

# Sen. Bennet visit



Sen. Michael Bennet visits Pagosa Springs on Saturday morning, Oct. 18, to tour an area of downtown Pagosa Springs and see and hear about damage from the recent floods. Also in attendance were town and county staff and elected officials, representatives of the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka and other staff from Bennet's office.

# Flood damage estimated at \$13 million

Assessments and discussions have followed the historic floods that took place on Oct. 11 and 14, with several governmental entities continuing to work to determine the extent of the damage caused by the floods and their effects on the area.

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.

Other area river levels were also significantly impacted, including the

See Flood A5

# November SNAP benefits on hold

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits for November are on hold, affecting more than 1,400 individuals in Archuleta County and more than 600,000 statewide.

SNAP helps eligible low-income households purchase food, with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) website explaining, "Families and individuals can receive a monthly benefit to buy healthy food."

The CDHS website explains, "Because of the federal government shutdown, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has not released the funds that states use to pay SNAP (food assistance) benefits. This means Colorado is unable to issue the approximately \$120 million of November SNAP benefits to clients until the federal government restores funding."

See SNAP A8

# Town's sanitation board hears updated estimates on upcoming costs, rates

At the Oct. 21 Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) meeting, Public Works Director Karl Johnson gave an update on future costs for the town's sewer system rehabilitation project and its future needs.

The new numbers are based on updates to a rate study conducted by Roaring Fork Engineering, which completed a holistic system analysis and provided a rate study addressing the most urgent system rehabilitation needs.

The new numbers appeared startling to some PSSGID's board members, who also sit as the Pagosa Springs Town Council, with member

See Sanitation A8

# Lawsuit filed against LPEA over split from Tri-State

A group of eight La Plata Electric Association customers have filed a class-action lawsuit against the energy supplier, alleging LPEA should have taken the separation from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association to a vote of LPEA's membership.

LPEA is seeking to have the suit dismissed, suggesting the plaintiffs misunderstand the organization's bylaws.

The seven-page complaint was filed on Sept. 16 by eight members who reside in Durango, Ignacio and Bayfield, and adds that it is on behalf of the members of LPEA and all others similarly situated, with the plain-

See LPEA A8

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# Opinion



## The Pagosa Springs SUN

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|       |      |     | Moisture Type | Depth |
| 10/14 | 66   | 46  | 2.25          | NA    |
| 10/15 | 69   | 43  | 0.10          | NA    |
| 10/16 | 55   | 32  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 10/17 | 55   | 25  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 10/18 | 59   | 26  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 10/19 | 63   | 28  | 0.00          | NA    |
| 10/20 | 63   | 31  | 0.03          | NA    |

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## OUR VIEW

# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As you may have noticed from the articles in The PREVIEW, purple ribbons around town, touches of purple at Pirate sporting events or a number of other events and things that have taken place already this month, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is a horrific truth in our society and one that Pagosa Country and Colorado hasn't been spared from.

On Tuesday, Colorado Attorney General Phil Wieser's Office announced that, despite Colorado seeing its lowest homicide rate in five years in 2024, domestic violence victim fatalities increased.

The Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board released a report that identified 54 domestic violence fatality cases resulting in 72 deaths in 2024 — a 24 percent increase from the previous year.

Of those deaths, a press release from the attorney general's office about the report states, 38 were killed by current or former intimate partners, and eight were collateral victims, all of whom were children between the ages of 3 months and 7 years old. Five of the children were killed amid custody disputes between parents, "highlighting custody litigation as a high-risk period for families experiencing domestic violence."

It's absolutely heartbreaking, sobering and shouldn't be happening.

Overall, homicides in Colorado declined by 16.7 percent, with domestic violence deaths making up 18 percent of

all homicides — the highest proportion in five years.

Firearms, it states, were used in 75% of all domestic violence deaths in 2024, including every child fatality.

"Half of the perpetrators had a prior domestic violence arrest or warrant, and one in five had a prior conviction," the press release states. "Rural counties also continued to experience disproportionately high rates of domestic violence fatalities per capita, underscoring the ongoing challenges survivors face in accessing safety and support."

Thankfully, not all cases of domestic violence rise to the level of homicides, but, still, we should seek to stop domestic violence at any level.

We are grateful here in Archuleta County to have Rise Above Violence actively seeking to help lessen and erase domestic violence from our community — no small task.

We applaud their work in aiding victims and helping empower them to make decisions about removing themselves from potentially dangerous situations, and in teaching youth (and adults) what healthy relationships look like and what abuse may look like.

It will certainly take a series of changes, forms of educations and interventions to lessen domestic violence here and elsewhere, and we should each take a part in supporting those measures, as well as supporting victims of domestic violence.

As Rise has taught us, even saying "I believe you" can mean the world to someone facing fear and an unknown future.

The review board also made several recommendations for stronger prevention and intervention measures, including: Requiring law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms at the scene of domestic violence arrests.

Clarifying state law to ensure third-degree assault domestic violence convictions prohibit firearm possession.

Encouraging law enforcement to consider a protocol to provide resource materials to both parties at domestic violence calls where no arrest is made.

Expanding local fatality review team protocols to include interviews with family members and perpetrators to better identify missed warning signs.

If you'd like to help locally, visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for more information on volunteering and see Rise's article in this week's PREVIEW.

If you are in a crisis or need immediate support, dial 911. Rise's 24-hour hotline can be reached at (970) 264-9075, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at (800) 799-SAFE (7233). For a list of resources available throughout Colorado, visit www.violencefreecolorado.org.

Together, we can change this trend and make our community a safer place for everyone.

Randi Pierce

## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

# 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
October 23, 1925

Macedonio Archuleta of Kearns was in this vicinity the past week to ship out his lambs from the loading station at Sunetha.

It has happened at last! The Sun has made one of those errors that made Mark Twain famous — we slightly exaggerated the report of the death of one of our former citizens, L.D. (Dick) Mann, the account of which occurred in these columns two weeks ago. He now comes forward and wishes to deny the report — vehemently. On the contrary, he states that he is feeling much better than he has for some time.

We are indeed sorry of the mistake we have made, but we rejoice with the family and the scores of friends of the "deceased" that he is very much alive, and hope that the Sun will be denied the sad duty of again reporting his "death" for many years to come.

Harry Putnam, wife and two daughters departed Monday for Arizona, where they expect to locate for the benefit of the health of Miss Blanche, who has been failing for some months. They will probably settle in the vicinity of Phoenix, and Pagosa friends are sincerely hoping that the change will prove beneficial.

# 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
October 27, 1950

C.T. Hazelwood, pioneer resident of Pagosa Springs, but now living in Montrose, arrived this week for a visit with his daughter, Mrs. Aubrey Fowler and family and his son, Melvin. Mr. Hazelwood will remain until after the election. He is one of the early day residents of the county, coming here in July of 1901.

The local schools are presenting a program on Hallowe'en Tuesday October 31 at the new gym. The program is very attractive and many other features may be found at the gym that night. D. Boone Lacewell, superintendent of schools emphasized that the program is open to all residents of the community and all who attend are sure to have an enjoyable evening. There is no admission charge and local residents of all ages are urged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Shortly before noon on Tuesday of this week the local locker plant reported that they had handled a total of 98 elk, 201 deer and three bear thus far in the big game season. These figures indicate that the percentage of local hunters getting animals is high and that fresh meat will be plentiful hereabouts for some time.

# 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
October 23, 1975

Relatives and friends of the two pilots lost in a plane accident last fall had much praise for local officials in connection with the discovery of the plane and removal of bodies. They were particularly appreciative of the efforts of Jud Cooney, WCO, who handled many of the details and who investigated the accident.

Local officials of the Forest Service breathed a sigh of relief when elk season was over. The area is extremely dry but no major fires were reported here. There were two small fires, but both were controlled before any serious damage. It will be worry time again this weekend, though, as deer hunters flock into the woods. Extreme caution with fire is urged.

Oiling on Wolf Creek Pass is, for all practical purposes, completed. There are finishing touches, drains, and curbs to be added, but the main portion of the highway has two heavy coats of hot mix. It is a beautiful piece of road and reaches from the top of the Pass down this side almost to the highway camp.

# 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
October 19, 2000

Due to construction crews blasting, excavating and boring the eastern portal of a 950-foot tunnel through the mountainside on U.S. 160 between mile markers 173 and 175 on the east side of Wolf Creek Pass, the highway in that area will be closed from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Thursday. The closures will be in effect from now until the project is completed sometime during 2002.

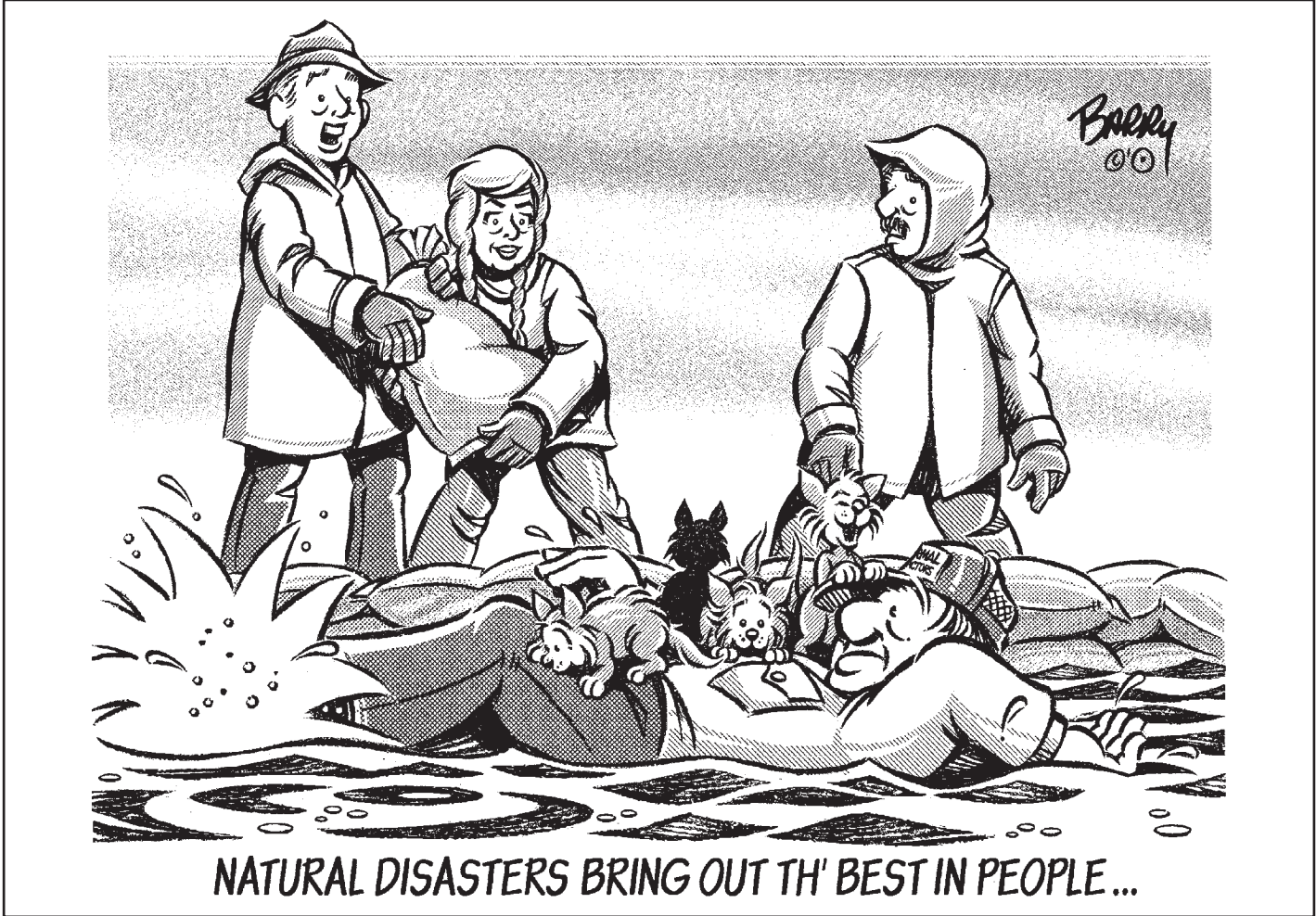
Great Outdoors Colorado has awarded \$600,000 in lottery proceeds to Colorado State Parks for renovation work in a portion of Navajo State Park in Archuleta County. The funding will be used to construct a visitors' center and campground restroom building and to make mooring cove improvements. The funded work is expected to be completed by December 2001.

The project is part of a renovation program underway in five Western Slope Bureau of Reclamation parks operated by Colorado State Parks.



From the Oct. 22, 1970, Pagosa SUN — JAM PACKED — The main business section of Pagosa Springs was jam packed with hunters several mornings last week and this week. This photo was taken shortly after sunrise Friday of last week and gives an idea of how many hunters were headquartering in this community.

| Archuleta County Commissioners                                                 |                                                             |                                                                   |
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# Letters

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

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

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

## For 2A

Dear Editor:

I agree with the letters recently published in The Pagosa Springs SUN supporting the authorization of a sales tax for the Town of Pagosa Springs—ballot measure 2A. Ordinarily, I would not support a tax increase, but in this case, we have no real alternative. If we fail to act as a community, the consequences will be severe—potentially costing each of us around \$200 a month or more.

Sincerely,  
Ross Aragon

## Pagosa West

Dear Editor:

“I do not care about Pagosa West Development because it does not involve me, she said.” Think again, M’am!!

All of Pagosa Springs residents should want to know plans for 99 acres of mixed use prime real estate by developer, David Dragoo at the juncture of South Pagosa and Hyw 160 (Main Street). Trust destroyed by a lack of information, transparency, and engagement with the community is not easily restored and should make us all concerned about what is being hidden. Troubling questions remain. How critical will be increased travel congestion at traffic light on northwest corner of South Pagosa at Highway 160 affecting Timber Ridge Ranch and Pagosa Lakes Ranch residents who lack reasonable egress alternatives to down town or out of town, along with Medical Center and its services to Pagosa Springs residents. (Reference other unanswered concerns clearly articulated in Pagosa Sun, October 15th edition of letters to the editor by Weitzel.)

Untrue: “Pagosa West representatives have engaged with neighboring businesses and residential areas to listen to their concerns and desires. Feedback from these discussions has been incorporated into the development strategy while fully complying with existing zoning and land entitlements.”

True: Two meetings on August 19th and 21st, 2025 were presented by Pagosa West architect, Brad Ash. At the beginning of each meeting, CDC Director Emily Lashbrooke requested that the audience not ask questions verbally, but submit them in writing and she would forward them to the developer to be answered. To date, no one has received an answer. So, there has been no dialogue directly between the developers and the neighboring residential neighborhoods.

The meeting notice stated that the experts would not be available at the meeting. When asked who were the experts, the answer was “the developers”, who from all indications were in attendance at the meeting via Zoom, and if so, would have been able to engage with the audience and directly answer questions.

Folks, we all should be concerned by obscurity of truth, failure to respond to questions, and game playing, by the developer, David Dragoo, and other involved parties. Trust is the basis of a strong community.

Perhaps answers by developer David Dragoo will be forthcoming at the upcoming meeting called by Planning Commission for October 28, 2025, 5:30 pm, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. All Pagosans urged to care and attend.

Virginia Baxt

## Pagosa West

Dear Editor:

The proposed developer of Pagosa West submitted a revised Sketch plan with a public hearing set for October 28th at 5:30pm at Town Hall. Pagosa West is an approximately 100-acre plat to the east of the hospital and south of City Market. It contains stands of gorgeous, old growth Ponderosa pines, lush meadows, and is home to a diverse array of wildlife. Steeped in history, Pagosa West is an important part of Pagosa's heritage. A railroad spur ran through it to pick up sheep raised on the property. You can see tribute to that heritage with the nearby sculpture of a sheep herder with three of his flock.

I support Pagosa development that is organic and community driven, and I support Workplace Housing. However, the developer's proposal does not respect Pagosa's heritage and

does not reflect the vision for Pagosa as stated in the Comprehensive Plan or Vision 2025 which purports to retain Pagosa as an authentic mountain town with deep roots in local history, closely held traditions, and a close-knit community.

The initial Sketch plan presented a mix of developer/market-driven commercial businesses and high-density residential options. There was no provision to preserve the natural beauty and wildlife corridors or respect adjacent neighborhoods' lifestyle. The revised Sketch plan hasn't sufficiently incorporated community feedback. Instead, the plan defines only two parcels, roughly 10 percent of the property, as Workforce Housing and a gas station, directly east of the hospital. The lack of detail for the remaining 90% effectively eliminates any possibility of opposing the project since there is nothing to evaluate.

I will leave it to others to point out the numerous problems with the sketch design and concentrate, instead, on proposing an alternative which would satisfy the need for development while also protecting the unique characteristics of this gateway property.

I propose that 20-25% of the property be set aside for attractive business development compatible with existing Pagosa mountain town architecture. Placing this development in the northwestern portion of the property would create a welcoming, mountain town introduction for visitors and tourists. By right-sizing development, the strain on infrastructure would be significantly reduced. Remember, Pagosa's growth rate the past 10 years is approximately 2 percent per year.

The remaining 75-80% of the property would be developed from a conservancy approach, which could incorporate a future recreation center and additional workforce housing. Imagine a nature park and recreation area for all to enjoy—visitors and locals alike.

With several workforce housing projects planned for Uptown Pagosa, where will children/families recreate close to home? Uptown does not have a park within Town limits that I am aware of, while Downtown has 8 parks. Most of Pagosa's population lives west of Putt Hill.

The Town has demonstrated its support of grant applications for Gateway River Park and the Reservoir Hill land conservancy project. Grants minimize the need for local funds. A 20:80 (development:nature park) ratio could be the winning compromise.

Wouldn't you rather have a nature park than a high-density development?

Sharon Carter

## International Stuttering Awareness Day

Dear Editor:

October 22nd marks International Stuttering Awareness Day. Stuttering affects more than 80 million worldwide, including three million Americans.

Since its inception in 1947, the Stuttering Foundation has provided a

‘Big Tent’ for those seeking information and assistance, leaning on the foundational work of Charles Van Riper, Dean Williams, Joseph Sheehan and Malcolm Fraser, while delving into contemporary approaches from experts who facilitate our workshops, speak at conferences, write for our magazine, appear on our podcasts, and lead our Virtual Learning sessions.

In 1957, the Foundation convened eminent speech pathologists and authorities in psychology, psychiatry, and even cultural anthropology to agree upon general guidelines for a comprehensive program on stuttering. This was no small feat considering the disagreements and diversity of thought among authorities at that time. Since then, Stuttering Foundation books have been written and translated into more than 45 foreign languages and have reached more than 20 million people.

There has been disagreement and debate about the best way to treat those who stutter—that may never change since no two people stutter in the same way, and their goals may vary. The Stuttering Foundation is a resource for all who seek help.

Visit StutteringHelp.org for more information and help.

Jane Fraser  
president, The Stuttering Foundation  
Memphis, Tenn.

## Medicaid

Dear Editor:

Last week in a letter to the editor, a person pointed out that California had received more money than permitted to cover health care to immigrants. There were several facts that were ignored in that letter. First of all, the overpayment to the state was discovered by the California head of Medicaid, and steps are being taken to repay the federal government. Many states have been paid too much for Medicaid because the regulations are complicated, but Trump is investigating only the Democratic led states, of course. Leaving aside the moral and scientific justifications for giving people health care, emergency care and maternal and pregnancy care are permitted for all under Medicaid. I would not like to have to prove my citizenship before a doctor could decide whether or not I could be treated in an emergency. I would think that you would not, also. Hospitals are required to serve all

■ See Letters A4

# U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Oct. 24-Nov. 1

### Work activity

- 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard: Crews plan to open the crosswalk on the northeast corner of 4th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard early next week for pedestrian access. The current crosswalk in front of Goodman's will then close to allow paving operations to continue in the westerly direction. The project team will be working closely with Visit Pagosa to move pedestrian directional signage accordingly.
- Pagosa Springs Middle School: The sidewalk is complete in front of the school. Work continues on additional features (i.e. planters and lighting).
- 3rd Street: The project team is working on the foundations for the pedestrian push buttons at 3rd Street.

### Upcoming work

- 5th 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 5th Street and Lewis Street through the end of the month.
- The 4th Street intersection 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 can.

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

### Safety tips for drivers

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

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

### Traffic impacts

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

### Stay informed and connect with the project

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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

## Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

Please submit your letter electronically in a format that can be copied and pasted to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com) or via the form at [www.pagosasun.com](http://www.pagosasun.com). Letters must not be in all capitals.

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- 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 up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

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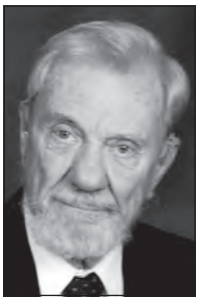
## Eugene Anthony Witowski

Eugene “Gene” Witkowski peacefully passed away to be with our Lord on Sept. 30, 2025. Gene was born in Cheektowaga, N.Y. His parents moved from New York to California and finally settling in Fort Worth, Texas, where Gene spent his formative years playing school sports, band and Boy Scouts; he was an Eagle Scout.

Gene and his business partner, Ed Kirch, formed the company GEBCO, which was an environmental training business that dealt with asbestos

and other hazardous chemical material removal. Gene and his wife, Barbara, retired to Pagosa Springs in 2000.

While enjoying his retirement, Gene was active in the Pagosa Springs Community Choir for several years, as well as singing in the Immaculate Heart of Mary choir. He was also a member of the IHM Parish Council, as well as a member of the



parish community. Gene enjoyed visiting with his grandchildren, hunting, fishing, camping and golfing. Some of his favorite pastimes were playing bridge, eating dark chocolate and reading good books.

Gene is survived by his wife of 42 years, Barbara; sister Dr. Joann Trial; stepchildren Gen. Roger H. Watkins (USAF retired) (Leslie), Capt. Walter T. Watkins (USMC) (Dawn), Margaret Watkins Barron (Anthony), Teresa A. Watkins; grandchildren Sgt. Andrew H. Watkins (Army Ranger), Brian Watkins, Catherine Watkins, Thomas E. Watkins, Emily Watkins Pomfret, Anthony Wyatt Barron.



### ■ Continued from A3

people regardless of immigration status in their emergency departments. Medicaid covers those costs in order to reimburse hospitals. Failure to do so would cause many hospitals, like our own Pagosa Springs Medical Center, to close. This discussion about who can get Medicaid only points out how complicated, inefficient, and unfair our medical system is. The present administration is only making it worse by removing subsidies from the Affordable Care Act and by adding more red tape in order to prove Medicaid enrollment. These are the only reasons that the Democrats have not voted for the budget bill. They do not trust Republicans to negotiate in good faith. After all, Republicans have had since January to do so and have shown no indication, other than hollow words, to do so. In fact, our own Representative Jeffrey Hurd voted for HR 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill), and now he wants to revise it to restore ACA subsidies by introducing a bill to do that. That bill has no chance of passing, and he knows it. Did he not read the HR 1 before he voted for it?

