



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 7, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Translocated wolf dies in southwestern Colorado

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is investigating the death of a female gray wolf in southwestern Colorado. According to a statement from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the agency received a mortality alert for female gray wolf 2506 on Oct. 30. In its statement, CPW confirms the mortality took place in southwest Colorado. As a federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is investigat-

ing, according to CPW. CPW's statement explains that a final determination of the cause of death will not be made until the investigation is completed, including the necropsy, a foundational component of the overall investigation process. Wolf 2506 was part of the group of wolves translocated to Colorado from British Columbia in January 2025. No additional details were available as of press time Wednesday. It was not confirmed if the wolf is the same lone female wolf that

recently made its way through Archuleta County multiple times as part of traveling more than 3,500 miles since being released. According to CPW, two lone females have entered watersheds in Archuleta County, with a separate lone female — the first confirmed collared wolf activity in Archuleta County — entering northern Archuleta County as part of a large loop shortly before Mother's Day. According to CPW, the average lifespan of a gray wolf in the Rocky Mountains is generally three to four years.

Wolf reintroduction and living with wolves
Proposition 114, now Colorado Revised Statute 33-2-105.8, was approved by Colorado voters on Nov. 3, 2020, directing the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission to develop a plan to introduce and manage gray wolves in Colorado west of the Continental Divide. Reintroduction began in 2023 with 10 wolves and has continued, with 15 wolves that were translocated from the central interior of British Colum- ■ See Wolf A8



SUN photo/Randi Pierce
U.S. 160 reconstruction personnel work prepping newly poured concrete for removal Wednesday morning after someone entered the work zone the night before and damaged the concrete.

Veterans Day ceremony



SUN photos/Randi Pierce
In annual tradition, members of Mullins-Nickerson American Legion Post 108 present a Veterans Day ceremony in honor of veterans on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Veterans Memorial Park.

Vandalism causes significant damage to newly poured concrete on U.S. 160 downtown

Colorado Department of Transportation
Sometime overnight between Tuesday, Nov. 11, and the early hours of Wednesday, Nov. 12, individuals entered the active construction zone along the 400 block of U.S. 160 and walked through newly poured concrete sidewalk in front of the Liberty Theatre and Galles Real Estate. WW Clyde crews, working on be-

half of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), have been diligently pouring and finishing sidewalks along this section of downtown Pagosa Springs to reopen storefront access as quickly as possible. The project team has worked tirelessly with local businesses to coordinate short-term closures and complete the work efficiently ahead of the busy ■ See Vandalism A8

Town adopts 2026 budget following approval of ballot measure 2A

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer
On Nov. 6, the Pagosa Springs Town Council adopted a new budget and five-year capital plan for 2026. The budget was first presented to the public in September and the council has since held two work sessions to give staff direction on

how the council wanted to direct expenditures. The big "what if" question lingering over this budget season was Ballot Measure 2A, a ballot question asking town voters to strengthen the town's sewer infrastructure by raising the sales tax within the town's boundaries by 1 percent to pay for ■ See Budget A8

September sales tax collections up 7.78 percent over September 2024

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Sales tax collections in Archuleta County for the month of September were reported to be up 7.78 percent compared to figures from September 2024, according to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on Nov. 6.

Eaton's report notes that the 7.78 percent increase translates to a total of \$128,366.45 more received in September 2025 than in September 2024. Sales tax collections have been up in the county every month so far this year in the month-to-month comparisons with 2024, with the biggest increase coming in February, which ■ See Tax A9

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Tuesday night's aurora borealis is seen from Lobo Overlook. Sky watchers across a good portion of the U.S. were treated to displays of the northern lights this week, with Pagosa Country being no exception.

Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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(970) 264-2100
PagosaSUN.com
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Mailing: PO Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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SUN STAFF

Owner, CEO

Jim O'Rourke

Publisher, Advertising, Circulation

Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

Editor

Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

Reporters

Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com

Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com

Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

Classified Advertising/Front Office

classads@pagosasun.com

Head Pressroom Robert Pentton

Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon

Mailroom William Thomas

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OUR VIEW

Don't be dumb and jobs well done

Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. sharp, the phone rang. While not unusual, this call was different.

It was a representative of the U.S. 160 reconstruction project, and they weren't happy.

They invited us over to the construction site so we could see where someone, either deliberately or while completely oblivious to the world around them, was dumb enough to walk through freshly poured concrete, setting the project back days and increasing the budget.

We feel this should go without saying, but here goes: Don't be dumb.

This one act set the project back by an estimated two days and more than \$10,000, and could compromise the ability of the construction team to have all of the sidewalk concrete on the 400 block done ahead of Thanksgiving week — a time when our businesses rely on a boost of visitors.

It also could set the individual back, with the Colorado Department of Transportation noting the vandalism has been reported to law enforcement.

For the benefit of our community and the workers, let's not stretch this project out any longer than necessary when we all want it to be completed so things can

get back to normal. And let's keep in mind these construction folks are here to do a job, and they're contributing to our community while they're here. We don't need to make their jobs more difficult.

Tuesday, thankfully, started off a bit better and featured one of our favorite events of the year to photograph — the annual Veterans Day breakfast hosted by Pagosa Springs Middle School eighth-graders.

The breakfast started in 2001 and for almost every year since (2020 was a different story), has been a heartwarming and educational event that, as far as we can tell, benefits everyone in attendance.

Veterans are honored, treated to a home-cooked breakfast and fellowship with other veterans, and have the opportunity to share about themselves, their history in the Armed Forces and U.S. history with younger generations.

Veterans also share a flag ceremony, explaining what each fold of the flag means, as well as some history of Veterans Day and more.

Students have the opportunity to learn about these experiences and history, perhaps hear different viewpoints, practice numerous skills in interviewing and speaking

with the veterans, and provide a wonderful example of community service. They also honor the veterans with music presented by the school's band and choir.

All together, it's a recipe for not only a wonderful breakfast, but also an experience that will stick with the veterans and students for years to come.

Another job well done we'd like to highlight this week is the effort of the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team.

The team's season and playoff qualification are both great reasons to have Pirate pride, and we've had several conversations over the last few days about the growth the team showed this fall.

From starting the season 1-3 to competing with a team that had previously beat them 41-0 until the final buzzer sounded during Saturday's playoff game, the team showed grit, determination and impressive growth. The team left it all on the field and should be proud of the 44-38 final score, even if they were on the wrong end of it.

We congratulate the Pirates on an impressive season and encourage them to hold their heads high. With the qualities they've shown, the future is bright for these student athletes.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Nov. 26, 1970, **Pagosa SUN — DEVELOPMENT WORK — Fred Ebeling, project manager at Pagosa, is looking at a new fence installation made by a land owner in the Pagosa Meadow Development. The land is owned by Fred Mears of Oklahoma City. The plot is approximately six acres in size and was purchased about three months ago. Mr. Mears, who is in the industrial janitorial service business, plans to build within the next year.**

Archuleta County Commissioners

Veronica Medina, Chair

veronica.medina@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8305

John Ranson

jranson@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8307

Warren Brown

warren.brown@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8304

Pagosa Springs Town Council

Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov

Leonard Martinez

lmartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov

Gary Williams

gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov

Mat deGraaf

mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov

Brooks Lindner

blindner@pagosasprings.co.gov

Matt DeGuisse

mdeguise@pagosasprings.co.gov

Madeline Bergon

mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		NA	NA
			Moisture	Type		
11/4	61	27	0.00	NA	NA	NA
11/5	64	24	0.00	NA	NA	NA
11/6	58	25	0.00	NA	NA	NA
11/7	56	21	0.00	NA	NA	NA
11/8	56	22	0.00	NA	NA	NA
11/9	57	21	0.00	NA	NA	NA
11/10	60	23	0.00	NA	NA	NA

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 13, 1925

The rig to be used in drilling the Haystack structure, on the Jose Espinosa ranch in Burns canon, is now being moved from Kearns station over the divide between Cat creek and Burns canon. It has been necessary to build a portion of new road, but it is thought that the machinery will be on the ground some time next week, when drilling operations will commence.

A United States naturalization examiner from the district office at Denver will be in Pagosa Springs next Tuesday, Nov. 17th. Those having problems in that department should confer with Reef Egger, clerk of the district court, before said date.

Auto travel is rather on the bum since the storms of last week, but the Pagosa Springs — Durango road is passable but slow.

The thermometer dropped to zero three different mornings in Pagosa Springs the past week.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 17, 1950

Nearly every local business house, will close for the football game, Friday at the Red Ryder Round-Up grounds. The local boys are looking for revenge as a result of their defeat by Ignacio earlier in the season. This will be a good game and a large crowd is expected to turn out.

Mr. Lacewell, superintendent of schools, announced this week that the school buses will go through town prior to the game and anyone without transportation to the rodeo grounds is welcome to a ride.

The first real snow of the season arrived Tuesday morning of this week after a fall of exceptionally dry weather. About three inches of the "beautiful white" fell here in town with more falling at the higher altitudes. The snow in town did not stay long, with most of it being gone by Thursday noon.

The continental divide is all white, for the first time this fall. The past few weeks have been exceptional, in that no moisture has fallen and the weather has continued mild. On Thursday night of last week the mercury took a dip and stayed fairly consistent until it warmed for the snow fall.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 13, 1975

Weather continues very mild here and there has been no measurable precipitation in town this past week. A very light skiff of snow fell on the high mountains but there is no appreciable snow pack there at present. Back in the woods and in deep canyons there is some snow but not enough to make it winter-like. Wolf Creek Ski Area is ready to open just as soon as there is sufficient snow.

Ronnie Willett was presented with an award by Carlos Trujillo, American Legion Post Commander, for his efforts in preparing and producing a history of the Legion post and its members. The presentation was made at a dinner Tuesday night.

The fountain on the downtown parking fill was turned on last week after being off curing the construction of a catch basin around the base of the fountain and a working drain to the river. The hot mineral water will now be drained away without leaving a mud puddle around the base of the fountain.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
November 9, 2000

George W. Bush was the overwhelming presidential choice of Archuleta County voters at Tuesday's general election.

In an election day when 62 percent of the county's 7,700 registered voters took time to visit the polls. 2,988 of those voters marked Bush's name on the ballot while 1,432 voted for Al Gore.

On county ballot issues, Bill Downey and Alden Ecker have been elected county commissioners, a proposed county use tax was soundly defeated, and term limits for county elected officials excepting commissioners were removed.

"Everything went pretty smoothly here," said June Madrid, the Archuleta County clerk and election official. "We finished counting about midnight, which is average. The 62 percent turnout is good, but not a record. In 1992, 78 percent turned out and in 1996 the turnout was 68 percent.

Concerning a town proposal on the ballot to create a town improvement district in place of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation District, voters okayed creation of the improvement district, but voted against the financial measures needed for creating the improvement district.





Charles (Chuck) Edward Highum

Charles (Chuck) Edward Highum, a proud Vietnam veteran, devoted father and beloved member of the Pagosa Springs community, passed away Nov. 3, 2025, at his log cabin home on the lower Blanco River in Pagosa Springs, Colo.



