 2025 to \$2,399,770 in

Overall revenues across the counpercent decrease, or \$8,886,093.27

less than 2025. The biggest decrease is reflected

in the county's general fund at 24 per-A 1 percent increase in materials cent, or \$7,222,344.38 less than 2025, followed by an 18 percent decrease in the public health fund, or \$658,598.16

\$4,547,915 in 2026.

ty's 11 funds for 2026 shows an 18

• Real Estate, Rental and Leasing

• Other Services (except Public

• Miscellaneous at 5.18 percent, or

Administration) at 8.35 percent, or

at 12.55 percent, or \$4,444.54.

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Village Drive.

Following Wylie's presentation, Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that no action was needed for the item during the Oct. 7 meeting, as no other comments were made by the commissioners.

The entirety of the county's 2026 proposed budget presentation can

be viewed online at https://www.

archuletacounty.gov/wp-content/

uploads/2025/10/2026-proposed-

budget-presentation.pdf, or at the

Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder's Office, now located at 305

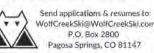
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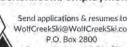
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Flooding

■ Continued from front

For perspective, Prochazka notes in an email to The SUN, the average October precipitation for Pagosa Springs is 2.27 inches and is 4.39 inches for Wolf Creek Pass.

Prochazka further offers that, if the system had hit in the middle of winter with colder air, the Pagosa area would have received 24 to 70 inches of snow and the mountains would have received 120-150 inches of snow.

A multiagency coordination meeting was held the morning of Sunday, Oct. 12, to discuss the Oct. 11 flood and what was coming,

"The events that unfolded yesterday, we were somewhat aware we were going to get some rainfall," Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux said at the meeting. "I don't know that any of us truly expected the event that occurred yesterday and is still ongoing."

Le Roux explained that, for the most part, personnel were out during the day patrolling during the wet weather "and it was just another day and a half of rain."

He noted things quickly changed around 4 or 4:30 p.m.

"That water came up within the space of 30 to 40 minutes," he said, "beyond what we could have imagined at that point."

At that point, mandatory evacuations were put in place for San Juan River Village, he explained.

He noted the trigger point for them started on the West Fork where people were stuck on Rainbow Trail, unable to cross a bridge after water began covering it.

He noted people were able to clean the bridge and get the people across safely.

He also outlined an incident on Fall Creek Road in Mineral County where people were on the other side of a washout 40- to 50-feet wide and 15 feet deep. Mineral County Search and Rescue began evacuating people across it.

"That's really ... when the alarm bells started flashing," he said, noting there was then a delay and the high water levels began moving down toward San Juan River Village, town, and County Road 500 was "severely inundated.

Patrols were looking at the diversion dam, where water was flowing above the wall due to being at max capacity.

While that was happening, he explained, an emergency shelter was set up at the Ross Aragon Community

Evacuation and pre-evacuation orders were then put out in lowlying areas on Hermosa Street and San Juan Street in downtown Pagosa

Springs. He added areas in the Upper Blanco, Lower Blanco and all the way to County Road 500 were affected, and that road and bridge and the town did a good job troubleshooting, berming, tending to culverts and taking care of roads.

That day, town and county personnel, in conjunction with the state, began assessing damage related to the storm and flooding prior to the next round of moisture moved in, which a state official noted would count as a separate incident.

At that time, tropical storm Ray-

mond's effect was unknown, though forecasters projected that river levels could again reach minor flood stage.

From the morning of Oct. 13 to the morning of Oct. 14, Prochazka outlines in the email, the Pagosa area received from .78 inches to 2.80 inches of rain, with SNOTEL reports in the mountains ranging from 3.1-3.7 inches.

That put the San Juan River in Pagosa Springs back into major flood stage and above levels reached on Oct. 11, with evacuations again ordered for low-lying locations along rivers throughout the county and public parks located in downtown Pagosa Springs again closed due to

Evacuations

Mandatory evacuation orders for the second of the two floods were lifted Tuesday evening as the river receded to lower flood stages.

According to the Pagosa Springs Police Department, there were 13 mandatory evacuations on Hermosa Street and 12 on San Juan Street, with another 13 pre-evacuations on Hermosa Street and eight pre-evacuations on Cobblestone for the storms.

Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harris noted that affected about 100 people.

According to Emergency Management Commander Roy Vega, in unincorporated Archuleta County about 124 residences were under mandatory evacuation, affecting about 250 people.

He noted that, according to Department of Human Services Director Heidi Martinez, the most checked in at the evacuation shelter was 10.

Road, school closures

The storms also led to the closure of a number of area roads, as well as Archuleta School District (ASD) schools.

Portions of U.S. 160 and County Road 500 were closed during both

U.S. 160 in downtown Pagosa Springs closed for about 14 hours during the first flood due to concerns over stress to the bridge and a town sewer pipe that hung beneath the bridge.

U.S. 160 was again closed during the second flood, when debris took out a portion of the town's sewer pipe.

A press release from the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD) explains that, the morning of Oct. 14, "floodwaters and debris caused a failure in the sewer lines beneath the 1st Street Bridge on U.S. 160."

U.S. 160 over Wolf Creek Pass was

also closed during both flood events. County Road 500 was closed due to extreme flooding conditions in

lower areas. A portion of County Road 600 (Piedra Road) was also closed to through traffic due to flooding for about 24 hours, according to Vega.

The flooding and U.S. 160 closure on Oct. 14 led Le Roux to request that Archuleta School District schools close on Tuesday, Oct. 14, with ASD explaining that conditions remained unpredictable, and safety of students, staff and families is the top priority.

celed on Monday, Oct. 13. The schools reopened on Wednes-

After-school activities were can-

day, Oct. 15.

On Wednesday morning, La Plata Electric Association reported, three homes were de-energized as a result of the flooding.

Other area river levels

The San Juan River at Carracas was at 2.3 feet or 79.7 cfs on Oct. 9, with storm-related peaks coming at 8.25 feet and 9,440 cfs at 6:30 a.m. on Oct. 12 and 9.24 feet and 12,600 cfs at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 14.

The Piedra River at Arboles, which was running at 1.05 feet and 79.7 cfs on Oct. 9, peaked at 5.86 feet and 4,680 cfs at 2:15 a.m. on Oct. 12 and 7.26 feet or 7,240 cfs at 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 14.

Disaster declarations

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County both issued disaster declarations the night of Oct. 11.

The following day, Gov. Jared Polis issued a verbal disaster declaration to support response and recovery efforts following significant flooding in western Colorado, including in Archuleta and La Plata counties.

"The governor has been monitoring the situation closely, and state public safety leaders have been in close contact with local emergency management about this unprecedented weather event," the press release states.

State resources, the press release explains, including the Colorado Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), Colorado State Patrol, and the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, as well as the Colorado Department of Transportation and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, were previously engaged in the emergency response before the verbal disaster declaration.

The governor's declaration activates the State Emergency Operations Plan and authorizes DHSEM to take whatever actions may be required for response efforts, including up to the initial \$1 million in estimated costs.

It also allowed the county, town and state to begin working toward a federal disaster declaration through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"We have our paperwork there," Harris said, "and it's just a matter of getting it before FEMA and getting them to greenlight it."

Archuleta County extended its declaration during a special meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Next steps

"My takeaway is that ... we've been very lucky so far," Harris said. "It could have been a lot worse."

But, both Harris and Vega noted there is a lot ahead.

Both listed debris cleanup as one of the biggest challenges facing the area in the wake of the floods.

Included in that debris were numerous trees and logs that were swept down the river.

"Debris cleanup is probably going to be the biggest challenge," Harris said. "That, and finding a way to fasttrack a sewer line repair and do it so that it's a permanent solution and not a temporary ... that we have to do over again."

Harris noted there will also be

other infrastructure needs.

He noted they will be doing a lot of paperwork with the state to put together a debris plan, noting the town may borrow the county's debris plan that was approved on Wednesday for the Pagosa Springs Town Council to consider.

"The debris cleanup is going to be huge," Vega said.

Vega noted Wednesday there were personnel from the assessor's office, fire officials and others out and about working on damage assessment.

He noted that damage assessment is also a huge challenge, seeing how much money the community is looking at in damage to homes, driveways, county transportation routes and bridges.

At a special meeting of the Pagosa Springs Town Council on Tuesday, Oct. 13, it was stated that few homes in the town may have had water intrusion, but primarily the concern was debris and outbuildings.

Vega noted that, in the county, they were seeing primarily damage to yards with debris, crawl spaces being filled up with water and outbuildings.

He noted the damage assessments are not going into houses. One piece of debris that floated down the river was a cabin that Vega

noted has history with the 1911 flood. "It looks like it's in tact, it just got moved," he said, explaining he flew over it in a helicopter.

Public safety concerns

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, the town announced that standing water and debris remain in various areas, posing ongoing safety risks.

"As a precaution, all parks and the surrounding downtown areas along the San Juan River will remain temporarily closed to the public. Authorities urge all residents and visitors to avoid these areas until further notice," the notice states.

It adds, "A decision to open the parks will be made by the Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department after a comprehensive safety review and completion of a debris clean-up."

Vega noted that he was also concerned about the gusty, high winds forecast to hit the area and what that could do with the ground saturated and soft from the storms.

Vega also urged continued awareness, noting the ground is soft and the chance of trees going down and power lines being affected when the area sees wind is high.

He also noted to not approach any utilities still under water or try to drive through low bodies of water.

"It doesn't take a lot of water for a car to start floating and get moved around," he said.

A thanks

Harris also offered a "special thanks" to everybody who respected the barricades and closures.

He added he appreciates the community's cooperation and that, for the most part, people were very respectful and helpful.

Harris also noted the community has a great team of public works, law enforcement, health and others who were stretched thin but persevered.

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Infrastructure

■ Continued from front that the pipe was taking hits from

debris coming down the flooded The matter was discussed at a

special meeting of the Pagosa Springs

Town Council on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Pagosa Springs Public Works Director Karl Johnson explained that "a tree had wedged itself on the topside of the sewer main," which then started catching other debris until it

"snapped" the line. Town staff installed "a temporary bypass" of the sewer main on top the bridge, and was back in operation as of 11 a.m. Tuesday morning, Johnson said.

Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harries noted Wednesday fast-tracking a solution for the pipe that is permanent will be one of the biggest challenges following the

At the Tuesday meeting, it was also noted the flooding caused a lot of inflow and infiltration of unwanted water into the town's sewer system, causing the amount piped to the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District's (PAWSD's) wastewater

treatment plant to nearly triple. Johnson also indicated the flooding likely intensified some of the existing issues with the system. For more information, see related story.

Water repairs

PAWSD announced on Oct. 14 that there will be a water outage for customers on the south side of U.S. 160 and the west side of U.S. 84 just past Cole's Meat Processing in order for repairs to be made.

The organization explained that distribution crews need to isolate the water line from the 1st Street bridge on U.S. 160 to the end of the line on the west side of U.S. 84 so the crews can work on the pressure-reducing valve to adjust pressure to a more stable operating range.

That work is anticipated to begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, the water will be turned off.

Riverbank erosion

Harris also noted the riverbank is sloughing off in the area of the 1st Street bridge, with 10 feet of a corrugated pipe broken off, leading officials to believe about 10 feet of the bank sloughed off.

Roads

"There's so many miles of county roads that need to be repaired one way or the other, whether it's just potholes and washboard after all this or actual washouts," Emergency Management Commander Roy Vega said, noting they'll all need to be repaired.

2025 Ballot Questions

Proposition LL: Retain and Spend State Revenue Exceeding the Estimate for Proposition FF

Question:

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?

Proposition MM: Increase State Taxes for School Meals and Food Assistance Programs

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

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REVENUE GENERATED BY THESE TAX DEDUCTION CHANGES? Changes in Income Taxes Owed by Income Category

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

Flood evacuation orders lifted, relief efforts underway

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

Mandatory evacuation orders for the second of the two floods were lifted Tuesday evening as the San Juan River receded to low flood stages, allowing residents home to again assess damage to their properties.

But the help for those affected started well before that, beginning with the opening of the evacuation shelter at the Ross Aragon Community Center and continuing with groups and individuals seeking to help and donated to recovery efforts.

Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harris noted Wednesday he's been pleased to see the number of people who came out to help their neighbors during the flooding and the groups showing up to help with remediation.

"It's great to see so many groups stepping forward and offering to help," he said.

Affected residents

Harris indicated that, first, people affected by the flooding should contact

their insurance.

"If individuals are affected, they do need to contact their insurance company and take a lot of pictures," he said. "Your ... camera is your best friend on this one. Just document, document, document."

Harris explained Wednesday he's noticed a number of vendors are "suddenly" in town offering their services.

"People need to do their homework," he said, noting that many are likely reputable, but people need to

On Wednesday, the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado relayed that flood recovery resources can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1, texting to 898-211 or visiting 211colorado.org. You may also call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcross.org to see if you are eligible for Red Cross Recovery Assistance.

It also announced that it had activated the Archuleta Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to help community-based organizations offering support through emergency situations.

Archuleta County also offers a webpage featuring flood recovery resources for southwest Colorado: https://www. archuletacounty.gov/southwest-colorado-flood-recovery-resources/.

Not affected, but wanting to help?

Multiple opportunities exist to help those affected by the recent floods, including through donating to the Archuleta CERF administered by the Community Foundation.

On Wednesday, the Community Foundation announced that it, with the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are activating the Archuleta CERF to assist in the distribution of monetary donations "to support the community of Pagosa Springs after unprecedented rain brought flooding and significant damage earlier this week."

An Archuleta CERF fund has been created specifically for Archuleta County to assist the community in recovering from recent flooding and give individuals who would like to help a safe option for donating funds.

CERF is designated for broad-based community emergencies in Southwest Colorado. Community stakeholders deploy funds, as needed and as available, to community-based organizations supporting our region through emergency situations.

"There are many folks who would like to help, but they aren't sure where to donate or exactly what they can do to best support the community," Har-

Donating through Archuleta CERF ensures that donations are collected in an efficient manner, and that they will be directed to the appropriate areas of need. Online donations can be made through the Community Foundation's website, swcommunityfoundation.org, by clicking on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the home page, then selecting "Archuleta CERF." Checks made out to the Community Foundation - Memo: Archuleta CERF - can be mailed to the P.O. Box 1673 Durango,

"We first activated the Archuleta CERF after the Adobe Fire in 2016 and deployed funding to assist in recovery efforts," said Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. "The Archuleta CERF ensures that all donations support Archuleta County residents and businesses."

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Colorado Department of Revenue announces tax relief for those impacted by southwestern Colorado flooding

Colorado Department of Revenue

On Sunday, Gov. Jared Polis declared a disaster in southwestern Colorado because of recent flooding. In response, the Colorado Department of Revenue is offering help to people and businesses affected by the floods.