Lynn R. Frederick

## Peaceful demonstration

Dear Editor:

On Friday, the day before the No Kings demonstration, the Archuleta Republican Central Committee sent its followers a warning that the rally would be “violent” with people “bussed in” for the event.

Neither Saturday’s event nor any other protest led by local No Kings organizers has been violent. Saturday was beautiful. There were Pagosans (some in costume), kids and babies, well-behaved pets, and a few houseguests and visitors (we often call them “tourists”) who gathered in Town Park then walked to stand on the sidewalk along Main Street.

No one was blocked from walking or driving by. There were lots of supportive honks from cars and trucks. People from out of town appreciated being able to join a national network of rallies to oppose what’s happening under Donald Trump. And I saw several protesters stop into downtown businesses to eat or shop.

There was one organized action on Saturday: a choreographed line dance by about a dozen Pagosans dressed in red, white, and blue. Entertaining, not violent.

Republican Central Committee members need to get out of their armchairs and off their devices. Instead of listening to the blather of Fox News talking heads and right-wing podcasters – presumably their unnamed sources who told them No Kings would be violent – they should try getting out of their political-talk bubbles and observing local events on their own. They might find out that their neighbors have legitimate concerns about the state of the country.

When they are camped out at home, Republican Central Committee members should brush up on their American history. They address their missive to “Fellow Patriots.” The original American Patriots didn’t embrace King George and his feudal lords like they embrace Donald Trump and his minions. American Patriots led the movement to get working people out from under the King’s tyrannical rule. Slashing support for healthcare and raising costs for working people to fund tax breaks for the ultra-rich. Voter suppression and Red State redistricting. These are the modern-day equivalents to taxation without representation. Real American Patriots would rally against policies that take from We the People to give to the tyrant and his ruling class.

Candace Jones

## Colorado’s elk

Dear Editor:

Aldo Leopold begins his landmark book “A Sand County Almanac” with the following passage: “There are some who can live without wild things,

and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.” Here in Colorado those wild things include the largest elk herds in the country that thrive thanks to an abundance of wild public lands, including 4.2 million acres found in 363 separate Roadless Areas.

However, the Trump administration is in the process of rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule, that has prohibited road construction and timbering on 58.5 million acres of our national forest lands nationwide. As hunters know from boots on the ground experience, the Roadless Rule protects the best elk habitat in Colorado and the country.

A new nationwide survey from Responsive Management and the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (CAHSS) shows that well over half of all American adults (62%) say they consider themselves to be conservationists. The annual Colorado College Conservation in the West Poll shows that the percentage of Westerners who prefer public land conservation over energy development (72%) has reached an all-time high. And 99% of Americans are opposed to the Trump Administration’s plan to ditch the Roadless Rule!

Leopold’s “A Sand County Almanac” is as close to a bible for hunter-conservationists as any work can be. In it he discusses the “land ethic,” which simply says: “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.” The Trump administration’s plans to rescind the Roadless Rule is wrong, and the American people have spoken!

During the last week of October I’ll be elk hunting in southwest Colorado’s high and wild San Juan Mountains on public land, our land. And as most elk hunters know firsthand, keeping healthy elk herds on public lands requires ample secure habitat—big wild country without motorized (roads) or mechanized (trails) disturbance. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers formed to focus on habitat: We are “the voice for our wild public lands, waters, and wildlife.” Join us.

David Lien is co-chair of the Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers chapter, a former Air Force missile launch officer, and author. In 2014 he was recognized by Field & Stream as a “Hero of Conservation.” During 2019 he was the recipient of BHA’s Mike Beagle-Chairman’s Award “for outstanding effort on behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.” He urges you to Take Action at: [https://www.backcountryhunters.org/take\\_action/#/](https://www.backcountryhunters.org/take_action/#/)

David Lien  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Older but unjaded

Dear Editor:

The administration rolled out some whoppers for last weekend’s “No Kings” protest. Sorry guys, I’m not a member of Antifa or of any other group. George Soros didn’t supply my home-made sign. No one paid me to show up.

I was there because I love my country. I was there to support our Constitution, our judicial system, our democracy.

Many of us are senior citizens. I got to wondering why millions of people in their 60s, 70s, and 80s are concerned enough to stand on sidewalks for hours holding protest signs. And then it hit me – we seniors were taught as children to believe in the promise of this nation, to strive for the ideals of truth and justice and equality. It makes us proud citizens of an America that stands up for all of our people.

That America is being battered every day. Every time a Jim Comey is indicted, corruption wins. Every time a George Santos is pardoned, cynicism grows. Every time a lawmaker responds to primary threats, democracy fails. Every time hatred takes the podium, our spirits wither.

The “No Kings” movement isn’t pushing a particular candidate or a

partisan agenda. It calls for equality and justice; it decries autocracy; it urges us to pay attention to where we’re headed. Our children and grandchildren will either enjoy the promise of freedom, or they’ll grovel in the dark substitute we enable.

Young people have seen a brutal, greedy, intolerant nation emerge from our refusal to respect differing opinions. Why should they care what happens? Our silence is fueling their apathy. Bad actors are counting on their apathy.

All of this is destroying our pride as Americans. It doesn’t need to be this way. We can remain unjaded. We can demand ethical leadership from our democratically elected officials, or we can boot them out.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Muth

## Against 2A

Dear Editor:

First of all the wording is deceptive....funny how they do this over and over,. Especially when they are trying to get more money from the taxpayers. They use the words ‘in perpetuity’... instead of permanent. This should tell every voter, that they are using a certain ‘need’ (?), to implement a forever tax, for something that can be paid for by a non-permanent tax... and then they advertise it as if this is a ‘good thing.’ (?) .

It’s NOT a good thing to pay for something over and over, again and again, when it only needs to be paid for once, and when it’s paid for THEN introduce another tax initiative on the ballots to be voted on, for that project,,,instead of loading up whomever is backing this initiative on the ballot with other surplus money, after the sewer is paid for, with what would amount to a bloated slush fund...Of which would profit only the people/person backing this lame project (as worded on the ballot). I hear repeated ads on the local radio station for the passage of this ‘proposal’, see lots of signs up, hear on the ads. of the names of people who are recommending the voters vote for this... ..Get serious!!!

So, right now I would strongly doubt the arguments, that ANY of these Bozos have and urge anyone thinking about voting yes on this measure to re-think your vote....and VOTE NO on this Until they change the wording!!!!

It reminds me of the ‘Unaffordable Housing’ (?) surcharge, from PAWSD, and the Round-Up, surcharge from the La Plata Electric Company.... What next?....another surcharge to pay for cancer treatments from using Round-Up..????

Daniel Norton

## Doublespeak

Dear Editor:

Just because we’re living an Or-

Gene is preceded in death by his parents, Anthony and Joan Witkowski; Anthony Edward (brother); Dorothy Metz (sister); and Irene Herring (sister).

Mass of Christian burial will be Oct. 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Pagosa Springs, Colo., preceded by the rosary at 9:30 a.m. Interment will be in the spring of 2026 in Fort Worth, Texas. Honorary pallbearers: Gen. Roger H. Watkins, Capt. Walter T. Watkins, Anthony Barron, Sgt. Andrew H. Watkins, Brian E. Watkins, Thomas E. Watkins and Anthony Wyatt Barron.

wellian nightmare (with masked government goons running amok in our cities) doesn’t mean we can’t make an effort to decipher the doublespeak to which we are constantly being subjected. Let’s start with “antifa,” since our president has decided to make that the current boogymen. Antifa is short for anti-fascist and comes from the German word “antifaschistisch” which refers to a 1930’s German anti-fascist group — you know, back when Nazis were the fascists. Currently, antifa is a highly decentralized left-wing anti-fascist and anti-racist political movement — not really an organization, let alone a terrorist organization. It’s a political philosophy.

I don’t personally remember the Nazis but I have been steeped in movies, books and survivor stories about the Holocaust and have developed a rather poor opinion of fascists. I always assumed that most Americans felt the same way about Nazis/fascists — I mean, we fought an entire world war to defeat them. But now our fearless leader has taken a rather vehement stand against those who are against fascism — the anti-fascists. This may be due to his usual confusion regarding reality but I think it’s more likely that he is a fascist, which would explain his opposition.

Fascism, according to Merriam, is “a populist political philosophy, movement, or regime...that exalts nation and often race above the individual, ... associated with a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader and ... characterized by severe economic and social regimentation and forcible suppression of opposition” Online, you can find “The 14 Characteristics of Fascism” by Lawrence Britt, where you will recognize the road we are traveling as a nation.

The government shutdown has provided excellent examples of doublespeak, hypocrisy, callousness and prevarication. Republicans control both houses of Congress and the White House yet insist that Democrats are to blame. Democrats want an extension of health care subsidies that enable 20 million Americans to purchase health insurance (because we still don’t have universal healthcare!) and Republicans want to be trusted to negotiate this later—this bill, if passed, will only keep government open until November 21. Insurance enrollment started October 15. Speaker Mike Johnson could bring the House members back from their 5th week of unplanned, unproductive recess to hash out a compromise bill or Senate Republicans could decide to toss the filibuster and pass the current bill right now, without Democratic votes. Congressional Democrats have never engaged Democrats in negotiations on this budget.

Of course, bringing the House back ■ See Letters A5

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## October's Educational information is

### "The Dangers of Waiting Too Long to Dry Out a Flooded Home"

When your home floods – whether from a burst pipe, storm, or appliance failure – it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But one of the worst things you can do is wait too long to start the drying process. Please see our blog for comprehensive information.



See Our Blog

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Don't forget to check your crawl spaces for standing water. Water mixed with the normal environments produced in a crawlspace is the perfect breeding ground for microbial growth. We also offer sump pump system installations and repairs as well as moisture barriers. Call today for a free evaluation!

# Consumer advisory: insurance information for Southwestern Colorado flooding

Colorado Division of Insurance

In wake of the flooding in Southwestern Colorado, the Colorado Division of Insurance can help people with their insurance questions.

While remaining safe, checking on your family and neighbors, taking care of the basics (food, shelter, clothing) and ensuring medical needs are met are the most important things in the immediate aftermath, assessing the damage, collecting critical documents and starting to clean up will soon be a top concern for many people.

The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), can help people with their insurance questions, whether that's getting the contact information for insurance companies and agents or asking how to file a claim. Contact the Consumer Services Team at (303) 894-7490, (800) 930-3745 (outside of the Denver metro area), [DORA\\_Insurance@state.co.us](mailto:DORA_Insurance@state.co.us) or visit our website, [doi.colorado.gov](http://doi.colorado.gov) (click on "File a Complaint"). You can also find

flood resources from the DOI at [bit.ly/47kqLH9](http://bit.ly/47kqLH9).

"The Division of Insurance is here to help Coloradans as they navigate the after effects of the serious flooding in Southwestern Colorado," said Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway. "Unfortunately, most property insurance policies don't cover flooding. But there are other resources available, and Coloradans shouldn't hesitate to contact us if they have questions."

Floods operate differently under property insurance than other disasters as they are not typically a covered event under a homeowner policy; this means that damages and evacuations from flooding and additional living expenses would not be covered. Review your policy and contact your insurance carrier if you have any questions about what's covered under your policy.

If you have a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy or are requesting federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) because you do not have other coverage, know that FEMA

and the NFIP are likely to provide slower support given the current government shutdown.

It is always important for homeowners to know what's in their insurance policy. The division will be monitoring consumer protections for impacted homeowners, including analyzing compliance with the following requirements.

Homeowners insurance companies are required to provide policyholders with a copy of their policy within three business days of the policyholder's request. This can be helpful to people who have been evacuated or who do not have access to the internet.

## Insurance information and reminders

Verify coverage before filing claims — automobile, homeowners, renters and businesses:

- If you purchased comprehensive (or "other than collision") coverage on your insured vehicle, you have coverage for flood damage to that vehicle(s).
- If you do have flood insurance

coverage under your homeowner or business property policy, start the claim process as soon as you can. For your home, or any out buildings and vehicles, you'll want to contact your insurance company or agent right away to begin the claim process. However, these floods were severe and many people have been significantly impacted, so the insurance process will take time.

- If you have a flood insurance policy through the NFIP, with a policy that was in effect prior to Sept. 30, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) to begin the claim process. Given the current federal government shutdown, customer service and the claims process may be slow.
- Document the damage: Only when it is safe to do so, you can try to document the damage by taking photos.
- Ask questions: Throughout the process, you are entitled to know what's happening. If your agent, insurance company or adjuster don't provide you with information, or tell you something that you don't understand, ask questions.

## Flood

■ Continued from front

Piedra and Blanco rivers.

Area river levels have continued to decline since Oct. 14, with the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs running at 537 cfs and 5.52 feet as of noon on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

That compares to a median of 88.00 cfs for the same date and a mean of 143.67 cfs.

The increased moisture has also led to a significant increase in the level of Navajo Lake Reservoir.

On Oct. 9, Navajo was at 6,020.44 feet elevation. By Oct. 21, that had increased by 12.10 feet to 6,032.54, according to the Lake Navajo Water Database. It remains 52.46 feet below full pool, or 6,085 feet elevation.

It remains down 8.51 feet from a year prior.

The database shows that total inflows for water year 2026, which began on Oct. 1, are at 421.49 percent of the average, and the rivers feeding Navajo are running at 147.04 percent of average.

The storms also helped area drought.

As of Oct. 14, the last update available by the U.S. Drought Monitor, 65.53 percent of the county was abnormally dry or above, with 3.71 percent of the county falling into moderate drought.

A week, prior, 100 percent of the county was in moderate drought or above, with 30.18 percent being in severe drought or above, with 0.31 percent of that being in extreme drought.

But, while the affect of the flooding on area reservoirs and drought has been positive, local officials are determining the damage done elsewhere.

Additionally, multiple congressmen representing the area visited to tour the damage, with Rep. Jeff Hurd flying over the area and Sen. Michael Bennet touring a portion of the damage on the ground.

## Town of Pagosa Springs

On Oct. 21, Town Manager David Harris updated the Pagosa Springs Town Council on the damages to town infrastructure caused by the recent flooding along the San Juan River, with an early "thumbnail sketch" assessment showing around \$9 million worth of damages.

The major costs are associated with debris removal, riverbank stabilization, inflow and infiltration of unwanted water into the sewer system, 10th Street culvert replacement, sewer line replacement on the 1st Street bridge after the line was damaged by debris, and damages to a river restoration project that the town invested in some years ago, he explained.

Council member Leonard Martinez expressed worry that "we are understating the costs," adding that he fears other hidden costs will mount as the town fully understands the damages to the already-struggling sewer system.

Harris and council member Gary Williams both expressed concern that the chance for the town to receive federal dollars from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) might be at risk given the current political environment in Washington, D.C.

"We are in the unfortunate situation where federal money is not likely to be flowing very heavily or fast, and I'm very disappointed that our state representatives have not been more active in helping us here," Williams added.

He wondered if the town should hire a "lobbyist" to help it navigate the state and federal systems to "prime the pump to make things happen."

Public Works Director Karl Johnson explained that the main damage to the sewer system — the breakage and failure of the sewer main under the 1st Street bridge — has been stabilized with a bypass and that staff is considering getting power from a light pole near there instead of running an emergency generator.

Johnson added that his staff is thinking about a "long-term solution" to the bypass, but that any decision would need to be approved by the Colorado Department of Transportation since it is the owner and operator of the bridge.

At a tour of a portion of the flood damage with Bennet on Saturday, Oct. 18, Mayor Shari Pierce noted that no one within the town lost their home.

## Archuleta County

During a regular work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Oct. 21, the board heard an update from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Regional Field Manager Riley Frazee on the recent flooding events in the county.

Frazee provided information on the damage that has occurred due to the flooding, data collection systems being used to track damage, and potential federal assistance for local governmental entities and homeowners affected.

Frazee explained that Homeland Security is using a system called Crisis Track, while also noting the county assessor's office has been documenting damage, as well.

"Your county has bent over backwards for our needs," Frazee said, noting that everyone in the county has been very helpful and accommodating.

Frazee indicated that 34 homes in Archuleta County were affected by the flooding events, with eight of those homes experiencing minor damage and just one with major damage.

He noted the home with major damage is located in the San Juan River Village subdivision.

Frazee explained that individual assistance from the federal govern-

ment may be available for those homeowners.

He went on to mention the other type of federal assistance being pursued is public assistance in which the federal government will reimburse public entities "to get back to where

they were before the disaster."

Frazee noted that is a grant program where the federal government will provide 75 percent of those costs, with the county needing to provide the remaining 25 percent, unless the

■ See Flood A6

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**240 Glade Drive • \$1,075,000**

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. MLS # 822945

To tour this home go to: <https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagle-Court>



**1001 Soaring Eagle Court \$899,000**

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. MLS # 824532

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



**33 Fawn Court • \$949,000**

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



**120 Big Horn Court • \$535,000**



**470 Terry Robinson Road \$675,000**

MLS # 828394

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



**471 Deer Trail \$339,108**

MLS # 826138

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



**109 Carol's Curves \$250,000**

MLS # 824583

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



## Letters

■ Continued from A4

From recess might mean that Speaker Johnson would have to swear in Adelita Grihalva, who would be the 218th signature on the discharge petition — forcing the House vote on whether to release the Epstein files. Ms. Grihalva won her special election on September 23rd.

One more pertinent definition before I sign off. Kakistocracy, from the Greek words kakistos (worst) and kratos (rule), refers to government run by the most unsuitable, incompetent and/or unprincipled citizens. It is government by the worst people.

Lee Stophor



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Photos courtesy Samaritan's Purse  
**Samaritan's Purse volunteers get to work helping with cleanup following the recent floods in Archuleta and La Plata counties. The organization is one of several in the area to help with cleanup. See related article on A7.**



## Flood

■ Continued from A5

state comes up with some sort of cost-share program to assist the county.

Frazee also noted that damage caused in La Plata County was much the opposite of Archuleta County, with more private homes being affected than public infrastructure.

"We have government infrastructure impacted," Frazee said of Archuleta County.

He then explained that the state indicator for being able to request assistance is \$12 million, "so state-wide for this event we have to have \$12 million dollars worth of damage."

He noted total damages in the county based off of initial assessments is around \$13 million.

Of that \$13 million, about \$8.125 million is from the Town of Pagosa Springs and about \$4 million is from damage to public roadways in Archuleta County.

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux noted that there are still about 200 miles of secondary roadways to be assessed.

During the Oct. 18 tour with Ben-net, Le Roux noted about 30 miles of primary county roads require "total reconstruction" and about 60 miles require significant patching and repair.

Frazee also mentioned that the San Juan River Village Metro District sustained sewer system and roadway damage of about \$2 million, which also qualify as infrastructure.

He commented that the total amount of \$13 million in damage is "good and bad," in that it is bad to have so much damage, but "it's also good that we're about to that point" to be confident in asking for federal assistance.

Frazee expressed that entities and individuals "have to continue to do those assessments" by documenting and photographing initial damage.

He explained that the next step in the process will be having a federal, state and county representative re-evaluate the initial damage assessments.

"Even though we're at \$13 million worth of damage, we want to make sure we're above that so that if those numbers do come down, we have a buffer there," he said.

Frazee explained that there is also a crisis cleanup system in place where voluntary organizations can register to help folks.

"It's interesting. Your community, I believe, is very resilient," he said, explaining a lot of people do not rely on the government "to do things for

us," noting that is also good and bad because that means not as many folks are registering into the databases, which can make it seem as there is not much damage.

Frazee also explained how there were two separate storm systems that moved through the area, technically causing two separate flooding events. "Those are two different storm systems, so we should really have \$12 million dollars worth of damage on each one of those storm systems," he said, explaining that Colorado, and other states, have had success with FEMA in combining events, "cause they were so close together and consider them one event," indicating that is the plan if the Homeland Security does request FEMA assistance.

He noted the Piedra River flooding was the highest on record, while the San Juan River flooding was the fourth and third highest on record, describing the disasters as "two significant events" that occurred back-to-back, being "really unusually unheard of" and indicating they have a good case in combining the events.

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.

Frazee also mentioned the Army Corps of Engineers has toured the San Juan River Village and is coming up with protective measures.

Le Roux explained that the Army Corps is providing temporary flood management, while the next potential flooding incident is likely not to occur until at least next spring with snowmelt.

Commissioner Veronica Medina praised the county assessor's office staff, explaining that staff was on-site documenting both flooding events.

"That's a huge shout-out for them," she said.

Commissioner John Ranson asked how long it will take for the federal and state representatives to come in and reevaluate initial damage assessments, with Frazee explaining that they have 30 days from the end of the disaster to make a request to the president, noting that it started on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

"We're on a timer," he said.

Frazee also mentioned that private nonprofits and places of worship are eligible for public assistance, but that no private roadways are eligible.

"Private stuff is not eligible under the public assistance program," he

said, explaining that any road with a gate on it would not be eligible.

He also noted that homes are only eligible for private assistance "if they are primary residences."

### Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard an update on the recent flooding event and its impacts on the district's infrastructure at an Oct. 15 special meeting.

PAWSD Operations Manager Andrew Connor provided the update, explaining that the district lost a water line near the 1st Street bridge over the San Juan River at about 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 11 once water levels rose.

He stated that the line is placed in the river and that, once the break was detected, PAWSD staff isolated the broken line.

Connor explained that PAWSD has three lines that cross the river in downtown Pagosa Springs, including the line that was broken.

He indicated that the broken line was cut off before the area lost water pressure, but that the district lost about 750,000 gallons of water from tanks on Reservoir Hill and up Cemetery Road due to the breach.

About 20 customers lost service on Saturday night due to the break, Connor stated, but PAWSD was able to open an old bypass near the former Bob's LP building on U.S. 160 and restore service by Sunday morning.

He indicated that additional work needed to be done on the bypass since it was running excessive pressure levels.

Connor stated that, due to the system remaining pressurized, the district did not have to impose any boil water notices, although such a notice was in place at San Juan River Village due to damage to its sewer system.

PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis commented that the boil water notice posted by Archuleta County was somewhat unclear about what it applied to and that PAWSD had issued additional clarification about the situation to its customers.

Connor stated that the impact of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) experiencing a sewer line rupture on Oct. 15 near the 1st Street bridge was mitigated by PAWSD having shut down its water intake taking water from the San Juan River downstream for treatment and use as drinking water on the Oct. 10.



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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The halftime show at Golden Peaks Stadium on Oct. 17 feature current and future Pirate cheerleaders, who showed off hard work through a series of cheers, a dance and stunts.

# Commissioners approve debris management plan

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

During a special meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Wednesday, Oct. 15, the BoCC unanimously approved Resolution 2025-58, adopting a countywide debris management plan.

During the meeting, Emergency Management Commander Roy Vega explained that the county began working on the debris management plan back in June, noting that the most recent debris management plan had been adopted in 2017.

Sheriff Mike Le Roux explained that significant verbiage was added to the updated plan, noting that the Public Works Department reviewed it, as well.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked what the purpose of the plan is and how it is intended to help residents in the county, with Vega explaining that “it helps with creating priorities.”

Vega mentioned the plan helps track progress, along with helping decide what debris can be reused or recycled, and what needs to go to the landfill.

“It helps just keep everything in the chain of command,” he said.