Born on March 9, 1950, in Richmond, Va., to James G. Highum Sr. and Myrtle Lou (Childers) Highum, Chuck spent his early years growing up amid the rolling farm country of northern Minnesota. In 1960, the family caravanned west to Albuquerque, N.M., where he would spend his formative years. He attended Collet Park and Acoma elementary schools, Jackson Junior High, and graduated from Manzano High School in 1968.

Shortly after graduation, Chuck answered the call to serve his country. He completed two combat tours in Vietnam with Company A44, 36th Signal Battalion, First Signal Brigade. His service was marked by courage, dedication and a steadfast sense of duty to his fellow soldiers and his country — qualities that would continue to define his life long after his time in uniform.

Following his military service, Chuck built a life centered on hard

work, creativity and family. He worked in sales at Ramblin Boots and later at Prudential Insurance Company. Later, he became the proud owner and craftsman behind Coyote Tile Designs, where his artistic eye and skilled hands brought beauty into countless homes and spaces. His work reflected his character — strong, authentic and made to last.

In later years, Chuck retired to the serenity of his log cabin along the Blanco River in Pagosa Springs, Colo. There, surrounded by the mountains and nature he loved, he found peace and fulfillment. He cherished the visits from family, long talks on the porch and quiet mornings listening to the river.

Chuck is survived by his four children: Carrie Jo Nelson and her partner Angelo Martinez, of Farmington, N.M.; Amy Hill, of Farmington, N.M.; Jenny Highum and her partner Jay Diffey, of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; and Charles Jerrod Highum, of Seattle, Wash. He is also survived by his brother, John Albert Highum; nephews Jonathan Highum and Paul Jacob Highum; nieces Christine Highum, Holly Highum and Gwynne Highum-McMurry; grandchildren Noelle Phillips, Parker Hill, Spencer Hill, Riley Hill, Zachary Nelson, Olivia Diffey, Talbot Diffey and Evelyn Diffey; and great-grandson Korben Phillips.

He was preceded in death by his father, James G. Highum Sr.; mother Myrtle Lou Highum; brother James G. Highum Jr.; sister Nancy Ellen Highum-Berry; brother Paul Steven Highum; niece Renee Berry; and

nephew Timothy Highum.

Chuck will be remembered for his resilience, humor, generosity and the quiet strength that defined his life. His legacy lives on in the family he loved, the craftsmanship he left behind and the beauty he found in a life well-lived.

A service with military honors will be held at Santa Fe National Cemetery on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Cassandra Smith

Cassandra Smith, 41, was born on Jan. 28, 1984, to Cynthia (Horst) Walton in Pratt, Kan. She graduated from Bluestem High School in Leon, Kan. Cassandra passed away at home on Nov. 3. She is survived by her husband, Joshua Smith; daughter, Auna Barker, of Cheyenne, Wyo.; mother, Cynthia Walton, of Pratt, Kan.; sister, Jessica Brown, Pratt, Kan.; brothers, Steven Points, of El Dorado, Kan., Jeremy (Carrie) Moon, of Pratt, Kan., and Zachary Moon, Pratt, Kan.; and her grandparents, including Royalynn Horst. Cremation will take place.

Joyce Eva Wilde

July 6, 1934-Nov. 5, 2025
Pagosa Springs, Colo.
Born on July 6, 1934, in Birkenhead, England, to John and Eva Mullen, Joyce “Jo” Wilde lived a life defined by courage, love and devotion to family.

A survivor of the WWII Blitz, Jo’s resilience and strength were evident from an early age. She later immigrated to Ontario, Canada, where she met and married A.V. Wilde.

Together, they built a beautiful family, raising four children: Deborah (deceased), Kenneth, David and Christopher (deceased).

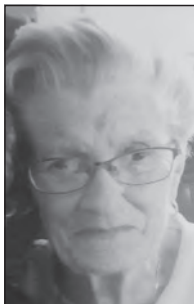
In 1967, Jo and her family immigrated once more — this time to California — where she made a warm and welcoming home that became the heart of her family and community. No one who came to Jo’s door was ever turned away; she had a way of turning friends into family and making everyone feel like they belonged.

Jo was the rock of her family. She selflessly devoted her later years to caring for two of her ailing children and helping raise two of her granddaughters — an enduring testament to her love, strength and compassion.

She is survived by her sons, Kenneth and David; daughters-in-law, Alma and Beth; sisters, Olive and Eileen; granddaughters, Adrienne, Shannon, Jacqueline and Jennifer; and great-grandchildren, Andrew, Jackie, Michael, Noah and Olivia.

Jo is preceded in death by her beloved husband, A.V. Wilde; mother, Eva Pursall; daughter, Deborah Wirs-galla; son, Christopher Wilde; and granddaughter Jacqueline Wilde.

Her presence was a gift to all who knew her — a part of our lives that can never be replaced. She will be forever loved and deeply missed.



Obituaries



■ Continued from A3

I may be next

Dear Editor:

I may be next.

The 27 October arrest of Mr. Jaramillo-Solano in Durango makes it clear that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will incarcerate people who have a legal right to live and move freely in the United States. The fact that ICE has admitted that Mr. Jaramillo-Solano was a mistaken target but has not, as of 5 November, released him from custody reveals that erroneously arrested individuals will not be released promptly.

Put these two facts together and we have a situation in which ICE could arrest a US citizen, deport that person to, say, an El Salvadorian prison, then admit a mistake but

leave the deportee in a location it can claim is outside its jurisdiction. And voila: A citizen is disappeared.

The federal administration has made it clear via vice-presidential comments that we should only want to live next to people we have “something in common with.” It is apparently not enough to have in common both humanity and a desire to live in peaceful community; the vice president expects everyone to speak the same language and perhaps have the same culture.

I expect the people around me to speak different languages. I work with people who do not speak English, and I am not threatened by them. I would like to learn their language, and will help them learn mine. I have neighbors whose daily language is not mine. I still feel at home in our

community. My life is richer for having neighbors who are very different from me.

It is a mistake to deport as many people as possible from the United States. Allowing entry to the US for people who do not speak English and are very different from me serves as a critical element in our society’s success. This perspective may now make me a candidate for being disappeared by a federal agency that can mask my removal as a mistake. The stakes are higher now not only for immigrants (legal or otherwise) but also for citizens. What is to be done?

Support organizations that defend legal immigrants in court, and those that defend civil rights. Their work will become more important in the coming months. Support friends and neighbors who speak a different language than you. Your hospitality is crucial. And press for changes to immigration law that will make the United States a golden door of opportunity for the world of masses yearning to breathe free.

Emrys Tyler

Pagosa West

Dear Editor:

Concerning the October 28th public meeting about the proposed Pagosa West development, a heartfelt thank you to all of you who appeared at the public hearing, spoke at the public hearing, wrote letters to the editor, designed a newspaper ad, donated for an ad, talked with your friends, signed our park petition, and supported our effort in anyway to have the developer of Pagosa West listen to our concerns.

You should know that we are not alone in our concerns. Over 700 residents of Archuleta County signed a petition of non-support, and this list was shared with the Town Council and Town Planning Commission, along with the Town Manager, Mayor,



Photo courtesy Eric Davison

The Aspen Springs Metro District’s building sports a new sign in honor of Carey Brown, who recently stepped down from the district’s public works manager role. He helped build the roads beginning in 1982 and has been working full-time on the district’s roads since 1984. Brown hasn’t left the district completely, however; he continues to work part-time, including mentoring the district’s new public works manager, Ryan Keifer.

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Business

Fitch Ratings assigns A+ credit rating to LPEA, affirming strong financial position

La Plata Electric Association

Fitch Ratings, a global credit rating agency, has assigned a first-time long-term issuer default rating of A+ with a stable outlook to La Plata Electric Association Inc. (LPEA), reflecting the cooperative's strong financial health, prudent management, and steady operational performance.

"Our focus has always been on serving our members and our community first," said Nicole Pitcher, president of the LPEA Board of Directors. "This rating affirms the strength of the strategic decisions made by LPEA's leadership and the disciplined execution of our staff. Together, we continue to demonstrate that a small rural cooperative can deliver reliable, forward-thinking service while maintaining strong financial stewardship."

The A+ rating recognizes LPEA's strong utility fundamentals and Fitch's expectation that the cooperative will maintain its solid financial profile following its planned exit from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association in April 2026.

Upon exit, LPEA will make a con-

tract termination payment to Tri-State to account for its share of remaining power purchase and debt obligations.

"Receiving our first-ever credit rating, and achieving an A+, is a major milestone for LPEA," said Chris Hansen, LPEA CEO. "It underscores the strength of our financial and operational foundation as we transition toward energy independence and increased local generation for our members."

Fitch highlighted LPEA's:

- Service territory with strong, growing demand characteristics.
- Low operating costs that may decline further as LPEA transitions to a more diversified and locally focused power supply portfolio.
- Prudent capital investments that sustain and expand system reliability and capacity.
- Effective management of its power supply transition to ensure a diverse, cost-competitive resource mix.

Fitch also assessed LPEA's revenue defensibility as "very strong," citing the cooperative's role as the sole electricity provider in an economically

sound region with a steadily growing member base.

"From a financial perspective, this rating confirms that our disciplined approach to capital investment, cost control and strategic planning is paying off," said Patrick Berry, LPEA chief financial officer. "It positions us well to access cost-efficient financing and to deliver long-term value for our membership."

Additionally, Fitch recognized that LPEA's electric rates are highly affordable and have become increasingly competitive with other providers across Colorado, while the cooperative's overall financial profile remains strong.

The A+ credit rating benefits LPEA's members and communities by helping the cooperative secure lower borrowing costs and more favorable financing terms. This strong financial position supports continued investment in reliability improvements, wildfire mitigation and grid modernization, keeping power affordable and infrastructure resilient for years to come.

Additional information on Fitch's LPEA rating is available at <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/us-public-finance/fitch-assigns-la-plata-electric-association-inc-co-first-time-a-idr-outlook-stable-07-11-2025>.

PSMC Physical and Occupational Therapy Educational Talk | Meet & Greet



Sierra Sosa
Occupational
Therapist



Bill O'Connell, Jackie Rea, Peg Wanta, Physical Therapists
Stefanie Dodson, Physical Therapist Assistant

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Local people, local reporting.

2026 Business Happy Hour calendar set

By Sandy Douthey

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Business Happy Hour calendar has been set for 2026.

Thank you to all the businesses that signed up for Business Happy Hour 2026. We are pleased to announce our winners:

- Feb. 26, 2026: Community United Methodist Church.
- March 19, 2026: To be determined.
- April 23, 2026: Bank of the San Juans and Patria Pagosa.
- May 28, 2026: Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership and Town of Pagosa Springs.
- June 25, 2026: Pagosa Community Initiative.
- July 23, 2026: AnthroEvolve Cooperative.
- Aug. 27, 2026: Pagosa Springs Medical Center.
- Oct. 22, 2026: Pagosa Baking

Company.