"We are supporting the Coloradans who have been impacted by these devastating floods every way we can, and that includes extending our state's tax deadlines. I continue monitoring the situation very closely,

Pagosa Country is expected to move

As of press time Wednesday, a flood

into a drier pattern in the coming days

following the expiration of a flood

advisory for Pagosa Springs issued by

the National Weather Service (NWS)

remained in effect, with the advisory

lasting until noon today, Thursday, Oct.

16, with rain and storms clearing up as

overnight lows are expected through-

According to the NWS, freezing

The high in Pagosa Springs today,

October is National Pedestrian

Safety Month, and the Colorado State

Patrol (CSP) wants motorists and pe-

destrians to do their part as they share

According to CSP crash data, troop-

When examining 2024 citations

ers responded to 219 injury and fatal

pedestrian-involved crashes in 2024,

involving pedestrians issued by CSP

troopers, the most common motorist

violation was failing to yield the right

of way to a pedestrian in a crosswalk

(31 citations, a 24 percent increase

citations involving pedestrians from

2024, the number of citations with

pedestrians at fault had increased dras-

tically from 2021. Many citation types

"Safety is a shared responsibility,"

stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of

doubled or tripled in amount.

When the CSP examined the top

over 2023).

a 25 percent increase over 2023.

the weekend approaches.

out the weekend.

By Clayton Chaney

Staff Writer

advisory.

Storms to clear up for the weekend,

freezing overnight temps expected

Motorists and pedestrians

share responsibility on road

clear skies.

and emergency and our public safety resources are actively engaged in response and recovery efforts," said

More time to file and pay

The Department of Revenue extended the deadlines for some state tax filings to Dec. 31. This applies to: · Income tax extensions that are

due on Oct. 15. · Sales taxes that are due on Oct.

Taxpayers can ask for penalty

Thursday, Oct. 16, is forecast at 58 de-

grees with mostly sunny skies, followed

by a mostly clear night with a low of 24

cast at 58 degrees with sunny skies and

a low of 24 degrees at night with mostly

forecast at 62 degrees with an overnight

forecast at 66 degrees with sunny skies

and an overnight low of around 30

low of 28 degrees and clear skies.

degrees with mostly clear skies.

For Saturday, Oct. 18, the high is

The high for Sunday, Oct. 19, is

The extended forecast shows similar

anditions for the early part of next

the CSP. "It's easy to point the finger at

drivers, because there is no contest on

who would suffer the most in a crash.

However, they are not always respon-

of being hit by being predictable. That

means following traffic rules and

obeying traffic signals are designed for

involving pedestrians or bicyclists inves-

tigated by the CSP, neighborhood streets

or rural roads were the most common

the most pedestrian/bicycle crashes,

with double-digit crash numbers every

ing, please stay alert," stated Packard.

"Do not allow technology to distract

you, and make eye contact with the

drivers around you before you step

out into the crosswalk. Look, listen and

watch out for each other."

In 2024, Thursday and Monday had

"If you are walking, running or rid-

locations where crashes occurred.

hour from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m.

Looking at fatal and injury crashes

Pedestrians can reduce the chance

sible for these crashes."

everyone's safety.

For Friday, Oct. 17, the high is fore-

waivers for other taxes and fees due during October, including, for example, marijuana, fuel and the retailer delivery fee by contacting the

Taxpayers affected by the floods have until Dec. 31 to file these taxes. This relief is for state taxes only. It does not apply in cities or counties that collect their own taxes.

How to get help

The department will not automatically apply this tax deadline waiver. Eligible taxpayers must call to request an extended deadline after receiving

To make a request, please call the Department of Revenue at (303) 238-SERV (7378) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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, featur-

ing 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Relax on the cov-

ered 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 appli-

ances, 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

To tour this home go to:

https://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct

set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.



life 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.

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MLS #828583. https://pspixeltree.com/120-Big-Horn-Ct



1001 Soaring Eagle Court

MLS # 822945

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navaio 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

single-level home prestigious Ranch Community, nestled on a sprawling acre-plus lot. Meticulously crafted with every detail in mind, this residence exudes quality sophistication. The thoughtful design features three spacious bedrooms two bathrooms, seamlessly integrated with

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\$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.



The mobile home portion of this residence is 500



\$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.



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.



Barbara Swindlehurst REALTOR®, BROKER/OWNER C: 303.618.7423



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





REALTOR®, Broker Associate C: 970-585-6266 Valerie.PagosaRE@gmail.com



Shellie Hogue REALTOR®, BROKER C: 970.759.8109 ShellieCHogue@gmail.com www.shelliehogue.com



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SUN photos Randi Pierce, photos courtesy Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Flooding is pictured throughout Archuleta County during the Oct. 14 flood, which ranks at the third highest on record, behind floods in 1911 and 1927.

Sports



FOOTBALL

Pirates take down Bayfield rivals

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team defeated the Bayfield Wolverines on Friday, Oct. 10, in Bayfield by a score of 55-7, picking up its second Intermountain League (IML) win of the season and improving its overall record to 3-3 on the season. That includes a league mark of 2-0, which puts the Pirates in second place in the IML.

"They were just motivated. We played really motivated," coach Nathan Morales said.

He mentioned the Pirates have been talking about starting out fast in games, "and we were able to do that."

He also explained the Pirates lost to the Wolverines last season, so the team had some extra motivation to "get back at 'em and get after it."

According to stats entered into MaxPreps and shared with The SUN, the game's first touchdown came from an 8-yard run by Colton Lucero on the Pirates' first offensive possession.

"The kids played real well and they came out strong," Morales added.

Alex Pacheco came up with a 3-yard rushing touchdown on the following possession, which was followed by another rushing touchdown from Lucero, this time going for 56 yards.

"We have good backs," Morales commented, explaining that the Pirates are still working through a new offensive system with multiple playmakers available to carry the ball.

"But, our O-line has done a great job the last couple weeks," Morales added, noting that tight ends and receivers are also contributing to the run game with strong blocking.

Morales explained that the Pirates' rushing success is due to the offensive line being physical up front and the ball carriers hitting the holes hard.

The Pirates' special teams was able to force a block punt, with Zander touchdown to put the Pirates up 25-0.

The Pirates managed to get on the scoreboard one more time in the first quarter with a 22-yard passing touchdown as Creede Dozier connected with Kasen Limebrook, bringing the score to 32-0 at the end of the first

The Pirates opened the scoring in the second quarter with a 47-yard field goal by Gavin Carter, extending the lead to 35-0.

Carter converted four out of six extra point attempts on the night.

"Morales explained that Dozier's influence is not always reflected in the stats, but that "his job is so important and he's doing a great job for us."

Bayfield's only score on the night came on the following possession with a 45-yard passing touchdown.

The Pirates responded later during the quarter with two more rushing touchdowns from Lucero for 35 yards and 24 yards, allowing the Pirates to take a 48-7 lead into halftime.

The last score of the game came just a couple of minutes into the third quarter with another rushing touchdown by Lucero, this time for 56 yards, bringing the final score to 55-7.

The Pirates put up a total of 350 yards on offense, with Lucero leading the team in rushing with 305 yards

and five touchdowns on 14 carries. Alex Pacheco carried the ball seven times, racking up 18 yards and

Dozier completed his only pass attempt for a 22-yard touchdown and

Lefthandbull recovering the ball for a also carried the ball three times for a total of 5 yards.

> Colby Ross racked up 10 yards on seven carries.

> The Pirates' defense was able to force a total of seven turnovers on the night, including four interceptions and three fumble recoveries.

> "Anytime you can get turnovers, that's a positive for our team," Morales said, noting the Pirates were fortunate to get those turnovers and that they "changed the game big time."

> He commented that Bayfield has explosive players capable of making big plays, so to limit those opportunities for Bayfield was key.

> Hudson Mazur and Jonathan Baker each came up with one interception, returning them for 35 yards and 17 yards, respectively.

> Dozier and Lucero also recorded one interception each.

Jayton Ross, Devin Gonzalez and Lefthandbull are each credited with one fumble recovery.

Morales commented on the Pirates' defensive line, noting those players are "athletic and strong" and are able to take on blocks, leaving the Pirate linebackers open to make a play.

"We have really good linebackers, too," Morales added, noting the Pirate linebackers do a good job of reading the play and getting to the ball fast.

Aidan Vega is credited with the Pirates' only sack on the night, along with three solo tackles.

"Vega's done a good job for us this year," Morales said, explaining that Vega has played multiple positions so far this season.

"And he's excelled at everyone, which is good for us," Morales added. Morales went on to comment on

the Pirates' special teams performance as well, noting that has "been big for us too."

He explained that tackling well on special teams has been crucial in being able to win the field position battle by pinning opponents deep on

"It all starts with our senior leaders," he said, noting that multiple younger classmen are taking on the challenge and finding important roles in special teams.

"And they've really excelled," he said of the team's freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

Morales also spoke about Dozier's

recent performances at quarterback, noting that he "makes this offense work." Morales explained that Dozier's

influence is not always reflected in the stats, but that "his job is so important and he's doing a great job for us."

Morales spoke highly of the Pirates' recent performances, but noted there are still "just some little things we gotta shore up," such as making sure everyone is lining up correctly, avoiding unnecessary penalties, tackling well and everyone knowing their assignment on every play.

"I think we're playing good football right now. I don't think we're playing great football," he said, noting the team is striving to get better each and every day.

"That's all on me," Morales added, explaining that he's got to make sure everyone knows their assignment in any situation.

The Pirates will be back in action tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 17, as they host the IML's Gunnison Cowboys at Golden Peaks Stadium at 7 p.m, in what will be the team's "pink game" in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Cowboys currently have an overall record of 0-6, including a league mark of 0-2.

Morales commented that Gunnison is a good team with good athletes and a size advantage in certain

"It'll be a tough matchup for us," he said. "We're excited for the chal-Morales explained that the Pirates

will be focusing on themselves and looking to ensure that all of the little things are done right against Gunnison.

He also mentioned the team is excited to be playing at home again.

"We'd love to have a big crowd," he said, noting that it is free to attend the game. "We love playing in front of our home fans; it's exciting."

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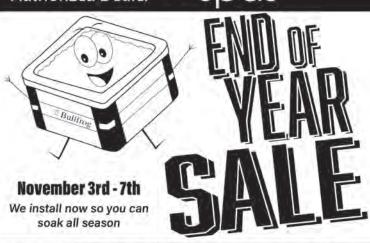
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CROSS-COUNTRY Pair of Pirates place in top 10 at muddy Mancos meet

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country team, unsurprisingly, dealt with rain and mud at the Oct. 11 Chicken Creek Classic in

The team also encountered additional, unexpected challenges.

"The Mancos meet was a wild one! It was rainy, muddy, and two middle schoolers got lost, which delayed the start of the high school races by 40 minutes," coach Josh Kurz wrote in a newsletter. "I was able to convince the Mancos coach to change the high school course at the last minute to avoid the slow and dangerously muddy trail conditions. Special thanks to Janae Ash for jogging a mile and a half in her galoshes to help me direct runners on the modified course.

"I was proud of our runners for being flexible and toughing it out in wet clothes for 4 hours. We got drenched right away as we searched for the course, which was erased by the rain."

But, despite the conditions and challenges, the teams returned home with two top-10 finishers — Madisen

Stretton and Rylan Ash. "Madi ran tough and placed 7th overall," Kurz highlights.

43.25 seconds to finish seventh out of 38 runners. Kaiya Lyons finished 11th with a

Stretton ran a time of 23 minutes,

time of 24:25.90, followed by Bella Jackson seconds behind in 24:38.53. Xyra Belarmino finished 28th with

a time of 30:33.53. The girls' team didn't have enough runners to score as a team (five runners are required to score as a team).

The Pirate boys' squad, however, did have enough runners to compete as a team, finishing fourth out of eight

The Pirates were led by Rylan Ash's second-place finish, which Kurz calls "impressive."

second out of 59 runners.

Eli Nehring finished 23rd with a time of 20:39.93, with Dylan Dempster following in 24th with a time of

Weston Sweet finished in 27th with a time of 21:10.85. Merrick Tudor followed in 28th in

Kieran Kurz took 30th with a time of 21:38.84.

Isaac Hanto ran a time of 22:42.71 to finish 33rd.

Jacen Easling took 37th with a time of 23:16.60.

"Bella and Eli were our monsters of the week.," Kurz highlights. "They both managed to drop time from the previ-

Ash ran a time of 18:18.20 to take ous week despite the rainy conditions. Bella dropped 29 seconds, and Eli dropped 2 seconds."

This week, the team will head to Monte Vista for its final regular-season

"It's a fast and extremely spectatorfriendly course held at the Monte Vista Golf Course," Kurz wrote, adding the race will help determine who will represent Pagosa at regionals.

Kurz explains in the newsletter that this week leading up to the Monte Vista races is the team's "most important training week."

Following the Monte Vista meet, the Pirates will head for the Oct. 23 regional races in Colorado Springs.

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Soccer



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Jacob Castaneda leaps to win a header against an Alamosa defender during the Pirates' 5-0 win on Friday, Oct. 10.

Pirates shut out Alamosa at home to move to 10-1

By Clayton Chaney Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team picked up another win on Friday, Oct. 10, defeating the Alamosa Mean Moose 5-0.

With the win, the Pirates improve their overall record on the season to 10-1 and remain unbeaten in league play with an Intermountain League (IML) record of 5-0.

Coach Trevor Gian explained that weather started to become a factor during the match, noting it "did affect the game at times."

He mentioned there were a few spots on the field with lots of water where the ball would slow down or field was just slick.

Gian spoke about how league games are always tough and how the Pirates' first matchup on the road against Alamosa this season was a tough environment to play in.

He mentioned the Pirates were more comfortable playing at home this time around, "and it definitely showed."

Gian gave respect to Alamosa, noting the Mean Moose have quality

"We definitely were ready, though," he added.

Gavin Carter provided the first goal for the Pirates on the day early on in the first half with "a good finish to

even stop, but, other than that, the the near post," Gian explained.

He noted that Carter scored a second goal in the first half with a shot from outside of Alamosa's box, which he described as "a great shot down low."

The Pirates also earned a penalty kick in the first half, with Esnyder Paz drawing a foul inside of Alamosa's box, Gian explained.

Gian noted that Chance Ramirez stepped up and knocked in the penalty kick, giving the Pirates a 3-0 lead going into halftime.

Gian commented that the Pirates put together "some really good play" in the first half, creating multiple scoring opportunities and testing the Alamosa goalkeeper.

He mentioned that Alamosa was able to string together some transition play at times, but that the Pirates dictated possession and control for the majority of the first half.

"I felt like we definitely dictated the pace of the game," he said.