Vega noted that taking debris to the landfill is a last resort, commenting that with the recent flooding events a lot of wooden debris was pushed onto properties and “more chipping options” are being considered for that, instead of hauling it all off to the landfill.

Le Roux commented that the debris plan formalizes and establishes the process for debris cleanup, along with identifying a rapid needs assessment.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini also explained that the debris plan helps coordinate with other governmental agencies and can help

the county get “potentially funds and grants.”

**Flood debris drop-offs**

According to the Archuleta County website, wooden debris can be taken to the CSU Extension building located at 344 U.S. 84, and drop-offs will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No other materials are permitted to be mixed in or dropped off at this location.

The county transfer station located 2140 County Road 500 will accept flood-damaged personal items and white goods (appliances) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

[clayton@pagosasun.com](mailto:clayton@pagosasun.com)

# Organizations offering post-flood assistance

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Multiple organizations continue to provide post-flood assistance in Archuleta and La Plata counties.

The Archuleta County website lists seven organizations active in helping, including the American Red Cross, Crisis Cleanup, 211 Colorado, Team Rubicon, Colorado Baptist Disaster Response, Samaritan’s Purse and The Salvation Army.

The Crisis Cleanup Hotline can be accessed by calling (970) 283-7328.

According to the county’s website, “The cleanup hotline provides free services, but assistance is not guaranteed due to high demand, and it cannot process requests for social services such as food, shelter or insurance.”

The American Red Cross has opened a distribution center locally at the county’s garage at 1122 U.S. 84, where the organization is distributing cleanup kits, comfort kits, Tyvek booties, N95 masks, fans, nitrile gloves, rakes and shovels as available.

To determine if you are eligible for Red Cross recovery assistance if your home has been affected by the recent floods, call 1-800-REDCROSS or visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

For its part, Samaritan’s Purse reported that 70 volunteers shows up to lend a hand on its first day serving the two counties, with more than 40 other volunteers from across the country flying in to help over the next several weeks.

“Samaritan’s Purse has truly been

blessed to come alongside those in need in La Plata and Archuleta Counties. Serving in one of the most beautiful places in the country has been a gift — but what has touched our hearts the most are the incredible people we’ve had the privilege to meet. Their strength, kindness, and faith in the midst of hardship have inspired us every day. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and will continue to be here as long as there are those who need our help,” said Josh Hanna, program manager with Samaritan’s Purse.

The organization reported it has received more than 50 requests for assistance so far and are continuing to accept applications.

Any homeowners in La Plata or Archuleta counties in need of free assistance with mud-outs, debris removal, or tree work are encouraged to call Samaritan’s Purse’s Homeowner Assistance Line at (833) 747-1234.

Additional information on the resources available in Archuleta County can be found at <https://www.archuletacounty.gov/2025/10/southwest-colorado-flood-recovery-resources/>.

**Not affected, but wanting to help?**

Anyone interested in volunteering with Samaritan’s Purse can sign up to serve by visiting [spvolunteer.org](http://spvolunteer.org) or calling (970) 844-4314.

Multiple opportunities exist to help those affected by the recent floods, including through donating to the Archuleta Community Emergency

Response Fund (CERF) administered by the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado, which helps community-based organizations.

Online donations can be made through the Community Foundation’s website, [swcommunityfoundation.org](http://swcommunityfoundation.org).

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 P.O. Box 1673, Durango, CO 81302.

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## Flood

■ Continued from A6

Connor said. “It’s an incredible amount of water comin’ to us. There’s not much we can do about that, but, overall, the system has handled this stress.”

He added that the storms were useful in highlighting key areas where repairs to wastewater collection system are needed and where large amounts of water are infiltrating into

the system.

“I appreciate everybody’s work,” said PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer. “I know Sunday was a rough day, and I went out and there were PAWSD trucks everywhere and there were guys working. Cold, wet, muddy. I really appreciate the effort put in by all the PAWSD employees for that. That was a tremendous turn-out that we had.”

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# LPEA

■ **Continued from front**  
tiffs represented by the Law Offices of Wegener Lane and Evans, P.C.

The complaint states, “Upon information and belief, the Member Class exceeds 36,600.”

## The allegations

The complaint against LPEA alleges, “Upon information and belief, as a member of Tri-State, LPEA owns approximately \$71 million in Tri-State patronage capital as of year-end 2024; this patronage capital represents LPEA’s ownership interest in Tri-State and is therefore an asset of LPEA.”

The complaint then notes that on or about March 26, the LPEA Board of Directors adopted a resolution calling for LPEA’s withdrawal from its membership and contract with Tri-State, with a withdrawal date of April 1, 2026.

It adds, “Pursuant to Tri-State’s Rate Schedule No. 281, as a withdrawing member, LPEA had two options: a withdrawing member may either: (i) continue receiving patronage capital payments as Tri-State may from time to time distribute to all of its members; or (ii) take a discounted lump sum payment of its patronage capital balance as of the Designated Withdrawal Date as a credit to the Final Payment Amount.”

It notes the exit charge is payable by LPEA and its members to Tri-State.

“According to Resolution 2025-04, the Board opted to take a discounted lump-sum payment of its patronage capital, which upon information and belief, amounts to a reduction in LPEA’s patronage capital value

from approximately \$76 million to approximately \$47 million,” the complaint alleges.

The plaintiffs then state in the lawsuit that, per LPEA’s bylaws, “LPEA may not sell or otherwise dispose of LPEA assets, which sale exceeds ten percent (10%) of the value of all assets of the cooperative unless authorized by a vote of LPEA’s Members.”

It states that “the total value of LPEA’s assets at year-end 2024 was approximately \$288 million; thus LPEA’s acceptance of a lump-sum payment of its TriState patronage capital represents a disposition of more than 10% of LPEA’s total assets, which requires that the Board bring the matter to a vote of the Members.”

The complaint adds, “Furthermore, in filing its IRS Form 990 Tax Return, LPEA specifically verified that ‘major decisions are subject to a majority vote of the cooperatives member-owners.’”

The suit adds that the plaintiffs and other members have “demanded” that LPEA “adhere to the requirements of the Bylaws” and bring the issue to a vote of the membership, but that no action has been taken.

The plaintiffs, according to the complaint, ask the court’s interpretation of the bylaws and request a “declaration of the rights, status, or legal relationships of the parties under the Bylaws on the following questions:

“a. Whether LPEA’s withdrawal from Tri-State and the acceptance of a discounted buyout of its ownership interests in Tri-State constitutes a sale or other disposition of more than ten percent (10%) of LPEA’s total assets; and

“b. If LPEA’s withdrawal from Tri-State and the acceptance of a discounted buyout of its ownership interests in Tri-State constitutes a sale or other disposition of more than ten percent (10%) of LPEA’s total assets, whether LPEA is required to bring the matter of withdrawal from Tri-State and/or acceptance of a discounted buyout to a vote of LPEA Members.”

The suit also alleges breach of contract.

“Plaintiffs have been damaged by LPEA’s breach of contract and seek specific performance of LPEA’s obligation to bring the issues referenced ... above, to a vote of the LPEA Members, as an award of monetary damages would be an inadequate remedy under the circumstances presented here for the reasons set forth hereinabove,” the complaint states.

The complaint also seeks a trial by jury on claims triable by a jury.

## LPEA response

LPEA’s attorneys filed a motion to dismiss on Oct. 8, with the 18-page motion alleging that the plaintiffs’ “incorrect reading” of the bylaws.

“While Plaintiffs claim that LPEA members are entitled to vote on a ‘disposition’ of more than 10% of LPEA’s assets, that interpretation ignores the plain language of Article IX, which only entitles LPEA members to vote on a ‘sale’ of more than 10% of LPEA’s assets,” it states. “Moreover, to read Article IX in the way that Plaintiffs suggest would render the use of the word ‘sale’ wholly superfluous. Thus, because Plaintiffs are only entitled to a vote if LPEA engages in a ‘sale,’ and because Plaintiffs do not allege that LPEA’s election to receive its patron-

age capital as a single discounted lump sum payment constituted a ‘sale,’ both of Plaintiffs’ claims fail.”

The motion also alleges that the amount of the patronage capital value being more than 10 percent of LPEA’s assets “ignores economic reality and is implausible,” and that LPEA’s choice to receive a discounted lump sum payment did not constitute a sale or disposition of LPEA’s assets.

On the topic of breach of contract, the motion to dismiss states in part, “Plaintiffs’ interpretation of Article IX fails to abide by black letter principles of contract interpretation.”

“LPEA has received the complaint filed by eight members and has retained outside legal counsel, an unfortunate expense ultimately borne by our entire membership,” LPEA CEO states in an Oct. 14 statement to The SUN. “Our outside counsel believes these claims have no legal merit and filed a motion to dismiss. We believe this dispute could have been avoided if the members had reached out to us directly to seek understanding of the withdrawal agreement with Tri-State before taking this step. We remain hopeful that this dispute can be amicably resolved before more resources are wasted. While we are disappointed that this lawsuit takes away focus from our member priorities, we remain committed to affordable, safe, and reliable electric service. The withdrawal agreement with Tri-State has been signed and finalized as of last week, and we are on track for our April 1, 2026 membership departure, an important milestone in shaping LPEA’s independent energy future.”

*randi@pagosasun.com*

resources so every student has the energy and focus they need to succeed in the classroom,” said Dr. Susana Cordova, commissioner of education, Colorado Department of Education.

## Helping local food pantries

The state also encourages those who are able to donate to local food banks.

Healthy Archuleta, which aids the food pantries in Archuleta County, offers the following ways to help support the area food pantry network:

- Donate fresh produce.
  - Offer community-supported agriculture shares.
  - Donate nonperishable foods.
  - Donate U.S. Department of Agriculture processed beef.
  - Volunteer through the food pantries.
  - Donate funds.
  - Work with the Food Coalition “to help build an equitable community-based food system.”
- The coalition’s website states, “We welcome any and all contributions and acts of service to the patrons of the food pantries in Archuleta County. Please call the Food Coalition at 401-206-4579 or send an email to [fssearchuleta@gmail.com](mailto:fssearchuleta@gmail.com).”
- randi@pagosasun.com*

# SNAP

## ■ Continued from front

A Wednesday press release from the state further explains, “SNAP is fully funded by the federal government and administered by the state; as a result of the ongoing federal shutdown, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has instructed all states to pause November benefits until additional federal funds are released.”

According to an email from Archuleta County Department of Human Services Director Heidi Martinez, in October, \$266,135 in SNAP assistance was expended in Archuleta County, serving 1,417 people.

A state website on SNAP benefits shows a client count of 1,563 in Archuleta County — 11.7 percent of the population.

The CDHS encourages those who need more food resources during the government shutdown to reach out to local food banks or community agencies in your area.

For information on the food pantry network in Archuleta County, visit <https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/food-pantry-network.html>.

“The shutdown not only affects SNAP, but other government subsidies may be affected, including Child Care Assistance, as well as cash pro-

grams, Adult Financial, and TANF-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families,” Martinez wrote, noting the longest government shutdown lasted 35 days.

When the shutdown ends, there will be more information to share about the future of SNAP benefits, according to the state. More up-to-date information can be found on the Colorado PEAK website: <https://co.gov/peak>.

## Governor announces state help

On Wednesday, Gov. Jared Polis, Lt. Gov. Dianne Pimavera and others announced steps the state is looking to take to support affected individuals.

“Following direction from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on October 10 to suspend the release of November SNAP food access, Colorado is moving swiftly to support families and communities across the state,” the state’s press release states.

On Wednesday morning, the press release explains, the Governor’s Office submitted two requests to the Joint Budget Committee: one to consider approval for up to \$10 million in General Fund revenue to support food banks and pantries, and another to extend previously ap-

proved funding for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition access through November.

WIC supports food access for nearly 100,000 women and children in Colorado.

The state also announced a new philanthropic initiative through Feeding Colorado that invites individuals and businesses to help meet the growing demand for food assistance by donating, and is launching a map to show where Coloradans rely most on SNAP support.

“Coloradans take care of one another, and we’re stepping up to make sure hardworking families can continue putting food on the table while federal funding is on hold,” Polis said. “We’re providing emergency state support for food banks, extending WIC access, and giving every Coloradan an opportunity to help by donating to [FeedingColorado.org/donate](https://FeedingColorado.org/donate). Together, we can make sure every family has access to healthy food and every community has the support it needs during this challenging time.”

“When students are hungry, it’s hard for them to focus on learning. Many of our families rely on SNAP to help them buy groceries and provide nutritious meals for their kids. We’re working with schools and local partners to connect families to food

# Sanitation

## ■ Continued from front

Leonard Martinez expressing that the new numbers seem “unreachable” for the town.

Town Manager David Harris said, “We knew this would be a tough pill to swallow,” but that it was time to start “righting the ship from past decisions.”

According to an agenda document on the matter, “There are a few key differences in why the rates are now much more than what we had laid out in 2023.”

At the meeting, Johnson explained that the original study did not include lift station overflow vaults, Category 3 pipeline projects over the next 30 years and the full cost of the town going in alone on a new downtown wastewater treatment facility.

Funding these needs would go on top of Roaring Fork’s original assessment that included category 4 and 5 collection pipe replacement projects, a new 1st Street lift station, old lagoon cleanup and a pipeline reversal project.

The initial assessment assumed that the PSSGID would continue in its agreement with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

Under the current agreement, the PSSGID conveys its wastewater about 7 miles uphill to PAWSD’s Vista wastewater treatment plant through a series of pump and lift stations.

Also, under this agreement, the PSSGID is responsible for 25 percent of any upgrade costs to the Vista plant, which is currently in need of being upgraded to meet state of Colorado environmental regulations.

The original study assumed that if a new treatment plant was built that this same 25/75 percent split between PSSGID and PAWSD would continue, meaning the town would be responsible for an estimated \$40 million for a new plant.

However, the updated study assumes that the town’s PSSGID would go in alone, raising the costs for the plant considerably.

The updated study recommends that the town go after bonds to pay for the sewer rehabilitation project.

It also states, “Assuming that all identified projects will be self-funded by the District through a combination of debt service and available reserves, significant rate adjustments will also be required over the next several years to maintain financial stability and meet debt coverage requirements.”

It adds, “To fund the projected debt service payments, customer rates will need to increase significantly over the next several years.”

Currently, the sewer rate for PSSGID customers stands at \$71.16 per month, but the study states that this will need to rise to \$96.07 per month next year and to \$313.04 per month by 2031 for the PSSGID to stay afloat and pay for its debt service.

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed dismay at the numbers, saying that “a lot of customers are really going to

struggle” with these increased rates.

Martinez said, “My goodness. It seems to me that those numbers are likely the death of a community. They are really, really unreachable” for most people.

When asked about grant opportunities, Johnson explained that “unfortunately, right now, at the federal level, funding is few and far between.”

The Town of Pagosa Springs has a measure on the November ballot, ballot measure 2A, which proposes to raise the sales tax rate by 1 percent within town limits to fund critical sewer repairs.

It was indicated that, should the measure pass, it’s less likely that the PSSGID would need to raise sewer rates.

If 2A does not pass, Johnson noted that the town would need to be careful to do any rate increases “in steps” to not shock customers.

He added that “if 2A does not pass, we are still gonna have to, at some point, make the decision of when do we make that decision to continue conveying uphill, while also saving money to build our own treatment plant,” which would allow the town to avoid sending the sewage to the Vista plant.

“It was my understanding that when we stop sending them [PAWSD] flow, then we would not be obligated for the 25 percent” to PAWSD for the

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# Sports

## Soccer



SUN photo/Randi Pierce  
Ryder King falls during a kerfuffle with a pair of Bayfield defenders. King scored two goals in the Pirates' draw against the Wolverines, securing the team's second consecutive Intermountain League title.

## Pirates secure league title despite loss and tie

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer team suffered its second defeat and first tie of the season this past week, falling to the Fruita Monument Wildcats by a score of 2-0 on Friday, Oct. 17, and then tying the Bayfield Wolverines 2-2 on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Despite not coming up with a victory, the 2-2 draw against Bayfield was enough for the Pirates to secure the Intermountain League (IML) title for the second year in a row.

The Pirates now boast an overall record of 10-2-1, including a league mark of 5-0-1, which has them ranked at 24th in the state's 3A division.

Coach Trevor Gian spoke highly of the Pirates after the draw against Bayfield, which secured the Pirates' IML title.

"To win the league and do it in the fashion we did, I'm just very proud of this team, the program," he said, noting that everyone involved, including the junior varsity team, helped contribute.

"I just couldn't be more proud of who these kids are and what they've shown," he added.

In the match against Bayfield, the

Pirates got on the board first with a goal coming in the fifth minute, scored by Ryder King and assisted by Jacob Castaneda.

Castaneda was able to break away into space on the left side, delivering a low cross into the middle of the Wolverines' penalty box, where King was waiting to tap it in.

Gian explained that, going into the match, the Pirates anticipated things like the crowd or officiating to become a factor, but noted "we controlled what we can control," expressing praise for the Pirates response throughout the game.

"Really, things get pulled apart in these league games," he added.

Gavin Carter was issued a yellow card in the 25th minute, with a Bayfield player receiving one earlier in the game.

The Pirates created a few more scoring chances in the first half as the game started to get stretched apart, Gian explained.

The Pirates gave up a penalty kick in the 38th minute, allowing Bayfield to tie it at 1-1 going into halftime.

"There was never a lack of effort," Gian added, explaining the Pirates never gave up or quit during the match.

The Pirates were able to regain the

lead in the 56th minute with another goal by King that went through the Wolverine goalkeeper's legs from about 20 yards out.

The Pirates gave up another penalty kick in the second half as Milo Deitemeyer was issued a red card for a handball inside the Pirates' box, from a ball played in by a Bayfield corner kick.

The Wolverines successfully converted the penalty, tying the game again at 2-2 with about 15 minutes remaining.

The last action of the game was a yellow card issued to Chance Ramirez in the 75th minute.

### Fruita Monument

"It's a tough loss for sure, but it wasn't for lack of effort," Gian commented in regard to the Pirates' 2-0 defeat at home against the 5A Fruita Monument Wildcats on Friday, Oct. 17.

According to stats entered into Max Preps, Castaneda had one shot on target, while Ramirez had one shot and King recorded two shot attempts.

The Wildcats were able to go up 1-0 in the first half, and did not score their second goal until there were about 10 minutes remaining in the second half.

"It would've been nice to get one early," Gian said, explaining the Pirates

had one of their best scoring chances of the game in the opening minutes.

Gian commented that Fruita's goals came from great individual efforts, but that the Pirates were not up to their own standards on defense.

"Just two moments in that game we weren't firing on all cylinders," he said, explaining that is "kind of how soccer ■ See Soccer A10

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## FOOTBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Hudson Mazur gains the corner on a Gunnison defender rushing for a 33-yard touchdown, contributing to the Pirates’ 49-14 win over the Cowboys on Friday, Oct. 17, at Golden Peaks Stadium.

## Pirates extend winning streak with victory over Gunnison

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team continued its winning streak last week, picking up another Intermountain League (IML) victory, defeating the Gunnison Cowboys 49-19 at home on Friday, Oct. 17.

With the win, the Pirates now boast an overall record of 4-3, including a league mark of 3-0, which puts them in second place in the IML and 22nd in the state’s 2A division.

“They just keep getting better, and that’s all that you ask,” coach Nathan Morales said of the Pirates, explaining the team has been working hard in practice over the past few weeks.

The Pirates have outscored their past three opponents 161-29, picking up wins against Salida and Bayfield on the way.

According to stats entered into Max Preps and shared with The SUN, the Pirates opened up the scoring on the night on the about halfway through the first quarter as Colton Lucero capped off the opening drive

with a 1-yard touchdown rush.

Lucero would lead the Pirates in rushing on the night, racking up a total of 132 yards and two touchdowns on 14 carries.

On the following offensive drive for the Pirates, Creede Dozier was able to score off a 5-yard rushing touchdown. Dozier ended the night with a total of -5 rushing yards and the one touchdown on six carries, and completed his only passing attempt on the night for 14 yards.

With two failed extra-point attempts in the first quarter, the Pirates took a 12-0 lead heading into the second quarter.

Hudson Mazur was able to get on the board next for the Pirates, rushing for a 33-yard touchdown at the beginning of the second quarter.

Mazur put up a total of 77 yards and the one touchdown on a total of three carries. He also hauled in the Pirates’ only passing attempt on the night, picking up 14 yards.

On the following offensive possession, the Pirates converted a 30-yard field goal by Gavin Carter, who converted four out of six extra-point attempts on the night.

The Pirates were able to get on the board two more times before the end of the first half, on a 12-yard rushing touchdown by Lucero and then a 50-yard interception return for a touchdown by Dozier, bringing the score to 43-0 at halftime.

“Our pass coverage was really good,” Morales said, explaining the Pirates gave up some big passing plays early on in the season and noting that is “something we’ve worked really hard on” and have been able to come up with multiple interceptions over the past three games.

The Pirates picked up right where they left off in the start of the second half, with Lucero returning the opening half kickoff 81 yards for a touchdown.

The Cowboys were able to hit back a couple of times in the second half with a 9-yard rushing touchdown and a 12-yard passing touchdown, bringing the final score to 49-14.

Morales spoke highly of the Pirates’ defense, commenting, “I just

thought we did a good job, tackling and getting to the football on defense.”

He also commented on Aidan Vega, who recorded a fumble recovery on the night, describing him as “a disruptor.”

“He’s doing a great job for us,” Morales said. “He’s a disruptor on defense and so is Jimmy Elledge.”

Morales also praised the Pirates’ defensive tackles, Zander Lefthand-bull and Jerry Dean, saying, “They’re both athletic, strong kids.”

Morales commented on the Pirate linebackers, as well, noting they’re versatile in being able to cover the pass well and swarm to the ball.

Morales mentioned the Pirates made a few changes on the defensive side of things over the past few weeks, “and it’s paid off for the better.”

He also commented on the team’s seniors, noting they “will continue to lean on them,” and that a handful are either third- or fourth-year varsity starters, but also that “our young guys are doing a good job for us right now.”

The Pirate defense had multiple players with three solo tackles, but was led by Devin Gonzalez, who recorded a total of five tackles on the night.

The Pirates were able to come up with three takeaways throughout the game, a fumble recovery by Vega and interceptions by Dozier and Noah Bellina.

Dean also recorded the team’s only sack on the night, going for a loss of 8 yards.

On the offensive side, the Pirates racked up a total of 253 yards and five touchdowns.

Alex Pacheco ran for a total of 31 yards and one touchdown on six carries, and Gage Sams picked up a total of 8 yards on two carries.

This week the Pirates will travel to Cortez to take on the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Friday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m.

The Panthers currently sit in third place of the IML with an overall record of 4-3, including a league mark of 2-1. Their one league loss was a 40-0 defeat against Alamosa, who the Pirates have yet to play.

“We gotta do everything we can to get another league win this weekend,” Morales said.

clayton@pagosasun.com



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Angel Ramirez looks to fire a shot on the Bayfield goal as he creates space inside the Wolverines’ penalty area, shielding the ball from multiple defenders.

## Soccer

■ Continued from A9 goes,” with just a handful of moments dictating the outcome of the entire game.