- Nov. 19, 2026: TBK Bank.
- Dec. 17, 2026: Galles Properties.

Small Business Saturday Nov. 29

This is a reminder for businesses to sign up with their offerings or discounts for Small Business Saturday. The Chamber of Commerce and Pagosa Springs Main Street are teaming up to promote your businesses.

Visit <https://forms.gle/88rFwpEdCDLDPEas9> to fill in the survey with your participation.

Small Business Saturday is an important date to shop local. Not only do businesses offer great deals and fun to get you into the store, but you are also supporting your neighbors and friends in their livelihood.

So, shop small, have fun and say thank you. Make it a fun day with family and friends and shop, eat and be merry in Pagosa Springs.

18th annual Fill the Bucket food drive returning to Pagosa Springs Nov. 22

La Plata Electric Association

As food banks across the region experience rising demand, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 111 are stepping up with the 18th annual Fill the Bucket food drive in a coordinated effort to collect food and funds that will directly support families in Durango, Pagosa Springs and surrounding communities.

Community members are encouraged to drop off nonperishable food items or monetary donations directly into LPEA's bucket trucks.

The Durango event benefiting the Durango Food Bank will take place Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Alberston's parking lot.

The Pagosa Springs events benefiting Healthy Archuleta will take place Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the City Market parking lot and Natural Grocers parking lot.

How to participate

• Donate food: Stop by any event location and place your nonperishable food items into the bucket trucks stationed on-site.

• Donate funds: Cash donations will be accepted at all event locations. Monetary contributions may also be dropped off at LPEA offices in Durango or Pagosa Springs.

Every dollar collected goes directly to the benefiting food banks to purchase essential groceries.

Why it matters

As rising food costs strain household budgets, local food banks depend on community generosity more than ever. The Fill the Bucket food drive brings together neighbors, utility workers and volunteers to help ensure families across La Plata and Archuleta counties have access to nutritious food as the holiday season approaches.

For more information on the Fill the Bucket event, visit <https://lpea.coop/events/18th-annual-ibew-fill-bucket-food-drive>.

Card of Thanks

Pagosa Sewer Solutions Committee

On behalf of the Pagosa Sewer Solutions Committee, we would like to thank all who turned out to vote in favor of Ballot Measure 2A. As a committee we learned a great deal about concerns as well as the support for addressing this critical need.

Co-chairs David Hamilton and Leonard Martinez

Local people • Local news



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>



240 Glade Drive • \$1,075,000

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



33 Fawn Court • \$949,000

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>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court \$899,000

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
\$649,000

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
\$230,000

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 dogs 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.



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



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



Gail Brault
REALTOR®, Broker Associate
C: 970.946.2051
GailBrault1957@gmail.com



Barbara Swindlehurst
REALTOR®, BROKER/ OWNER
C: 303.618.7423
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Education



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Pagosa’s district-wide music educators collaborated on a Rotary Mini Grant to purchase a house microphone for the high school auditorium and Art Teacher Linda Lutomski received a grant for a creative classroom project. Pictured, back row, left to right, are: Pagosa Family School (PFS) Interim Principal Sara Blakemore, PFS Elementary Art Teacher Lutomski and PFS Middle School Art Teacher Lisa Kopplinger. Front row, left to right, are Rotarians Pat Love and CiCi Stuart, Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) Music Teacher Malinda Burnett, PFS/PSMS Music Teacher Katrina Thomas, Pagosa Springs High School Music Director Leo Baughman and Pagosa Springs Elementary School Music Teacher Anika Borders.



Photo courtesy Jeanelle Wychesit

At Pagosa Peak Open School, Sarah Troxtell and Kelle Bruno will use their Rotary Mini Grants to nurture both hearts and minds through mindfulness weaving projects and a photojournalism exploration of human rights and family migration stories. They are pictured with Rotarians Helen Richardson (left), Melanie Garrett and Cici Stuart (right).



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Jeanne Dahler (left), art teacher at San Juan Mountain School, and Principal Stewart Bellina will purchase a new sewing machine with funds made possible through a Rotary Mini Grant, helping students stitch together creativity and craftsmanship. They are pictured with Rotarians Pat Love and CiCi Stuart.



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

At Seeds of Learning, teachers are putting Rotary Mini Grants to work to enhance sensory learning and imaginative play for Pagosa’s youngest learners. Pictured, left to right, are Rotarian Pat Love, Tanara Lister, school executive director Emily Martinez, Jennifer Montoya and Rotarian CiCi Stuart.

Small grants, big impact: Rotary’s Teacher Mini Grants spark creativity in local classrooms

By Terri House
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Sometimes, it’s the smallest things that make the biggest difference. A single sewing machine, a microphone or even a light box can open doors to creativity, confidence and connection for students across Archuleta County.

That’s the heart of the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs’ Teacher Mini Grant Program, which once again this year proved that small investments can make a big impact in local classrooms.

The program awards grants of up to \$400 to individual teachers in preschool through 12th grade for innovative projects that enrich and enhance the student learning experience. Teachers can use the funds for materials, tools or creative ideas that wouldn’t otherwise be covered by school budgets — or that they might have paid for out of pocket. In some cases, teachers even pool their grants for greater student impact.

“The ultimate goal,” grant program chair CiCi Stuart explained, “is to benefit and affect as many students as possible.”

This year, 13 projects representing nine schools and serving more than 800 students received funding, for a total of more than \$4,000 awarded.

These small grants add up to a big impact — one that ripples through classrooms, schools and the entire community.

Music to their ears

Four music teachers from across the district collaborated to purchase a house microphone for the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium: Malinda Burnett, Katrina Thomas, Leo Baughman and Anika Borders.

“Our current performance recordings lose essential elements, such as the pit orchestra or ensemble performances, making these recordings drastically subpar to a live experience,” their application reads. “We have recently begun to acquire the neces-

sary equipment to record and stream performances that take place in the high school auditorium.”

The new microphone will not only help students better evaluate their performances, but also allow families — and the wider community — to experience concerts when they can’t attend in person.

“Having higher quality recordings really helps students accurately reflect on their ability and next steps to keep improving their musical skills,” the application continues. Community groups who use the auditorium will also benefit.

Stitching together skills

At San Juan Mountain School, teacher Jeanne Dahler requested a sewing machine to help students develop hands-on skills in pattern use, design and creation.

One of her goals, as noted in the application, is for students to “build works of art and design to demonstrate growth and proficiency in traditional and new art media.”

A small grant — and a simple sewing machine — will help make that vision a reality.

Art on wheels

At first glance, Heather Rose’s classroom at Pagosa Valor Academy might look a little different — because it’s on a bus.

“I get to teach art from a bus—just like Ms. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus!” she wrote.

Her mobile art studio is a creative solution to limited space, but Rose dreams of expanding beyond two-dimensional projects.

“Art tools become extensions of the artists themselves,” she explains.

With Rotary’s help, she’ll add tools like jewelry stamps, polymer clay and an art drying rack so students can explore new forms of expression.

“If students donate their 3D items for gifts or fundraising for humanitarian causes or school trips, they will effect social change,” Rose explained.

Her ultimate goal: to help students’ “ideation processes to develop artistic voice.”

Measuring up

At Pagosa Valor Academy, second-grade teacher Jeny Laugel is using her mini grant to enhance hands-on learning in math and measurement.

“The goals we have for our students in providing these materials are to have purposeful, guided, differentiated fun during learning,” Laugel wrote in her application. “We know these materials would provide a true visual and kinesthetic experience in measurement and data that would be most beneficial to overall student success.”

Her new manipulatives, games, and balance tools will make abstract math concepts tangible for young learners.

Exploring human rights through family stories

At Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS), fifth-grade teacher Kelle Bruno proposed an ambitious project titled “Human Rights and Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: How has your family migrated?”

“Students will enhance their literacy

■ See Grants A7

NOTICE OF Planning Commission Vacancy

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from Town residents interested in serving as a regular or alternate member of the Planning Commission. This position is appointed by the Town Council and plays an important role in reviewing development proposals and guiding the future growth of our community.

Planning Commission members serve a four-year term and generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Additional meetings or work sessions may be scheduled for specific planning and development topics. Interested individuals must be a Town resident.

If you are committed to community service and interested in helping shape the future of Pagosa Springs, we encourage you to apply.

For more information, member qualifications, and applications to serve, visit www.mypagosa.org or contact oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-8610.

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School board reorganizes, discusses potential meeting day change

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

After a trio of board members were sworn in for new terms, the Archuleta School District Board of Education took several actions relating to the organization of the board at its meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The board held a special meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2, to cancel the school board election and deem David Iverson, Butch Mackey and Tim Taylor elected by acclamation, with the three then taking their oaths of office on Nov. 11.

According to the September resolution on the matter, no more than three individuals had nomination petitions with sufficient signatures to qualify as candidates, and the deadline for filing an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate has passed.

Taylor will serve a four-year term representing District 1. Mackey will serve a four-year term representing District 5. Iverson will serve a two-year term representing District 4.

After the board members were sworn in, the board elected officers, with Bob Lynch remaining the board president, Taylor remaining the board vice president and treasurer, and Amanda Schick taking on the

role of secretary.

Human Resource Director/Liaison to Board of Education Heather Schultz will remain the board's assistant secretary, and Finance Director Eric Burt will remain the board's assistant treasurer.

The board then divvied up committee assignments:

- Early Childhood Council of Archuleta County: Taylor.
- San Juan Board of Cooperative Educational Services, or BOCES: Schick, with Lynch serving as alternate beginning in January.
- District Accountability Committee: Iverson.
- Colorado Association of School Boards legislative delegate: Lynch, with Taylor serving as alternate.
- Athletic Advisory Committee: Mackey.
- Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority: Lynch.

The board also entertained the idea of changing its regular meeting day due to the number of sporting events that take place on Tuesdays and the fact that some board members serve as coaches.

The board discussed that the first Wednesday of the month would likely have fewer conflicts and anticipates voting on changing the board policy

relating to its meeting day at its next regular meeting on Dec. 9.

Other business

In other business at the meeting, the board:

- Discussed holding a board strategic planning retreat on April 16, 2026.
- Heard an update from Burt that the district's draft audit shows zero findings and that, for the first time in years, the district will not need to request an extension to submit the audit from the state.
- Superintendent Rick Holt noted Burt has been "tenacious" in the quest for having zero findings on the audit.
- Burt also noted the district's single audit has been affected by the government shutdown, but that he anticipates the board hearing the audit at its December meeting.
- Holt reported to the board that the district's attendance has hovered around 90 percent the last few years, with the figure currently at 92.3 percent for the current school year.
- Holt also presented an update on the district's new cellphone policy.
- Holt reported there have been 153 cellphone incidents since the start of the school year involving 122 differ-

ent students.

He highlighted that's fewer than 1 percent of students in the district.

Holt also noted that, of the 153 incidents, 133 took place at Pagosa Springs High School involving 105 kids.