Gian explained that the message at halftime to the team was to go out and put the game away, noting that he was starting to get comfortable with the 3-0 lead, but wanted a little bit more from the Pirates.

"We really came after 'em," he said, explaining that Milo Deitemeyer moved up from his usual defensive position into a more attacking role and was able to get a goal.

■ See Soccer A13

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COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with re gard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On August 14, 2025, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records

Original Grantor(s) Jennifer Lee Original Beneficiary(ies) United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Current Holder of Evidence of Debt United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agri-

culture Date of Deed of Trust County of Recording Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust June 09, 1997 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/

Page No.) 97003543 Original Principal Amount \$63,815.00 Outstanding Principal Balance \$49.010.25

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST

Lot 11, Block 20, Lake Pagosa Park, according to the plat thereof recorded as Reception No. 72998 Purported common address: 22 Jubilee Court,

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST. NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 12/11/2025 at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 Sar Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 10/16/2025 Last Publication 11/13/2025

Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF IN-TENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 08/14/2025 Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado

/s/ Elsa P. White By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Amanda Ferguson #44893 Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 355 Union Blvd. Ste

250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155 Attorney File # CO23642

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose. Published October 16, 23, 30, November 6 and 13 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (271973)

Archuleta Combined Courts 109 Harman Park Dr. PO Box 148 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Date Filed: January 5, 2024

Case Number: 2001C134

Petitioner(s): Corey Stone, Dale Stone parent & next

Respondent: Jason X Chavez, Betsy Chavez Parent & MOTION TO DISMISS PERMANENT PROTECTION

As the Restrained Person, I. Jason X Chavez, am requesting that the current Protection Order be modified/

dismissed for the following reasons: I was never served and was incarcerated at the time. I had no ability to show up to defend myself. My mother who responded to the summons kept all information from me about it so I had no idea it had ever happened Corey Stone had instigated the situation and made threats of his own before our confrontation and then attempted to play the victim. It has been 20 years and

I have not seen this person since I literally forgot he The following must be complied with by the RE-STRAINED PERSON for any action to be taken by the

The Permanent Protection Order was issued prior to July 1, 2014. As the Restrained Person, I verify that at least four years have passed since the permanent order was issued or the last modification has been ordered (§13-14-102(17.5)(a), C.R.S., as it existed prior to July

As the Restrained Person, I verify that a complete and current fingerprint-based criminal history record check has been conducted within 90 days prior to the filing of this motion and I have attached the results to this Motion. (§13-14-108(3)(a)(I), C.R.S.)

/s/Jason X Chavez jasonxchavez10@gmail.com

720-628-7239 Published October 16, 23, 30 and November 6 and 13, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (276157)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Archuleta District Court 109 Harman Park Drive

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
YOLANDA HYLTON, ERNESTO J. MORENO, MAR-GARITA DELAROSA, CECELIA PERDUE, EDU-ARDO MORENO, JOSEPH DOMINGUEZ, LINDA DURAZO, LOIS AARON, MARIA E. ALVARADO MICHAEL HANSON, FRANCES HENDERSON, DALE HANSON, REBECCA THORPE.

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

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 PAR-TIES HEREIN IDENTIFIED AS "JOHN DOES" OR

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

DISTRICT COURT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
DISTRICT COURT SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Trustee of THE CHAVEZ TRUST, TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, individually, and TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Personal

Representative of THE ESTATE OF JOSE NEMENCIO CHAVEZ

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 ow ship 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 ned 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

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 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (275870)

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON OC-

Jeff Greer has requested a GENERAL VARIANCE regarding ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS, in CLO-MAN INDUSTRIAL PARK: Lot 57 Sec: 9 Twn: 35 Rng 2W, at 696 Industrial Cir, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-VAR-25-080). The property is zoned INDUSTRIAL). 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) 264-1390 or to mryan@ archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Adjustments on October 21 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Public comment will be taken at the meeting Published October 2 and 16, 2025 in *The Pagosa*

ING ON November 4, 2025 LPEA has applied for a utility substation, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the tract of land within SEC 26, TWN 35N, RNG 2W, at 2140 County Road 500, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN-25-079). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).

Springs SUN. (274794)

Comments regarding this proposal may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507 telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@ archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on November 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs. Public comment will be taken at the meeting. Published October 16 and 30, 2025 in The Pagosa

FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON October 23, 2025

LPEA has applied for a utility substation, BOARD CON-DITIONAL 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) 264-1390 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 Published October 9 and 16, 2025 in The Pagosa

Springs SUN. (275118)

Notice is hereby given that: a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of Los Pinos Fire Protection District for the ensuing year of 2026 a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of Los Pinos Fire Protection District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at the regular meeting of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District to be held at 275 Browning Ave., Ignacio, CO 81137 on December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Any interested elector of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Published October 16, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs

NOTICE OF BUDGET SAN JUAN RIVER VILLAGE METROPOLITAN

DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed budget

has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the San Juan River Village Metropolitan District for the ensuing year of 2026. A copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of Louise Woods, (970) 403-5850, where the same is open for public inspection. Such proposed budget will be considered at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Juan River Village Metropolitan District to be held at 598 Alpine Drive, Pagosa Springs,

Colorado, on December 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Any interested elector within the San Juan River Village Metropolitan District may inspect the proposed budge and file or register any objections thereto at any tir prior to the final adoption of the budget.

DATED: October 16, 2025 San Juan River Village Metropolitan District

Cynthia Purcell, District Manager Published October 16, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for a Sketch Major Subdivision (an amendment to the Pagosa Lakes Plaza Minor Impact Subdivision) known as the Pagosa West Major Subdivision. The proposed subdivision encompasses approximately 100 acres of vacant land located at the southeast corner of South Pagosa Boulevard and U.S. Highway 160. The project area includes three parcels: 80 S. Pagosa Blvd (Parcel #569920156001), 100 S. Pagosa Blvd (Parcel #569920400163), and 3800 W. Hwy 160

(Parcel #569921229001). The proposed develop includes a mix of commercial and residential uses

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hear-

ing on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 5:30 pm to con

sider the Sketch Major Subdivision application. This hearing is specific to the subdivision action; all proposed development within the subdivision will be reviewed/heard after the completion of the sub-

Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. 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 pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mypagosa.org/proposed-development-projects. We encourage interested parties to contact the Plan ning Division prior to the public hearing dates, v any questions via phone at 970-585-8636 or email at

will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Please note that public comments submitted on MvPagosa.org or via email will not receive a response until

ktunnell@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing

the public hearing.
Published October 16, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs*

The Town of Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs Blvd to take public comment on the 2026 proposed budget for the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District. Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection on the Town website pagosasprings.co.gov and in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall. Published October 16, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (275056

The Town of Pagosa Springs Town Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 5:00

p.m. at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs to take public comment on the 2026 proposed budget and capital program for the Town of Pagosa Springs. Copies of the proposed budget and the proposed capital projects pro website pagosasprings.co.gov and in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall. Published October 16, 2050 in The Pagosa Springs

SUN. (275055) 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 Published October 9 and 16, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (275054

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON November 4, 2025 LPEA has applied for a GENERAL VARIANCE on the tract of land within SEC 26.TWN 35N, RNG 2W, at 2140 County Road 500, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-VAR-25-082). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning De partment, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@ archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Adjustments on November 4. 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room,398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs ar Published October 16 and 30, 2025 in The Pagos

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@pagosasun.com

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

Soccer

■ Continued from A12

Gian noted that Deitemeyer "had a great finish" from a "well-struck ball" about 20 yards out.

Gian mentioned that Alamosa had a run of about 10 minutes where they were able to gain some momentum and create a scoring chance.

He explained that Alamosa was able to set up a shot on nearly an open net, but that Oliver Samu "was able to meet it" just before an Alamosa attacker could knock it in.

The Pirates came up with a fifth goal from Ryder King with about 20 minutes left to play, Gian explained.

"At the end of the day, it was a fun day for soccer, in my opinion," Gian said, noting that the Pirates' play wasn't always perfect, but the effort and heart of the team was apparent.

"It was great to see," he said. "We were the better team that day."

Gian praised the Pirate team as a whole, commenting that he was "extremely impressed with our team" and the resiliency showed.

He also commented that the Pirates did a good job of keeping their cool and understanding how they can not give away cheap yellow cards in reactionary moments.

"We did a really, really good job keeping our head, keeping our cool," Gian said, explaining league games have a tendency to be more physical. Gian mentioned that the way the

Pirates played made him "very proud" of the team. "We play it to have fun," he said, noting that it was good to see the

of how it wants to play. "We feel good about who we are,"

team live up to its own expectations

he added. He explained that the Pirates have a number of individuals with great talent, "but we utilize it as a group so well" and that is the reason for the team's success so far this season.

"I'm just proud of the team," Gian said, noting the Pirates have three regular-season games left to determine its playoff position.

"Really proud of the whole team, everybody that's a part of Pagosa Pirate soccer," he said.

Schedule

The Pirates were originally scheduled to play against Crested Butte on Oct. 11, but that match was canceled due to weather, and is unlikely to be rescheduled, according to Gian.

The Pirates' next match will be tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 17, as they host Fruita Monument at 2 p.m. at



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Gavin Carter shields the ball from an Alamosa defender while making a run during the team's Oct. 10 game. Carter scored twice on the day for the Pirates.

Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Pirates were also supposed to host the Bayfield Wolverines on Oct. 14, but that match was rescheduled due to weather, and will now be played on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Golden Peaks Stadium at 4 p.m.

Gian explained that the IML title will come down to the game against Bayfield, noting that Bayfield will

have to beat the Pirates to knock them out of the top spot in the IML.

Bayfield currently boasts an overall record of 6-7, including a league mark of 3-1.

Gian commented that he has a "ton of confidence and belief" in the Pirates to be able to seal the IML title.

The match against Lake County

has also been rescheduled from Oct. 16 and will now be played on Friday, Oct. 24, at Golden Peaks Stadium, with kickoff scheduled for 3 p.m. This will be senior night for the Pirates. clayton@pagosasun.com



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Volleyball

Lady Pirates set to return to action against Ignacio, Monte Vista

By Randi Pierce Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team took an unexpected hiatus from competing over the last week due to flooding in the area and the cancellation of school and related activities Tuesday.

Instead of taking on the Bayfield Wolverines in Bayfield on Tuesday, Oct. 14, the team will now travel for the game on Oct. 28.

But, according to coach Chelsea Caler, the unexpected break wasn't a bad thing

"Even though the floods forced an unexpected break this week, I think it's actually given us a chance to rest and reset before the final stretch of the regular season," she wrote in an email to The SUN.

The Lady Pirates last played on Oct. 7, and since then Caler indicates the team has had good practices.

"Last week's practices were great," Caler wrote. "Since we didn't get in the gym this week, I'm grateful

we had that time to really focus on individual skill development and progressions - hitting, blocking, and defensive."

Caler explains the team worked to keep up its skills and momentum with scrimmages.

"We also scrimmaged a lot and it was highly competitive, with great energy and solid ball," she wrote. "We were able to work in a few of our younger players too, who stepped up and brought a fun presence. I'm also really thankful for my coaching staff, we jump in and play when there's gaps to fill, to keep practices sharp."

Next up for the Lady Pirates will be a pair of nonleague matches against Ignacio and Monte Vista.

The Lady Pirates will host the 2A Ignacio Bobcats at 6 p.m. today, Thursday, Oct. 16, at Pagosa Springs High School.

The Bobcats are the No. 10 team in 2A Colorado volleyball and own a 13-3 record.

The Bobcats are 3-1 against op-

ponents in common with the Lady Pirates, while the Lady Pirates are 1-3 against those common opponents — Montezuma-Cortez, Del Norte and Telluride.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, the Lady Pirates will travel to Monte Vista to take on that town's Pirates, with the game set to begin at 6 p.m.

Monte Vista is 9-4 on the season and is the No. 22 team in 2A.

Both Pirate teams have lost to Sanford this season.

Pagosa's Lady Pirates are 2-13 on the year and are the No. 39 team in

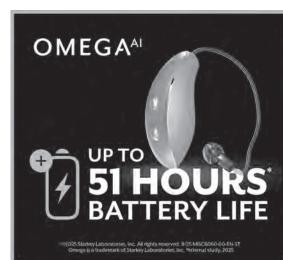
"We've been showing improvement every time we step on the court. The girls are really buying into the new defense and playing with more confidence, especially when hitting aggressively on out-of-system plays," Caler wrote. "Against Ignacio and Monte Vista, I'm hoping to see us run some combo plays and execute a faster offense, and hopefully snag a W or two in the process."

randi@pagosasun.com



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Photos courtesy Robert Hagberg

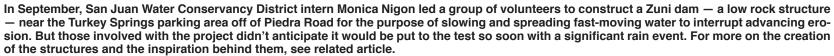








Photo courtesy San Juan Water Conservancy District Watershed restoration structures worked as planned during recent heavy rains.

Zeedyk structures put to the test with recent rains

By Monica Nigon

San Juan Water Conservancy District

Following the film screening of "Thinking Like Water" in early September, a group of generous volunteers signed up for a day of building Zeedyk structures at Turkey Springs on Sept. 20.

Zeedyk structures, named after the man who created them (Bill Zeedyk), is a watershed and wet meadow restoration method.

The structures were put to the test this weekend during the recordbreaking rains in Southwest Colorado. As a testament to the work of our volunteers, they are doing their job: slowing down the water in the drainage, preventing further channelization and erosion.

On Sept. 20, the crew built a Zuni bowl and a one-rock-dam at a damaged watershed near Turkey Springs. This project was conducted as part of Monica Nigon's master of environmental management project, which is sponsored in part by the San Juan Water Conservancy District, where Nigon serves as an education and outreach intern.

We hope this is the first of many watershed restoration events to come. If you have any further questions about Zeedyk structures or watershed restoration in the Upper San Juan River Basin, please contact Nigon at mnigon.sjwcd@

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People watch the rising level of the San Juan River from Mary Fisher Park in downtown Pagosa Springs late Saturday afternoon, Oct. 11. As of Wednesday morning, Oct. 15, as a precaution, all parks and the surrounding downtown areas along the San Juan River remained temporarily closed to the public, and authorities urged all residents and visitors to avoid these areas until further notice.

Pagosa Weather to host free Winter Weather Wonder event

By Arleen Prochazka Pagosa Weather

Pagosa Weather forecasters Shawn and Arleen Prochazka will help the community prepare for winter by hosting a Winter Weather Wonder event on Friday, Oct. 17 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Pagosa Lodge.

This annual gathering is a free event and open to the public.