Gian also mentioned the style and level of play of the Wildcats is likely going to be similar to what the Pirates may face in the state playoffs.

Gian explained the Pirates came out strong in the second half, creating more offensive chances.

“Again, it wasn’t for a lack of effort,” he said, noting he is proud of how the Pirates responded. “The response was fantastic.”

Gian commented that the loss to Fruita “puts everything back into perspective,” noting it might give the Pirates some hunger back after winning 10 straight games in a row.

“We’re gonna utilize that as motivat-

tion and a tool for going forward,” he said, “I’ve got every confidence in them that they’re gonna respond in the right way.”

Gian also mentioned that he “couldn’t be more proud” of the Pirates, showing a strength that can’t be taught by keeping their heads and staying calm when faced with adversity.

Gian described the Pirates as a good group and a good team that have “shown a ton of heart this whole season.” The Pirates will finish their regular season tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 24, by hosting the Lake County Panthers at Golden Peaks Stadium at 3 p.m., which will be the team’s senior night.

Gian explained the Pirates won’t take the Panthers “lightly,” who are 0-12 on the season, and hope to build momentum going into the first round of playoffs.



### Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week Hayden Peterson Volleyball



**Favorite subjects:** Art and English  
**Comments from coach Chelsea Caler:** “Hayden Peterson embodies what it means to be a Triple Impact Athlete. Though a quiet leader, she is fierce and steady on the court. She consistently demonstrates commitment to her personal growth and models what a true leader and great teammate should be. Hayden shows up to every practice ready to work—with a positive attitude, whether

we win or lose. She is dependable, composed, and always brings out the best in those around her. Her coachability, adaptability, and drive to continually improve make her a cornerstone of our program. Beyond athletics, Hayden excels academically and leads by example in how she carries herself both on and off the court. She truly makes herself, her team, and her sport better.”

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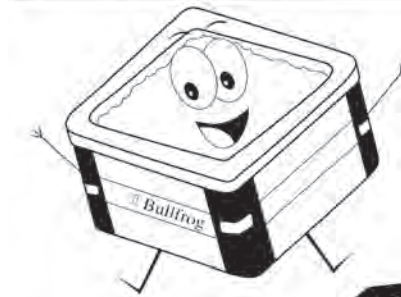
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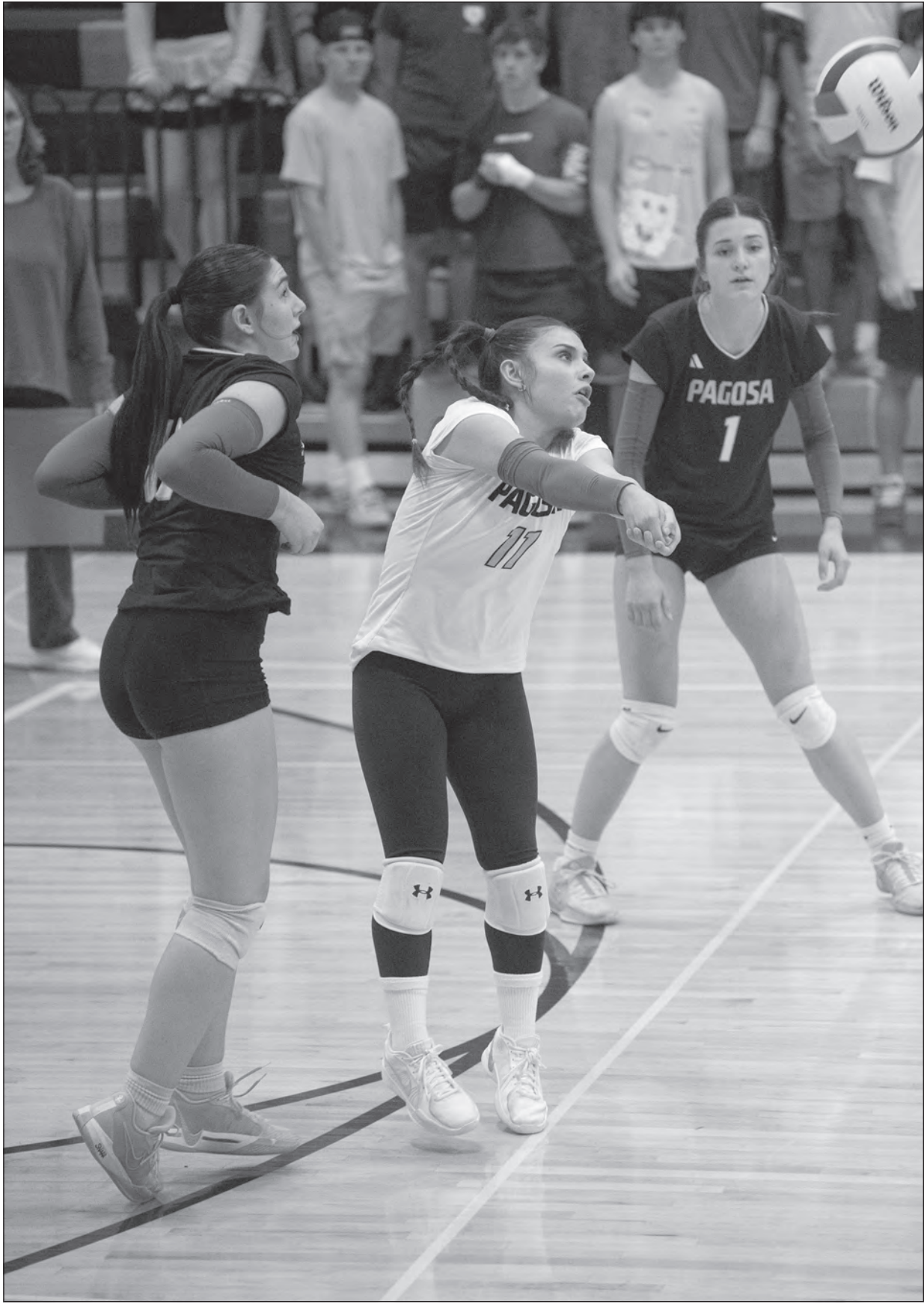
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## Local reporting that matters.



## VOLLEYBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

**Lady Pirate Tatiana Monterroso puts the ball up against the team's Oct. 16 contest with the Ignacio Bobcats. Monterroso logged 20 digs and 12 serve receptions in the matchup.**

## Lady Pirates defeat Monte Vista, fall to Ignacio

**By Randi Pierce**  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team went 1-1 over the last week, falling to the Ignacio Bobcats before bringing home a win against the Monte Vista Pirates.

The games moved the team to a 3-14 record.

Pagosa's Lady Pirates welcomed the Ignacio Bobcats to town on Oct. 16 for a nonleague matchup, with the Bobcats logging a 3-1 win.

The Pirates lost the first set by two, 25-23, and dropped the second set 25-19 before bouncing back for a 25-22 win in the third set. The Bobcats sealed their win with a 25-15 fourth set.

The Bobcats are now 17-3 and are the No. 12 team in Colorado 2A volleyball.

Pagosa had 41 kills against Ignacio, with Ignacio logging 39. The Lady Pirates were led in kills by Lexi Campbell and Dawson Iverson, who had 12 each, and Kaila Limebrook's 11.

The Lady Pirates had six serving aces, with Amber Snarr picking up three and one each coming from Charity Domingo, Campbell and Limebrook. Ignacio had four.

The team had one total block, with Hayden Peterson and Limebrook each having an assisted block.

Pagosa also bested Ignacio in digs with 96, compared to Ignacio's 91. Tatiana Monterroso picked up 20, Domingo and Campbell each had 18, Peterson had 14, and Snarr had 13.

Peterson had 33 of the team's 34 assists.

Pagosa had 78 serve receptions, with 25 by Snarr, 17 by Campbell and 12 by Monterroso.

Then, on Tuesday, the Lady Pirates traveled to Monte Vista, where they picked up their first win since Sept. 11.

Pagosa won in four sets, dropping the first 25-23 before going on to win the next three: 25-20, 25-18 and 25-21.

Monte Vista is 10-5 on the season and the No. 22 team in Colorado 2A volleyball.

"Winning! We played so well," coach Chelsea Caler wrote in an email to The SUN. "Our serve receive was on fire all night, we passed a

team 2.1, which gave Hayden the opportunity to really run the offense, and she made smart, confident choices. Our hitters were aggressive, and we hit a season-high .248 as a team!"

The coach also highlighted the roles of several of Pagosa's Lady Pirates in the wins.

"Lexi kept us steady, executing kills off serve receive, totaling 12 kills and 16 digs, earning a double-double, while Dawson kept us alive in out-of-system plays, also tallying

*"What stood out most was how cohesive we played. Even when we were down, we showed mental toughness and composure. We locked in, focused point by point, and stayed connected. Last night felt like everything was clicking."*

**Cocher Chelsea Caler**

12 kills. Both middles were aggressive and exciting at the net, Kaila had 9 kills, and Avea [Bruce] added 8 kills and 3 block assists," she wrote. "Lexi also added 1 solo block and 2 block assists, contributing to our team-high 9 total blocks."

The team had 47 total kills, compared to Monte Vista's 30.

Pagosa had 11 serving aces, compared to Monte Vista's five. Domingo and Campbell led Pagosa with three each, with Bruce and Monterroso picking up two each, and Snarr having one.

"Defensively, we were scrappy and relentless," the coach highlights. "Hayden not only dished out 33 assists but also added 13 digs for her own double-double. Amber chipped in 11 digs, and sophomore Sydney Plake stepped up big with 5 kills, hitting an impressive .556. I also

want to highlight Charity and Tati for their hustle and grit, they were everywhere, chasing balls down and keeping plays alive."

Caler also focused on the Lady Pirates' play that can't be tracked in the stats.

"What stood out most was how cohesive we played," she wrote Wednesday. "Even when we were down, we showed mental toughness and composure. We locked in, focused point by point, and stayed connected. Last night felt like everything was clicking."

Over the next week, the Lady Pirates will work to keep that momentum as they take on two of the 3A classification's top-10 teams: Centauri and Bayfield.

This evening, Thursday, Sept. 23, the Lady Pirates will host the No. 7 Centauri Falcons for a rematch at Pagosa Springs High School.

The Lady Pirates lost to the Falcons 3-0 on Sept. 20, with the Falcons currently sporting a 14-8 record.

Then, on Tuesday, Oct. 28, the Lady Pirates will travel to Bayfield for a rematch against the Wolverines, who defeated the Lady Pirates 3-0 on Sept. 16.

The Wolverines are the No. 5 team in 3A volleyball and own a 13-5 record.

The Lady Pirates are the No. 38 team in 3A volleyball.

Caler noted if the Lady Pirates can keep passing like they did against Monte Vista, their "offense can do big things."

She adds, "We're a different team than when Centauri and Bayfield last saw us, and we're excited to keep this momentum rolling."

*randi@pagosasun.com*

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### COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-008

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard 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 Agriculture  
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 other violations thereof.  
**THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.**

**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 San 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 11/3/2025  
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun  
**IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT 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 #44693  
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 355 Union Blvd. Ste 250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155  
Attorney File # C023642

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)

County Court  
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 of friend  
v.  
Respondent: Jason X Chavez, Betsy Chavez Parent & next of friend

**MOTION TO DISMISS PERMANENT PROTECTION ORDER**  
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 existed.

The following must be complied with by the RESTRAINED PERSON for any action to be taken by the Court:  
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 1, 2013)

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.)

Jason X Chavez  
jasonxchavez210@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, COLORADO

Court Address:  
109 Harman Park Drive  
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147  
Phone No.: (970) 264-8160

**Plaintiff:** Judith L. Talbot and Brian J. Lyons

**v.**

**Defendants:** Estate of Hattie D. Lyons by David Vargas, Personal Representative and/or Decedent Hattie D. Lyons; Estate of John A. Lyons by Francis J. Lyons, Personal Representative and/or Decedent John A. Lyons; Estate of Richard P. Lyons by Janet K. Lyons, Personal Representative and/or Decedent Richard P. Lyons; Robert Stone; Charles Stone and any and All Unknown Persons and All Unknown Heirs Who Claim Any Interest in the Subject Matter of This Action

Attorney for Plaintiffs:  
The Law Firm of Maria C. Underell, LLC  
Maria C. Underell, Esq., Reg. No. 31076  
101 West 11th Street, Suite 104  
Durango, Colorado 81301  
Phone: 970-403-8090  
Fax: 970-403-8091  
Email: maria@underell-law.com  
Case Number: 2025CV30041

**SUMMONS TO QUIET TITLE BY PUBLICATION**  
**PLAINTIFFS: JUDITH L. TALBOT AND BRIAN J. LYONS**

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT ESTATES AND ALL OTHER DEFENDANTS:**

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the First Amended 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 21 days after the service of this summons upon you in the State of Colorado or within 35 days after service of this summons upon you outside the State of Colorado. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the First Amended Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court. If you fail to file your answer or other response to the First Amended Complaint in writing within 21 or 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 is an action to quiet title to: A 20-acre patented mining claim, with a legal description of: The Picking Placer Mining Claim Tract described as the South half of the south half of the Southwest quarter of the Southeast quarter (S/2S/2SW/4SE/4), Sec: 26 Twn: 36 Rng: 5W and the North half of the North half of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter (N/2N/2NW/4NE/4); Sec. 35, Twn. 36, Rng. 5W N.M.P.M. (mineral interest and 20-acre land under the claim); also known as X USFS Road 135 and by Archuleta County Assessor's Parcel Number 558926300002.  
Dated this day of, 2025.

Published in the Pagosa Sun Newspaper:  
Publication is to be made once each week for five successive weeks.

First Publication: October 23, 2025.  
Last Publication: November 20, 2025.  
THE LAW FIRM OF MARLA C. UNDERELL, LLC  
/s/ Marla C. Underell  
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E-mail: marla@underell-law.com  
Published October 23, 30 and November 6, 13 and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276756)

### DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Archuleta District Court  
109 Harman Park Drive  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
**YOLANDA HYLTON, ERNESTO J. MORENO, MARGARITA DELAROSA, CECILIA PERDUE, EDUARDO MORENO, JOSEPH DOMINGUEZ, LINDA DURAZO, LOIS AARON, MARIA E. ALVARADO, MICHAEL HANSON, FRANCES HENDERSON, DALE HANSON, REBECCA THORPE.**  
Plaintiffs,

**THE CHAVEZ FAMILY TRUST; CHRISTOPHER CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF JOSE NEMENCIO CHAVEZ, as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF AURELIA CHAVEZ, and as an individual**  
Defendants,  
v.

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

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

### 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 ownership interests in the subject properties as heirs to the estates. Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment under Colorado Rule of Civil Procedure 57 to determine the validity and extent of their ownership interests in the properties. Additionally, Plaintiffs assert claims for unjust enrichment, alleging that Defendants have benefited from the use and sale of the properties without compensating Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs request an award of damages, interest, attorneys' fees, and any other relief deemed just and proper by the Court.

Dated this 30th day of September, 2025.  
Published in: the Pagosa Springs Sun.  
First Publication: October 9, 2025.  
Last Publication: November 6, 2025.  
TNS ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted and reviewed by the Loma Linda Metropolitan District (LLMD) Board for the 2026 Calendar Year. A copy of this budget has been posted on the LLMD website (lomalindametrodistrict.org) and is also posted on the Bulletin Board at the subdivision entrance where it is available for public inspection. Such budget will be reviewed, updated, and adopted at the regularly scheduled meeting of the LLMD Board at 4pm on Thursday, November 13th at the Ross Aragon Community Center. Any interested elector of LLMD may inspect and register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.  
Published October 23, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276706)

Notice of Budget  
(Pursuant to 29-1-106, CRS)

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Aspen Springs Metro District for the ensuing year of 2025; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of Aspen Springs Metro District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the Aspen Springs Metro District to be held at 216 Metro Drive on Dec. 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. Any interested elector of Aspen Springs Metro 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 23, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276704)

### NOTICE OF BUDGET FOR PUBLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservancy District (SWCD) for the ensuing year of 2026; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed at the SWCD office at 841 E 2nd Avenue, Durango, Colorado, where the same is open for public inspection. It is also available to be viewed at swcd.org. The proposed budget will be considered at a regular board meeting of the SWCD Board of Directors to be held on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Public may attend the meeting in person at SWCD's office (841 E 2nd Avenue in Durango, Colorado) or via Zoom (https://zoom.us/join, Meeting ID: 835 9975 3537, Passcode: 474186). If you plan to attend in person, please RSVP to admin@swcd.org to ensure space in SWCD's conference room. Any interested elector of SWCD may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Pursuant to 29-1-106, C.R.S.  
Published October 23, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276742)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

**2025-003 R010320**  
To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office: You are hereby notified that on September 22, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to:  
PATRICK H. DISNER ("COP HOLDER")  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** SUBDIVISION: LAKEWOOD VILLAGE  
Lot: 39 LWW Sec: 19 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W  
**PROPERTY ADDRESS:** 9 SANDLEWOOD DRIVE,

PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO, 81147  
A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of:  
MEADPROP UNITS LLC ("PROPERTY OWNER").  
On August 18, 2025, PATRICK H. DISNER ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificate holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101. NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00 a.m. on January 28th, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.  
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website: ArchuletaCounty.gov  
The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.  
Dated: September 22, 2025  
/s/ Elsa P. White  
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County, Colorado  
Published October 23, 30 and November 6, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

**2025-004 R004424**  
To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office: You are hereby notified that on September 22, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to:  
BRUCE A. HOFFMAN ("COP HOLDER")

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Subdivision: CMV 2 -CHRIS MTN VILLAGE 2Lot 335-336 Section: 25 Township: 35 Range: 2.5W  
**PROPERTY ADDRESS:** 41 East Crescent Court, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2009-2024. The property was assessed in the name of:  
BURNICE HARRISON ("PROPERTY OWNER")

On August 25, 2025, BRUCE A. HOFFMAN ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificate holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101. NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00A.M. on January 28th, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests

held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.  
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website: ArchuletaCounty.gov  
The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.  
Dated: September 22, 2025  
/s/Elsa P. White  
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County, Colorado  
Published October 23, 30 and November 6, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276707)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET OF THE PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all interested parties that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Pagosa Fire Protection District for fiscal year 2026. A copy of the proposed 2026 budget has been filed in the District's administrative office at 165 North Pagosa Blvd., Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where the same is open for public inspection. The Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2026 budget at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at the District's administrative office, at which time the Board may take final action on the proposed 2026 budget. Any elector within the District may, at any time prior to final adoption of the 2026 budget, inspect and file or register any objections thereto.  
PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
By: Tomi Bilis  
District Manager  
Published October 23, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276703)

**THIS NOTICE IS TO INFORM MEREDITH TRUMBULE,** last known address: 38 Canyon Circle, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, that the items stored in unit A05 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 Springs Sun on both October 23, 2025, and October 30, 2025 with the sale or disposal of items taking place at a later date of our choosing.  
Published October 23, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276743)

## 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.*

# DUST 2 team ends on high note at state championships

By Gianna Shaeffer  
DUST2

To end this incredible mountain bike race year, eight of Pagosa Springs' DUST2 athletes competed in Glenwood Springs for the Colorado State Championship.

The team trained very hard throughout the season leading up to this event. Practices included grueling road rides, technical trail rides, mentally challenging skill work and tough gym workouts. The team also learned to focus on nutrition and recovery leading up to the races.

The event consisted of two amazing days of racing at Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs.

This race was huge, with 906 participants. The course included fun downhill, big berms and rocky climbs. In total, the course was 5.6 miles long with 653 feet of elevation gain per lap. All athletes completed two laps of the course with the exception of varsity riders, who completed three laps.

Athletes who raced in the morning both days competed in cold weather requiring lots of layers, while those who raced later in the day experienced sunny skies.

Adding to the overall excitement of the race, team spirit and morale were very high. The theme of the race was "disco," so the team rocked afros, bell bottoms and fur jackets. In addition to the festive outfits, the team tent was also decked out in shiny disco balls. Both days, team mechanic and coach Jake Emmets cooked pancakes, bacon and burgers to keep the racers well fueled.

At 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, Quinn Howard, the team's only freshman girl, began her two laps around the course. Howard finished 42nd out of 74 participants with a time of 1 hour, 14 minutes, 41 seconds. Howard contributed 298 points to the team.

Next up were the freshmen boys, competing in a field of 148 riders. Both of Pagosa's freshmen boys finished very close to each other. The first across the line for Pagosa was Max Roukema, coming in 99th place with a time of 1:03:39 and scoring 237 points. Right behind him was Amon Phillips, finishing with a place of 101 in 1:03:54, scoring 235 points.

To finish off the day, the JV boys took on one of the largest categories with 146 racers. The first to finish was junior Justin Sewell in 41st place with a time of 55:22 and 340 points. Shortly after was junior Jackson Chaney, completing the course in 57:53, coming in 84th and scoring 292 points for the team. Chaney worked hard to pass a total of 58 athletes, earning him the coveted Slingshot award for the day.

Early the next morning, the sophomore girls kicked off the day with two chilly laps. Gianna Shaeffer was the team's only sophomore girl competing in a field of 71 participants. Shaeffer finished in 23rd place with a time of 1:07:07 and scored 356 points for



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets

**Sophomore Gianna Shaeffer races into the athlete's favorite section of downhill on the state championship course. Shaeffer placed 23rd in the sophomore girls' category.**

the team.

Concluding the races was the varsity category, in which the girls raced first. It is important to note that this category is the most competitive and you must meet strict qualifications to race varsity. Pagosa's only varsity girl was junior Adelyn Hittle competing against 70 other riders. Hittle completed the race in 1:30:16, placing 26th and scoring 419 points.

Next up was varsity boy and legacy rider (someone who has raced all four years of high school) Weston Phillips. He raced against 136 other riders and completed the race in 1:28:29 to score 287 points. This was Phillips' last Colorado League race, and it was a great effort to end the season.

This weekend was capped off with a bonus race in which one coach from each team was selected to represent the team in a coach race. Pagosa sent head coach Oliver Phillips to represent the team. The coaches completed one lap of the race course. This was the loudest cheering yet, for the team was thrilled to watch their own coach compete in this fun race.

Oliver Phillips finished 40th out of 83 coaches.

Possibly the most impressive part of the weekend was Pagosa's five total appearances at the award ceremonies.

On Saturday, Weston Phillips and Hittle both stood on the podium for winning the Yeti Skills Course (a timed technical skills course). The next appearance was Chaney's Slingshot award, for which he received a special jersey. The Slingshot award is for the racer that improves the most in their placement during a race. After this, the whole team got second place for the "Golden Pick" award. This award is for the team with the most trail work hours per athlete, and Pagosa had 6.19 hours per person and 105.25 hours combined this year. On Sunday, coach Janine Emmets won the Yeti Skills Course for coaches, so she also received an award.