He indicated the district's parents, "by and large," have been "great partners" and the new policy removing phones from classrooms has had "overwhelmingly" positive impacts, with students less distracted.

• Heard a report from Schultz that the district has had lower teacher turnover rates than the state for the last three years.

• Briefly discussed potential new school locations in anticipation of the Nov. 17 Master Planning Advisory Committee meeting, where the committee will hear preliminary engineering data related to two sites being considered: on the campus of the high school and on Vista Boulevard.

Taylor noted that he and Mackey had visited the high school site earlier that day and encouraged his fellow board members to be creative and open to all options when looking at available space and configurations.

"Monday will be very interesting," Lynch said.

That meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. in the middle school library.

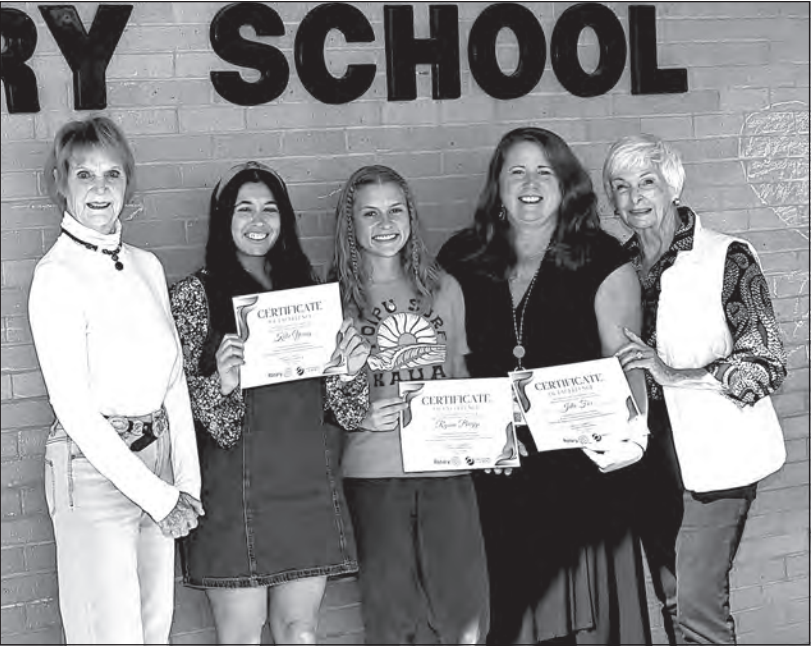


Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Pagosa Springs Elementary School teachers (center left to right) Katie Young, Ryann Briggs and Julie Fox celebrate receiving Rotary Teacher Mini Grants from Pat Love (left) and CiCi Stuart (right) that will spark curiosity, creativity and connection in their classrooms — from STEM exploration to bilingual literacy and preschool play.



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

Teachers Heather Rose and Jeny Laugel of Pagosa Valor Academy bring color, creativity and hands-on learning to students through "art-on-the-go" and engaging math and measurement projects — made possible by Rotary Mini Grant funding. Pictured, left to right, are Rotarian Pat Love, Rose, Laugel, and Rotarians Melanie Garrett and Helen Richardson.

Grants

■ Continued from A6

while also interpreting and reflecting on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship," Bruno wrote.

Using "Esperanza Rising" by Pam Muñoz Ryan as an anchor text, students will research their family's migration stories and document them through photojournalism.

Rotary's grant will fund cameras for their work.

"Students will share their findings through a photo essay that tells the story of their subject," Bruno added — a lesson in both humanity and history.

Weaving mindfulness and connection

Sarah Troxtell, restorative practices coordinator at PPOS, will use her mini grant to purchase 20 weaving looms to support mindfulness and emotional regulation.

These hands-on activities promote reflection, focus and a sense of belonging.

"Restorative practices are central to how we build relationships, support student growth, and create a safe, inclusive school culture," Troxtell explained.

Lighting up young minds

At Seeds of Learning, preschool teacher Jennifer Montoya focuses on sensory learning for children ages 3.5 to 4.5, some of whom are visually impaired. Her mini grant provides light boxes, flashlights and sand for hands-on activities that enhance both sight and touch.

Down the hall, Tanara Lister is enriching dramatic play in the Dragonfly Room with new pretend kitchen sets, play food and home office toys for children ages 2.5 to 3.5 — many experiencing their first time away from home.

Growing new opportunities

This year, Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES) opened its first preschool program. Teacher Ryann Briggs will use her mini grant to fill classrooms with books, games, counting tools and art materials that spark learning through play.

From STEM to storytelling

Fourth-grade teacher Katie Young at PSES is using her grant for "From Curiosity to Creation: STEM for Growing Minds." The funds will provide supplies for hands-on learning in engineering, coding and scientific exploration.

Empowering students in

every language

At the same school, Julie Fox, an English language development teacher, is building a bilingual library.

"Bilingual texts will empower students to see their culture and language reflected in their learning, promote inclusivity, and encourage families to engage in shared reading at home," she explained.

Her students speak Spanish, Vietnamese, Navajo and Portuguese — and these 40 new bilingual books will help bridge those worlds.

Tools of the trade

At Pagosa Family School (PFS), art teacher Lisa Kopplinger is rebuilding her art program with Rotary's help.

"The program will not only foster artistic ability but also cultivate a deeper understanding of art's role in society," she wrote.

Her grant will fund durable tools to last for years. These tools "are the keys that will unlock new creative possibilities for our students, fostering their skills and confidence as artists," Kopplinger added.

Drawing inspiration from the wild

Fellow PFS teacher Linda Lutomski, who teaches K-4 art/STEAM, requested books and photo references for lessons connecting art with nature.

"Each year, as I introduce animals and nature to my students, we learn about environments and adaptations," she said. The materials help students observe and compare, she adds, "a great literacy plus."

Mini grants, big ripple

Each of these mini grants represents

a spark — one that lights up curiosity, creativity and compassion in classrooms across Archuleta County.

And, in true Rotarian spirit, when the available funds were exhausted but one more worthy project remained, two members of the Rotary Mini Grant Committee quietly stepped up and contributed from their own pockets.

Their generosity made it possible to fund "A Little Sunshine" at PSES — an initiative led by Renea Smith that is designed to lift staff morale through small tokens of appreciation. The project aims to spread kindness, boost spirits and nurture a more positive, supportive school environment for both teachers and students.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs also awards \$20,000 in scholarships annually to graduating seniors, continuing its deep investment in education from preschool to college. And each fall — right around Thanksgiving, a season of gratitude — Rotarians visit local schools to present personal dictionaries to every third-grade student. It's a cherished tradition that celebrates the joy of learning and reminds young readers that their community believes in their potential.

These opportunities are made possible through the generous support of our community — Rotary sponsorships, participation in fundraisers and donations to the Pagosa Rotary Community Assistance Fund. Together, we're helping students and teachers thrive at every stage of their educational journey.

When you give to Rotary, you're giving to every child whose world gets a little brighter because a teacher had the means to dream big.

Learn more at pagosaspringsrotary.org.

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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Archuleta County’s new county court judge, Anthony Edwards, center, addresses the crowd after being sworn into his new role Wednesday afternoon. Edwards previously served as San Juan County Court judge since 2014. Edwards was sworn in by Sixth Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson, left. On right is R. Reid Stewart, who will take a position on the district court docket in January following Wilson’s retirement.

Wolf

■ Continued from front

bia, Canada, to Colorado earlier this year, according to CPW.

For information on living with wolves, visit <https://cpw.state.co.us/living-wolves>.

Federal letter

On Oct. 10, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik sent a letter to CPW Director Jeff Davis stating Colorado must translocate wolves obtained from certain parts of the United States.

Wolves released earlier this year were obtained from British Columbia, Canada, with CPW signing an

agreement to translocate more from the area this winter and stating that agreement was based on consultation with the federal agency.

The letter states that the 10(j) rule allows gray wolves to be obtained from the delisted northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) population areas of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, the eastern third of Oregon, the eastern third of Washington, and north-central Utah.

“We have reason to believe that CPW may be seeking to capture, transport, and/or release one or more wolves from areas outside of the specified NRM Areas outlined in the 10(j) rule. To the extent that

these reports are true, such actions are violative of the 10(j) rule. If CPW is currently engaged in such activities, CPW must immediately cease and desist any and all efforts related to the capture, transport and/or release of gray wolves not obtained from to [sic] the NRM Areas,” it states.

CPW issued the following statement following the federal letter:

“CPW continues to evaluate all options to support this year’s gray wolf releases in alignment with the approved Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan and the 10(j). CPW is currently evaluating recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) communication regarding available sources for gray wolves from the delisted Northern Rocky Mountain population areas.

“CPW has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a recently signed contract with British Columbia’s Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. Before this agreement was paused, it allowed CPW to translocate 10-15 wolves this winter in partnership with British Columbia. This MOU, as well as last year’s partnership, were based on consultations with USFWS and were signed before the letter from USFWS was received.” randi@pagosasun.com

Budget

■ Continued from front

sewer repairs.

Town staff had prepared two budget scenarios, one where 2A failed and one where 2A passed, for the council, until it became known that the measure had passed by about a 76 percent margin, according to the town’s website.

Mayor Shari Pierce thanked the voters in a statement, saying, “On behalf of Town Council, I’d like to extend our deepest gratitude to the voters of Pagosa Springs and the advocates of 2A for their strong show of support and civic engagement.”

The biggest difference between the two budget scenarios was the one with 2A’s passage included expected revenues from the sales tax increase, and the town’s expected expenditures for repairs and maintenance of its troubled wastewater system.

Town Manager David Harris explained at the meeting that the town would create a new fund, called the Sewer Infrastructure and Facilities Fund (SIFF), where revenues from the new sales tax would flow and expenditures for sewer-related projects would stem.

Harris noted that the increased sales tax revenues are expected to bring in about \$3.7 million in the first year, but expenses for the sewer repairs would be about \$6.6 million in the same year.

He added that about \$2.4 million would need to be spent on the town’s continuing effort to repair what it calls category 4 and 5 problems with the aging sewer pipe system.

Other sewer-related expenditures for this coming year include engineering plans for a possible new downtown wastewater treatment plant and the town’s obligation to pay for 25 percent of the upgrade costs for the Vista wastewater treatment plant, owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District’s (PAWSD).

The town will also be adding a new employee to the Public Works Department and will be purchasing a new vehicle for the public works fleet, Harris added.

With the passage of 2A and the creation of the SIFF, “there are a lot of moving parts,” he said, and “we’ll have a better idea” of where the town stands

after the first year of the increased revenues and costs of the big projects.

Council member Leonard Martinez expressed he wanted to make sure that the council works hard to help the people who voted for the 2A measure by possibly lowering the sewer rates.

“We need to show that we understand this will be here for a while and help those who voted for it,” he said.

Harris explained that the new budget does include an increase in sewer rates from \$71.25 per month to \$76.25. “That is baked into this,” he said.