Pagosa Weather, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation, was founded in 2016 to provide meteorological information and education and give back to the

The organization's leaders, Arleen Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Shawn Prochazka, are members of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and are Archuleta County Weather Ready Nation (WRN) ambas-

They partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to inspire the community to be better informed and prepared, thus helping to minimize, mitigate and avoid the impacts of natural disasters. They were recognized by NOAA at the national level as 2022 WRN Ambassadors of Excellence. They are also the National Weather Service (NWS) and Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network coordinators for Archuleta County.

"We've already seen temperatures in the area dip below freezing and there's been snow in the high country. Temperatures are steadily decreasing, and the polar air mass is building to the north. Soon, winter will be here," said Arleen Prochazka.

Arleen and Shawn Prochazka will provide their annual winter outlook, then special guest Dustin English, with Upper San Juan Search and Rescue, will discuss avalanche and backcountry safety — important information for hikers, skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers.

Event schedule

5:30 p.m.: Catered appetizers. 6 p.m.: Winter outlook by Arleen and Shawn Prochazka.

6:45 p.m.: Catered dessert. 7 p.m.: Avalanche and backcountry safety by English.

Get there early - the first 50 attendees get a free Pagosa Weather windshield ice scraper/snow brush.

For additional information, contact Pagosa Weather at PagosaWeather@

PAWSD lowers drought stage to voluntary at Oct. 9 meeting

By Josh Pike Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitaand to reenter voluntary drought due to improving drought conditions at its Oct. 9 meeting.

The shift to the voluntary drought stage removes the restrictions on irrigation timing and rate multipliers for high levels of water use present in drought stage two, effective immediately.

PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey explained to the board that changes in river levels and other conditions had moved PAWSD from drought stage two to either drought stage one or the voluntary drought stage, according to the district's drought management plan.

He added that, due to predictions tion District (PAWSD) Board of Direc- of heavy rain in the near future and would begin receiving water flow into Lake Hatcher on Oct. 31 at the latest, he would recommend placing the district in voluntary drought.

> Ramsey stated that the district manager can have the district enter or exit voluntary drought stage at his discretion and that he would likely have the district exit voluntary drought after water resumes flowing into Lake Hatcher.

> PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh asked if the district had seen

that the voluntary drought stage had a minimal impact on water use compared to the additional fees imposed at higher drought stages.

Ramsey and PAWSD Programs tors voted to exit drought stage two the expectation that the district Manager Renee Lewis confirmed that this was the case and that use had declined significantly after the first bills following the district entering drought stage two were released.

Ramsey stated that he is working on forming a committee to look at potential drought management plan modifications in 2026, noting that, although the plan "worked as designed," some minor modifications might be desirable.

He commented that he would recommend forming another committee at the beginning of 2026 to examine minor changes.

Walsh commented that he would want different people to be on the committee compared to the last committee that worked on the drought management plan to provide fresh perspectives.

The board then voted unanimously to enter the voluntary drought Every solid foundation starts with the

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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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Professional Directory

Accounting



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

For more information, contact PSMC EMS at 970-507-3973

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Business



Shak Powers named Region 9 deputy director

By Laura Lewis Marchino Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

Shak Powers, regional projects manager for the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, has been promoted to the deputy director position.

Powers has been with Region 9 for three years and previously served as the administrator of Montezuma County. He is a lifelong Montezuma County resident.

"Shak has very collaborative ap-

proach to community and problem solving," said Laura Lewis Marchino, executive director of Region 9. "He is a proven leader throughout the region, and I am grateful that he has chosen Region 9 EDD to benefit from his many talents. He will be an amazing deputy."

As deputy director, Powers will take on some Region 9 administrative roles internally with staff, and externally to stakeholders and the larger public, but continue to lead broadband, housing and transporta-

"I'm honored by the opportunity to continue serving the communities of Southwest Colorado in this new role. Region 9 EDD's success comes from the collaboration and commitment of our entire team and our partners across the region," said Powers. "I'm grateful to be part of an organization that works every day to strengthen the places we all call home."

Powers inherits the deputy director position from Brian Rose, who has returned to the private sector after 7.5 years with Region 9.



2026 Business Happy Hour lottery now open

By Sandy Douthey

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

This week has been one for the record books

I would be remiss if the Chamber did not thank everyone in the town for pulling together to keep us as safe as possible from the flood waters.

To the sheriff's office, the town council, the county commissioners, and all the staff in the town and county, we say, "thank you."

We would not be able to navigate the up-to-the-minute changes without our the sheriff's office social media updates.

Even in trying times, we see the heart of the community, and the Chamber is thankful to be a part of

We still have a few reminders, but, remember, safety first.

Construction business assessment for August and September

As you know, the Chamber has been sending out construction surveys monitoring sales since April.

We have been able to capture how the construction has been affecting each of your businesses.

We have another one out right now for August and September. If you have not filled it out yet, please do so

as quickly as possible. We look forward to hearing from as many downtown businesses as possible: http://bit.ly/3WAJ2Lh.

Business Happy Hour Lottery now open

The annual Business Happy Hour

October.

These networking events will occur every month on the fourth Thursday of the month in 2026 and are co-hosted by a Chamber member business and the Chamber of Com-

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 at-

With the business happy hours new date of Thursday evenings, it can be a fantastic way to kick off the weekend by attending a 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, 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 the following Monday, Nov. 3, and businesses will then be notified.

Hosting businesses will get expolottery is now open to all Chamber sure through marketing of the event,

members throughout the month of an opportunity to highlight their business and products and potentially expose their business to new customers.

> It is our 50th anniversary next year so we are looking forward to partnering with our businesses for a year full of fun.

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 for the Chamber to have a changing of the guard for its board of directors.

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 busi-

To self-nominate to run for the board of directors, the nominee must qualify 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 com-

piled and put before the Chamber membership to vote. 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-directorsand-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.



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Colorado Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Workforce **Development Program accepting applications** (\$5.000 maximum) of the actual cost

By Sam Hahn

Colorado Department of Agriculture

Labor is a common challenge in Colorado agriculture. Businesses struggle to find qualified and trained employees. At the same time, young people who want to pursue a career in agriculture have limited access to training programs that provide real-world work experience. The Agricultural Workforce Development Program, funded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), tackles both of these problems.

This program reimburses Colorado farms, ranches and other agricultural businesses for 50 percent

to employ an intern. Costs including wages, workers compensation insurance and protective gear for the intern can be partially covered by participating in this program.

Since 2018, the CDA has awarded nearly \$900,000 to support 244 internships at 189 businesses across

The goal of the program is to build a talent pipeline and career pathway in our state by compensating the Colorado farms, ranches and other agricultural businesses offering internship opportunities. Interns and agricultural businesses benefit alike. Interns learn valuable skills through

on-the-job training. Farmers and ranchers are repaid for their efforts teaching interns about the day-to-day operations of their business.

To participate, businesses can apply for up to three internships each year by filling out an online application available at ag.colorado.gov/ awdp. The year's applications are accepted until 5 p.m. on Oct. 31.

This program continues to grow year over year and the goal for 2025 is to support more businesses and interns than ever before. Farmers and ranchers across Colorado are encouraged to apply, not only to strengthen their business, but also to invest in the future of agriculture in our state.

La Plata Electric Association CEO to speak at **Archuleta County Democratic Club meeting**

By Lynn R. Frederick

Archuleta County Democratic Club

Chris Hansen, CEO of (LPEA), will speak to the Democratic Club on Monday, Oct. 27, at Coyote Moon.

He will discuss the state of LPEA and the process of separating from Tri-State.

Bring your questions about anything involving your electric cooperative. Are you curious about solar power, the cost of electricity or the reliability of the system? This is an opportunity to get answers.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month. The club gives local Democrats the opportunity to meet with other Democrats, to hear

Informative.

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speakers from the community, to meet to order lunch. The speaker will prescandidates for local and national offices, and to hear about topics of timely interest. All are welcome to attend. Please plan to come by 11:30 a.m.

ordering. For more information, you may

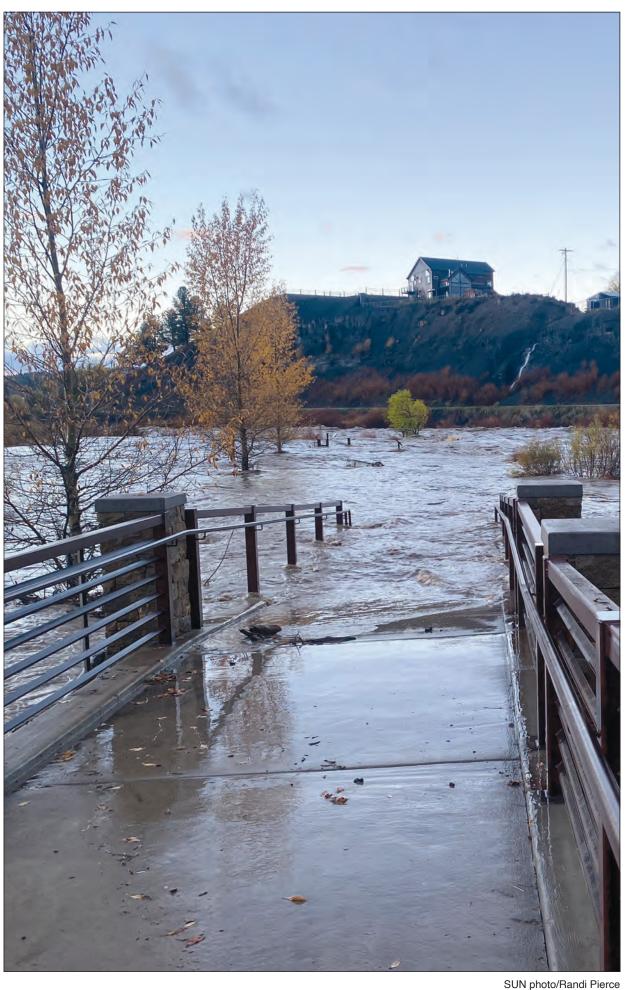
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and people securing custody of children under 18.

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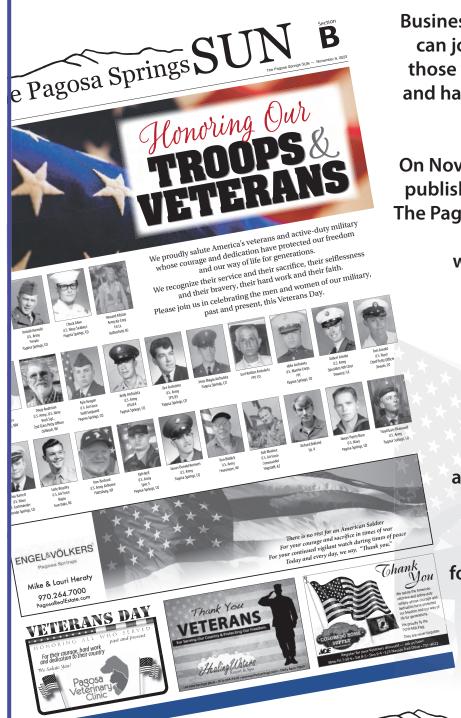
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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Water rises on the ramp up to the 6th Street pedestrian bridge the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 14, shortly after the river crested at the third highest level on record.





Business owners — you can join us in saluting those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

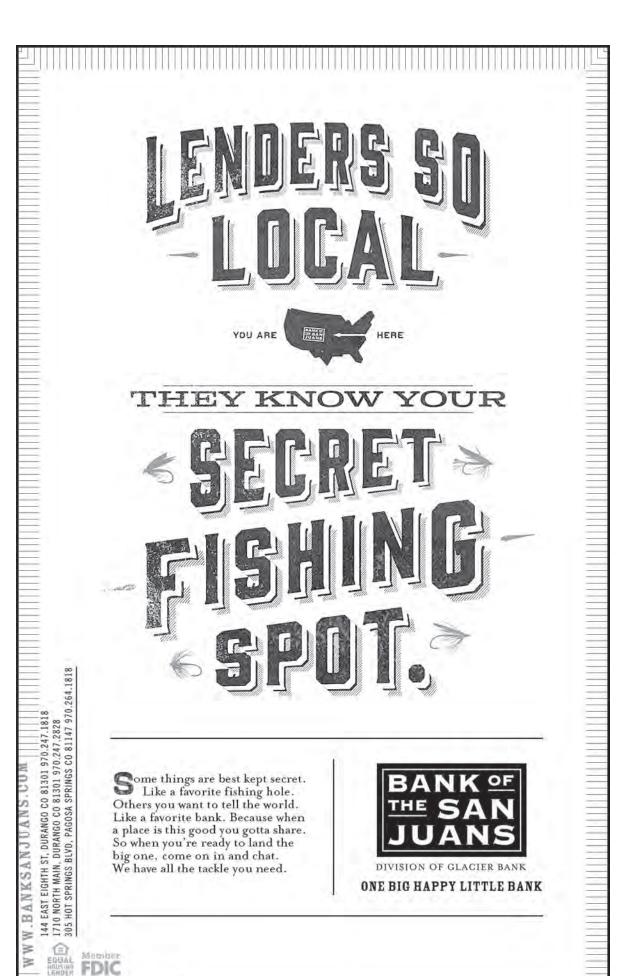
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Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance

7 to 10 p.m. • Saturday, Oct. 18 • PLPOA Clubhouse





The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs' 10th annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance will bring together friends and neighbors for a fun-filled, community-building evening. Proceeds from ticket sales directly support the club's many charitable initiatives.

Bling, boots and a barnful of fun on tap for Rotary's 10th annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance

By Terri House

Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Get ready to kick up your heels for a good cause. The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is celebrating a decade of dancing, dining and doing good with its 10th annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

This beloved community tradition promises an evening filled with country charm and lively fun. Headlining the night is Vanishing Breed, featuring Colorado Country Music Hall of Famer and longtime area favorite Odis Sikes.

Beyond the music, guests can browse an exciting silent

auction packed with one-of-a-kind prizes and experiences — from four rounds of golf with a cart at a South Fork golf club and a half-day guided fly-fishing adventure to a Yeti cooler stuffed with accessories, ski passes for two, a luxurious Ouray getaway with fine dining, and even a horse-drawn wagon ride paired with a two-night stay at a cozy local bed and breakfast. Add in restaurant gift cards and local treasures, and there's something for everyone to bid on.

Hungry dancers won't be disappointed — one of Pagosa's favorite food trucks will serve hearty plates of house-smoked brisket and chicken thighs with green chile mac and cheese, coleslaw and dinner rolls for \$20

■ See Dance on next page

Performers

Thursday

The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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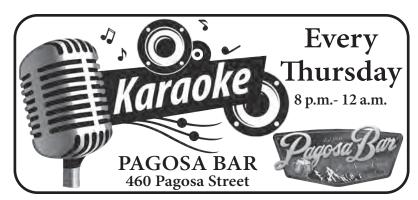
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Pagosa Community Initiative's Adopt-A-Shelf drive gains momentum

By Carrie Blue-White

Pagosa Community Initiative

As the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) continues to expand its support for Archuleta County families, our Adopt-A-Shelf program remains an active, ongoing effort that depends on regular community generosity.