When asked about the team's performance this weekend, Oliver Phillips stated, "As head coach of the Pagosa Springs/DUST2 bike team, I could not be more proud of the way our

student athletes performed this last weekend at the state championship race. Each athlete displayed a high level of physical and mental strength that most people do not understand. Mountain bike racing is not for the faint of heart; it requires grit, strategy, fitness and positivity, all of which were on full display last weekend by each of the Pagosa Springs riders. The culmination of 13 weeks of official practices, and months of prior riding by students on their own, proved to be enough for everyone to finish their race and set several personal bests. From all of the coaching staff, we want to thank our student athletes for their dedication to personal improvement over this season. We have seen incredible growth this year."

The team placed 15th overall out of 26 Division 2 teams. Overall, the team did an astounding job working up to this race. The weekend was full of liveliness, challenges and encouragement. This race ended the season on a high note, and the team is very excited about all that they accomplished this season.

in the near future.

He added that the leaking meter bottoms were caused by weather conditions last winter and that Asterra's satellite data and sounding was able to detect the leaks.

"Once we start digging up holes, we'll really get an idea of how successful this program is, but I'm hopeful that we can start getting a handle on it," Connor said.

"For the price we paid, if they find 25, 30 gallons per minute of leaks, I feel like we got a decent deal out of it," PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer said.

"I've been around for several program startups and this has been the most promising so far," Connor said. "We'll see what it looks like when we start digging holes."

josh@pagosasun.com

## Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District hears leak detection update

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 15 special meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard an update on the district's work with Asterra to locate leaks within the PAWSD water system.

High levels of water loss and infiltration of runoff and other water into the wastewater collection system have been a significant issue for the district in recent years, although fixing the issue has been difficult due to the challenge of locating leaks.

As discussed at previous PAWSD meetings, Asterra uses satellites emitting waves in the radio spectrum to

scan below the ground surface and detect areas with treated drinking water, helping isolate even small leaks that are otherwise difficult to locate.

At the Oct. 15 meeting, PAWSD Operations Manager Andrew Connor explained that Asterra staff arrived on Oct. 13 and would be working for 10 working days on examining and locating leaks with sounding equipment in areas where Asterra previously identified potential leaks from satellite imagery taken in February and September.

He added that he had given the board information on one leak that the company identified on Dayspring Place, which he noted was not running on the ground surface and was not visible from the road.

However, he noted that Asterra's satellite analysis and sounding equipment located a 25 gallon-per-minute leak in the pipes at this location.

Connor stated that, since PAWSD staff were currently busy dealing with heavy rain and flooding, the potential leaks that Asterra staff located would be marked on GPS and later be prioritized by PAWSD staff.

He added that, after the leaks are prioritized, crews would be sent out to start excavating and repairing lines with potential leaks.

Connor indicated that the work on Dayspring Place also located a leaking fire hydrant and three leaking meter bottoms which had already been repaired or would be addressed

# State contacting Coloradans who may be eligible for unclaimed tax credits

State of Colorado

This year, the state is going the extra mile to help Coloradans save money by contacting thousands of taxpayers who may be eligible for \$8 million in unclaimed tax refunds.

"It's no secret that filing taxes is too costly and complicated, but the state is taking proactive action to ensure Coloradans get every dollar you deserve from your tax returns. Coloradans who receive a notice can submit this prefilled online form in less than 10 minutes, putting extra money back in your pocket," said Gov. Jared Polis.

The state has started sending notices to at least 20,000 Colorado taxpayers that they are possibly eligible for at least \$8 million in unclaimed tax refunds. These notices, which will be sent through June 30, 2026, are part of an effort to help hardworking Colora-

dans maximize their tax returns and not leave money on the table.

This collaborative effort between Polis, the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), the New Practice Lab from New America and Gary Community Ventures, who used existing data to create prefilled tax returns, makes it easier than ever before for eligible Coloradans to save time and money.

Taxpayers who receive a notice will find directions on how to review and file an amended return, a process that takes less than 10 minutes online and could result in thousands of dollars saved. Eligible taxpayers can expect to receive the correct amount of prior tax credits and withholdings in a few weeks after submitting the amended return.

To receive this money from prior tax refunds and withheld wages, taxpayers who receive a letter should log on to

Revenue Online with the code in their notice, review their data and file the amended return.

This effort was made possible by the Earned Income Tax Credit Data Sharing Act of 2024, which empowers the DOR to work with other state agencies to save Coloradans money.

Up-to-date information, including the status of state income tax refunds, is at Tax.Colorado.gov. Taxpayers can call the Taxpayer Helpline by phone at (303) 238-7378, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please note that translation services are available upon request. To physically visit a Service Center for help, please schedule an appointment.

Taxpayers who need low or no-cost help filing state income tax returns should visit Tax.Colorado.gov/Community-Tax-Help for additional resources.



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## Medicare Annual Enrollment Oct. 15 thru Dec. 7, 2025

### Confused about 2026 Medicare changes?

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  - Medicare Advantage Changes.
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## 2026 Business Happy Hour lottery still open

By **Sandy Douthey**  
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

This fabulous opportunity will be ending on Oct. 31. Please do not forget to sign up for the 2026 monthly Business Happy Hour lottery schedule.

There are no Business Happy Hours scheduled in January and September due to WinterFest and ColorFest.

Businesses interested in hosting one of the monthly Happy Hours should contact the Chamber. When contacting us, we will need your business name, your choice of the three months that you would be interested in hosting a Happy Hour and an email address.

You can call Membership Coordinator Anna Snow at (970) 264-2360 or email her at [info@pagosachamber.com](mailto:info@pagosachamber.com) with your interest information.

We will draw for the winners on Monday, Nov. 3.

Here are some general guidelines for hosting a Business Happy Hour: The hosting business must be a Chamber member. The hosting business is responsible for providing food or snacks and the Chamber will provide the beverages. Happy Hours are scheduled for the fourth

Thursday of the month except for months where there is a holiday: Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. An alternate Thursday is then selected.

Please note that businesses can join to host a Happy Hour. If you are a Chamber member, but you do not have a storefront space, you could combine with a business that does. If you are a nonprofit agency that has a small space or only an office, you could partner with another nonprofit agency or business.

Perhaps your business is in a strip center or near other businesses. Team up and have a “block party.”

There are lots of options to make these important business networking events work for you. Need help? Contact us. Just remember that the deadline to enter the lottery is Friday, Oct. 31, by 4 p.m. We look forward to everyone’s entries.

### Board of director nominations

The Chamber is preparing its slate of candidates for the annual Chamber board election.

Every year, six candidates are presented to the Chamber membership and, of those six candidates, three are chosen by the membership.

There is a board nomination process, and nominations are open to

interested Chamber members who have had membership for one year.

The board commitment includes a three-year term. The Chamber holds monthly meetings, with the date and time determined every year at the annual board retreat. Board members are also needed to assist at the monthly Business Happy Hours and at events when possible.

If you would like to have a better business presence, please submit your application for the nomination process.

Please contact Sandy Douthey, executive director, either by phone, (970) 264-2360, or email [director@pagosachamber.com](mailto:director@pagosachamber.com).

The election will take place at the end of this year for the term starting in 2026.

### Colorado Workforce mobile hours

The Colorado Workforce Center will next be in Pagosa Springs on Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Archuleta County Department of Human Services at 550a Hot Springs Blvd.

You can find out more about how it is available to assist job seekers and employers.

There are a lot of opportunities in our community for on-the-job training. Find out how you can participate.

Should you want more information about the programs, contact Douthey at the Chamber at (970) 264-2360 or reach out to Karlina Groetken with Colorado Workforce at (970) 247-0308.

### Flooding assistance

A lot has changed, and we are sure thankful for the sunshine.

Should you like to volunteer with any clean-up needs, you can go to [covoad.org](http://covoad.org) and click on how to help and volunteer.

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has opened a fund to support flood recovery in Archuleta County. An Archuleta Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) 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.

Online donations can be made through the Community Foundation’s website, [swcommunityfoundation.org](http://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 P.O. Box 1673, Durango, CO 81302.



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## LPEA board votes to retire \$1 million in capital credits

La Plata Electric Association

The La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board voted to retire \$1 million in capital credits. Capital credit refunds will be issued to members who were part of the cooperative in 2003. These refunds will be based on the amount of electricity used during those years. Members entitled to refunds over \$100 will receive a check in the mail, while amounts under \$100 will be applied

as a credit on their electric bill in December.

LPEA, a not-for-profit utility, is dedicated to delivering electric services to its members as close to cost as reasonably possible. However, any payments made by members that exceed the cost of providing electric service are allocated to a capital credit account in each member’s name. When financially feasible, LPEA returns these capital credits to its members through the CashBack

program.

“As a cooperative, our goal isn’t to maximize profit, it’s to serve our members,” said Chris Hansen, LPEA CEO. “Every electric bill paid is also an investment in our shared system, and it’s a point of pride that we can give that value back to the people we serve.”

The decision to retire capital credits and the amount retired is determined annually by the LPEA Board of Directors based on the cooperative’s

financial circumstances.

This year, the board has chosen to retire using the “first in, first out” (FIFO) method. FIFO refers to those who were members in 2003. This approach allows LPEA to return some of the remaining capital investment to its longer-tenured members.

Visit LPEA’s website to learn more about the capital credit refunds. To learn about LPEA’s services and programs, please visit LPEA’s website at <https://lpea.coop>.



## Central Bank

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Join LPEA in celebrating community power, energy independence, and local leadership during co-op month events!

# OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

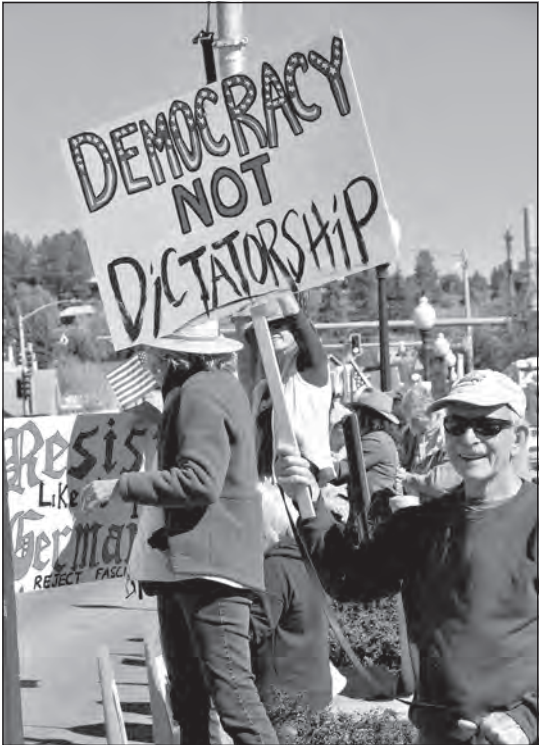
Your Co-op. Your Community. Your Power.

Connect at the Pagosa Community Center for

# Coffee with Chris

November 4  
7:30 - 8:30 AM





SUN photos/Clayton Chaney and Shari Pierce

**Hundreds take to downtown Pagosa Springs as part of the nationwide No Kings demonstrations on Saturday, Oct. 18. The demonstrations are against what national organizers perceive as authoritarian policies and actions by the current presidential administration.**

### Black Hills Energy announces fourth-quarter gas cost adjustments

Black Hills Energy

Black Hills Energy filed its 2025 fourth quarter gas cost adjustment (GCA), which was recently approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Average monthly natural gas bills will decrease slightly in western Colorado. In eastern Colorado, customers will experience a slight increase.

The GCA is filed quarterly with the CPUC to reflect the projected cost of natural gas for the next three months. The fourth-quarter adjustment took ef-

fect Oct. 1, and will impact bills for the rest of the year, and reflects changing natural gas costs in all three base rate areas in Colorado.

In western Colorado, average bills will decrease just about 3 percent due to an adjustment over the last quarter.

The average monthly bill prior to the adjustment was \$116.81 in the area of western Colorado including Pagosa Springs and Bayfield, with the new average monthly bill being \$113.32.

The monthly bill in eastern Colorado will rise due to increased natural gas costs by an average of 5 percent to 8 percent.

### State veterinarian urges livestock, poultry owners to monitor for disease

Colorado Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is urging livestock and poultry owners to remain vigilant and monitor their animals for symptoms of New World screwworm (NWS) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Recent detections of NWS in Mexico, close to the Texas border, and an increase in HPAI cases across the nation, including wild bird detections in Colorado, highlight the importance of preparedness and prompt reporting.

There are currently no known cases of screwworm in Colorado or the United States.

"The recent detections of New World screwworm in northern Mexico underscore the critical need for continued vigilance in surveillance and reporting," said Dr. Maggie Baldwin, Colorado state veterinarian. "We have been working on a comprehensive New World screwworm response plan for Colorado, and we are prepared to coordinate with local, state and federal agencies to implement measures such as quarantine, treatment, movement restrictions and sterile insect technique if a case is detected."

For NWS, veterinarians are advised to contact the State Veterinarian's Of-

fice immediately if they suspect a case.

Key steps include inspecting animals traveling internationally, carefully documenting suspected myiasis infestations with photos and videos, recording travel history, and saving larvae for testing in 70 percent ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. Please see the CDA screwworm webpage at [ag.colorado.gov/animal-health/reportable-diseases/new-world-screwworm](http://ag.colorado.gov/animal-health/reportable-diseases/new-world-screwworm) for additional information.

Regarding HPAI, the recent increase in detections across the nation and among wild birds in Colorado signals the start of migration season, during which migrating birds act as a reservoir for the disease.

While Colorado has not seen domestic poultry detections since March, there have been multiple detections of HPAI in wild birds across the state this fall: an owl, three turkey vultures and two red-tailed hawks in Larimer, Weld and Gunnison counties. These wild bird cases indicate the virus is circulating in the central flyway and are a reminder that poultry owners should implement strict biosecurity measures to protect their flocks during this migration season.

"The detections of HPAI in wild birds in Colorado are similar to reports from other wildlife agencies in nearby states and provinces," said Colorado

The price of natural gas is known as a "pass through cost," meaning Black Hills Energy makes no money on it, and customers pay market rates and no more.

Black Hills Energy understands that some customers may struggle to pay their bill, and the company has multiple programs to help, including extended payment arrangements, budget billing and payment assistance. Please visit Black Hills Energy's assistance programs at [www.blackhillsenergy.com/billing-and-payments/energy-assistance-programs](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com/billing-and-payments/energy-assistance-programs) for more information.

Parks and Wildlife (CPW) State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Peach Van Wick. "CPW relies on public observation and reporting of sick or dying wild birds and urges the public to contact their local CPW office to report suspect cases."

Colorado has not had any human cases of HPAI since the summer of 2024.

"The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is committed to working closely with CDA and other partners to ensure the safety of Coloradans," said Dr. Allison Kohnen, state public health veterinarian. "It's important to avoid contact with sick or dead wildlife without the proper personal protective equipment (PPE)."

HPAI in poultry, dairy cattle or other livestock species must be reported directly to the State Veterinarian's Office.

Suspected HPAI feline cases can be reported to CDPHE, and they will share that information with CDA.

A delay in reporting can lead to a delay in necessary response measures, which can compromise human and animal health. For more information on HPAI, please see our CDA HPAI landing page at <https://ag.colorado.gov/animal-health/reportable-diseases/avian-influenza/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-outbreak>.

#### 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.



## WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

### WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS!

We're running special photo pages in our November 6 edition for Veteran's Day to honor those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

Please send your service picture along with your name, branch of service, rank and hometown to:

**shari@pagosasun.com** or our office at  
P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**

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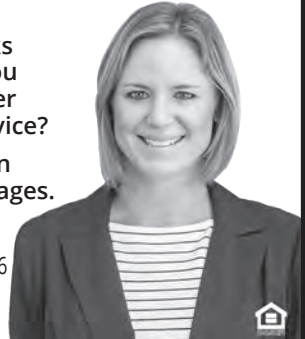
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# Maintenance continues on Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership domes

By **Pauline Benetti**  
Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

The domes on the river are a busy place. Here's an update.

First, we have to report that they were spared damage from the flooding San Juan River, not by luck, but by sound local engineering work and architectural design that raised the ground level some 10 feet, and by the hard work that brought grant funding into our community to pay for the design, and foundational and infrastructure work that followed. We are grateful.

Then there is the maintenance work that is coming along nicely. Take a turn on the Riverwalk and stop by. You will notice replacement of polycarbonate panels damaged by hail — very visible in the entry ways, all new; of the tape that seals the polycarbonate triangles, also new and tight. Inside, notice the insulation on the north side, new and also tight; at the top those small chimney-like structures, reverse fans that suck the hot air out while the regular fans at the bottom pump in cool air. If you look real carefully, you will notice an occasional new strut. This is the Education Dome, which is open to visitors on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. The other two domes are works in progress.

That is a lot of work multiplied by the other two domes, but not surprising given that these structures have endured our Colorado climate for eight and nine years.

We are again grateful for community participation in our Breakfast with Balloons fundraiser and to the El Pomar Foundation for grant funding.

Very soon, the Colorado Gives campaign will begin, and we hope the community will help us meet our goal of \$5,000.

Just why is this investment important? In the Education Dome we have resumed classes. This year we are hosting GOAL High School students; once the Community Garden dome is functional, we will be introducing community gardeners; and the Innovation Dome will continue to produce cash crops to support the bottom line when it is again functional. All this is in support of our mission to teach sustainable gardening practices in the production of food locally and to demonstrate the efficacy of geothermal heat.

There is more to learn. The surrounding gardens, the Rotary xeric and Audubon native plants, exemplify gardening practices that need to spread widely in this time of climate change.

Finally, we know that locals and visitors alike just enjoy the experience of walking through our domes full of healthy, growing plants, ripening vegetable and blossoms any season of the year.

Our goal is to increase the number of open hours to accommodate the public and, in order to do so, we are looking for folks who have a couple of hours that they would enjoy spending with us as dome docents. If that sounds interesting, drop by Wednesday or Saturday morning and let us know who you are.

By the way: If you need some parsley or chives, both are still growing outside in the metal tubs, planted during our summer Wednesday evening social gardening parties.



Photo courtesy Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership  
**Maintenance work continues at the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership growing domes in Centennial Park.**

# Kim Shropshire appointed Sixth Judicial District's next chief judge

Colorado Judicial Branch

Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Monica M. Márquez has appointed the Honorable Kim Shropshire to serve as the next chief judge of the Sixth Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties).

Shropshire will replace the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, who was appointed as a district judge in 2002 and has served as chief judge since

2017. Wilson recently announced his upcoming retirement and will continue to serve as chief judge until Jan. 2, 2026.

Shropshire was appointed to the district court bench in 2022. She previously worked as a staff attorney for Colorado Legal Services and a guardian ad litem through the Mountain Ute CFR Court. She later opened her own private practice, the Law Office of Kim. S Shropshire, which focused

on family law. Shropshire earned her law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in 2001.

“Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson served the judiciary for 23 years and, in that time, showed outstanding administrative leadership, including his instrumental role in establishing a new courthouse in Archuleta County,” said Márquez. “We look forward to working with Judge Shropshire, and we congratulate her on her new role.”

Shropshire will serve as the administrative head of the district, responsible for appointing the court executive, chief probation officer and clerk of court; assisting in personnel, financial and case-management duties; and seeing that the business of the courts is conducted efficiently and effectively.

# Archuleta County Court judge, Sixth Judicial District Court judge finalists selected

Colorado Judicial Branch

The Sixth Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated two candidates for an Archuleta County court judgeship created by the appointment of the Hon. Justin P. Fay to the Sixth Judicial District Court bench effective Oct. 1.

The commission selected nominees Anthony D. Edwards, of Silverton, and Matthew Gregory Margeson, of Bayfield, on Oct. 15.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the governor has 15 days from Oct. 16 to

appoint one of the nominees as county court judge for Archuleta County.

Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via email to the governor at gov\_judicialappointments@state.co.us.

**Sixth Judicial District Court judge**

The Sixth Judicial District Nominating Commission has nominated three candidates for a district court judgeship following the retirement of the Hon. Chief Judge Jeffery R. Wilson effective Jan. 2, 2026.

Nominees Katie Ann Dittelberger, of Durango; Anthony D. Edwards, of Silverton; and R. Reid Stewart, of Hesperus, were selected by the commission on Oct. 15.

Under the Colorado Constitution, the governor has 15 days from Oct. 16 to appoint one of the nominees as district court judge for the Sixth Judicial District (Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan counties).

Comments regarding any of the nominees may be sent via email to the governor at gov\_judicialappointments@state.co.us.

**Informative.**  
The Pagosa Springs SUN  
970-264-2100



# The Blotter

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

**Archuleta County Sheriff's Office**

Oct. 6 — Information only, no location listed.

Oct. 6 — Information only, Talisman Drive.

Oct. 6 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, Aspen Village Drive.

Oct. 6 — Illegal possession or consumption of alcohol by minor, driving under restraint, Doc Adams Road/Crooked Road.

Oct. 7 — First-degree burglary, Spruce Circle.

Oct. 7 — No offense listed, County Road 600.

Oct. 7 — Driving under restraint, failed to display valid registration, warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.

Oct. 7 — Warrant arrest, Ute Place.

Oct. 7 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), high beam lamp equipment violation, U.S. 160.

Oct. 7 — Trespass warning, West U.S. 160.

Oct. 8 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, controlled substance-manufacture-Schedule 1/2 14-225G, drug paraphernalia-possess, vehicle had no number plates attached, Alpha Drive.

Oct. 9 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, Oakwood Drive.

Oct. 10 — Possession of a controlled substance, criminal mischief \$300 to \$1,000 private, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Colo. 151/Sunset Trail.

Oct. 11 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, U.S. 84.

Oct. 13 — Theft \$2,000 to \$20,000-other (includes gas), fraud by

check-other method, Peninsula Place.

Oct. 14 — Theft-less than \$50 shoplifting, North Pagosa Boulevard/Eagles Loft Circle.

Oct. 15 — Driving while ability impaired, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 15 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 15 — Warrant arrest, Cactus Drive.

Oct. 15 — Information only, Beucler Lane.

Oct. 15 — Agency assist, no location listed.

Oct. 16 — Fraud by check-other method, Falcon Place.

Oct. 16 — Violation of protection order, Country Road 600.

Oct. 16 — Violation of protection order, Surrey Drive.

Oct. 17 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.

Oct. 18 — Assault in the third degree, third-degree criminal trespass, harassment-public place-obscene language or gesture, Sunshine Drive.

**Pagosa Springs Police Department**

Oct. 6 — Agency assist, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Oct. 7 — Marijuana prohibited under age of 21/less than 12 ounces, no location listed.

Oct. 7 — Theft/intends to deprive person, South 10th Street.

Oct. 8 — Disturbance, Aspen Village Drive.

Oct. 9 — Assault, East Pagosa Street.

Oct. 9 — Suspicious activity/vehicle, South 8th Street.

Oct. 9 — Information only, Wildwood Drive/Eagle Drive.

Oct. 9 — Trespass warning, Majestic Drive.

Oct. 10 — Disturbance, Eaton Drive.

Oct. 15 — Theft-\$50 to \$300 from building, San Juan Street.

Oct. 15 — Fraud, Country Center

Drive.

Oct. 18 — Disturbance, North 5th Street.

Oct. 18 — Fraud, Pagosa Street.

Oct. 19 — Animal complaint, South 10th Street.

Oct. 19 — Theft, Aspen Village Drive.

**Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**

Oct. 13 — Juvenile, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$126.