One way to think about this going forward, he suggested, is that the sewer rate fees would be used as “the maintenance and operation budget,” and the SIFF funds would “be for capital projects ...where you’ll be taking the money for those big projects.”

He also clarified, “Let me be clear, we are not asking you to approve rates tonight,” explaining that the rates would be set when the council sets its fee schedule for 2026.

“For now, we are asking y’all to approve the budget with the increases that are baked into the revenue and if we change it later, then we change it later,” he said.

Martinez expressed concern that “those increases are gonna be a hardship for some people,” saying that he has “found a partner to actually create a fund that will help people to pay for the monthly sewer bill if they are not able to make it.”

Harris explained that “once we get a few months under our belt, we’ll know better how that sales tax is performing,” but, right now, “there’s a lot of moving parts.”

Speaking to the most immediate sewer problems, stemming from October’s flooding event, Public Works Director Karl Johnson explained that, on Oct. 29, his staff had performed a “temporary repair of the gravity [sewer] line” that runs under the 1st Street bridge.

The town had temporarily set up a bypass of this line after it was severed by flood debris, but staff was “having trouble keeping it functioning,” Johnson said.

The new repaired pipe is PVC, he explained, and it would not likely withstand “another flooding event”

of the magnitude of the recent flood, making it a “weak link” in the system.

Public works staff believed it was the “best long-term solution for the short-term before we can construct that lift station over there,” which would allow the town to “decommission the gravity main that is on the bridge,” he said.

An unprecedented amount of unwanted water inflow and infiltration (known as I and I) also impacted the town’s uphill wastewater conveyance system, with Johnson saying that the “Wednesday after the storm saw a peak of 1.5 million gallons” of water was being pumped “uphill through the conveyance system.”

He explained that it has since come down to “more normal” levels of 350,000 gallons of water or less, but, he explained at a previous meeting, these “spikes of I and I” would probably accelerate deterioration of the piping system, turning some Category 4 problems into Category 5 problems and so on and so forth.

Last spring, the council conducted a strategic planning retreat, where it framed its broad vision for the future and its priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

Out of that retreat, the council, as a body stated, “We are an engaged community with access to natural spaces, opportunities for sustainable growth and respect for our heritage.”

The main points from its strategic vision statement included:

- “We have a cultural infrastructure with inviting spaces.”
- “Our downtown is the center of gravity.”
- “Residents are involved in the Town’s activities and direction.”
- “We have the necessary infrastructure: people, recreation, technology, utilities.”
- “Our growth is planned, sustainable, and beneficial to our residents.”

Leading into budget season, the council then updated its goals and objectives for the upcoming year’s budget.

The council decided to break these priorities into tiers, with tier 1 being of the highest priority for the budget and tier 3 the lowest.

The council’s tier 1 priorities for the 2026 budget include the sanitation



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Vandalism

■ Continued from front

Thanksgiving holiday.

“This act of vandalism is not a harmless prank — it’s a costly setback,” said CDOT Regional Program Engineer Kevin Curry. “The damage to the newly poured sidewalk will require full removal and replacement, adding unnecessary expense and delay to the project.”

The estimated cost of repairs exceeds \$10,000, including demolition,

replacement and additional labor. Crews will now have to remove the damaged concrete and repour the affected section, diverting time and resources from other planned work.

Local law enforcement has been notified and is actively investigating. Anyone with information or possible video evidence related to the incident is asked to contact the Pagosa Springs Police Department at (970) 264-4151.

Entering a clearly marked con-

struction zone without authorization constitutes criminal trespass under Colorado law. Acts of vandalism on state property can result in hefty fines, jail time and restitution for the full cost of the damage.

CDOT and its contractor appreciate the continued patience and cooperation of downtown businesses and the public as the project team works to safely complete this important improvement project.

County discusses petition in condemnation filed by LPEA

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Oct. 14, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) filed a petition in condemnation against Archuleta County residents Jack and Rosemary Barrett and CenturyTel of Colorado, formerly known as Universal Telephone Company of Colorado.

The property is located on the south side of U.S. 160 across from Lower Piedra Road.

The Barretts discussed the situation with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) at an Oct. 21 work session.

During that work session, Commissioner John Ranson stated that there are residents in the county “who have issues with LPEA.”

Questions over easements associated with the Barrett’s property were brought up, with Ranson stating that LPEA “couldn’t find” those easements.

Ranson also expressed frustration with LPEA’s responsiveness on the matter, saying, “poor communication, by the way.”

Jack Barrett explained that LPEA is planning to install a 115 volt transmission line through his property.

According to the petition filed on Oct. 14 by LPEA, “Petitioner is obligated to provide electric energy to its members within its service territory and is authorized to construct public improvements for that purpose, including to rebuild in place and convert an existing 69kV line to a 115kV line from Bayfield, Colorado, to Pagosa Springs, Colorado, bringing a transmission line of adequate capacity that will increase the reliability of power from the Bayfield substation in La Plata County, Colorado, to Petitioner’s Ponderosa substation on the western side of Archuleta County, Colorado, along with the installation of fiber for improved internet connectivity to operate the electric transmission facilities. This project is

referred to as the Archuleta Reliability Upgrade project (the ‘Project’).”

The petition also states that the “Petitioner has determined that acquisition of the Easement is necessary for the uses stated herein and has approved by Board Resolution No. 2024-15 dated November 20, 2024, acquisition of the Easement through the exercise of eminent domain.”

During the Oct. 21 work session, Ranson commented that the letter of condemnation was submitted against the Barretts “so that LPEA can move these new electrical wires literally right through their property and basically over their house, as far as I can see.”

Commissioner Veronica Medina also expressed frustration with LPEA’s communication on the matter, explaining she had reached out to LPEA CEO Chris Hansen and received no response.

“I think they need to hear that this is not OK,” Medina said, stating that there are other possible solutions to explore, and potentially a better path for the community as a whole. “I don’t want this to be an easy process for LPEA to do this.”

Medina explained that it might not be the ideal path for LPEA, but that she would think LPEA would want to do what’s right, “not just what makes sense to their pocket, even though that pocket is filled by each and everyone of us.”

Ranson described the situation as a “classic example of a big entity trying to take advantage of people.”

A response to the petition was submitted by attorneys representing CenturyTel on Oct. 30, which states it “denies any allegations in the Petition not expressly admitted in this answer.”

Of the 17 allegations in the petition, CenturyTel admits only to the first one, being that the petitioner is a Colorado electric distribution cooperative organized under the provisions of C.R.S 40-9.5-101.

The BoCC continued discussion on the matter during its regular work

session held on Nov. 5, with Ranson bringing the topic up during items of mutual interest.

Ranson stated he had to “kind of gripe, if you will,” stating he wanted the other commissioners’ thoughts on inviting a member of LPEA to a work session, indicating there are at least two problems with people in Archuleta County getting letters of condemnation.

Ranson also mentioned a future project for getting three-phase power installed at Stevens Field Airport before stating, “this is not the LPEA we knew of yesterday and they’re being really difficult, as far as I’m concerned, for Archuleta County.”

Ranson mentioned a couple of reasons for bringing up the topic, indicating he wanted to revisit the conversation on long-term alternative power solutions.

“LPEA is not what it used to be,” Ranson added.

He explained the “county’s looking at investing” in bringing three-phase power to that area to create more jobs and bring more businesses into the county.

“I would like to have somebody from their organization come and explain the condemnations and the process they’re going through,” Ranson said, stating that it is not fair for county residents to pay these “outrageous legal fees to fight them.”

Ranson explained that, historically, co-ops, “particularly this one,” are provided funds from local entities for them to do their work, and put those funds into their general fund while going to the federal government to “borrow” money at a 2 percent interest rate.

“I don’t want to see that with our money,” Ranson said, expressing that he wants a written document from LPEA stating that money given to them by Archuleta County for projects will not go into their general fund.

“Again, that’s just protecting our taxpayers,” he said.

Ranson also indicated he wants to ask someone from LPEA “face-to-face” if that is what they would do.

“I’m bothered by what they’re doing over here in Archuleta County, and I’d like to have Hansen, or somebody, come out and sit here face-to-face and explain what the heck they’re doing,” Ranson said. “I see multiple problems arising from this new administration that is not comfortable.”

Ranson continued to express his frustration with LPEA, stating, “Hansen won’t take my phone calls anymore.”

He then compared how LPEA operates in La Plata County to Archuleta County, claiming, “I know for a fact it’s worse here than it is in La Plata. La Plata gets treated way differently than Archuleta County does. Again, we’re supposed to be a cohort,” Ranson said, adding that this is a “pet-peeve” of his.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that he would be in support of having a work session with LPEA.

“If they will send someone, I would be interested in hearing what they have to say,” he said.

In a Nov. 12 email to The SUN, LPEA Strategic Communications Officer Amanda Anderson wrote, “LPEA has been communicating with the Barretts for several years to secure the easement needed for this project. We are saddened that multiple years of trying to find a mutually beneficial solution have not resulted in a voluntary agreement.

“After extensive discussions and multiple offers, LPEA filed a petition for condemnation on October 14, 2025, to acquire the necessary easement under Colorado law. The case is currently moving through the standard legal process.”

Anderson adds, “Easement acquisitions are a normal part of maintaining and improving our electric system, and we always strive to work in good faith with landowners to find fair, mutually beneficial solutions.”

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El Pomar Foundation’s Colorado Assistance Fund distributes \$1.5 million in immediate aid to nonprofits providing food assistance

El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Foundation’s Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF) was recently activated by El Pomar’s Board of Trustees to support nonprofit organizations all over Colorado providing food assistance in their communities.

The trustees approved \$1.5 million in grants to be distributed in the next week, ahead of the holiday season. This activation of CAF is in response to increasing food prices and growing food insecurity, as well as recent suspension of federal funding to critical food systems. The emergency funding is intended to provide some relief to both nonprofits working tirelessly to fill the gap and individuals counting on these systems.

Thanks to the year-round good work of hundreds of food security organizations across the state, from small community centers and churches to large regional food banks like Care and Share and Food Bank of the Rockies, thousands of individuals and families can rely on their important services every day. In moments like this, their important work becomes even more critical.

“Food insecurity continues to affect far too many families across Colorado, and the current need is as urgent as

ever,” said El Pomar President and CEO Kyle H. Hybl. “This is a stark reminder to each of us of our obligation to be in service to community, in our own ways and always — whether that’s through civic, nonprofit, church, school or neighborhood engagements. While we know issues like these are bigger than any one of us can solve, we hope this funding can come alongside other efforts to make a sizable difference.”

Recommendations for this CAF activation came from El Pomar Trustees, staff, and El Pomar’s 72 regional council members across the state. In total, 112 organizations all over Colorado will receive grants, reaching communities throughout the state.

Southwest Region grants include:

- Archuleta Seniors Inc., \$8,000.
- Compañeros: Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center, \$5,000.
- Dove Creek Care and Share Food Pantry, \$22,000.
- Healthy Archuleta Inc., \$15,000.
- Manna-The Durango Soup Kitchen, \$10,000.
- Pagosa Community Initiative, \$5,000.
- Pagosa Rotary Community Assistance Fund, \$5,000.
- The Piñon Project, \$10,000.