To date, hundreds of pounds of food and toiletries have been collected, and 93 pounds have already been distributed to seven different families. This ensures that they can access essential groceries and hygiene items even when schedules and transportation pose challenges.

This program is designed to remove common barriers — work commitments, transportation hurdles and health concerns — that can prevent families from visiting traditional food pantries during their limited hours.

The outreach is complemented by PCI's broader mission as the county's Family Resource Center, offering free family services programming that follows the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model. This holistic, multidisciplinary approach helps build strong, person-centered relationships with each family to provide consistent, tailored support. We're grateful for the community

Dance

■ continued from previous page

 $per \, plate \, (sold \, separately \, from \, dance \, tickets).$

The fun continues with contests for "Best Dressed" and "Best Dancer," plus a cash bar featuring a signature cocktail debut: The Barnstormer. This bold yet refreshing mix of Canadian whiskey, peppermint schnapps, dark and white crème de cacao, and a splash of lemon juice is shaken over ice — the perfect toast to a memorable night.

"This event has everything — great food, great music and great people — all coming together to support a cause that benefits the whole community," said club president Jenelle Syverson.

Proceeds from the Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance support Rotary's local service projects, including scholarships for graduating seniors, youth programs and community grants.

"Whether you're here for the music, the auction, or just to spend time with friends, you'll leave knowing you've been part of something bigger than yourself," added Rotarian Cindi Galabota.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Secure your spot now at PagosaSpringsRotary.org, Exit Realty, Wednesday Bouquet or the Chamber of Commerce. Don't wait; buy your tickets today.

response so far, but the work is far from finished.

The Adopt-A-Shelf program requires ongoing donations and volunteer involvement to continue meeting the needs of local families.

In addition, we're seeking snack donors to support our after-school program. If you can help, please contact Rebecca Tenpenny at Director@ pagosacommunityinitiative.org for more information and to coordinate contributions.

The back-to-school drive and the food shelf program are just a few examples of how PCI's efforts to ensure all families and children have what they need to thrive as the new school year begins and beyond. Your continued support makes a measurable difference in everyday lives across Archuleta County. Thank you.

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Power and control in the digital age

By Phoebe Schroeder

Rise Above Violence

Every October, we take time to shine a light on domestic violence.

We raise awareness. We share stories. We talk about how to support survivors.

But one thing we've been seeing more and more in our work, something that often flies under the radar, is how technology-facilitated abuse, or TFA, is emerging as a quieter, more modern face of domestic violence.

And, like all of the most effective forms of control, it hides best when it looks like concern, and it's hardest to name when it almost feels reasonable.

"It's just for your protection."

"I just want to know you're safe."

"Let me be the recovery email, that way you won't get locked out."

"Give me your login, I'll set up bill pay so you don't have to stress.'

These phrases may sound harmless, even loving, and that's what makes them hard to refuse.

At its core, domestic violence is a pattern. It's not just about physical harm. It's about power, control and isolation. And when that control is filtered through technology, it doesn't always leave a mark. It can just leave you feeling unsettled, second guessing yourself or, worse, not even realize that it's happening.

In a 2021 study by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. it was found that 85 percent of domestic violence programs reported helping survivors whose abusers

were using technology to stalk, harass or control them.

- 79 percent said abusers monitored their social media activity.
- 74 percent said abusers regularly checked their text messages.
- 71 percent said abusers tracked or scrutinized their computer use.

TFA is appealing to abusers because it's easy.

It offers constant access. It feeds that sense of entitlement to know everything: Where are you? How long will you be there? Who are you with? How much did you spend? Who are you texting? What are you texting them about?

To someone bent on control, those aren't just questions — they're expectations and demands in disguise. Survivors often feel that they have to answer these questions, not because they want to, but because they know what happens if they

And when technology starts answering these questions automatically, control becomes frictionless. What used to take asking, arguing, even following, can now happen silently, with a single app, a shared iCloud account, bank logins saved on their phone, the GPS in your car like OnStar or even just accessing Google Timeline or stalking your social media.

So, what can be done about all of this? How can we support survivor safety in this new age of domestic violence?

1. Learn the signs: TFA often hides in plain sight disguised as concern,

- 2. Check your settings: Shared logins, location tracking and synced accounts can all be weaponized. Review your privacy and account access regularly.
- 3. Believe survivors: When someone says that they feel monitored, controlled or unsafe, believe them. Even if you or they can't easily see it or "prove" it.
- 4. Offer options, not ultimatums: Safety looks different for every survivor. Support their choices, not just your idea of escape.
- 5. Spread the word: Awareness is prevention. Talk about tech abuse. Share this article. Break the silence on tech-facilitated domestic vio-

In this brave new world, the roots of domestic violence remain the same — power and control — but the methods have evolved.

The same innovations that make connection effortless can, in the wrong hands, become tools of control. The issue isn't the technology, but the intent behind it. And that means our approaches to safety and support must evolve, too.

At Rise Above Violence, we're here to help you navigate this new landscape.

If you think someone may be misusing technology to control or intimidate you, reach out.

Our advocates are here anytime at (970) 264-9075. Our hotline is confidential and available 24/7.

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Healthy Archuleta growers forum begins 2025-2026 schedule

Healthy Archuleta

After a long, busy summer, the Growers and Producers Forum meetings have resumed their schedule for the year and into next year.

As in previous months, we'll be hosting a number of different guests and topics centered around our local food system and the agriculture community.

The next Growers and Producers Forum is this week on Thursday, Oct. 16, with a discussion on the topic of soil health. This subject has been receiving some attention as of late, as we realize how important soil health is to not only our ecosystem, but also to our own physical health.

We will discuss ways to not only improve soil health and quality, but also how to sustain it throughout the growing season and future seasons. This information is vital for backyard gardeners and larger-scale growers

Please join our team on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street. Feel free to bring a water bottle and a light snack.

These Growers and Producers Forum meetings will continue to be held every other month up to May of 2026. We will post upcoming events, times and locations on the Healthy Archuleta website, as well as our social media pages and local publications.

To learn more about the forum and Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition-

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A spirited start to Halloween: Local youth power 'Beetlejuice Jr.' at Pagosa **Springs Center for the Arts**

By Laura Moore Thingamajig Theatre Company

There's no better way to welcome the Halloween season than a trip to the theater to cheer on the next generation of performers.

Thingamajig Theatre Company's Whatchamawhozits youth company will open "Beetlejuice Jr." on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m., with performances continuing through Oct. 31 — perfectly timed for families looking for something festive, funny and community-driven.

This production offers more than just entertainment. It marks a meaningful step for young actors learning how to work as an ensemble, take creative risks and tell a story in front of a live audience.

Finlay Moore takes on the title role of Beetlejuice with playful confidence, while Olivia Fladwood as Lydia Deetz brings focus and emotional honesty to the stage. Their work - along with that of their castmates — highlights exactly why youth theater matters: It teaches discipline, teamwork and pride in a job well done.

But beyond the rehearsal hours and character work, there's a simple joy in watching local kids light up a stage with imagination.

Halloween often brings storebought frights and flashy attractions from elsewhere — "Beetlejuice Jr." reminds us that some of the most delightful magic happens right here at home, made by young people who live in our neighborhoods, go to our schools and are just beginning to discover what they're capable of.

So, come celebrate the season, laugh a little and make some memories in the theater. For these young performers, a full audience isn't just a tradition — it's encouragement that lasts long after the final bow.

For tickets and showtimes, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre

Olivia Fladwood steps into the role of Lydia Deetz with gothic charm and clear confidence - a fitting face for Pagosa's Halloween season on stage. "Beetlejuice Jr." will hit the stage of the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts Oct. 19-31.

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Nuestra Communidad! Juntos podemos segurar nuestro futuro.



Paid for by Pagosa Sewer Solutions Co-chairs Leonard Martinez and David Hamilton **Treasurer Clifford Lucero**



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Laura Moore steps into the role of Maria Callas as Elly O'Hara's Sophie DePalma leans in, ready to learn in "Master Class." The production will return Friday and Saturday at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

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Thingamajig Theatre Company's 'Master Class' brings Callas to life with precision and heart

By Tim Moore

Thingamajig Theatre Company

Some productions set out to entertain. "Master Class" goes a step further, inviting the audience to sit with the pressures, pride and vulnerability that come with life onstage. Thingamajig Theatre Company's 2025 fall/winter season opening offering delivers a thoughtful and engaging evening that feels both theatrical and deeply personal.

Laura Moore takes on the formidable role of Maria Callas with clarity and presence. Rather than playing Callas as a distant legend, she brings out the human beneath the icon sharp-witted, funny at times and unexpectedly exposed when memory catches her off guard.

The supporting cast rises to meet her with strong character work across the board. Elly O'Hara (Sophie De-Palma) brings a touching earnestness to a young singer desperate to be seen. Trevor Brown (Tony) arrives with confidence that quickly turns to humility, and Samantha Luck (Sharon) doesn't back down, delivering her aria with clear fire. At the piano, Dale Scrivener (Manny) provides a steady musical foundation, while

Scott Morehead (Stagehand) offers well-timed moments of grounded humor. Together, the ensemble creates a believable master class environment, one filled with nerves, ambition and surprising moments of connection.

What stands out most is the focus on craft. The production doesn't rush. It allows space for silence, for tension and for the subtle shifts that happen when a mentor pushes an artist too hard or just hard enough.

"Master Class" plays one last October weekend Friday, Oct. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. before taking a brief pause and returning in November.

For a mountain town that values both beauty and honesty in its theater, this production feels like a fitting reflection: polished, heartfelt and unafraid to ask for a little more from those who love the stage.

'Master Class," directed by Tim Moore, is playing at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts through

For tickets, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

PagosaSUN.com



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

For more information, contact PSMC EMS at 970-507-3973



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Pagosa Creation Care to host extreme weather and hazard preparedness speaker

Community United Methodist Church

Dr. Kyle Nardi, scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, will speak in Pagosa Springs on Thursday,

Nardi specialized in researching the impact of extreme weather events on public lands and nearby communities.

The presentation will be on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The doors will open at 6 p.m.

Often considered America's best idea, national parks are a source of awe and inspiration for visitors, and a source of pride and livelihood for local communities. But how will extreme weather events such as floods and blizzards impact these natural

National Science Foundation NCAR scientist Nardi will discuss how extreme weather will impact our national parks and nearby communities, focusing on the destructive November 2006 floods in Glacier National Park in Montana.

He will also discuss how his research informs hazard preparedness for public lands and communities in Colorado. This is a particularly timely topic given the recent floods that impacted the Pagosa Springs area.

Pagosa Creation Care is a nondenominational group of Archuleta County residents who are interested in promoting the care of God's creation by supporting ecological programs and activities in Pagosa Springs.

All members of the community

Library foundation offers opportunity to honor extraordinary

women with donation to library expansion, renovation



Dr. Kyle Nardi

entry fee, but a free-will offering will be collected to support future programs. We appreciate your RSVP to

are welcome to join us. There is no lunsforduwf@gmail.com.

By Katie Dobbins

Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

When you think of extraordinary women, who comes to mind? Your mother, grandmother, daughter, sister or granddaughter? Could it be a beloved teacher, mentor, leader or community member?

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends wants to honor those women whom you feel are extraordinary, by memorializing their names on the wall of the library's new community

A donation of \$1,000 made by Nov. 1st and the name of the extraordinary woman you choose to recognize will help us reach the top of our goal to fund the library expansion and renovation, and memorialize the extraordinary women in our lives. A tax-deductible donation can be made directly through the 100 Extraordinary Women website at https://100extraordinarywomen. com/ruby-m-sisson-memoriallibrary/ or pay by check at the front desk of the library.

In addition to having your extraor-

dinary woman's name on the wall, with each donation of \$1,000 you will receive a ticket for a woman of your choice to attend our celebration event on Nov. 1.

The library expansion and renovation is our goal, but that doesn't mean we have to stop with only 100 extraordinary women. We have a memorial wall to fill and would love to see all the extraordinary women of Pagosa Springs be represented. There are so many extraordinary women in the world, the hardest part will be choosing who to nomi-



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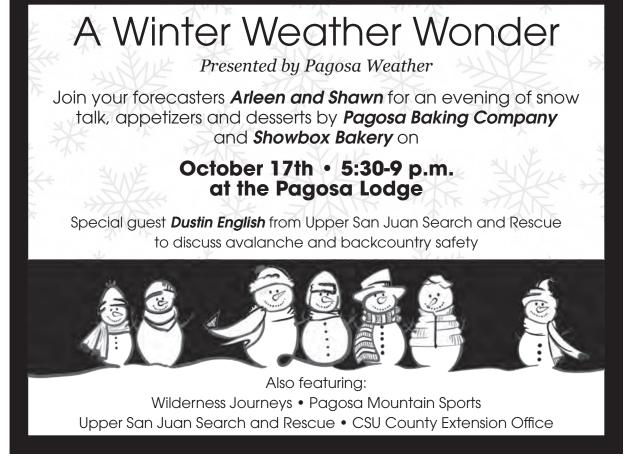




Photo courtesy Shellie Peterson

Rotary Club members will be ringing bells on World Polio Day, Friday, Oct. 24, at City Market to inspire local generosity in the effort to end polio worldwide. Pictured are Rotarians Pat Love and Melanie Garrett during last year's fundraiser.

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Rotary to ring bells to end polio

By Terri House

Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

On World Polio Day, Friday, Oct. 24, members of the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs will be at City Market from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., ringing bells and collecting donations as part of Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio.

This annual fundraiser coincides with World Polio Day, a time when Rotarians, health advocates and community leaders come together to recognize progress in the fight against this crippling disease and to rally support for the final push to end polio once and for all.

"We're closer than ever to wiping polio off the face of the earth, but we can't stop until the job is done," said polio committee chair Sam Pittmon. "Polio anywhere is a threat everywhere. The people of Archuleta County have always been generous, and together we can make history by helping end only the second human disease ever eradicated."

All donations made to the Rotary Club's polio efforts are matched twoto-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, tripling the impact. Community members may donate in person during the bell-ringing event, online at endpolio.org or by mailing a contribution made out to The Rotary Foundation and mailed to the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club, P.O. Box 685, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative — including the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Gates Foundation and the Vaccine Alliance — have worked for decades to rid the world

Since 1988, cases have dropped by 99.9 percent, thanks to more than \$5 billion in contributions and countless volunteer hours. Today, wild polio remains endemic in just Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Rotary alone has contributed more than \$2.9 billion to this effort and remains committed to raising up to \$50 million each year through 2029. With the Gates Foundation's continued match, that support can generate up to \$150 million annually for vaccines, immunization campaigns and disease surveil-

There are many reasons to support the fight to end polio now. Polio causes paralysis and can sometimes lead to death, and it mainly affects children under the age of 5. While there is no cure, the disease is entirely preventable with a vaccine. Today, only two countries remain endemic, but until polio is eradicated everywhere, every child around the world remains at risk.