Oct. 13 — Juvenile, failed to yield to oncoming traffic when making left turn, three points off, fine and surcharge — \$81.

Oct. 13 — Richard Carrier, failed to yield when proceeding from a stop sign, three points off, fine and surcharge — \$81.

Oct. 13 — Benjamin Barton, operated motorcycle without both hands on the handlebars, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.

Oct. 13 — Monte Strohecker, following too closely, four points off, fines and costs — \$146.

Oct. 13 — Anna Neill-Kennedy, speeding 5-9 mph over PFL, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$126.

Oct. 13 — Alejandro Guerra-Estrada, reckless driving, unsafe passing, eight points off, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$296.

Oct. 13 — Edmond Cormier, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Oct. 14 — Brian Warden, failed to present evidence of insurance, four points off, fine and costs — \$335.

**Archuleta County Court**

No report.

**6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**

No report.

**6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson**

No report



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Photos courtesy Betsy Carpino  
Photos show the flooding from and debris left behind by the recent moisture from tropical storms Priscilla and Raymond at a site along the Piedra River.

CommonSpirit Mercy Cardiology Associates  
Expands Services to Pagosa Springs Community

CommonSpirit Mercy Cardiology Associates is excited to announce its specialized cardiac care expansion to Pagosa Springs, launching a new twice-monthly clinic September 8, 2025. Services from their expert team will be conveniently located at Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

"In today's challenging healthcare environment, building long-term clinical partnerships is crucial," said Josh Neff, President of Mercy Hospital. "This collaboration will improve regional cardiac care access and outcomes, while keeping care local."



Logan Reimer, DO  
Cardiologist



Amanda Dunaway,  
Cardiology NP

The new clinic will offer a robust suite of on-site services, with the goal of keeping as many services and procedures local in Pagosa Springs as possible, including:

- Management of acute and chronic cardiac conditions: Expert care for ongoing heart health needs.
- Cardiac consultation/maintenance: Regular check-ups and personalized care plans.
- Cardiovascular health and prevention: Strategies and education to reduce heart disease risk.
- Cardiac monitoring: Advanced techniques to track heart activity.
- Electrocardiogram (EKG): A quick and painless test to measure the heart's electrical activity.
- Echocardiogram: An ultrasound of the heart to visualize its structure and function.

For more specialized procedures, the team will coordinate services performed at Mercy Hospital, ensuring a seamless continuum of care.

"We are proud to collaborate with Mercy to bring Cardiology care closer to home. This partnership helps us fulfill our mission of improving access to needed services for our community," said Rhonda P. Webb, MD, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Medical Officer of Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

Appointments for the Pagosa Springs clinic are available now. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mercy Cardiology Associates at 970-764-2600.



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VOTE YES ON  
BALLOT MEASURE 2A

A 1% Sales Tax, paid by locals and visitors alike, can provide the \$80-100 million needed for a comprehensive upgrade to the Town's sanitation system.



A well-functioning sanitation system is crucial to our families, our businesses, and our environment.

A recent engineering study revealed 5.8 miles of failing sewer lines in downtown Pagosa Springs. The Town is also struggling with pump failures connected with our seven-mile sewer pipeline.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A summer 2025 survey by the Town of Pagosa Springs showed overwhelming support for a 1% sales tax as the best way to fund necessary repairs and upgrades to the Town Sanitation System.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

In addition to failing sewer pipes, the Town has experienced repeated pump failures on its uphill sewer pipeline. The Town needs to replace that failing and expensive system with a dedicated downtown treatment plant.

THE ALTERNATIVE?

If the sales tax measure is not approved by the voters, the Town might need to increase monthly sewer fees from \$71 a month to over \$200 a month, to generate the same needed revenue.

Please  
VOTE YES  
ON MEASURE 2A



Learn more at [Pagosa-Sewer-Solutions.com](https://Pagosa-Sewer-Solutions.com)

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

# preview

ARTS & LIFE

# Halloween Hootenanny

Oct. 25



PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

October 23, 2025

# Things are getting spooky: Halloween Hootenanny slated for Oct. 25

By Jennifer Green  
Visit Pagosa Springs

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County would like you to join us Oct. 25 for a ghoulish day of fun for the whole family.

The Halloween Hootenanny is a huge Halloween party returning for the fourth year, including trick-or-treating and kids' activities, a witch and warlocks hot air balloon fly-in, a witch-costumed paddle boarding event, live music, food trucks, a beer garden and a costume contest.

Following is the schedule:

- 7:30 a.m.: Witches and Warlocks Fly-in hot air balloon rides.
- Witches and Warlocks get a free hot air balloon ride. Come costumed and ready to have a bewitching time over Pagosa Springs. All participants must register in advance by contacting Marissa with Pagosa Adventure at (970) 946-4450.
- 10 a.m.: Witches on Water paddleboarding event at

Village Lake.

Gather your coven and tell them not to forget their magical paddleboards. Costumes are encouraged. Come ready to have a bewitching time on the lake. Life vests/ personal flotation devices required to participate.

- Noon to 2 p.m.: annual trick-or-treating and kids' carnival at Yamaguchi Park.

This annual event is sponsored by the Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department and includes loads of fun and candy for kids.

Stop by and visit several stops to collect candy and treats at Yamaguchi Park. Come have a hootin' good time trick-or-treating at Yamaguchi Park. Costumes are encouraged, but not mandatory. There will be a costume contest for kids at 2 p.m.

- 2 to 5 p.m.: Live music with DJ Williams Band at Yamaguchi Park.

Visit [www.visitpagosasprings.com/halloween](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com/halloween) or call the visitor center at (970) 585-1200 for more information. See you at the Hootenanny.

# WHIPS luncheon set for Oct. 28

By Nancy Ford  
Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their monthly lun-

cheon Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20. The location is Elk Trace Bed and Breakfast off Piedra Road at Stevens Lake Road.

All women are welcome, but you must RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Sunday, Oct. 26.

Our November/December luncheon will be Dec. 9 at Gustoso's.

## Live Performers

- Thursday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.  
**The Pagosa Bar:** Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Boss Hogg Country, 7 p.m.
- Saturday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Smoke and Honey, 7 p.m.
- Sunday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Retro Cats, 5 p.m.
- Monday**  
**Coyote Moon Lounge:** Rock 'n' Rebels, 5 p.m.

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**SUN**

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# Pagosa Community Initiative launches fourth annual toy drive

By Rebecca Tenpenny  
Pagosa Community Initiative

The holiday season is about to get brighter in Pagosa Springs as the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) kicks off its fourth annual toy drive — and the second year of the Chrystal Snow Memorial Toy Drive — beginning Oct. 25.

This cherished community tradition collects toys to bring joy and relief to Archuleta County families in need during the holidays.

Collection boxes will be placed throughout town at Walmart, Ace Hardware, Wyndham, Kip's, Riff Raff, Bank of the San Juans, Rosie's Pizzeria, Bliss Scoops and Sweets, the Methodist Church, Pagosa Springs Barber Shop, Uncle's, FroYo and Pagosa Baking Company. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 12.

After Thanksgiving, volunteers will be stationed outside Walmart five days a week, providing another convenient way for community members to drop off toys. Monetary donations are also welcome — PCI volunteers will happily shop for toys on donors' behalf.

Last year, the Chrystal Snow Memorial Toy Drive served 206 local children, ensuring that families across Archuleta County could experience the joy of the holidays.

"We especially welcome gifts for teens and toddlers or infants," said organizers, "but every donation helps — no matter the age group."

## Healthy Archuleta to host public webinar on 2025 Youth Landscape Assessment

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta invites the community to a public webinar to explore the findings of the 2025 Archuleta County Youth Landscape Assessment. The one-hour webinar will be held on Friday, Oct. 24, from 2 to 3 p.m.

In 2025, Healthy Archuleta conducted a comprehensive youth landscape assessment to identify the strengths and challenges facing middle and high school-aged youth in Archuleta County. This assessment highlights unique county strengths and outlines challenges that can be addressed through collaborative community efforts.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about youth development and available programs in Archuleta County. They will also discover key findings, challenges and opportunities for youth in the community. **See Assessment on next page**

Those who would like to volunteer to help at the Walmart table, or to sort and distribute toys, can sign up on PCI's volunteer page at [www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org](http://www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org). Families wishing to register to receive toys can also sign up on the Family Services page of the website.

As the season of giving approaches,

PCI invites everyone to be part of the magic that Chrystal Snow inspired — spreading love, laughter and hope, one toy at a time. Every donation, big or small, helps fill hearts and homes with holiday cheer, reminding us all that the spirit of Pagosa shines brightest when we come together.

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PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

WHIPS, Women Helping In Pagosa Springs, recently announced the Tennyson Sculpture Park and Gardens on Lewis Street made a setting for two benches honoring Cindy Gustafson and Nancy Ford in honor of their contributions to continuing Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, or WHIPS, and to the community of Pagosa Springs. More than 2,000 pounds of plastic was collected and submitted to Trex to acquire the benches.

# Assessment

■ continued from previous page  
community, and understand actionable recommendations for schools and community groups.  
Ultimately, the goal of this effort is to create an environment where all Archuleta County youth can thrive by

addressing service gaps, identifying underserved populations and highlighting successful programs to guide future initiatives.  
Healthy Archuleta invites all interested community members to send us an email to receive the Zoom link

and participate in this timely discussion aimed at fostering the well-being of all youth in Archuleta County.  
For further information and to obtain the Zoom link for attendance, please contact Healthy Archuleta at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

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Do you know that Downtown Pagosa has 8 parks and Uptown has none, even though 85% of the population lives outside of downtown?

Let's work to save the trees within the proposed Pagosa West development across from the hospital and City Market for a nature park all can enjoy rather than a crowded commercial development that is not needed. If you agree a park is a better use of this gorgeous property, then please sign our petition to encourage the town, the owner, and the developer to take a land conservancy approach to this development.

Go to petition: <https://c.org/sgsVK7MLz9>

# San Juan Stargazers to hear about area water situation

By Joan Mieritz  
San Juan Stargazers

On Thursday, Nov. 6, the San Juan Stargazers will hold a special monthly educational meeting that we are inviting all of Pagosa Springs to attend about the water situation in Southwest Colorado and the San Juan headwaters.

The San Juan Stargazers are proud of our the members who are also on the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) board. They include Randy Cooper, a geologist who has lived all over the world; Rob Hagberg, a retired emergency room doctor who was born in New Zealand; and Chuck Riehm, who has lived in Hong Kong, China, and helped with the start of the internet. I just noticed that they all seem to have an international perspective, perhaps from all having lived outside the U.S. The board's big goal is getting an additional reservoir in Archuleta County.

The reason they are doing a presentation for the Stargazers and you are invited to join us is that Riehm has been working on a brief history of the water situation near Pagosa. I have gone to several of the programs that the SJWCD board has done and realized that I lack an understanding of the history of the situation. When I heard part of Riehm's new presentation, I invited him to share it with the Stargazers and feel you, too, could benefit with such information.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, Nov. 6, will start at 6 p.m. with our social hour for visiting and sharing delicious snacks.

We gather at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. Please use the convenient parking lot and the side door that leads into the kitchen and then fellowship hall. (We keep the front doors to the church sanctuary locked.)

At 7 p.m., we will begin our educational program, which will include more than a talk from Riehm, also having excerpts from a number of films that give a descriptive tour of the water situation in Southwest Colorado and the Upper San Juan headwaters.

This should be interesting, educational and provide an opportunity to ask questions. Astronomy people are fascinated with the entire universe, and realize that we also need to preserve and promote the precious planet that we live on. We have many amazing members.

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine (again with hard copies), which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become

■ See Stargazers on next page



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



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. MLS # 824532



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

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. MLS # 822945

To tour this home go to: <https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagle-Court>



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



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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.



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# A ghoulishly good time: ‘Beetlejuice Jr.’ and ‘Master Class’ bringing season of spirit

By Tim Moore  
Thingamajig Theatre Company

There is a particular kind of magic that arrives in October. Not the store-bought kind with plastic fangs and fog machines, but something stranger and more delightful: teens throwing themselves headlong into theater with the reckless conviction of people who still believe anything can happen onstage.

That magic is alive at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, where the Thingamajig Teen Program’s “Beetlejuice Jr.” has taken up ghostly residence.

Finlay Moore, in delightfully unhinged form as Beetlejuice, and Olive Fladwood as a sharp, soulful Lydia Deetz lead a cast whose energy doesn’t merely fill the theater — it claims it. These teens don’t imitate theater; they inhabit it, reveling in the macabre spirit of the season with wit, heart and a surprising degree of polish.

If Halloween is about transformation, then there is nothing more Halloween-appropriate than watching young artists discover just how powerful they can be in front of an audience.

Under the guidance of Laura Moore, with mentorship from Trevor Brown, Samantha Luck, Elly O’Hara and Sophia Raymond; original props by Tanya Quinn; a spectacular lighting design by Madelyn Krause; and stylish stage design by Jill Fives, the production becomes far more than a youth showcase. It stands as a declaration: The next generation of performing artists in Pagosa isn’t just emerging; they’ve arrived.

Performances of “Beetlejuice Jr.” continue Oct. 24, 26, 30 and 31; and Nov. 2.

As the teens take their bow, the grown-ups step into the spotlight with Terrence McNally’s “Master Class,” a striking tonal counterpoint.

Directed by Tim Moore and featuring Laura Moore, O’Hara, Brown, Luck, Dale Scrivener and Scott Morehead, with production support from Raymond and MacKenzie Lowe, the piece reminds audiences why theater

■ See Season on next page

## Stargazers

■ continued from previous page a member.

To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per individual or family. You can join the club at any of our meetings or on our website. Check out our continuously changing website, [sanjuanstargazers.org](http://sanjuanstargazers.org), with new information and spectacular photos.

We can be your special connection to our extraordinary universe.



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Beetlejuice always plotting with Lydia Deetz, Charles, and Delia as the Deetz family begins their hilariously haunted introduction to the afterlife in Thingamajig’s Teen Program production of ‘Beetlejuice Jr.’, continuing this weekend at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.



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# Emergency response training planned for Nov. 8

Community United Methodist Church

When disaster strikes, whether a flood, fire or other crisis, our neighbors are often the first ones in need of care and support.

The Community United Methodist Church is hosting an emergency response training (ERT) on Nov. 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall (434 Lewis St.).

This training, led by ERT professionals certified through United Methodist Committee on Relief, will prepare participants to respond effectively and compassionately in times of disaster, both locally and beyond. ERT volunteers are often deployed after the immediate danger has passed, once first responders have cleared the area and it is safe to begin recovery work.

Participants will learn about disaster response protocols, basic safety procedures, and the practical skills needed for clean-up and recovery efforts. Just as important, trainees will learn the art of listening with compassion, which is an essential part of helping communities heal after trauma. Often, being present and listening to someone's story is just as valuable as swinging a hammer or clearing debris.

ERT teams work only at the re-

quest and invitation of local communities, partnering to provide the help that is needed most. This work is guided by a deep respect for the dignity and voice of those affected, never assuming and always asking.

This training is open to everyone in the community; you do not have to be a member of the Community United Methodist Church, or even a person of faith, to participate.

The Community United Methodist Church is an affirming and inclusive faith community; ERT

work is nondiscriminatory and non-evangelical. Volunteers serve simply out of a desire to help their neighbors, no strings attached. You must be 18 or older, and background checks and Safe Sanctuary training is required to be deployed in the field, as you may at times be working with minors.

Registration is free, and snacks, lunch and child care will be provided. Parking is available in the church lot.

To learn more and to register, please email [communications@cumcps.org](mailto:communications@cumcps.org).

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## Community news.

## Season

■ continued from previous page  
matters long after adolescence: because art demands we confront who we are and who we dare to be.

"Master Class" continues its run Nov. 8, 9, 15 and 16.

So, bring your kids in costume, bring your Halloween spirit, bring your appetite for something spooky, something funny, something unexpectedly moving. In a season obsessed with the idea of the dead coming back to life, it's worth noting nothing resurrects a theater like the laughter of an audience and the wild, fearless joy of kids discovering their power onstage.

All performances are at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and information, visit [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).



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Photo courtesy Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution  
**A pair of benches were recently placed at Hilltop Cemetery in honor of the late Linda Hobbs-Abbot, a dedicated community volunteer.**

# Trash to treasures: Benches placed in honor of Linda Hobbs-Abbott

**By CiCi Stuart**  
Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

Recently two benches were installed at Hilltop Cemetery. Each one represents 1,000 pounds of soft plastic bags that were exchanged with Trex for a bench. Soft plastic means grocery bags, vegetable bags, sandwich bags, wrappings on paper towels and toilet paper — each of which weighs very little. The 2,000 pounds of soft plastic was collected and weighed by the local Sarah Platt Decker chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) members and members of Vets for Vets. After being weighed and tabulat-

ed by Trex, the company recognized the benefit of recycling the plastic by sending the benches. The collaboration resulted in the two benches that honor Linda Hobbs-Abbott, a dedicated resident and member of the Sarah Platt Decker chapter of the DAR and an advocate of Vets for Vets, as well as Girl Scouts and other groups. She started Wreaths Across America with DAR, which now is coordinated by Vets for Vets. Her energy level was unlimited. Hobbs-Abbott passed away in March 2023. There also is a bench resulting from previous soft plastic collections at Veterans Memorial Park of Archuleta County at 220 Vista Blvd.

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# Domestic Violence Awareness Month: when the call comes in

By Phoebe Schroeder  
Rise Above Violence

Often when someone says that they're a part of Rise Above Violence, they hear something like this: "Oh, wow, you're an advocate? I could never do that."

And we get it. The work we do sounds heavy, and it can be. But what often gets missed in that reaction is this: Advocacy isn't about having all the answers. It's showing up and staying calm when everything else feels chaotic, being OK with silence, knowing what options exist, and giving someone the space to simply be as they are and then meeting them there, both literally and figuratively.

It's not about showing someone the light at the end of the tunnel, but about sitting beside them in the dark until they're ready to find their own way, and walking with them when or until they do.

And it's knowing what to do, step by step, when the phone rings at 2 a.m.

This week, we want to show you what it really looks like when someone calls our hotline. Not just so that you understand what we do, but so you can see that, maybe, you could do it, too.

Advocacy can sound intimidating. But, at its core, it's presence. Patience. Practice. It's not about fixing someone's life; it's about being a steady voice when they need one most.

So, here's what on-scene advocacy looks like, and how we bring this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Month theme, "Walk With Survivors," to life.

Step 1: The call. It starts with a phone call. After officers respond to a domestic violence incident, dispatch reaches out to Rise. The advocate on call, usually armed with nothing more than an officer's name and number, is told to make contact. And, in that moment, somewhere between a half sleep and the sound of the phone, they already know: It's probably time to get dressed and go.

Step 2: Initial assessment and scene safety. The next action is to contact the officer on scene. This is usually when the officer gives a brief overview of what happened: what brought them there, who's involved and if the situation is still active.

In the background, you can often hear the hum of radios, voices moving in and out, the shuffle of papers and the urgency of an active call.

In that conversation, the focus shifts to safety and making sure that the person who caused harm has been arrested or removed, collecting key details and waiting for the "green light" to proceed. Sometimes the officer adds, "Actually, we're headed to the hospital. Can you meet us there?"

Step 3: The first conversation. When the advocate arrives, the scene

has usually settled, but the air still feels charged.

The first task is simple: connect. They introduce themselves to the survivor. They explain why they're there and that our services are confidential.

But, what does that actually mean? It means that what someone

shares with us stays sealed and as protected as a conversation with a lawyer or a priest. Unless a survivor gives explicit permission, we're legally and ethically bound to keep what they tell us completely confidential. That kind of privacy isn't just policy — it's the foundation of trust.

■ See Awareness on next page

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# Awareness

■ continued from previous page

After introductions, our tone is steady, never clinical, never rushed.

Maybe it sounds like: “Would you like to tell me a little bit about the history? You don’t have to talk about anything you don’t want to. I’m here for you no matter what.”

Or, “However you’re feeling right now is completely OK. There isn’t a right or wrong way to feel after something like this”

Or, even more simply, “I believe you.”

These might sound like small gestures, but they mark a turning point. Sometimes, simply hearing “I believe you” is the most powerful thing a survivor can receive, especially when the world around them says otherwise. When an advocate affirms that what someone has experienced is abuse, it breaks through that cultural noise. It validates. It names. It matters. Because what we offer isn’t rescue — it’s choice.

This conversation has the power to shift everything. It tells someone who’s been monitored, silenced or made to doubt their own judgments that they still get to decide what happens from here. Because when survivors work with advocates, they’re more than twice as likely to leave abuse safely behind.

And that’s because advocacy works. It restores what abuse takes away: safety, autonomy and hope.

It’s the quiet return of self-determination and the ability to move through the world on your own terms again after having that taken from you. For some, it was only for a moment; for many, it’s been months, even years.

Step 4: Offering support, not pressure. Once the immediate crisis has passed, the role shifts toward systems navigation.

Advocates can help explain what comes after: protection orders, legal processes, housing, continued support. But every forward motion, and whether to take it at all, belongs to the person living it.

If someone isn’t ready to plan

for safety or change, that’s OK. The advocate adjusts because advocacy isn’t about guiding anyone toward a specific decision, destination or outcome; it’s about ensuring that the survivor has accurate information, genuine options and the support to determine what’s best for themselves. That’s what we mean when we say agency.

Step 5: Laying a foundation for long-term help. Before leaving, the advocate makes sure the survivor knows how to reach Rise again.

An intake form is completed and securely shared with the team so that no one has to start their story from the beginning each time they reach out.

And, sometimes, this moment marks the end of our involvement — and that’s OK. That’s the beauty of autonomy: People get to decide whether they want to engage with our services or not.

Other times, it’s just the beginning of a longer relationship, one that might include housing support, legal advocacy, counseling referrals or simply a familiar voice checking in.

Each journey is its own version of success: the survivor deciding where to go from here, on their own terms.

Advocacy doesn’t always look heroic.

Most of the time, it’s simply human. One person showing up for another, sitting beside them in the dark until they’re ready to find their own way and walking with them when or until they do.

That’s what it means to walk with survivors.

The work is quiet, but the impact isn’t. One night. One call. One advocate. That’s how safety begins.

So, the next time you meet someone from Rise, maybe instead of thinking, “I could never do that,” you’ll think, “I could.”

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

For more information on Rise, visit [www.riseaboveviolence.org](http://www.riseaboveviolence.org).