A complete list of these grants can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/4qT4w3T>.

“Time and again, Coloradans have demonstrated resiliency, rising to the opportunity to show compassion and care for one another,” added Hybl. “This is clearly one of those moments.”

This is the 11th time El Pomar Foundation has activated its CAF. The CAF was previously activated in five phases between 2008-2012 during and in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, in four phases in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently in 2023 to bolster nonprofit staff and leadership capacity-building and planning initiatives. Since it was first activated, the CAF has now distributed nearly \$12 million in grants to nonprofits.

For a full listing of El Pomar’s funds and grant-making areas, visit <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/>.

About El Pomar

El Pomar is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado.

El Pomar contributes approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health, and human services, as well as community engagement and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations.

In addition, the foundation owns and operates three historic properties: Penrose Heritage Museum, Penrose House Conference Center, and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun.

Tax

■ Continued from front

showed an 11.6 percent increase, or \$143,191 more.

The smallest increase in sales tax collections in the month-to-month comparison was in August, which saw just a .73 percent increase, or \$12,169.21 more than in August 2024.

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

Those figures translate to an average increase of 5.82 percent per month when comparing figures from January through September 2024 to the same period in 2025.

Through the first nine months of 2025, a total of \$760,369 more in sales tax collections has been reported than through the first nine months of 2024.

For the month of September, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,777,641.66 from the sales tax and retail marijuana

sales tax revenues, with \$886,281.73 going to the county and \$888,110.74 going to the town.

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

- Retail Trade at 15.52 percent, or \$135,264.17.
- Information at 21.67 percent, or \$6,046.63.
- Finance and Insurance at 25.62 percent, or \$484.12.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 12.38 percent, or \$1,645.50.
- Accommodation and Food Ser-

vices at 7.02 percent, or \$22,258.32.

- Miscellaneous at 5.91 percent, or \$12,575.52.

Categories that were down in the month-to-month comparison include:

- Construction at 38.76 percent, or \$20,235.65.
- Manufacturing at 22.03 percent, or \$18,680.80.
- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 3.03 percent, or \$928.85.
- Other Services (except Public Administration) at 27 percent, or \$10,044.51.

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Sports

Soccer



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' soccer coach and multiple players received Intermountain league (IML) all-conference awards for their efforts during the 2025 season. Pictured, left to right, are coach Trevor Gian (IML Coach of the Year), Hudson Davis (honorable mention), Ryder King (first team), Milo Deitemeyer (first team), Gavin Carter (first team, Player of the Year) and Jacob Castaneda (honorable mention). Not pictured is Chance Ramirez (first team).

Football

Pirates fall to No. 4 Elizabeth in close playoff battle

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football traveled to Elizabeth on Saturday, Nov. 8, to take on the Elizabeth Cardinals in the first round of the state's 2A division playoffs. The Pirates fell to the Cardinals by a score of 44-38 in a back-and-forth game with multiple lead changes.

Coach Nathan Morales explained the Pirates "left it all out there last Saturday," commending the team's effort on the season as a whole.

"There's no quit in those guys. They play like champions and they leave no doubts," Morales said, mentioning the Pirates grew throughout the season. "The kids played well, and they continued to grow and fight all year and that's all you can ask for as a coach."

According to stats entered into Max Preps and shared with The SUN, the opening quarter of the game saw the Pirates and Cardinals match each other with rushing touchdowns, tying at 7-7.

The Pirates gave up points first, but responded with a 1-yard rushing touchdown by Colton Lucero on their opening offensive possession.

The Cardinals were able to build a 22-7 lead halfway through the second quarter as the Pirates gave up two fumbles, with Morales noting that only one of the turnovers led to points for the Cardinals.

With under five minutes to go in the second quarter, Lucero broke off an 80-yard touchdown run, bringing the Pirates back within one score at 22-14.

A defensive stop for the Pirates allowed for their offense to take over again with under two minutes to play in the half.

Hudson Mazur connected with Lucero for a 7-yard touchdown pass as time expired. An unsuccessful two-point attempt left the score at 22-20 in favor of the Cardinals going into halftime.

"We just knew it was gonna be a four-quarter battle," Morales said, explaining that the Pirates weren't necessarily focusing on the score, but on just playing quality football until the end.

The Pirates started the second half with the ball and were able to cap off their possession with a 9-yard rushing touchdown by Mazur, giving the Pirates their first lead of the game.

Another unsuccessful two-point

attempt left the score at 22-26 in favor of the Pirates.

Pagosa's defense held up again, keeping Elizabeth from scoring on the Cardinals' first offensive possession of the second half.

The Pirates were then able to capitalize and extend their lead to 22-32 thanks to a 60-yard touchdown rush by Lucero on their following offensive possession.

Lucero's touchdown was followed by a failed extra-point attempt, leaving the score at 22-32 with about six minutes to play in the third quarter.

The Cardinals were able to get on the board late in the third with a 6-yard rushing touchdown, pulling within one score at 29-32.

The Pirates extended their lead again in the fourth quarter with a 4-yard touchdown rush by Lucero. Another failed extra-point attempt left the score at 29-38 with just over eight minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Cardinals were then able to score a 7-yard rushing touchdown a minute later, bringing the score to 36-38.

On their following offensive possession, the Pirates were forced to punt for the first time in the game, giving the ball back to the Cardinals with under five minutes to play.

Elizabeth was able to come up with another rushing touchdown and a successful two-point attempt, taking the lead at 44-38.

The Pirates received the ball with under two minutes to play and were able to get into the red zone on the 17-yard line with just three seconds left on the clock, but were unable to get into the end zone on the last play of the game, Morales explained.

"Super proud of them, they played well," he said of the Pirates, noting they were able to take the lead twice during the game against the No. 4-ranked Cardinals.

Morales also mentioned the Pirates played well enough to win the game, but it "just got away from us."

"It was four quarters of football and everybody played their hearts out," he added.

This was the second meeting between the two teams this season, with the first matchup being played in Elizabeth on Sept. 26. The Cardinals defeated the Pirates 41-0 in that affair.

That was the last loss the Pirates suffered before going on a five-game win streak to close out the regular season.

In that matchup, the Pirates were limited to a total of 183 yards on offense while the Cardinals put up a total of 433 yards.

In the playoff matchup on Nov. 8, the Pirates were able to put up a total of 422 yards of total offense, 74 passing yards and 348 rushing yards.

The Cardinals put up 367 yards of total offense.

Mazur completed his sole pass attempt for a 7-yard touchdown, while Creede Dozier completed three out of four pass attempts for a total of 67 yards.

Lucero led the Pirates on the ground with 268 yards and four touchdowns on 31 carries, and also hauled in one pass reception for a 7-yard touchdown.

Mazur had nine carries during the game for a total of 81 yards and one touchdown.

Alex Pacheco had one carry that went for a loss of 1 yard.

Mazur also had one reception for 29 yards, and Kasen Limebrook pulled in two receptions for a total of 38 yards.

On the defensive side, Zander Lefthandbull led the Pirates in solo tackles with nine. Pacheco, Mazur and Lucero each recorded seven solo tackles.

Jimmy Elledge recorded five solo tackles, while Dozier and Jeremiah Dean recorded four each. Jayton Ross and Aidan Vega each recorded three solo tackles, and Jonathon Baker recorded one.

Mazur converted two out of four extra-point attempts.

Morales commented on this year's Pirate seniors and the role they played, highlighting the leadership displayed throughout the season.

"Our seniors did a great job leading for us this year," he said, noting the Pirates had a "great senior class" this year that will be missed big time.

"We're gonna miss them," he said. Morales explained the seniors

were "such a huge part of our culture, and success we've had the last couple of years."

The Pirates made the state playoffs three out of the last four seasons, including one playoff victory in 2023.

"The kids believe in each other, they trust each other, and they continue to fight and grow as a team together," Morales said of the Pirates.

Morales noted that Ross played through an injured shoulder all season long, showing his commitment to the team and his senior season.

Morales commented on Dozier's role as quarterback and his ability "to run this offense efficiently," noting the Pirates instilled a new offensive system early on this season.

Morales also noted how Vega, Dean and Ross all played skill positions in past seasons, but switched to offensive linemen as seniors.

"The commitment to those guys just wanting to do whatever it takes, they wanted their senior year to be great, and they accepted that challenge and they grew all year from it," Morales said.

Morales commented on Lincoln Butler's season, noting, "he played a huge role for us" at center.

Jonathan Baker featured as a starting receiver for much of the season, with Morales commenting that Baker was "blocking his tail off" all season.

Morales also commented on Lucero, noting, "he's his own animal," describing him as a "special athlete" who is capable of being a collegiate athlete in three different sports.

"Those seniors, we're definitely gonna miss 'em," Morales said, adding that he is excited for them to be moving on to their next journey in life.

"Those seven seniors are gonna be champions. No matter what they do, they'll be successful," Morales said.

Morales spoke about how the Pirates continued to improve over the season, noting, "It's all about our

■ See Football A12

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The Blotter

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Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Oct. 20 — Death investigation, Cliffside Place.

Oct. 20 — Criminal mischief under \$300 business, domestic violence, violation of protection order, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, Blue Jay Circle.

Oct. 20 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, turning improperly, South Pagosa Boulevard/Lake Forest Circle.

Oct. 21 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.

Oct. 21 — Theft-\$20,000 or more-from yard, information only, Industrial Circle.

Oct. 22 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 22 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 22 — Failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Oct. 22 — Information only, West U.S. 160.

Oct. 22 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, U.S. 160.

Oct. 23 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, failed to display valid registration, driving under the influence of alcohol, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, South Pagosa Boulevard/Prospect Boulevard.

Oct. 23 — Warrant arrest, Prospect Boulevard.

Oct. 23 — Information only, Beucler Lane.

Oct. 23 — Information only, Look Away Place.

Oct. 23 — Violation of protection order, harassment-public place-obscene language or gesture, Elk Drive.

Oct. 24 — Tail lamp violation, driver operated vehicle without insurance, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 25 — Violation of protection order-criminal, violation of protection order, Colo. 151/County Road 500.

Oct. 25 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Oct. 27 — Obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, West U.S. 160.

Oct. 28 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, Pike Drive.

Oct. 28 — Warrant arrest, Canyon Circle.

Oct. 28 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Canyon Circle.

Oct. 29 — Violation of protection order, U.S. 160.

Oct. 29 — Lost/found property, no location listed.

Oct. 30 — Information only, Park Avenue.

Oct. 30 — Harassment by phone or computer-injury or damage threat, Bastille Drive.

Oct. 31 — Information only, Park Avenue.

Oct. 31 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Ute Drive.

Oct. 31 — Agency assist, Crooked Road.

Nov. 1 — Agency assist, South 9th Street.

Nov. 1 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Nov. 2 — Information only, no location listed.