Rotary invites the people of Pagosa Springs to take part in this global humanitarian mission.

As Pittmon noted, "Every dollar, every child vaccinated, and every voice raised brings us one step closer to a world free of polio."

For more information about Rotary and the fight to end polio, visit Rotary.org or endpolio.org.

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'Are You Looking for a Sign from God?' to be topic of next Spiritual Experiences Group gathering

By Laurah Brock Young

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Have you heard a sound whose source you could not explain?

Have you seen a bright light and had no idea where it came from?

Do you think it is possible that we can hear or see God?

"People think that the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the human voice. This can occur, but it usually happens when a messenger of God – an angel for example – is sent to a human being. Then people hear a voice...but the pure Voice of God is in music, the Audible Sound Current, the Holy Spirit."—Harold Klemp, "Love the Keystone of Life."

Asking for help from the Holy Spirit can bring amazing blessings. These blessings will continue if we are aware of the guidance provided by the Holy Spirit. Being grateful for these gifts will perpetuate the blessings.

God speaks to us through the light and sound — Divine Spirit.

You are warmly invited to attend this compassionate spiritual discussion to share insights, experiences and ask questions among like-minded souls. Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs for "Are you Looking for a Sign from God?"

We will meet on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 1 p.m. We will meet at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave

Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds, sponsors this free event. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

Join the Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs at https:// www.meetup.com/pagosa-springsspiritual-experiences-group/.

To learn more about Eckankar, visit https://www.eckankar.org or https://eckankar-colorado.org/.

Live Your Colorado Dream!

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 wild-life 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

Own Your Own

Piece of

Colorado Land!

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

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

outdoors. Despite the quiet surroundings, you are only a quick five-minute MLS #828583. https://pspixeltree.com/120-Big-Horn-Ct

33 Fawn Court \$949,000

MLS # 824532

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, uptown 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



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

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



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.



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.



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.



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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Unitarian Universalists to explore feng shui's spiritual principles, Tao

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The 10:30 a.m. Sunday service for Oct. 19 at the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will welcome local Elaine Harding speaking on feng shui's spiritual principles and the Tao.

Harding is certified in Black Sect Tantric Buddhist feng shui through the Mindful Design Feng Shui School. As a mystic, her winding path has taken her across continents learning from many spiritual teachers, including her root teacher of Dzogchen (Tibetan Buddhism), Namkhai Norbu.

Harding's presentation will explore the "Tao Te Ching," a deep spiritual text which birthed the originating principles of feng shui. As an ancient art of energy alignment within spaces and places, including in yourself, feng shui embodies a set of principles that allow you to flow with life by maintaining harmony with the five elements. Join us for this enlightening talk by a practitioner of this spiritual path.

As UUs, we draw from many sources for spiritual deepening and work toward building beloved community and justice for all.

Harding and her partner facilitate the Wise and Wakeful Circle, now meeting at the fellowship the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 10 a.m.

Our Action Sunday book group, held on the fourth Sunday of the month, begins this month.

We join other UU congregations this season reading "Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection" by Deepa Iyer.

Although this book is secular, it explores, in a workbook-style, how

each individual can find their role in movements of social change.

To learn more about the book, visit https://uuabookstore.org/products/ social-change-now. The fellowship has a copy to peruse or use during the course of study. Inquiries can be emailed to the fellowship. Visit the website PagosaUU.org for email info.

What we are now calling the UU Community Hub, the Pagosa UU Fellowship offers its space for ongoing programs and events that are not directly UU. These include the following, and further information can also be found at our website.

The Tara Meditation Group meets weekly on Sunday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m., with instruction, practice, study and chat. Beginners are welcome to jump in anytime. A Zoom option is available for those unable to attend in person.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle meets the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 10 a.m. Facilitated by Harding and Sam Johnson, it is open to all who align with the values of respect, peace and authentic connection.

We are honored to have a space that is used during the week in addition to our Sunday UU offerings. Save the date for Nov. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. for Dances of Universal Peace with dance leader Wahhab David Sheets, a senior teacher, minister and retreat guide in the Inayati Sufi Order. More information to come.

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.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

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.

Upcoming event

• Tuesday, Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m.: Natural medicine ways class on "Which Soul Imprint Are You? Earth, Interplanetary or Angelic" with Azriel. A \$20 donation will be collected. Contact (970) 510-0309.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Liv-

ing 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.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

The Weekly Crossword

14

17

20

23

38

56

59

18

36

60

25

ACROSS

- 1 For fear that
- **5** Henhouse sounds
- **10** Long narrative
- 14 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 15 The "A" in "CAT scan"
- 16 Farm machine
- 17 Presidential office
- 18 Fancy flower
- 20 Cartier offering
- 22 Ran smoothly
- 23 Exasperating
- 24 Comic strip sound
- 25 Icy coating
- 26 Some bank workers
- 29 Starter for 007's car?
- 32 Chicago team
- 34 Cowboys QB Prescott
- 35 Tub foot, sometimes
- **36** Young salmon
- 37 Quartet member
- 38 Evil spell
- 39 Pocket breads
- 40 "Twilight" writer Stephenie
- 41 Large building
- 43 Ski lift type
- 45 Clinton cat name 10 Perfect pass
- 46 Shortages in containers
- **50** Kids series, "PAW
- **52** Marital infidelity
- **53** Precision
- 55 Privy to
- **56** Dial follower
- 57 Students take them
- **58** Estimator's phrase
- 59 Partner of odds
- 60 Disgusting, slangily
- 61 Must-have

DOWN

51

- 1 "Madam Secretary" actress
- 2 Baby eel

45

- 3 Give in a rope
- 4 "The View", e.g.
- 5 Kind of party
- 6 Makes worse
- 7 Dublin's home
- 8 Paw part
- 9 Bedroom pair
- 11 In a watchful
- way 12 Horror film staple
- 13 Wowed
- 19 Cancels
- 21 "Crazy" bird
- 24 Like an Oscars gala
- 27 Word with birth or interest
- 28 Heath Bar alternative
- 29 Dull pain
- 30 Winter ride
- 31 Airport area

- **33** Period of time
- **36** Preparing, as kimchi

- 40 Shopping mecca
- 42 Troops
- music

- 37 Lawn improve-
- ment process
- **39** Lace edging
- 44 Like B.B. King's

47 Horror or sci-fi, e.g.

by Margie E. Burke

27

28

16

37

58

61

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47

44

43

46

- 48 Notched, as a leaf
- 49 Bishops' body
- 50 Ribisi series, "Sneaky
- **51** Nerve fiber
- 52 Insurable item
- 54 Rocky peak

Answers to Previous Crossword:



PagosaSUN.com

New e-book platform now available

By Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library staff

PREVIEW Columnists

Did you know that Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library cardholders use e-books more often than any other library in our 160-member library system?

That's right. During the month of August, you downloaded 571 e-books and 711 e-audiobooks from CloudLibrary. That tells us a lot about your busy lifestyles, your frequent traveling and, for some of you, your eyesight challenges.

E-books are incredibly convenient when a physical book just won't do, and allow you to take great stories wherever you go. You can increase the font size, mark passages and flip through chapters with ease. Even more popular than e-books are e-audiobooks. Listen in the car, during those boring chores or when you're taking your morning walk. After all, what's better than someone reading you a story?

When a recent grant from the state library earmarked for collections came to our attention, we knew just what to do — provide you with the most popular e-book platform in America. On Oct. 1, our new membership in the Across Colorado Digital Consortium (ACDC) was official, offering up 19,000 e-books on the Libby app or on your internet browser at https://coloradodc.overdrive.com.

So, now you have two choices — CloudLibrary and Overdrive. If you're one of the many Ruby cardholders already using CloudLibrary, don't worry. CloudLibrary isn't going away. Using both broadens the list of books you have to choose from. Many of the books will be the same, but Overdrive has three times the number of titles that CloudLibrary has, so that's good for you. And what may have a long hold list in CloudLibrary just might be more readily available in Overdrive.

New York Times Sunday edition now available in print

Come spread out with the New York Times (NYT) Sunday edition, then indulge in the NYT Magazine and shop your next great read via the NYT Book Review. Weekly editions arrive on Wednesday afternoons through the U.S. mail. Need more time? Check out last week's paper and enjoy it at home.

Don't forget, your library card gives you access to the daily edition of the New York Times through our digital library.

Construction update

Our building addition is coming along right on schedule. This week's rain might set us back a little, but we remain on track to open our beautiful new library this summer.

Next week you'll see the steel

Library News

frame begin to rise, and soon we will have a shell of our new addition and the whole project will begin to come to life right before our eyes.

Remember, we are open regular

hours throughout the construction. Park in the parking lot to the west of us and follow the path through the garden. We hope to see you soon.

Activity locations

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.

■ See Library on next page



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Library.

■ continued from previous page

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.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free programs, events and activities available to you and your family.

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.

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."

Conversational Spanish

The Conversational Spanish group will meet Monday, Oct. 20, 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.

Family storytime

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m., join a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

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.

Writers Guild

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for support, guidance, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

During construction the group will meet at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enter through the left side of the building.

Tech Time

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

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.

New to collection

Readers are invited to place a hold on any of these new titles in advance of their availability. A full list of new titles as well as reading recommendations can be found under the Quick Links section of our website, www. pagosalibrary.org.

New in large print

"Reacher: the Stories Behind the Stories" by Lee Child, "The Sur-

HUD Publisher's Notice

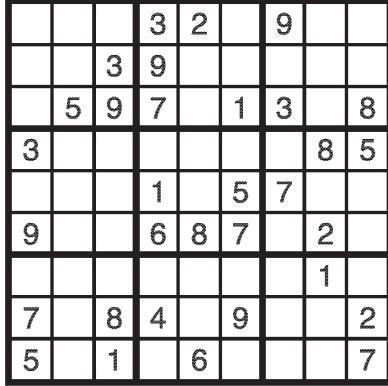


EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU



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!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Mt. Allison Grange announces Harvest Supper

By Larry Corman

Mt. Allison Grange

The Harvest Supper will be back this year in its full glory on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 5 until 7 p.m. We will have a complete, reasonably priced family menu, unlike anything that you will see in a restaurant these days.

The menu will include roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dinner rolls, tossed salad, the world-famous (at least in the Allison area) homemade pies and cobblers, and the never-ending Grange coffee and drinks.

It'll be a fun evening with a chance to fellowship with your neighbor. We promise that you will not go away hungry.

If you have never been to a Grange dinner, you don't know what you have been missing. We welcome the city-folk from Pagosa and Durango and other surrounding communities; in the past, many have driven the 45 minutes for a meal and visiting that is well worth it.

And, you are supporting a good cause — these dinners are our way to keep our doors open and our build-

ing maintained for our community.

Adults are \$15, and children (6 to 12) are \$7 (under 6 free).

For further information, you can call Norma at (970) 749-7530 or email Larry_Corman@hotmail.com.

The Mt. Allison Grange is located at 2658 County Road 329 in Ignacio.

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Library

■ continued from previous page

rogate Mother" by Frieda McFadden, "Smuggler's Cove" by Fern Michaels, "The Break-In" by Katherine Faulkner, "Forget Me Not" by Stacy Willingham, "Halloween Night Murder" by Leslie Meier, "Smoke on the Water" by Loren Estleman and "Framed in Death" by Nora Roberts.

New nonfiction

"The Gift of Not Belonging: How Outsiders Thrive in a World of Joiners" by Rami Kaminski, M.D., "Tai Chi Essentials: Your Guide to Weight Loss and Holistic Health," "Greenhouses: Their Construction and Equipment" by William Joseph Wright, "The Big One: How We Must Prepare for Future Deadly Pandemics," "The Blue Zones Kitchen One Pot Meals," "Confronting Evil" by Bill O'Reilly, "Insect Anatomy: The Curious World of Bees,

Beetles, Butterflies, and Bugs" by Julia Rothman, "Mother Mary Comes to Me" by Arundhati Roy, and "Putin vs. Zelensky: Why it's Happening and How it All Got Started" by Ben Thompson.

Other novels

"Hemlock and Silver" by T. Kingfisher, "The Deal" by Elle Kennedy, "This Viscous Hunger" by Francesca May, "This Here is Love" by Princess Joy Perry, "Stillwater" by Tanya Scott and "While the Getting is Good" by Matt Riordan.

Website

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

PAGOSA SCENE...

OUR COMMUNITY EATS WEAVING SESSION

Photos courtesy Our Community Eats

Scene ... More than a dozen community members gather on Saturday, Oct. 11, to weave colorful potholders that will be given out during the holiday season at Our Community Eats' food pantry.













Weavers gather to give back to Our Community Eats

By Mary Sanders

Our Community Eats

Despite the rainy weather on Saturday afternoon, warmth and creativity filled the Timber Ridge Clubhouse as more than a dozen community members came together to support a cause close to home.

Under the guidance of worldrenown and local textile artist Linda Lutomski, participants spent the afternoon weaving colorful potholders — each one a small but meaningful gift for neighbors in need.

Lutomski has inspired people from across the country to join the effort — volunteers nationwide are making potholders and mailing them to our small town. It's a heartfelt way

more special for our community.

All supplies and materials for the project have been generously donated by Lutomski and her friends, reflecting the spirit of giving that defines the effort. The finished potholders will be distributed during the holiday season at Our Community Eats' food pantry, offering a handmade, practical gift to brighten local homes during the colder months.

In addition to leading the weekend weaving session, Lutomski is also sharing her skills with students across the area, teaching them not only the craft of weaving, but also the value of generosity and community care.

It's yet another inspiring example of neighbors from across the nation

joining hands with our own neighbors here to help — reminding us what makes Pagosa Springs and its community truly special.



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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 Clark's nutcracker.

Harsh calls, made to keep flock members in contact, signal the presence of this fascinating western bird. In elevations ranging to 12,000 feet, it is a bird of open subalpine zones near treeline that also occurs in middle-elevation conifer forests. Its travels in response to cone crops are nomadic rather than migratory.

The Clark's nutcracker is a dark gray, jay-sized bird, with white-edged black wings and white outer tail feathers. It flies like a woodpecker, alternating flapping with holding wings to the sides.

This "winged forester" is responsible for dispersing the seeds too heavy for the wind to carry of many tree species. Pine trees including whitebark, limber, pinyon, and southwestern white all benefit from seed harvesting by the nutcracker. Between September and December, Clark's nutcrackers are busy caching seeds for their winter food supply. Yearly each bird hides thousands and thousands of seeds, and while it retrieves a remarkably high percentage for food, those that it misses may provide seedlings for forest growth.