## Trinity Anglican Church

*“Let all bitterness, and anger, and evil speaking, with all malice, be put away from you: and be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”*  
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# The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Chicken choice
- 6 Toss, like a coin
- 10 \_\_\_ of attack
- 14 WWII riveter
- 15 Budget item
- 16 Headey of "Game of Thrones"
- 17 Garage jobs
- 19 Fictional hunch-back
- 20 Large butte
- 21 Helper
- 22 Weather word
- 23 Awe
- 26 Razor handle?
- 29 Military truce
- 32 Boxes for oranges
- 34 Missile housing
- 35 Unruly crowd
- 36 Furnished with turrets
- 38 It sent Dorothy to Oz
- 40 Young '\_\_\_ (kids)
- 41 Glade or green starter
- 43 \_\_\_ Island, NY
- 44 Went in again
- 47 Manicurist's tool
- 48 Mercury in \_\_\_\_\_
- 50 Sprang up
- 52 Olympic sprinter Devers
- 53 Stuffing herb
- 57 Roll of cloth
- 58 Source of gossip
- 60 Jessica of TV's "The Better Sister"
- 61 Milo's pal
- 62 Squeezing (out)
- 63 "Who \_\_\_?"
- 64 Entree item, often
- 65 "Ode to a Night-ingle" poet

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| 63 |    |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |    |

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DOWN

- 1 Alpine transport
- 2 Golfer's goal
- 3 Goddess of fertility
- 4 Power plant unit
- 5 Farm layer
- 6 Thriller writer McFadden
- 7 Banks, eg.
- 8 Stop temporarily
- 9 Quart divs.
- 10 Readily bent
- 11 Lawful
- 12 Auth. unknown
- 13 \_\_\_ a one
- 18 2025 film, "The Running \_\_\_"
- 22 Finally turned (to)
- 24 Egg entree, in France
- 25 Film director Forman
- 26 Take place
- 27 Origami bird

- 28 Potluck staples
- 30 Programming pro
- 31 Wood for piano keys
- 33 Cut, as ties
- 37 Detract (from)
- 39 Junior, for one
- 42 Trappings of royalty
- 45 Get snuggly
- 46 Least rainy

- 49 Edmonton's prov.
- 50 French priest's title
- 51 Stir up
- 54 Diva's piece
- 55 Lady's man
- 56 Work units
- 58 The piper's son
- 59 Comic strip cry

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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# PagosaSUN.com

# Public health department announces launch of mobile dental clinic

**By Ashley Wilson**  
Archuleta County Public Health Department

Beginning Oct. 29, Painted Sky Dental will begin providing accessible, high-quality dental services to residents of Archuleta County through a mobile pop-up clinic located inside the Archuleta County Public Health Department.

This innovative, place-based approach brings oral health care directly to where people live, learn and work, reducing barriers such as transportation and cost.

It will provide comprehensive preventive dental care, including dental exams, professional cleanings and digital X-rays. Each visit also includes personalized oral health education to help patients understand their unique needs and maintain their

overall health. Evening appointments will also be available to ensure that care fits conveniently into busy schedules.

Painted Sky Dental will accept Medicaid, as well as a cash pay option for those without insurance. All fees are based on Medicaid reimbursement rates, keeping care affordable for every patient.

Appointments can be easily scheduled online, and residents are encouraged to call or email for more information about services and clinic dates.

Painted Sky Dental is a mobile dental hygiene clinic committed to expanding access to preventive and restorative oral health care throughout Southwest Colorado. It was founded by Courtney Justice, a local registered dental hygienist who has dedicated her career to ad-

ressing access-to-care issues and has extensive experience working in rural, school-based and teledentistry programs.

To schedule an appointment or learn more, call (970) 426-0062 or email [info@paintedskydental.com](mailto:info@paintedskydental.com).

## SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

**By Shayla McClure**  
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

On Sunday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the SpiritFire Center for Inspirational Living will be holding a spa day fundraiser at Xanadu Retreat. Call or text (970) 510-0309 or (970) 309-6067 for more information.

### Upcoming events

- Tuesday, Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m.: Natural medicine ways class on “The Sigma Goddess Traits” with Shayla Azriel. A \$20 donation will be collected. Contact (970) 510-0309.
- Dec. 19, 5 to 7 p.m.: Christmas party.

### 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 [pagosacom-munitynewthought@gmail.com](mailto:pagosacom-munitynewthought@gmail.com); or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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# Pagosa Catholic Community to honor All Saints Day on Nov. 1

By Caleb Monroe  
Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

What has consumerism cost us? I ask this question specifically with regard to our traditions and our responsibility to uphold them. Has the embracing of excessive and exploitative greed cost us the original meaning of many traditions?

Yes, it has. In many aspects, we have less understanding of traditions that we upheld just decades before. Have we become a world lacking a rearview mirror?

It wasn't always this way though. There was a time when we knew the origins of our traditions — especially our holidays. Even the word "holiday" has lost its significance in our modern world. In the past, a holiday meant more than a day free from labor or an in-your-face marketing campaign. It meant a "holy day," referring to a sacred day — a feast day.

We have to look no further than the extravagant ad campaigns of Christmas exuberance and Easter chocolates to see the detachment from the original intention of our forebearers to celebrate the birth and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Another feast day rooted in the ancient calendar of the church and hijacked by the modern secular world is Halloween. A holy day that is now so famously associated with ghouls and goblins, witches and werewolves, and trick-or-treat. Like Christmas and Easter, how Halloween is celebrated today is a far cry from its origins.

Just as holidays have changed, our English language has changed. Centuries ago, the average English speaker would use the word "hallow" as we modern speakers use the word "holy." So, if one was made hallow, they would be made holy. In other words, a saint.

Early Christians honored martyrs on the anniversary of their deaths. As the church spread and the number of martyrs grew, it became impossible to honor every martyr and saint in heaven — both those known by the church and those unknown.

Pope Gregory III, in the early eighth century, dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to all the saints. His successor, Pope Gregory IV, established Nov. 1 as a feast day honoring all saints in Heaven.

At that time the tradition of the church was to hold a vigil the night before. Our English-speaking ancestors would call this evening, an "even," eventually contracting the word to e'en. Hence, the vigil that would be held the evening before and was called the all hallow's e'en. Known to us today as Halloween.

The Second Vatican Council made it no longer a practice of the church to celebrate this vigil the night before. The church does still celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1.

While the secular world focuses on the consumerism marketing of Halloween, Christians are encouraged to remember the true tradition of Halloween leading into All Saints Day. A day to honor all the saints in heaven and to contemplate their example of righteous Christian living.

To emphasize the importance of this day, the church has made the feast day a solemnity (the highest level of liturgical feast days). On this day, all the faithful of the church gather to attend Mass and celebrate both known and unknown saints in heaven — honoring their lives and praying prayers like the Litany of All Saints.

While the modern secular world focuses on the materialistic, consumerism-driven spectacle of Halloween, as faithful Christians let us remember our centuries-long tradition and give

honor to God and all the saints in heaven.

The Pagosa Catholic Community invites everyone to take part in the honoring of All Saints Day at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd., on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 8 a.m.

For more information about the Pagosa Catholic Community, visit [ihmjp2.org](http://ihmjp2.org).

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## SUDOKU

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| 4 |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
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Level: Advanced

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# Locales with notably spooky names

Special to The PREVIEW

North America is home to many cities and towns, plenty of which share pleasant monikers. However, numerous locations evoke a sense of mystery, eeriness or even frightening images with their unique names.

Those who enjoy a good scare may want to take a fall road trip around Halloween to visit some places with creepy names. Such a trip can be a fun way to see the sights and celebrate a few tricks along the way.

- **Bad Axe, Mich.:** This unusual name is said to have originated from surveyors who found an old, rusty and badly damaged ax at a campsite abandoned by hunters. Such an ax certainly calls foul activities to mind.

- **Cape Fear, N.C.:** Sir Richard Grenville led an expedition to present-day North Carolina in 1585, hoping to reach Roanoke Island. The ship got stuck behind the cape and the crew feared the ship would capsize, hence the name.

- **Coffin Cove, Newfoundland:** The name sounds ominous, but it's likely tied to something quite reasonable. It is believed this area may have been named for someone with the surname Coffin, which was prominent among English and French settlers at the time.

- **Dead Women Crossing, Okla.:** Historians believe this community gets

its name from the unsolved murder of a local woman, though further details remain unclear.

- **Forbidden Plateau, British Columbia:** Legend says Comox people were hiding on the plateau during a raid and returned to find their women and children gone, replaced by blood-red lichen.

- **Gnaw Bone, Ind.:** Are there gangs of cannibals running around? No. Some historians suggest the original French settlement name of "Narbone" sounded like "Gnaw Bone" to English settlers and the name stuck.

- **Hell, Mich.:** No one is quite sure why this area of Michigan has such a dismal name. One theory suggests the name is derived from the hell-like conditions faced by early explorers forced to confront mosquitoes and traverse wetlands.

- **Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.:** While Sleepy Hollow doesn't sound like a scary place to visit, and seems like it would be a cozy woodland retreat, Washington Irving's short story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," gave this town an ominous feel. Visitors may hope to see the Headless Horseman, and the town dresses up for Halloween each year.

- **Slaughter, La.:** Named for Will and Joe Slaughter, owners of the land upon which the town was built, this area may give some a creepy feeling.

That's certainly the case in Slaughter Beach, Del., where local legend states the town gets its name from a massacre of its original settlers.

- **Tombstone, Ariz.:** This Wild West town is famous for the gunslingers Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Residents say there are ghosts and a haunted cemetery to discover.



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# Unitarian Universalists to begin series on book

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship embraces ways it can be engaged with the movement of our times.

Action Sunday, held on the fourth Sundays of the month, is one way we stay informed and involved with matters that hold our values.

Beginning this Sunday morning, Oct. 26, at 10:30 a.m., we will introduce "Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection" by Deepa Iyer.

We will start with a short video introduction and interview with the author, and plan for how we want to engage with the material. If you want to take part but don't yet have the book, no worries. There is still time to get a copy or download it on an e-reader and join us. To learn more about the book, visit <https://uuabookstore.org/products/social-change-now>. The fellowship has a loaning library of the workbook if needed. Simply show up if you're interested in engaging with this book in a group setting.

The UU Community Hub offers space for on-going programs and events with building community in mind.

Check out the website, [PagosaUU.org](http://PagosaUU.org), for updated information. Here are a few of our current programs

open to all interested.

The Tara Meditation Group meets most Sunday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Led by a certified instructor, it includes instruction, practice, study and connecting with one another. Beginners are welcome, and you are encouraged to email us so you can be put on the announcement list. (Find the email on our website.)

An online option is available for those unable to attend in person.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle meets the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Check it out this Saturday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. This group is facilitated by Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, and is open to all who align with the values of respect, peace and authentic connection.

Mark your calendars for Nov. 9 as we share in Dances of Universal Peace from 2 to 4 p.m. These group, circle dances are meditative, joyous and inviting as the simple movements and songs allow for an embodied experience. Long-time dance leader Wahhab David Sheets will be leading the dances.

Come and enjoy in community. 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.



## ESSENTIAL OILS AND THEIR EFFECT ON YOUR STRESS (Part 1)

Scent is powerful. It can trigger nostalgic memories, gag reflexes, salivation, and even relaxation and calm.

The article excerpt below explains the stress-busting impact of aromatherapy on stress.

The health benefits of aromatherapy can no longer be considered placebo in nature. Accumulating evidence now shows that the fragrance of flowers and other volatile plant compounds pack a punch as powerful as certain drugs.

In a day and age like ours, bouts of stress and anxiety are expected to occur at least occasionally during the course of daily life. In fact, if the experience is completely alien to you, you may not be paying attention to what's going on in the world around us -- or, you may be enlightened, and should be congratulated.

Certainly, anti-anxiety drugs can be effective, but they are also addictive and dangerous, with withdrawal symptoms that include seizures and, paradoxically, extreme anxiety. Because of this fact, natural alternatives are needed now more than ever.

Fortunately, finding a non-pharmaceutical solution is no longer simply a matter of guessing, or relying solely on the anecdotal accounts of others.

There is an accumulating body of pre-clinical and clinical research available today demonstrating the power, safety and effectiveness of natural compounds for relieving stress and anxiety.

In fact, some of these substances do not even require being ingested, as they can be inhaled in exceedingly small doses to be effective. (continued next week)

Source: Evidence-Based Aromatherapy: Stress Relief and Much More. By Sayer Ji. GreenMedInfo | Alternative Medicine | Vitamin Research | Natural

**Bonus Tip:** Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!  
**"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart'..." Proverbs 27:9**

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Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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# Breaking down one brick at a time

By Betty Slade  
PREVIEW Columnist

The pain in my heart can't be described as I watch this once-strong man with the most beautiful, loving heart cave to this world's demands. Days of the week are confusing, nights are becoming days and a simple idea is hard to receive. This man lives in the shadow of what he once was, a protector and a provider for his family, and who he still wants to be.

It was more than digging his children's cars out of the snow, tying the prettiest bows on his daughters' dresses or teaching his son to be a man. It was being faithful, honoring and loving to his wife, refusing his children permission to talk back to her, always giving her worth and her place next to his.

After a long day on the road to see our grandson's team play football, I said to our daughter, "These trips are getting harder on your dad. Sleeping in an unfamiliar bed, changing routines and expecting him to rise to the occasion is getting too much for him."

Our youngest daughter, so perceptive to her daddy's needs, said, "He loves to go with the family. We must help daddy keep his dignity. That's the most important thing we can do."

I remember when our children were babies and my Sweet Al declared his favorite scripture to the church's congregation, "... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15b, NKJV).

Al is a man of his word. He kept his word and is still keeping his promise to his home after all these years. This man has labored for his family for 65 years, and with a strong back and stronger principles, he did all he could to give us a secure home, food on the table and serve His Lord, Jesus.

When I received an article from my good friend, Eli Lucero, about an old adobe house in Pintada, N.M., it was as if he was writing about my Sweet Al and his own father, Robert. And to any man who knows what it is to be a husband and father, and what is expected of him. These words are for them.

Eli's words are a metaphor of what it means to give a man his worth and dignity. He talked about an old adobe and his culture as a Spanish man, but my heart read between the lines, and I see my Sweet Al as a man who loves his family and still testifies of his belief.

"The adobe walls of Pintada do not merely crumble. They testify. They are scripture written in earth and straw, in calloused hands and weary backs. They remember the covenant our ancestors kept with dust, with drought, with hunger, with time.

"This was the Law of Work. Unyielding. Absolute. To labor was not choice but commandment. To rest was betrayal. To refuse was exile.

"I was raised on its stories hard, sharp as winter wind. Tales of the one who would not bend to the fields and was tied to a tree until he yielded.

## Artist's Lane

*He talked about an old adobe and his culture as a Spanish man, but my heart read between the lines, and I see my Sweet Al as a man who loves his family and still testifies of his belief.*

Cruel to our ears perhaps, but to them it was justice. For without obedience, there was no survival. Without work, there was no tomorrow.

"These walls are their monument. Every brick laid in sweat and grit. Every room echoing with breath fought for, and nights endured.

"Their law kept them alive. Their law delivered me here. And yet, one day I sat in a chair, a simple chair, a La-Z-Boy recliner and felt the weight of centuries pressing against my chest. The Law of Work still whispered: rise, toil, prove your worth. But in the silence, I understood.

"Their labor was not meant to bind me forever. Their sacrifice was

the down payment on my freedom. Their obedience was the foundation. My life is the cathedral.

"So I labor still but with fire, with flour, with words, with light. I build not only for survival, but for meaning, for beauty, for legacy.

"Their song lives in me, but its verses have changed. The adobe will return to dust. But their story will not. They gave us survival. We must give them remembrance. They bore the Law of Work. We bear the gift of life." — Eli Lucero, storyteller, master chef and son of his culture.

This clay house my husband lives in is breaking down one brick at a time. The windows of his soul are getting dim, his roof can't hold the onslaught of changing weather, and his footing is wobbly. Yet, he remains as a testimony of what a man truly is.

There is so much more to this man I love than what is seen from the outside. The fire in his belly still burns hot to keep his children warm and safe. His desire for better things for his family is still heard by his few-fought-words of wisdom.

Final brushstroke: Yes, my Sweet Al still deserves the honored place at the dining room table. Now, to give a man the dignity he deserves, we must serve him with love and kindness and all we have. I hope we have many more days left to give back to the one who loved us unconditionally and gave us himself. He stands, not as a clay adobe, but a cathedral of God's grace and love.

Readers' comments: "Thank you for all your inspiring articles in the Pagosa Sun. I was especially moved for your advice to your Grandson to focus on Jesus, not the movement. It's so easy to get side tracked with other's opinions, and appreciated the grounding reminder. Keep those great articles coming!

"Victoria Coleman, Pagosa."

*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*



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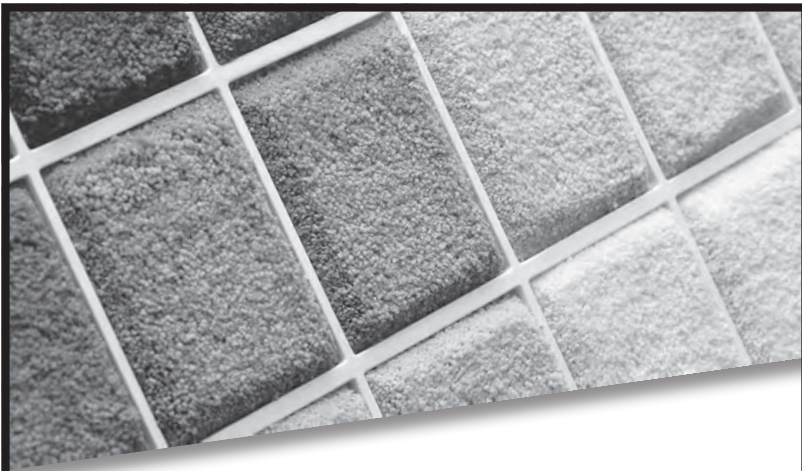
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# Floods resources and Be Prepared for an Emergency class announced

By Cindi Galabota  
PREVIEW Columnist

Archuleta County has created a flood resources page on its website to help those impacted by the recent floods.

According to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office, the page will be updated with pertinent information for the flood recovery effort.

211 Colorado is a confidential and multilingual service that connects people to vital resources across the state such as debris clean-up resources, food, clothing or other basic needs or disaster specific services. Dial 2-1-1, text 898-211 or visit [www.211colorado.org](http://www.211colorado.org) to connect to these resources.

The county has set up drop-off areas for flood-related debris. Woody debris can be taken to the fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84. No other materials are permitted to be mixed in at this location. The Transfer Station, located at 2140 County Road 500, can take appliances and flood-damaged personal items.

The Archuleta County Water Quality Department can provide testing, monitoring and solutions of well water following the floods.

For those interested in supporting the response and recovery activities, please visit the Colorado VOAD (Voluntary Agency Active in Disaster) Coordinated Response page at [www.co-voad.org/sw-colorado-floods-2025/](http://www.co-voad.org/sw-colorado-floods-2025/).

Archuleta County has partnered with Nixle to implement its community notification system to alert residents in real-time for localized

## Extension Viewpoints

emergency situations and relevant community advisories. To sign up for Nixle, visit [www.archuletacounty.gov/services/citizens-alert-nixle/](http://www.archuletacounty.gov/services/citizens-alert-nixle/).

The Archuleta County CSU Extension office and Archuleta County Public Health are joining other community partners to offer a Be Prepared for an Emergency-Winter Edition class on Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Building, located at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84.

This free program will last approximately 2.5 hours and cover topics such as how to safely prepare for winter emergencies, the winter weather forecast for Pagosa Country, how to plan for the unexpected when outside and more. Warm drinks will be offered.

Preregistration is not required for this free program. For more information, please call CSU Extension at (970) 264-5931 or email Cindi Galabota at [cindi.galabota@colostate.edu](mailto:cindi.galabota@colostate.edu).

### Be Prepared for an Emergency workshop

There will be a Be Prepared for an Emergency-Winter Edition workshop with Galabota, CSU Extension director, and Lacy Capre, Archuleta

County Public Health outreach specialist, on Nov. 8 at 10 a.m. at the CSU Extension building at 344 U.S. 84.

This free workshop will cover the best practices for preparing for and

■ See Viewpoints on page 19

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# Bird of the Week

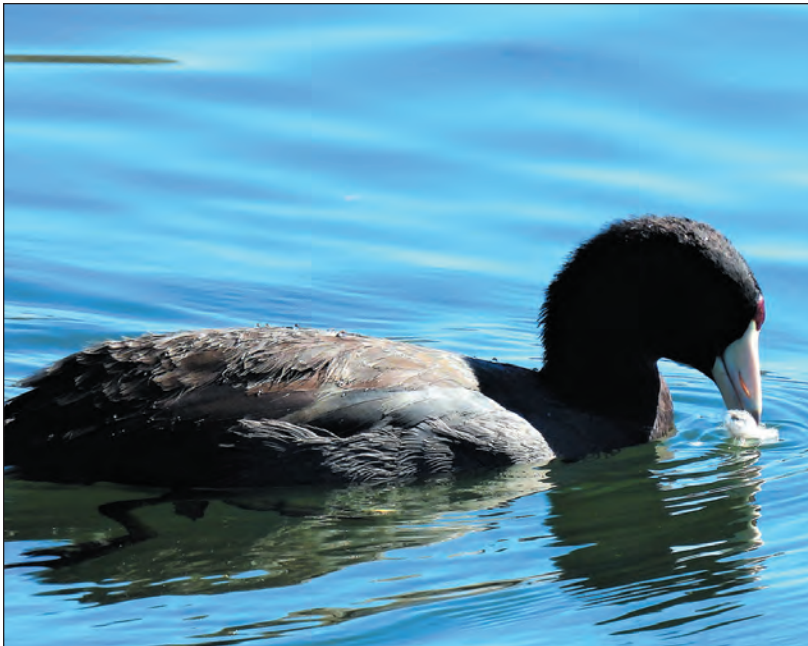


Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the American coot.

Although it spends a lot of time in their company, this common water-bird is not a duck. Instead it is a member of the rail family of birds, which includes the sora and Virginia rail, much smaller birds that pop in and out of the vegetation at the edge of a marsh.

Colored dark gray to black, the American coot appears plump and chicken-like. Its white beak transitions to a frontal face shield with a red tip. Fledgling coots seen in spring have colorful red skin on their heads and orange-tipped black down. Noisy flocks communicate in cackling, grunting and croaking calls.

Adaptations in the over-sized feet of American coots allow them to maneuver well both on land and in water. Each of their long, greenish toes is encased in two to three fleshy lobes that help push them through the water like webbing on the foot of a duck does. The lobes fold back when the foot is lifted, providing cushioning and mobility on mud, grass and ice.

These long toes can inflict some damage when males lean back on the water and claw at each other with their feet in territorial fights. With short, stubby wings and short tails, what coots are not adept at is flight. Here their lobed feet assist them in running across the water’s surface while flapping their wings to get airborne.

On the water, American coots mainly eat the stems, leaves and seeds of aquatic plants and algae. They dive or dabble for food, depending on the water’s depth. They are often observed to be the victims of wigeons and gadwalls that wait at the surface to grab the coot’s food out of its mouth. On land, coots will eat terrestrial plants, grains, insects and other invertebrates, and small vertebrates.

Especially in winter, coots gather in massive mixed flocks with other waterfowl. In fall, more than 800 at a time have been counted at Echo Reservoir and 300 at Lake Capote. It is one of the birds that we expect to tally in the Christmas Bird Count as long as there are areas of open water in December.

For information on events, visit [www.weminuchaudubon.org](http://www.weminuchaudubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/weminuchaudubon/).

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# VOTE YES ON BALLOT MEASURE 2A

A 1% Sales Tax, paid by locals and visitors alike, can provide the \$80-100 million needed for a comprehensive upgrade to the Town’s sanitation system.