Nov. 3 — Theft-\$300 to \$750 from building, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 3 — Drug paraphernalia-possess, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, Park Avenue.

Nov. 4 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 4 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Surrey Drive.

Nov. 4 — Information only, Lupine Place.

Nov. 4 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

Nov. 5 — Third-degree criminal trespass, East Pagosa Street.

Nov. 5 — Violation of a court order/warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 5 — Warrant arrest, Buttercup Drive.

Nov. 6 — Theft-\$5,000 to \$20,000, criminal impersonation-felony, bait advertising, computer crime-felony, Quien Sabe Street/cyberspace.

Nov. 6 — Information only, Bastille Drive.

Nov. 6 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Domicile Circle.

Nov. 6 — Dog at large, vicious dog without injury, Carefree Place.

Nov. 7 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Nov. 7 — Violation of protection order, Berryhill Drive.

Nov. 8 — Noise ordinance-second offense, Canyon Circle/Bastille Drive.

Nov. 8 — Criminal mischief \$300 to \$1,000 private, Skyline Court.

Nov. 8 — Agency assist, West U.S. 160.

Nov. 8 — Death investigation, Antelope Avenue.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Oct. 20 — Violation of protection order, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Oct. 21 — Vehicle accident with injuries, Lewis Street.

Oct. 21 — Lost/found property, Village Drive.

Oct. 22 — Agency assist, Aspen Village Drive.

Oct. 23 — Animal complaint, South 7th Street.

Oct. 23 — Driving under restraint, no insurance-owner, expired registration, warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Oct. 24 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street.

Oct. 25 — Vehicle accident no injuries, Alpha Drive.

Oct. 25 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, Hot Springs Boulevard, South 6th Street.

Oct. 25 — Warrant arrest, South 9th Street.

Oct. 26 — Theft, East Pagosa Street.

Oct. 26 — Disturbance, South 9th Street.

Oct. 27 — Disorderly conduct/unreasonable noise, South 9th Street.

Oct. 31 — Information only, South 7th Street.

Nov. 1 — Assault in the third degree, South 9th Street.

Nov. 1 — Violation of a court order/

warrant arrest, South 9th Street.

Nov. 1 — Theft, Eagle Drive.

Nov. 1 — Criminal mischief, South 9th Street.

Nov. 3 — Criminal mischief, Apache Street.

Nov. 3 — Careless driving causing injury, U.S. 160.

Nov. 7 — Information only, Country Center Drive.

Nov. 7 — Nuisance/animal running at large, South 8th Street/San Juan Street.

Nov. 7 — Theft M, Talisman Drive.

Nov. 9 — Lost/found property, East Pagosa Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards
No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Oct. 7 — Meadow Nicely, forgery 2, 10 days jail, fines and costs — \$199.50.

Oct. 7 — Grace A. Pargin, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.

Oct. 8 — William Barron, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Oct. 9 — Matthew E. Hardman, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Oct. 24 — Jefferson Lloyd Weir, driving under the influence-with prior, 378 days jail, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 24 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,133.50.

Oct. 29 — Brandon Charles Howell, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Oct. 29 — Deborah F. Goncalves, driver's license-driving without, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$173.50.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Deborah J. Grohs

Oct. 9 — Sarah Elizabeth Dobbins, driving ability impaired-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 10 days electronic surveillance, two years probation, 48 hours community service, fines and costs — \$1,920.50.

Oct. 10 — Mark Smead, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.

Oct. 10 — Timothy John McAvoy, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Oct. 10 — Oscar Armando Guevara, following too closely, fines and costs — \$170.

Oct. 10 — Williams Gittings, driving under restraint, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$277.50.

Oct. 10 — Douglas R. Baniss, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.

Oct. 16 — Jerry Wayne Carter, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$116.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Douglas S. Walker

Oct. 15 — Austin Willis, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Oct. 15 — Carlos Ramon Macias, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Oct. 15 — David Michael Gates, burning during stage 1, 2, fines and costs — \$59.

Oct. 15 — Wilson Lee Aguilar, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Oct. 15 — Kristen R. Ewing, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Oct. 15 — Jeremy P. Gallegos, careless driving, fines ad costs — \$238.50.

Oct. 15 — Chance Michael Hurak, driving under restraint, license plates-unlawful display, fines and costs — \$199.50.

Oct. 22 — Larry Richard Dale, burning during stage 1, 2, fines and costs — \$134.

Oct. 22 — Brandis Colleen Ulloa, camping in designated area without permit, fines and costs — \$168.50.

Oct. 24 — James R. Ashurst, seat

belt not used, fines and costs — \$98.50.

Oct. 24 — Carlos Jared Montes de Oca, failed to use turn signal, fines and costs — \$136.

Nov. 3 — Charles Christopher Martinez, disorderly conduct-fighting in public, 10 days jail, fines and costs — \$248.50.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Sandra H. Gardner

Oct. 29 — Marc L. Dickey, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Oct. 29 — James Edward Smith, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$891.

Oct. 29 — Chandra Catheline Ortega, nuisance dog, fines and costs — \$134.

Oct. 29 — Ethon James Tatum, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, driving under the influence with prior, 364 days jail, 364 days jail, fines and costs — \$1,530.50.

Oct. 29 — Jeremy Scott Appelbaum, driving under the influence, 48 hours community service, five days electronic surveillance, one year probation, fines and costs — \$1,340.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Sandra H. Gardner

Oct. 29 — Jeremy Appelbaum, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, one year probation, 24 hours community service, fines and costs — \$903.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Oct. 9 — Carl Matthews, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,158.50.

Oct. 10 — Christopher Torivio Walden, weapon-possess/previous offender/use, three years probation, 90 days jail, fines and costs — \$2,273.50.

Oct. 10 — Gregory Begaye, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 90 days jail, fines and costs — \$286.50.

Oct. 10 — Gregory Begaye, criminal mischief \$300 to \$1,000, domestic violence-habitual offender, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$534.50.

Oct. 24 — Jonathon Richard Clark, vehicular eluding, 24 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,673.50.

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Governor memorializes emergency declaration to support communities recovering from flooding in Western Colorado

State of Colorado

On Nov. 10, in an Executive Order, Gov. Jared Polis memorialized his verbal disaster emergency declaration from Oct. 12, made in response to the western Colorado flooding.

The disaster declaration activated the State of Colorado Emergency Op-

erations Plan, directed the Office of Emergency Management to take action to support impacted communities, and transferred \$6 million to the Disaster Emergency Fund to support response and recovery efforts.

Polis also directed state agencies to pursue all available federal funding for response and recovery efforts.

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Pagosa Springs Middle School eighth-graders treat veterans to breakfast at the school's annual Veterans Day event. The veterans breakfast began in 2001.

Football

■ Continued from A10
brotherhood that we've instilled" from the seniors down to the freshman.

He explained that the team knew it was getting better each week, and knew that it would take a few weeks to see the effects of some of the changes Morales made to the team's systems. "I definitely wish we were still playing this week. I thought the seniors deserved another week. I thought this team deserved another week," Morales said while reflecting on the season.

He spoke more about how the team improved over each week with the goal of playing its best football at the end of the season.

While recalling an interview before week one of this season, when asked what goals the team had in mind, Morales indicated, "I said for us to be playing our best football at the end of the season."

The Pirates ended their season with an overall record of 6-4, including an undefeated league mark of 5-0 which claimed them the Intermountain League (IML) title.

The Pirates' last IML title came in the 2019 season.

Pagosa also won its league title in the 2020 season (the Southwest League), which was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and saw fewer teams compete in the fall season in alternate leagues.

The team's 2025 season featured ups and downs.

After opening the season with a commanding 51-0 win over Kirtland Central High School from New Mexico, the Pirates lost three straight

games before beginning IML play.

"When you're 1-3... the world will tell you to quit, and that wasn't in these seniors' minds. All they wanted to do was finish, and they did," Morales said, highlighting the team was able to go on and win the IML title from that point.

He also commented on the playoff rematch against Elizabeth, and how the Pirates were able to take on a team that beat them by 41 points, "and had 'em on the ropes" in the playoff match.

"[Elizabeth] had to work for it," Morales added, noting the Pirates limited the Cardinals from scoring on any big plays.

Morales noted the team stayed positive throughout the whole game, and that "everything we did that game was positive."

Morales commended the Pirates efforts, stating they played well as a team and were up against a bigger Cardinals' team that had a size advantage.

"Just the fight and determination they had to lay it all out there on the line for their brother, their teammates out there," showed for four quarters, Morales said. "They were just out there battling."

Morales mentioned that at the end of the game, he was unsure what to say because the Pirates' motto had been to "leave no doubt, and there was no doubt in my mind that they left it all out there," noting he couldn't be more proud for the pirates effort on the season as a whole.

Morales expressed gratitude for the support the Pirates have received from the community, noting Pagosa

has a great community, a great school and great football players who "care about each other."

He spoke more about the senior leadership on the team and how it goes a long way for the program, noting this year's seniors will be missed, but it will be a challenge to next year's seniors to continue that.

"We just want to say thank you to our fans and the community for supporting us this year," Morales said, adding, "just the love and support we've gotten from Pagosa Springs this year and years in the past, it's amazing and we really appreciate it." He added, "It all goes a long way."

Season leaders

Lucero rushed for a total of 1,797 yards on the season, placing him in the top five rushers in the state across all divisions. Lucero also led the Pirates in touchdowns this season, racking up 29, with 25 of those being rushing touchdowns.

Pacheco recorded six rushing touchdowns on the year, and Mazur recorded five.

Limebrook led the team in receiving touchdowns with a total of two on the year, followed by Lucero and Pacheco, who each recorded one.

On defense, Dozier led the Pirates in interceptions with a total of three. Mazur and Lucero recorded two interceptions each.

Ross led the Pirates in fumble recoveries, picking up three.

Vega and Lucero led the team in sacks on the season with two each.

Left hand bull led the Pirates in tackles per game, averaging eight. clayton@pagosasun.com



SUN photos/Randi Pierce



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The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking motivated volunteers to help guide our effort toward International Dark Sky Community certification by 2026. Committee members will assist with lighting inventories, sky quality measurements, community outreach, education, and the promotion of responsible night lighting throughout the Town of Pagosa Springs.

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- Science teachers
- Night sky enthusiasts or hobbyists

Ideal volunteers

- Passionate about protecting the night sky
- Strong communicators with creative problem solving skills
- Ready to attend meetings, participate in events, and collaborate with Town staff
- Committed to supporting long range dark sky goals for the community.

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Local reporting that matters.



Outdoors

Town council considers names for new river park

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At an Oct. 21 meeting, the Pagosa Springs Town Council decided to go in a different direction from a town staff recommendation for the official naming of a new public river park, being proposed at 1040 E. U.S. 160.

The property formerly housed Bob's LP.

Projects Manager Kyle Rickert explained that staff's proposed name for the park — Gateway River Park — came after staff had solicited public feedback through MyPagosa.org and then brought 11 names before the Combined Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for its recommendation.