Using its dagger-like bill, the nutcracker extracts seeds from cones and stashes up to 150 at a time in a special pouch under its tongue. It may hide seeds up to 15 miles away, burying them in the soil or, at higher elevations, storing them in needle clusters or under bark in trees. Using visual landscape clues, the bird remembers the locations of its hidden food stores for up to nine months, even locating them under the snow.

A special mutualistic relationship exists between the Clark's nutcracker and the long-lived whitebark pine, a threatened keystone tree species that provides food for wildlife and stabilizes ground and snowpack in subalpine zones. The trees provide the birds with highly nutritious seeds loaded with fat, protein and calories, and in turn are primarily dependent on nutcrackers to harvest and bury their seeds for forest growth.

Whitebark pines suffer from attacks of blister rust and pine beetles, and from high-intensity wildfires, all of which have been made more severe in a warming climate. Efforts to harvest seeds and plant seedlings from trees with natural resistance to the rust fungus are providing hope for the continued existence of these high-elevation forests.

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











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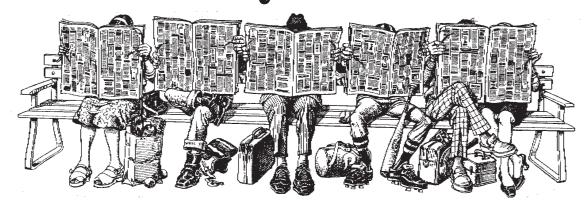
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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Oct. 16

'Written in Bark' Aspens and Arborglyphs Hike. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required at sima.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.

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.

Winter Weather Wonder Event. 5:30-9 p.m., Pagosa Lodge. Pagosa Weather event to help prepare for winter.

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.

National Day of Peaceful Protest. 10:30 a.m., Town Park. Join citizens nationwide for a peaceful demonstration to defend rights. The event emphasizes nonviolence, unity and discipline. Daughters of the American Revolution. 10:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Karolyn Dey will discuss courses offered to members by the national Daughters of the American Revolution. A light lunch will be

■ See Calendar on next page



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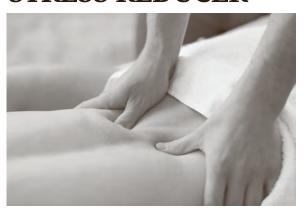




HERE IS WHY MASSAGE IS SUCH A GREAT STRESS REDUCER

Nothing beats a great massage. The right touch by the right hands make a wonderful stress-relieving experience. In fact, stress relief is one of the main reasons people seek professional massages. The following excerpt provides additional information.

Stress can be a positive motivator when striving for a promotion or accomplishing an important task. Stress may be temporary, such as being stuck in traffic or delayed at the airport. However, the American Psychological Association states that stress may also be chronic -- during financial difficulties, chronic illness or dealing with family issues.



It is not necessarily the event, but rather your body's response to the event that causes stress. When the brain senses any kind of stress, your heart rate and blood pressure rise, and your muscles tighten. Feelings of stress that continue for long periods have a detrimental effect on the body.

Massage helps you relax, calming the mind and body and relieving your stress. When administered by a well-trained and licensed practitioner, massage therapy may help with conditions that affect your state of mind, including stress, depression and anxiety.

A massage helps you shift your thoughts away from everyday worries and allows your body and mind to relax. Massage also helps you feel that you're in control over your health and plays an active role in managing chronic illnesses. Many massage techniques are practiced in a quiet and dimly lit room. Some therapists have soft music in the background and use candles or incense to help you relax.

Source: How Does Massage Therapy Reduce Stress? By Lori Newell. Livestrong.com - Simple Healthy Living

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

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:4–5

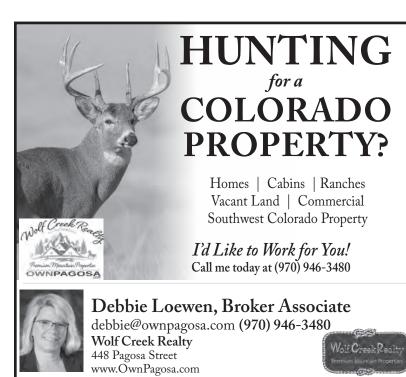
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Preview Calendar

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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).

Monday, Oct. 20

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Peace of Mind Planning Workshop. 1-2:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Guided estate planning and checklist for final arrangements and important affairs with financial advisor Kelly Maestas.

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

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

Nonphysical Self-Defense Workshop for Women. 5-7 p.m., Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Learn practical de-escalation skills to calm conflict while staying strong. Limited to 10 women. Please RSVP to bravepagosa@ amail.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. 21

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

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.

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

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://cefcolorado-431831.churchcenter. com/people/forms/1006150.

Tween Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Get together and help create your new tween book group. For ages 11-14. Snacks will be provided.

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.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-yearolds 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

independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more in-

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://cefcolorado-431831.churchcenter. com/people/forms/1006150.

Online Author Talk. 5 p.m., virtual. Watch nationally renowned authors give hourlong presentations live via Zoom, or watch the recording later. "Finding My Way" with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai, education activist, the youngestever Nobel laureate, bestselling author and award-winning film producer from Pakistan. For details and to register, go to https://libraryc. org/pagosalibrary/upcoming.

Thursday, Oct. 23

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.

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. ■ See Calendar on next page

the skills they need to become formation.



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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.

'Wine and Whine' Women's Social. 5:30 p.m., Cork and Board. Join other women for an evening of connection. Space is limited to 10 women 21 and older. No politics or religion. Please RSVP to pswomenconnect@gmail.com.

Pagosa Creation Care. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Dr. Kyle Nardi, scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, will discuss how extreme weather will impact national parks and nearby communities.

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. Centauri.

Friday, Oct. 24

Masquerade Ball. 6-9 p.m., Keyah Grande. Join Archuleta Seniors Inc. for a masquerade ball fundraiser. Tickets are available at givebutter. com/asi_masquerade_ball or by calling (970) 264-2167.

Your source for community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN 970-264-2100 ThingamaWHO Teen Program Presents 'Beetlejuice Jr.' 8:30 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. 25

Halloween Hootenanny: Witches in Flight. 7:30 a.m., Yamaguchi Park.

Halloween Hootenanny: Witches on Water. 10 a.m., Village Lake. Paddleboard at Village Lake.

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.

Halloween Hootenanny: Trick or Treating. Noon-2 p.m., Yamaguchi Park.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome. A Sisson Library program.

Halloween Hootenanny: Live Music. 2 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Join the Town of Pagosa Springs and Visit Pagosa for a free event with the DJ Williams Band, a costume contest and more

Sunday, Oct. 26

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).

Monday, Oct. 27

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. La Plata Electric Association CEO Chris Hansen will speak.

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

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.

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.



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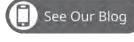
308 Pagosa Street Pagosa Springs CO 81147 www.pagosa.dentist



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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Aging and health: building stronger communities through care

By Ricardo Martinez

PREVIEW Columnist

As life expectancy continues to rise, aging has become one of the most significant social transformations of our time.

With older adults making up a growing percentage of the population, the focus on health and wellness in later years has never been more important. Good health in old age is not just about longevity, but about maintaining independence, dignity and quality of life.

Preventative care, balanced nutrition, regular physical activity, and early detection of chronic conditions are key to ensuring that older adults remain active participants in their families and communities.

Equally important is addressing the social and emotional needs of aging populations. Loneliness, limited mobility and lack of access to resources can impact health just as much as physical ailments. Communities can play a vital role by promoting intergenerational connections, improving access to affordable health care and creating supportive environments where older adults feel valued.

Investing in aging and health today not only benefits older individuals, but also strengthens the fabric of society for generations to come.

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, a fun lunchtime Halloween party on Oct. 31 (see below), our nonalcoholic 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.

Halloween costume party

Come in costume to the Pagosa Senior Center dining room on Oct. 31 for a Halloween party from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., with a costume contest at 1 p.m. There will be pumpkin pie and prizes. If you want lunch, please call ahead or by 9 a.m. on Oct. 31 to make a reservation at (970) 264-2167.

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 connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Wil-

Senior News

liams, 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 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-tolearn, 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.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page 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 and

Oct. 31. 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. 16 — Chicken 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.

Monday, Oct. 20 — Beef Frito pie, green beans, cornbread, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 — Artichoke, mushroom and sundried tomato pasta; garlic bread; fruit; beet salad with toasted walnuts and goat cheese; and milk.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 - Ham and cheese quiche, wilted spinach, garden salad, fruit, cherry cheesecake,

Thursday, Oct. 23 — Baked cod with mango salsa, quinoa rice pilaf, garden salad, fruit, lemon bar and milk.

Friday, Oct. 24 — Tuscan sausage, kale and white bean soup; rosemary focaccia bread; garden salad; fruit; chocolate cake; 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.

Support the Senior Center

Please support our ongoing oper $at ions\, and\, programming\, that\, provide$ critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

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

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

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

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

For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, non-itemizers can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filers and \$2,000 for married couples filing iointly.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit http://www.psseniors.org/.







'Throw Momma from the Train'

By Betty Slade PREVIEW Columnist

I made an honest and bold statement thinking I had done a great thing for my children, taking away their worry. "I've planned my own funeral."

I said to a group of friends, "My funeral arrangements are done — My favorite picture of me for my obituary, the song I want sung, my life scripture, who to speak and where I want to be laid to rest. I've already given my special friends and grandchildren a heads up to speak so they won't be caught off guard."

Someone said, "You need to let your children plan your funeral and say what is on their hearts. You are robbing them of a blessing, giving them closure in remembering you."

"I'm not sure how they will remember me." A little embarrassed, I laughed and added a bit of humor. "Leaving me in my children's hands to do what they want is a scary thought. Hopefully they surprise me. Maybe they will even cry a little. No pressure."

Her statement caught me off guard. I pondered for days how I had sounded. Maybe I came across arrogant and that I am telling people how and what to think of me. I'm not a celebration, hyped-up kind of funeral person, but not a dull, boring, unemotional kind, either. I want my funeral to bring heaven to earth. Is that too much to ask?

My favorite scripture has been crafted in art on a piece of wood by my granddaughter. This is my declaration. "As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness" (Psalm 17:15, NKJV). That's what this life is all about. That is the goal.

I want Jesus to be elevated and heaven's window opened. Possibly someone will catch a revelation of God's love and what Jesus has done for all of us. It's been a long, hard journey of faith. I'm counting on seeing Jesus at the threshold of heaven waiting for me.

As far as flowers, I'm not a pretentious person. I'm not a hothouse plant kind either. White daisies that grow wild in our backyard are perfect. The ones that my Sweet Al would pick and bring to me. He'd place them in a blue Ball jar on the table. Over 60 years, I received so much love from Al in that simple gesture. I still embrace those memories and that is how I see my life — in those little things that really count.

When my older brother passed on, I drove to where he lived. "About funeral arrangements," I asked, "Does anyone know his favorite scripture, song, a person to preside over the service? Did he have any hobbies? Who knew anything about my brother?" The answer was "No." Even his widow said, "I don't remember him speaking of a favorite scripture or song."

At the gravesite, the pastor was totally unprepared to say anything. I had prayed for the day of his funeral, with my Bible in hand, when the man who led the services said, "I don't know

Artist's Lane

Another funeral I attended of an older woman who lived across the street from us in Albuquerque, the only thing they had to say about her was she baked cookies.

him, but if anyone has anything to say, please come forward."

No one else did. I did. I stood, walked to the casket, and read the beatitudes. One by one, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." My brother lived a humble life and I expounded on his mild manner. I continued with the other seven beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, which he had exemplified. My brother was a private person and might have been embarrassed if he knew I made a ruckus over him, but his life was too important to me to let him go without notice.

Another funeral I attended of an older woman who lived across the street from us in Albuquerque, the only thing they had to say about her was she baked cookies. At the time, I remembered thinking, Surely, she did more than that. She lived 90 years.

So, in March 2024, when I was so sick I thought I was going to die, I started making a list of what I wanted and didn't want at my funeral. I told my children where to look on the computer for my funeral arrangements. They

were relieved, except when I told them I wanted Jelly Roll to sing "The Cross was Enough" and T. Graham Brown to sing "Sweet Beulah Land." Those two songs stir heaven.

Of course, they laughed and thought I was just being me. They have many family jokes, which I'm sure they will share, making it a family circus. I know which one of my children will break out into song — I can count on that. "Momma from the Train," a kiss, a kiss. This song is Patti Page's 1956 hit and from the film when Owen, (Danny DeVito) is fed up with his domineering mother and decides how to "out" her.

Hopefully, they will save all their funny things for a more private family gathering. But it's OK; they're going to miss me and they don't even know it.

I have lived an intentional life. Very serious about my walk with Jesus, but I've used a lot of humor to get through the hard times. Even today I am pushing forward for that day I will meet my Lord, Jesus. With the last remembered words of my life, I don't want a borrowed pastor who doesn't know me to tell others who I was. No. No. No. I don't want a long sermon with an altar call. Heavens no. If my life has not been a sermon written on the heart, that day will not be the day to preach. My children were thrilled to hear that.

I want friends who have walked this journey with me, through the ups and downs, who knew me. I want my grandchildren to speak for me. I am leaving my legacy, not fame or fortune, but an inheritance of my faith I've given to them. The Lord has promised "He (they) will drink from his inheritance as from a flowing brook; refreshed by love (they) will stand victorious" — Psalm 110:7 (TPT).

My children will drink from their inheritance from me, and I'll drink my inheritance from them as I leave them behind to live their lives to the glory of God. I pray for their victorious lives in Jesus.

Final brushstroke: My prayer is that He will crown my heart with His glory. He has written His sacred story on my heart. As I continued to breathe, he is writing that story. Who will plan my funeral? It probably doesn't matter. Hopefully, the ones I have had the most influence on will carry God's crowning glory on their hearts.

Send your comments to bettyslade. author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.





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Strategies to protect your personal information online

Special to The PREVIEW

It used to be that criminals who wanted to access a person's sensitive information could only do so by breaking into their home. That all changed during the digital age, when it became possible for tech-savvy criminals to access internet users' personal information in a matter of seconds, and do so from nearly any corner of the globe.

The Identity Theft Resource Center reported there were more than 3,200 publicly reported data compromises that affected more than 350 million individuals in 2023. The 3,200 compromises indicated an increase of more than 1,400 such incidents over the year prior, which underscores the growing frequency of such actions and the need for individual users to do everything possible to safeguard their information.