A well-functioning sanitation system is crucial to our families, our businesses, and our environment.

A recent engineering study revealed 5.8 miles of failing sewer lines in downtown Pagosa Springs. The Town is also struggling with pump failures connected with our seven-mile sewer pipeline.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A summer 2025 survey by the Town of Pagosa Springs showed overwhelming support for a 1% sales tax as the best way to fund necessary repairs and upgrades to the Town Sanitation System.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

In addition to failing sewer pipes, the Town has experienced repeated pump failures on its uphill sewer pipeline. The Town needs to replace that failing and expensive system with a dedicated downtown treatment plant.

## THE ALTERNATIVE?

If the sales tax measure is not approved by the voters, the Town might need to increase monthly sewer fees from \$71 a month to over \$200 a month, to generate the same needed revenue.

Please  
VOTE YES  
ON MEASURE 2A

Learn more at [Pagosa-Sewer-Solutions.com](http://Pagosa-Sewer-Solutions.com)



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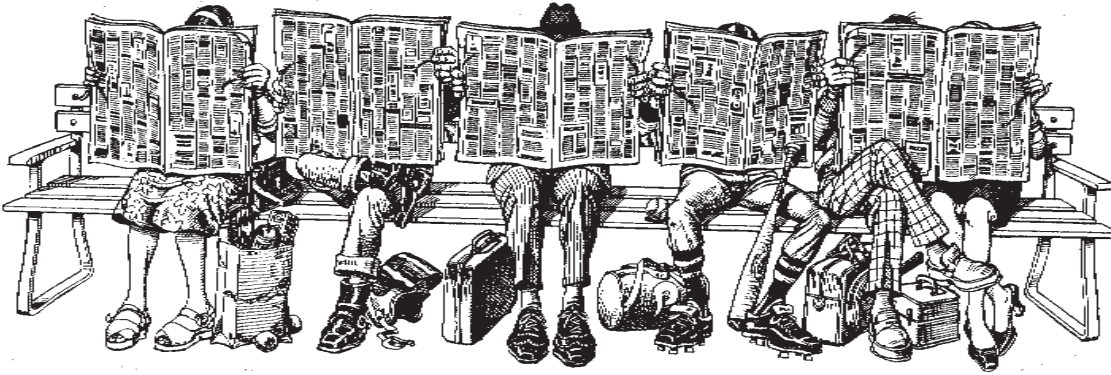
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# Preview Calendar

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

## Thursday, Oct. 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 Center.

**Tech Time.** 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

**English as a Second Language.** 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

**'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

**2025 Archuleta County Youth Landscape Assessment Webinar.** 2-3 p.m., virtual. Learn about youth development and available programs in Archuleta County, as well as key findings, challenges and opportunities for youth. For more information or to obtain the link to attend, email Healthy Archuleta at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer.** 3 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Lake County.

**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.

**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 and Warlocks Fly-in.** 7:30 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. All participants must register in advance by contacting Mariss at (970) 946-4450.

**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.** 2-5 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Live music with the DJ Williams Band and more.

■ See Calendar on next page

## Viewpoints

■ continued from page 15  
recovery from an emergency.

### Open house

Join us at our CSU Extension and Fairgrounds Fall Open House from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 18. Enjoy fall refreshments while you mingle with staff and other members of the community. Learn about upcoming programs, opportunities to volunteer with us and the many resources available to our community.

### Tree and Wreath-making Workshop

Learn about trees and make a wreath at our free Tree and Wreath-making Workshop with Galabota and Judy Brennan from the Ruby Sisson Library on Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. at the 4-H Hall located at the fairgrounds. The class is limited to 25 people. Please call the Ruby Sisson Library at (970) 264-2209 to register.

### CPR and first aid classes

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

Check out the online option on our website, <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.



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**October's Educational information is**  
**"The Dangers of Waiting Too Long to Dry Out a Flooded Home"**  
When your home floods – whether from a burst pipe, storm, or appliance failure – it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But one of the worst things you can do is wait too long to start the drying process. Please see our blog for comprehensive information.



See Our Blog

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# Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

## 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](http://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](mailto:jshookup@gmail.com) or call the church at (970) 731-2205. You can register online at [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

## Tuesday, Oct. 28

**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.

**WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs).** 11:30 a.m., Elk Trace Bed and Breakfast. The cost is \$20. All women are welcome. An RSVP to (970) 946-1895 is required by

Sunday, Oct. 26.

**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://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

**Teen Advisory Group.** 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Be a voice at your library. Build leadership skills, mentor others and plan programs that interest you. Snacks will be provided. For ages 12-18.

**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. 29

**Kids Kare.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park

Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

**Family Halloween Storytime.** 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for themed reading and activities. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Online Author Talk.** Noon, virtual. Watch nationally renowned authors give hourlong presentations live via Zoom, or watch the recording later. “Courtly Intrigue and Whispers as Weapons” with Philippa Gregor, bestselling author of “The Other Boleyn Girl” and a leading voice in historical fiction. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

**Bridge.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

**Mindful Drawing.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

**Mexican Train Dominoes.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

**Elementary Tutoring.** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.

**Junior Youth Challenge.** 3:30-4:45 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School music room. A weekly club for kids in fifth and sixth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

■ See Calendar on next page

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# Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

## Thursday, Oct. 30

**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.

**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.

**ThingamaWHO Teen Program Presents 'Beetlejuice Jr.'** 8 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Friday, Oct. 31

**Trick-or-Treat at the Library.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Visit any time while the library is open.

**Halloween Costume Party.** 12:30-1:30 p.m., Senior Center. There will be a costume contest at 1 p.m., as well as pumpkin pie and prizes. Call ahead or by 9 a.m. on Oct. 31 to make a lunch reservation if you want lunch.

**Pumpkin Decorating Contest Party.** 4 p.m., Sisson Library. Return decorated pumpkins by noon to enter the contest.

**Pagosa Springs Varsity Football.** 7 p.m., Golden Peaks Stadium. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Alamosa.

**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](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Saturday, Nov. 1

**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](http://www.griefshare.org).

**LEGO Play.** 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 8-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

## Sunday, Nov. 2

**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](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Sunday, Nov. 2

**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](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Monday, Nov. 3

**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.

**Senior Conversations.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

**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](mailto:jshookup@gmail.com) or call the church at (970) 731-2205. You can register online at [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

## Tuesday, Nov. 4

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 9 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.

**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.

**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://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

**English as a Second Language.** 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

**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.

Submit your calendar items to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com); mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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# PAGOSA SCENE . . .

## JEWELS AND JEANS BARN DANCE

Photos courtesy Al Myatt

Scene ... boot scootin' for a cause at Saturday night's 10th annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance. Rotarians report the dance was a great success, celebrating country fun, community spirit and the heart of Rotary. Proceeds from the event will support local youth programs, scholarships and community service projects.



# Let Booklist Reader guide you toward your next book selection

By Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library staff  
PREVIEW Columnists

Booklist Reader is the Ruby Sisson library's latest free magazine, featuring diverse readers' advisory recommendations, in print and on audio, for readers of all ages.

Each month, the Booklist Reader is filled with high-interest lists that showcase books patrons can read and check out now. Available online or as a print publication you can take home and keep, Booklist Reader is your latest tool in finding the next great read.

To get started, simply go to the library's website at [www.pagoslibrary.org](http://www.pagoslibrary.org) and choose Reading Recommendations under Quick Links. You'll see Booklist Reader at the top of the list. No username or password is necessary.

Fifty print copies per month of Booklist Reader will be available at the library free of charge starting Nov. 1. Be sure to pick one up on your next visit.

## 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

Despite all the rain, we're only three days behind schedule on our building project. This week our steel arrives, 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.

Please check the listings in this column and on your library's website, <https://pagoslibrary.org>, for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

## Library News

### 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 one more talk for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagoslibrary/upcoming>.

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. 27, from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

### Ruby's Book Club

Ruby's Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Nov. 11 to discuss "Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune" by Anderson Cooper. Copies are available at your library.

This free book club for adults is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is welcome to attend.

During construction, it is taking

place at the new Harman Park Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive, next to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

### 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.

■ See Library on next page

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SCAN ME

# Importance of sleep for older adults

By Ricardo Martinez  
PREVIEW Columnist

As we age, our sleep patterns naturally change, but the need for quality rest remains vital to maintaining good health.

Many older adults find themselves waking more often during the night or struggling to fall asleep, yet adequate sleep is essential for overall well-being. It supports memory, mood, energy levels, and the immune system while lowering the risk of depression, falls, and chronic illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes.

In Archuleta County, where many older adults balance busy schedules with caregiving and community involvement, prioritizing sleep is an important part of staying healthy and active.

### Tips for better rest

Establishing a consistent bedtime routine, keeping the bedroom cool and dark, and limiting caffeine and screen time before bed can help improve sleep quality. Regular physical activity and daily exposure to natural light also help regulate the body's sleep-wake cycle.

If you're still having trouble sleeping, talk with your health care provider; underlying conditions or medications might be to blame.

Remember a good night's rest



is not a luxury; it's a cornerstone of healthy aging.

### Upcoming events

Put us on your schedule. We have several events coming up, including our Masquerade Ball fundraiser on Oct. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Keyah Grande, a fun lunchtime Halloween party on Oct. 31 (see below), our non-alcoholic drinks bar at the holiday market at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse on Nov. 1 and 2, and our tree at the Festival of Trees on Dec. 5 and 6.

### Halloween costume party

Come in costume to the Pagosa Senior Center dining room on Friday, 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 Friday, Oct. 31, to make a reservation at (970) 264-2167.

### Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conver-

sations 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 Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations.

The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

### Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon

■ See Senior on next page

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# Library

### ■ continued from previous page English as a second language classes

Free in-person evening classes happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. for students of all levels 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](http://www.pagosalibrary.org).

### New in large print

Two new westerns, "Hidden Hero" by Robert Vaughn and "Desolation Creek" by William Johnstone; thrillers "Terminal Velocity" by Tom Clancy and "Please Don't Lie" by Christina Baker Kline; nonfiction titles "Confronting Evil: Assessing the

Worst of the Worst" by Bill O'Reilly, "History Matters" by David McCullough, and "Is a River Alive" by Robert McFarlane.

### 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

"The Lost Quilter" by Jennifer Chiverini, "Finders Keepers" by Brett Battles, "Halloween Night Murder" by Leslie Meier, and "The Surrogate Mother" by Freida McFadden.

### Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at [pagosalibrary.org](http://pagosalibrary.org).

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# Senior

## ■ continued from previous page

Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

## Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

## Bridge

The game of bridge is hosted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

## Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

## Emotional freedom

On the second Wednesday of the month, join the "Tappers," who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Come learn the technique on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

## Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. This activity is open to all ages. Help us

create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

## Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

## Ruby's Writers Guild

The Ruby's Writers Guild now meets on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The Guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

## Tai chi chih

Come on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. for tai chi chih classes at the Senior Center.

Tai chi chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice.

The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy which is inherent in all of us.

## Bingo

The Senior Center hosts free community bingo twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join the group on Oct. 31 right after the Halloween party.

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 re-

quest to [copenhavercreative@gmail.com](mailto: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. 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.

Monday, Oct. 27 — Beef Marsala with mushrooms, scalloped potatoes, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Tuesday, Oct. 28 — Chicken Dijon, baby baked potatoes, asparagus, garden salad, fruit, dessert bar and milk.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 — Chipotle-lime crusted tilapia with tartar sauce, brown rice, zucchini and mushrooms, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Thursday, Oct. 30 — Tarragon chicken, creamed spinach, blueberry crisp, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Oct. 31 — Pork posole with hominy, cabbage-radish-onions, tortilla, garden salad, fruit, pumpkin pie and milk.

## Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

## Text reservations

■ See Senior on next page

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# WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

## WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS!

We're running special photo pages in our November 6 edition for Veteran's Day to honor those who are serving, and have served, in our nation's military.

Please send your service picture along with your name, branch of service, rank and hometown to:

**shari@pagosasun.com** or our office at  
P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31**

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# Senior

■ continued from previous page

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

## Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

## Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

## Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. The terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for

## Support the Senior Center

Please support our ongoing operations 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 jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.



# Business Owners: We're Celebrating our Veterans!

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

On November 6, we will publish photo pages in The Pagosa Springs SUN to honor those who have served.

You can help sponsor these pages by contacting your advertising representative by October 31 at (970)264-2100.

A sponsorship ad is \$150 for each 2 column wide by 2-7/8" inch tall space.

The Pagosa Springs SUN Section B

*Honoring Our TROOPS & VETERANS*

We proudly salute America's veterans and active-duty military whose courage and dedication have protected our freedom and our way of life for generations.

We recognize their service and their sacrifice, their selflessness and their bravery, their hard work and their faith.

Please join us in celebrating the men and women of our military, past and present, this Veterans Day.

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## PERSONALS

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING?** Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. [www.al-anon.org](http://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.

**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](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://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](mailto:schaffermargaret5@gmail.com) (970)275-2037.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

## HELP WANTED

**EXPERIENCED HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR:** We are currently seeking skilled and experienced Heavy Equipment Operators to join the Colorado Rock & Dirt Excavation team. This is a full-time position that offers competitive pay, health insurance, a 401(k) plan and paid time off (PTO). Please submit your resume to [coloradorock08@gmail.com](mailto:coloradorock08@gmail.com) or stop by the office at 2039 E. HWY 160, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

**FT-BUSINESS ASSISTANT** — Join our team and help us stay organized and efficient. We are a growing business that values collaboration and a positive work environment. You will play an essential role in supporting our team across departments. If you are a detail oriented individual who is a team player and is eager to make a positive impact we would like to hear from you. Proven admin experience is recommended. Pay DOE. Send your resume to [redshop@timberlineframers.com](mailto:redshop@timberlineframers.com).

**GENERAL LABORER NEEDED** Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to [frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com](mailto:frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com). Phone (970)264-5000.

**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](mailto:employment@jandjinc.net) or check us out on Indeed.com.

**JOIN DOGGY DAY CARE** as a Dog Handler. Earn \$21 /hour plus a \$100 signing bonus. Passion for dogs required. Call Jeffrey at (970)799-4691, [jeffrey@doggydaycare81147.com](mailto:jeffrey@doggydaycare81147.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/>.

**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.

## HELP WANTED

## 2 part-time driving positions available

- Must be able to drive in the snow
- Available 3 days a week
- Clean driving record
- Weekends and holidays may be included

Bonus-Season ski pass \$1300.00+ value

Please apply within.

## WJP/PRO

3505 W. Hwy. 160 • in the lobby of the Pagosa Lodge



## WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

## Hiring for the Ski Season:

November - April

## Full &amp; Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski School & Reservationist
- Food & Beverage - Baker - Barista
- Ski & Snowboard Rental
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Snow Removal - Grooming
- Custodial & Building Maintenance
- Ski Patrol
- Guest Services/Snow Reporter
- Freelance Photographer

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES  
STARTING WAGE OF \$19/HOUR

Merit increases based on performance & experience

## Applications at

[WolfCreekSki.com/employment](http://WolfCreekSki.com/employment)



Send applications & resumes to:  
[WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com](mailto:WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com)  
P.O. Box 2800  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

**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 ASSISTANT.** Computer skills a must. Automotive experience a plus. PTO and paid Holidays. Monday -Thursday 7a.m. to 6p.m. Apply in person at Piedra Automotive, 505 County Road 600 or email resume to [PiedraAuto@gmail.com](mailto:PiedraAuto@gmail.com).

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL** is hiring a morning and afternoon aid for our Preschool class. Please contact Molly Sprowle at (970)398-0064.

**OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS.** We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

**PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING** a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

## We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



Full-time and Seasonal

MULTIPLE POSITIONS  
MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS

Starting at \$17 per hour, dependent on experience.

Weekends and holidays required.

Benefits include discounts, paid time off, profit sharing and more!

Apply in person. Applications available on [www.terrysace.com](http://www.terrysace.com)



**Terry's ACE**  
525 Navajo Trail Dr.

**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](http://www.pshotsprings.com) or stop by to pick one up. Resumes/ applications can be emailed to: [sales@pshotsprings.com](mailto:sales@pshotsprings.com), Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

**ROOF LABORER NEEDED** with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

**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://pagosa-humane.org> or stop by the Store.

## 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](mailto:jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com)

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**  
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 environment.

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](http://terrysace.com)

Join us in serving our Pagosa community!

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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

**4 NEW TIRES,** Only 11 miles, off new car, 255/70/R18 M/S. \$800. (970)946-1544.

**AIR CONCENTRATOR.** “Oxlife Freedom” includes manual, power cords (AC/ DC), carrying case. New \$3000, selling \$1500. (970)946-1544.

**AMMUNITION.** .45 caliber, 9 mm, 30-06. Call for price. (970)946-1544.

**BRAND NEW 27” HUSQVARNA,/B. snow thrower with 2 steel loading ramps. Only used 3 hours. Asking \$1,350. Call Rick, (970)946-1737.**

**CRAFTSMAN SNOW BLOWER.** 26 -inch clearing width, electric start, one owner, well maintained. \$400. Call Ron at (575)937-0743, could deliver.

**DRY FIREWOOD- PINE.** Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FOR SALE

**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.

**HUSQVARNA 2246LS RIDING MOWER.** \$600 OBO. (970)946-1544.

**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)731-0007.

**SADDLES.** Two western, \$175 each. Two English, \$125 each. (970)398-1155.

**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).

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.

PETS

**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.

AUTOS

**1998 DODGE RAM 1500** Quad Cab Truck. Five -speed 4x4 w/creeper gear. Second owner. Runs great. Super in snow. Garaged, has 200 K miles. \$4,499. (970)903-2492. Leave message.

**2013 TOYOTA RAV4 Limited.** Runs and drives perfectly, 180,000 miles. \$9,500. Text (970)946-6446.

**2022 SUBARU FORESTER** Limited Sport. Silver, like new. 32,000 miles. (512)581-1475. evenings.

**GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL!** 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

AUTOS



**1954 Jeep Willy's**  
4WD, 4 cyl., runs, clear title  
\$7777.77  
Paul Nobles (970)946-1780

YARD SALES

**ALL ITEMS MUST GO.** Free furniture: 818 Hills Circle –Hatcher. Saturday, 10/25 and Sunday, 10/26. 8a.m. to 11a.m. Electric music organ and fireplace. Dressers. Twin bed and wood frame. Metal filing cabinets. Entertainment center. Shelves. Wood desk. Recliner couches. Wooden saddle stands, PC monitors and more. You must be able to load and haul away. FCFS. Photos posted on local Facebook yard sale pages.

Email us at  
classads@pagosasun.com  
to submit your classified.  
PagosaSUN.com

YARD SALES

**NES ESTATE SALE** this Saturday, October 25 -Sunday 26. Come out for a wonderful Estate sale this weekend. Tons of fun treasures. Hope to see you 9a.m. -3p.m. 6115 Hwy. 84 in Pagosa.

**YARD SALE.** Saturday 25 -Sunday 26. At 18710 U.S. 160 Lot #3, Chimney Rock.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE.** 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

**COMMERCIAL STORAGE.** Flex/ Hobby Garage. Two units available. Approximately 1800 sq. ft., 1 full bathroom, 14 ft. x 10 ft. door, 15 ft. ceiling. Radiant floor heat. Finished drywall interior. \$2,100 a month. 218 Hopi Drive, Pagosa Springs. Call or text (903)327-3345.

**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.

Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

>> Place Your Classified Ad

All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

(970) 264-2100

# Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

*"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them."*

*Michael Gamba*



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117 Navajo Trail Dr. Ste E, Pagosa Springs

Largest Local Property Management Co.



150+ SW Colorado  
Property Owners Served  
19+ Years. Mortgage &  
Real Estate Exp  
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING  
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING  
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**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

**AIR BnB- LUXURIOUS SANCTUARY.** Suite 33074173, master bedroom 33074317. The Sanctuary.

**OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES!** Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**2 BED /2 BATH** partially furnished townhome with deck overlooking Pagosa Lake. Washer / dryer and garage with fenced backyard. Pets negotiable. \$1850 /month includes utilities. (970)398-1645.

**3 BED, 2 BATH HOME** in Holiday Acres. Freshly painted inside. Call (208)582-8440. Owner maintains land. Avail now.

**3/2 MOBILE HOME** in Vista. \$1,450 per month. First, last, security. (970)398-0355.

**BEAUTIFUL 3 BEDROOM** 2 bath home for rent on acreage with amazing mountain views, sunsets and direct National Forest access and only 5 miles down Hwy. 84 from Pagosa. Two story home with lots of room for the family and space to work remotely. Hike or bike right from the front porch. Available September 1. \$3,000 per month and includes utilities except propane. Don't miss this opportunity to rent an amazing Pagosa property which includes an unoccupied chicken coop and greenhouse. Call or text (970)398-0573 for more details.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM,** 2 bath, 1 car garage townhome. All utilities included This is an 8 month rental which runs October through May of 2026. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

**DOWNTOWN OLDER 3 BEDROOM** 3 bath home. One small dog allowed. Available for viewing with appointment. Call (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to view home. Available around September 10.

**DOWNTOWN PAGOSA SPRINGS APARTMENT** for Rent. Modern 2 -bedroom, Energy Star Efficient – Brand new build. Available now – 7 month lease \$1,800. No smokers, no pets. (720)470-2653.

**DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.**

**LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE.** Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

**NEWLY REMODELED 3 BEDROOM,** 2 bath home, 1 car garage located uptown. One dog allowed under 50 lbs. with monthly pet rent. Nice wooded lot on a cul-de-sac. \$2,150/month. Available now. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

**ONE OR TWO ROOMMATES** wanted for furnished two bedroom home. Owner lives in California, rarely on property except in summer. One roommate \$1,500, two \$2,100, all utilities paid. No children, no pets. \$1,200 deposit. (619)992-0700.

**PANORAMIC VIEWS. OFF-GRID,** one bedroom cabin in Cabezón Canyon near Chimney Rock National Monument. AWD required in winter, full bath. \$760 per month plus utilities. (970)883-2600.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**QUIET 1 PLUS BEDROOM,** simply furnished cabin, 7 miles west of City Market. Water -hauling vehicle needed. \$900 per month plus utilities plus (first, last, security deposits). No smoking /pets. (970)731-5098.

**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.

## HOMES FOR SALE

### REAL ESTATE SERVICES

### Buying or Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis  
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

**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.

## 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.

## LAND/ BUILDING SITES

**TWO ADJACENT 5 ACRES LOTS.** Available Separately. Meadows 4. Details at www.BLANCA257.com. Scott (970)731-4421 or fscott409@outlook.com.

PagosaSUN.com



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." 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.

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classified ad  
online.  
PagosaSUN.com



# Meet Pagosa's Home Loan Neighbor.

**Kathie Lattin has lived in Pagosa Springs for 45 years and has helped hundreds of families buy homes.**

**From affordable programs to custom options, she'll find the loan that fits your life. With Kathie, you have a neighbor on your side.**



***Give Kathie a call today!***

**Kathie Lattin, Mortgage Loan Officer**  
**970 946-5182**  
NMLS #609186



530 Easy Street Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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