In recognition of the threat posed by online hackers and scammers, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) offers the following tips consumers can follow to safeguard their personal information:

• Update your software. The FTC

notes that software updates contain critical fixes and protections against security threats, making this step an absolute necessity. Whether you're using a desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone or another connected device, be sure to turn on automatic updates so security software is updated the moment it's possible to do so. Updated internet browsers and mobile apps are not bulletproof, but they're far less vulnerable than older versions.

- Secure your home Wi-Fi network. Make sure your home Wi-Fi network is password protected. Without such protection, anyone with a nearby internet connection can monitor your online activity, including anything you do related to online banking and bill-paying. Periodically change the password to your Wi-Fi network as an added security measure. A new router with the latest built-in security features also can be a smart move if it's been awhile since you purchased your existing router.
- Utilize two-factor authentication. Two-factor authentication can seem like a nuisance, but it's much safer than simply using a password. Two-factor authentication sends

a unique code via text message or email to users after they enter their login information when trying access bank accounts, utilities and other personal accounts. The FTC notes that a hacker who steals a password cannot log into an account with two-factor authentication unless he also has gained access to your email or smartphone, making this a step worth taking.

• Wisely choose security questions. Some banks, financial institutions and service providers ask users to answer a handful of security questions as an added measure of security. Avoid choosing questions that hackers can easily answer for you, such as what was your high school mascot, who is your favorite sports team or even your place of birth. Such information often can be easily gleaned from social media accounts or other places where your personal information may be shared.

There's no way to fully safeguard yourself from online criminals in the digital age. But a few simple strategies can make it much more difficult for hackers to gain access to your personal information online.

100 years ago this month: Historical events from October 1925

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of October has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in October 1925:

- The Lerma River in Guanajuato, Mexico, floods on Oct. 1, leaving thousands of people homeless as a result.
- Three workers are burned alive when the Church Hill Tunnel in Richmond, Va., collapses on Oct. 2. The tragedy is partly responsible for the emergence of an urban legend known as the "Richmond Vampire" more than 80 years after the tunnel's collapse.
- The Soviet Union removes all restrictions on the alcohol content of beverages on Oct. 4. Alcohol had been prohibited on a limited basis for 11 years prior to the removal of the limitation.
- Legendary baseball pitcher Christy Mathewson dies of tuberculosis on Oct. 7. Mathewson, who notched 373 wins and five National League ERA titles during his career, developed tuberculosis after being exposed to chemical weapons during World War I.
- On Oct. 9, the Italian state prosecutor absolves 24 officials of any responsibility for the June 1924 murder of Giacomo Matteotti. Matteotti was an Italian socialist politician who accused the fascists of fraud shortly before he was kidnapped and killed by police affiliated with fascist leader Benito Mussolini
 - The Palace Museum is opened to

the public in Beijing on Oct. 10. More than 1.1 million pieces of artwork were housed at the museum when it first opened.

- Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Edwin C. Shanahan is killed on Oct. 11. Shanahan is the first FBI agent to be killed in the line of duty.
- Six hundred American troops enter Panama on Oct. 12. The troops enter at the request of Panamanian President Rodolfo Chiari, who was hoping to put down a renter's strike.
- Margaret Hilda Roberts is born in Grantham, Lincolnshire, England on Oct. 13. Roberts would come to be known as Margaret Thatcher and serve as the prime minister of England from 1979 to 1990.
- The Pittsburgh Pirates win the World Series on Oct. 15. The Pirates defeat the Washington Senators 9-7 in the decisive seventh game of the series. The Senators had opened the series winning three of the first four games.
- Rebels invade Damascus during the Great Syrian Revolt on Oct. 17. The rebels set several colonial French buildings on fire and take control of Azm Palace during the revolt.
- Hungarian-American explorer and amateur archaeologist Bryon Khun de Prorok begins excavating the Tin Hinan Tomb in the Sahara Desert in French Algeria on Oct. 18. Prorok begins the excavation despite objections from the local Tuareg Berber community.
 - "The War of the Stray Dog" be-

tween Bulgaria and Greece begins on Oct. 19. The killing of a Greek captain and a sentry by Bulgarian soldiers was one reason given for the start of the conflict.

- John William Carson is born in Corning, Iowa, on Oct. 23. Carson would grow up and host "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" for three decades, ultimately earning the nickname "The King of Late Night."
- Seven of 23 U.S. Navy Curtiss CS-1 seaplanes are destroyed by wind gusts on Oct. 25. The planes had been brought to Maryland to compete in the Schneider Cup.
- Nicaragua President Carlos José Solórzano acquiesces to former president Emiliano Chamorro Vargas's day-old demand to make him minister of war on Oct. 26, effectively ceding control of the country.
- American inventor Fred Waller receives a patent for the water ski on Oct. 27.
- The remains of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun are found on Oct. 28. English Egyptologist Howard Carter had discovered Tutankhamun's tomb nearly three years before discovering the remains, which had been covered by a death mask made of gold.
- An armored truck is hijacked and robbed of \$93,000 in cash in Buffalo, N.Y., on Oct. 29. The money is never recovered and Richard Reese Whitemore, who was indicted for the holdup, was never convicted of the crime after a jury could not agree that he was guilty.

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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



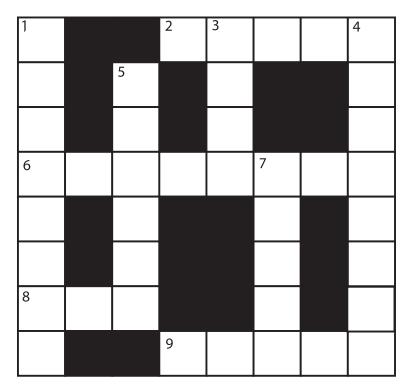
(970) 264-2100 • pagosasun.com 457 LEWIS STREET • P.O. BOX 9 PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO 81147



These devices stay on the eye due to surface tension of tear fluid and the eye's curvature.

Answer: Contact lenses

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. Involves the eye
- 6. In a line
- 8. Abbreviation for
- "hours"
- 9. Stings or pains

- 1. Vision
- 3. Foot treatment
- 7. One who plays

DOWN

- 4. Corrects vision
- 5. Bends



54: Roman emperor Claudius dies from poisoning under mysterious circumstances.

1843: B'nai B'rith. now the oldest Jewish service organization

founded in New York.

electron micrograph

of an Ebola virus is taken at the CDC.

in the world, is

1976: The first

SOLUTION

a liquid mixture used for cleaning and storing contact lenses

7. Gamer

1. Eyesight 3. Pedi 4. Contacts 5. Curves

UMOU 9. School

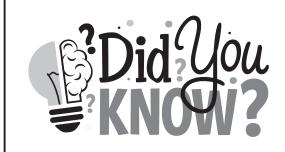
2. Optic 6. Straight 8. Hrs 9. Burns

Across Answers:



English: Case Spanish: Caja **Italian:** Scatola French: Boîtier

German: Schatulle



Storing contacts properly in the case helps keep them clean, moistened and ready for use.





Classifieds

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Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS



20' WIND AND WATER TIGHT cargo containers. Rent, rent to own, buy. Call for specials. Pagosa Springs Storage, (970)731-0007.

3R RANCH- WORKING in the beautiful south San Juans. Hiring one position, ranch and landscape maintenance. No experience, we will train. \$20 per hour. (970)264-5160.

JAND JENTERPRISES 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.

WANTED: CARPENTER TO BUILD an outside wooden staircase. Contact (970)731-

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

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 DRINK-ING? 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30- 6:30p.m, Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? 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.

SERVICES

ASPENGLOW LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061

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HOME IMPROVEMENT: Drywall, Floors, Windows, Doors, Plumbing, Kitchens and Bathrooms, Siding, Decks, Additions! (970)844-

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KRITTER GITTERS, SKUNK AND BAT Busters. We specialize in capturing and removing unwanted rodents and varmints. We don't trap pigs. 50 years experience, lifetime resident. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

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MINT ROOFING Re-roofs, commercial and maintenance. Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255

NEED HELP DECLUTTERING OR ORGA-NIZING? Help moving in, moving out, whatever's on your list. Marlene, (719)850-3055.

PAGOSA MOVING AND LABOR — Pagosa's trusted 5-star movers. Affordable, dependable, local. Call (719)480-4275 or find us on Google.

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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PagosaSUN.com

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a fulltime 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.

3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license. 40 hours a week available 20 bucks an hour. (970)264-5160.

ALPINE APPLIANCE NOW HIRING for all positions. Delivery Drivers starting at \$25 an hour. Sales starting at \$20 plus bonuses. Please bring resume by 2800 Cornerstone Drive STE A1 or email to sales@alpineappliancepagosa.com.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

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.

HIRING DIRECT SERVICE /Respite Care Providers. Seeking those with compassionate hearts to join the Aspen Services team supporting adults with developmental disabilities. Provide direct care, assistance with daily living skills, and meaningful community engagement to help our clients live full and independent lives. Part time/flexible hours. Paid training provided — experience in caregiving a plus but not required. If you want to make a difference in lives, Apply today: Contact Becky Thompson at (970)507-0122 or email aspenservices@aspenhousepagosa.org.

HELP WANTED

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.

JOIN US IN MAKING a difference in the lives of animals and their people by leveraging your customer service and organizational skills. Apply today to become part of our dedicated team at the Humane Society Thrift Store. SORTING ASSOCIATE. The Humane Society Thrift Store is looking for an organized, positive, team player, to help in our Clothing Department. This role, among other duties, will help sort donated items, mostly clothing, and move them through the process up to the pricing stage. The right individual will also have the opportunity to cross train with other store tasks, areas of sorting, and cashier when needed. This role will require working on your feet for extended periods of time and lifting and moving 20-30 lb bags regularly. Part time — 16 -24 hours a week. \$16.00 -\$16.50 an hour DOE. Please stop by the store or go to our website to apply. https:// pagosahumane.org/.

HELP WANTED

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.

LOOKING FOR LABORERS to help build fences. Starting wage \$20 /hour. Call (970)264-4447.

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.

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 AS-SISTANT. 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.

HELP WANTED

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 RENT-AL 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.

HELP WANTED: HOT TUB SERVICE TECH

\$20 / hr start pay.
Full or Part Time.
Must have vehicle.
Will train and can start 10/20.
Call / Text (970)344-8437

HELP WANTED

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.



ELITE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL,

a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

We currently have a **Class B CDL Driver Trash Recycle Route Driver** position open. Pay based on experience and includes a sign-on bonus of \$500 payable after 6 months of accident-free employment.

We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses. Must be able to pass a preemployment drug test.

We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email ctanner@eliterecycling.com to request one.

JOIN OUR TEAM

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE



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.

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.

Sales and Business Development: Repo

- 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.

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 Casifieds (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

\$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

an O'Rourke Media Group company

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

Must have experience with outdoor power equipment, problem solving, self-starting and customer service oriented.

Start at \$22/hr. depending on experience

Benefits include health insurance, paid time off, profit share, discounts and more.

Apply in person Monday-Friday

Applications on terrysace.com

Join us in serving our Pagosa community!

HELP WANTED

We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



Full-time and Seasonal

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Applications at WolfCreekSki.com/employment



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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.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified

HELP WANTED

THRIFT STORE RECEIVING /DRIVING ASSOCIATE. The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store is looking for a donation receiving team member to help cover our new uptown donation drop off center, assist with donation pickup, driving the donation box truck, and work shifts at the downtown location. \$17.50 -\$18.00 per hour. Driving record must be clean for the past five years, and driver insurable. Position requires above average attendance as we have donors relying on us to show up. 28 -40 hours a week. Schedule Wednesday through Saturday (a fifth day negotiable if full time is needed.) Apply to join our team, and help support our mission to provide a safe haven for animals in need, by going to our website, https://pagosahumane.org or stop by the Store.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

2003 SUBARU FORESTER, automatic transmission, 216,200 mi. Good condition. \$2,350. Mechanic records. Text (970)903-9372 for photos and more info.

300 WSM TIKKA BOLT -ACTION with scope, sling, padded case, cartridges, extra mags, \$1,000. 380 auto Smith & Wesson pistol, easy -slide, extra mag, \$500. Call or text Bill, (303)378-1185.

BRAND NEW 27" HUSQUVARNA,/B. snow thrower with 2 steel loading ramps. Only used 3 hours. Asking \$1,350. Call Rick, (970)946-1737.

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.

NATIVE GRASS HAY FOR SALE. Small squares stored in a barn. \$8 for this years. \$6 for last years. (970)903-7499.

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.

PROTECT YOUR BELONGINGS. Specials on 20 foot cargo containers. Rent or buy. We deliver. Pagosa Springs Storage, (970)731-

FOR SALE

SADDLES. Two western, \$175 each. Two English, \$125 each. (970)398-0155.

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)559-0531. \$45 OBO.

WOODSTOVE, old-fashioned large 'chateau -style' top, Franklin -type doors, with fire grate. Comes with solid 10" pipe, fireplace tools (970)559-0531, \$45 OBO

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

CKC YORKIES, 8 WEEKS OLD from the Yorkshire Inn. Boys, \$1,000. Girls, \$1,200. (970)317-5859.

DOBERDOODLE PUPPIES FOR SALE. 8 weeks old. Have first shots. 3 boys, 2 girls. Intelligent, loyal, athletic, hypoallergenic, strong and protective. Call (970)507-1089 to see them and for an interview. Serious inquiries only. \$300 firm.

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

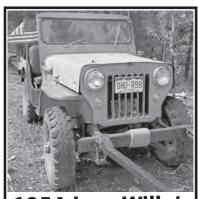
YOUR DOG AND GROOMER not seeing eye to eye? Call Barb, mobile groomer, (970)903-1290.

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23' GRAND DESIGNE. Used twice. Many extras. \$44,500 new. Sell: \$34,000. (970)398-

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(970) 264-2100

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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HOMES FOR SALE

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2022 SUBARU FORESTER Limited Sport. Silver, like new. 32,000 miles. (512)581-1475. evenings.

BUCKSKIN TOWING AND REPAIR, LLC has a 1962 Red Willy's Wagon, VIN#6214710445 for sale. Please stop by Buckskin Towing and Repair at 1435 E. Highway 160 to place a bid on this vehicle, (970)264-2500.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

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. rowfmanagement.com for more information.

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 PROP-ERTIES! 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.

BEAUTIFUL FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. No pets. Off -street parking. \$1,800 rent, \$300 all utilities including WiFi. 1 -year lease, \$1,200 deposit, available November 8. Contact (619)992-0700.

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

(970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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 APART- MENT 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 Cabezon Canyon near Chimney Rock National Monument. AWD required in winter, full bath. \$895 per month plus utilities. (970)883-2600

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 2 BED /2 bath townhome with deck overlooking Pagosa Lake. Washer /dryer & garage with fenced backyard. Pets negotiable. \$1850 /month includes utilities. (970)398-1645.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

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

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.

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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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