Some of the suggestions brought before the parks and rec board included East Gateway River Park, Gateway River Park, San Juan River Park, Rivergate Park, Old Sawmill River Park, Maiku River Park, San Juan Headwaters Park, Osprey Point Park and Blue Heron River Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis explained to the council that staff has "gone through a lot of names," and now it's "time to make it official."

Rickert explained that Gateway River Park received the most positive feedback from the parks and rec board, but that none of the 11 names garnered majority support of the board.

She said that, for those on the board who liked the name, it represented the "gateway into town," and an entry into the town's public waters on the San Juan River, which will now stretch from the new east-end park to the river access point at Yamaguchi

Park South.

But some on the council suggested that the name was not exciting enough, with council member Madeline Bergon saying, "There's a lot of gateways out there."

Mayor Shari Pierce added, "That's not always going to be the gateway to our town. We are growing. We have already grown and annexed that way."

Council member Mat deGraaf explained that he didn't have any major problems with the name, but that it seems "a little bland."

Lewis explained that the proposed name "was just a recommendation," and that "no one's feelings would be hurt" if the council decided to go in a different direction.

Council member Leonard Martinez wanted to know about the two Southern Ute names on the list, Maiku River Park and Paa River Park, to which Rickert responded that these were suggestions made by someone through the MyPagosa.org website.

Rickert explained that "Maiku is a friendly greeting that means 'welcome,' and then the Southern Ute word for water is paa."

Martinez said, "I have been thinking about the fact that half of our county is part of the Southern Ute Reservation and the idea of doing something with the Southern Utes, in a way that's collaborative and beneficial to both of us, something that's welcoming and using one of their words would be a way to say, listen, we're serious about this relationship."

He added, "I'm not sure I want to change the vote or the process" on naming the park, "but if it did get that" he would choose Maiku River Park for the name.

Council Member Gary Williams asked, "When do we need a name?"

Rickert explained that the town is currently using "funds from tourism" to change signage throughout town and that staff would like to be able to have the river park as part of the order for the new signage, "but other than that it is nice to refer to what the name is gonna be."

Council Member Brooks Lindner noted that only "three out of seven" members of the parks and rec board wanted the recommended name before the council.

Pierce asked, "Why can't we just say Maiku River Park?"

"I like that," deGraaf replied.

Bergon suggested that the town should "reach out" to the tribe and "ask for verification" on the pronunciation and meaning of the word, as well as securing its blessing.

"We don't want to be insulting," she said.

Martinez added that "the process would have to change if we go this direction," warning the council that "many mistakes have been made, including one by New Mexico using the Zia sun without ever asking for permission."

Going through the correct process with the tribe could "garner so much respect. I would recommend that we not only learn how to say it, but that we modify the process, to go out and ask for permission to use it, and then that process will begin the relationship ... to say, hey, listen. We'd like to do this, but we want to do it the right way," he said.

"We can definitely look into that," Rickert replied.

Pierce asked the rest of the council

if it would want to go forward with Maiku River Park if "we get permission from the Ute tribe to do it."

A consensus emerged to go forward with the process of using the Ute name, and the council gave direction to town staff to pursue the avenues of using the tribal name.

As of press time Wednesday, Town Manager David Harris explained that there have not been any updates on the process of gaining permission from the tribe to use the name.

"With all the flood recovery, we really have not had the time to do any more work on it," he explained.

On Sept. 9, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission approved a recommendation for the council to rezone the river property as Open Space/Parks.

Following this recommendation, the council, on Sept. 16, approved an ordinance to zone the future river park as Open Space/Parks.

Town Development Director James Dickhoff explained at a previous meeting that the rezoning would be in congruence with "the intended use of the property," which is slated to become a river access park, accommodating boaters and other river recreationists.

Dickhoff added that phase one of developing the property would include a boat ramp, gravel parking area and portable toilets coming in spring 2026.

He added that the parking area would be somewhere between U.S. 84 and the Town of Pagosa Springs sign, but its location wouldn't be finalized until the town received an access permit from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Future phases, pending funding, would include a permanent bathroom structure, a paved parking lot, a fishing pier and the expansion of the Riverwalk trail connecting the property with the existing trail and the Pagosa River Domes, Dickhoff explained.

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Bird identification classes to be held ahead of Christmas Bird Count

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

The first of three bird identification classes in preparation for Audubon's Christmas Bird Count will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m.

This class, presented by Keith Bruno, Audubon Rockies community naturalist, will focus on waterfowl.

Area lakes are currently hosting large numbers of these birds and providing opportunities to test our identification skills while lakes are still thawed.

Additional classes covering songbirds (Dec. 3) and raptors (Dec. 10) will be held. Everyone is welcome to join us in these fun classes, and audience participation is encouraged.

Classes meet at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street and are also available on Zoom. Look for the Zoom link on the events tab of our website, weminucheaudubon.org.

Classes will begin promptly at 6 p.m., and we invite you to come early to share a snack before we get started. Please enter through the side door closest to the parking lot or let us know to open the main door for handicap entry.

In appreciation for our meeting space, we collect donations of cash and nonperishable food for the Methodist Church Food Bank at our meetings. The need for contributions is particularly great this season.

Join a team to help us count all the

birds that we identify in our 15-mile diameter count circle on Dec. 14. If you live within one of the count zones, you can also participate by counting birds at your home feeders.

This is the 126th year of this annual census of birds done by people just like you. Data generated from the count is an important scientific tool used in understanding and predicting how birds respond to changes in our environment.

We welcome participation from all community members and visitors. For further information and to sign up as a volunteer, email us at weminuche.audubon@gmail.com. This local count is organized by the Weminuche Audubon Society with the support of Audubon Rockies.

Fishing is Fun grants available for projects that improve angling opportunities in Colorado

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is excited to announce the 2026 round of funding opportunities for the Fishing is Fun Grant Program.

The goal of this program is to provide funding to projects that expand fishing access across the state and provide more angling opportunities. CPW awards up to \$650,000 in Fishing is Fun grants annually.

The Fishing is Fun program supports projects such as stream and river habitat improvements; access improvements; perpetual easements for public access; pond and lake habitat improvements; fish retention structures; development

of new fishing ponds; and amenity improvements such as shade shelters, benches and restrooms.

Recent projects include: new public fishing areas, in-stream work to improve fish habitat, ADA-compliant fishing piers, shade structures and restrooms, diversion structures to allow migration and spawning, perpetual access easements to protect angling opportunities, aerators, and boat ramps.

This program provides matching grant funds annually to local and county governments, park and recreation departments, water districts, angling organizations, and others for projects to improve angling opportunities in Colorado.

"CPW is always looking to empower partners to take steps to increase or improve fishing access," said CPW Grant Manager Travis Long. "For nearly 40 years, the Fishing is Fun program has supported 375 angling improvement projects across the state, from the smallest towns on the Eastern Plains and the West Slope to the largest cities along the Front Range."

A fillable application form and additional program information can be found at cpw.state.co.us/fishing-fun-grants. The completed application form must be submitted by Jan. 9, 2026.

Contact Long at travis.long@state.co.us with additional questions about eligibility, program guidelines and any other related questions.

Voters Approve Ballot Issue 2A to Strengthen Town's Sewer Infrastructure



"On behalf of Town Council, I'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to the voters of Pagosa Springs and the advocates of 2A for their strong show of support and civic engagement," stated Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce. "This decision not only addresses immediate infrastructure challenges but also safeguards the community's long-term prosperity and resilience."

The new 1% sales tax takes effect on January 1, 2026, and is estimated to generate \$3.6 million in its first year. This revenue will help prevent future system failures, reduce environmental risks, and support the health and safety of residents and businesses.

Learn more at pagosasprings.co.gov/2AElectionResults

Help is Available for Archuleta County Flood Victims

Some residents and businesses are still dealing with property damage after this month's flooding. Several organizations are offering free disaster assistance to support recovery efforts. Additionally, a new disaster assistance loan program is available for local businesses thanks to the Region 9 Economic Development District. Check out the resources at pagosasprings.co.gov/FloodAssistance.

Holiday Happenings

• **Holiday Lighting Contest:** The holiday lighting contest for households and businesses is back! Register by Wed., Nov. 19. Voting and contest begin Nov. 28. Register at <https://bit.ly/2025HolidayLightingContest>.

• **Festival of Trees Events:** Two nights of celebrations, including a visit and cookies with Santa on Thurs., Dec. 4 (free), and dinner, music and live auction on Fri., Dec. 5 (\$30). Get tickets at pagosasprings.co.gov.



pagosasprings.co.gov

View the town's monthly e-newsletter online at
pagosasprings.co.gov/newsletter



Medicare Annual Enrollment

Oct. 15 thru Dec. 7, 2025

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Water conservancy moves forward with contracting reservoir engineer

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At Oct. 20 and Oct. 24 meetings, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors moved forward with the district's efforts to contract an engineering firm to do planning work on its Running Iron Ranch reservoir project.

Alongside its reservoir planning efforts, the district is also currently engaged in litigation with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), which wants to sell the property where the reservoir would be located — jointly owned by the two districts — and sued the SJWCD over a dispute about whether it can do so without the SJWCD's consent.

SJWCD board member Charles Riehm explained to the board at its Oct. 20 meeting that its previous bidding process for an engineering firm resulted in three firms responding to the request for proposals (RFP).

He added that two of those firms were interested in the project but could not address the district's needs in the initial phase of the project due to time and resource limitations, leaving only RJH Consultants Inc. out of Englewood, Colo., as the sole firm able to meet the district's initial needs.

Riehm commented that RJH's proposal was "very nice" and that the SJWCD subcommittee running the bidding process had met with the firm several times.

He explained that he and the other RFP committee member, Randy Cooper, had reviewed the RFP and that he wanted to go over their comments and comments submitted by RJH to determine what questions or clarifications need to be sent back to the firm.

Cooper added that the subcom-

mittee would likely meet with RJH in the upcoming days to get answers to these questions.

Riehm commented that the proposal includes most of the district's requests, but that more detail would be needed on the first phases of the project, and the exact details for the terms and conditions of the contract with RJH, especially in terms of what work would occur when and when the SJWCD would be charged for work on the project.

He added that he would want to include SJWCD president Candace Jones and SJWCD treasurer Joe Tedder on the subcommittee for their legal and finance expertise.

Jones was a lawyer before retiring.

The first issue discussed by the board was what the cost would be of reaching a feasibility study that would be needed for a grant qualification deadline for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Small Storage Program in February 2026, with the board reaching consensus that the cost would be about \$169,000, split between 2025 and 2026.

Riehm added that the work needed for this qualification study would be necessary for other grant funding as well, meaning that the work would not be wasted even if the district failed to obtain this particular grant.

In response to a question from SJWCD board member Bill Nobles about what would happen if the SJWCD loses its current litigation with PAWSD, Riehm expressed confidence that a judge will side with the SJWCD and commented that the district would likely appeal if a judgment is made against it.

He added that the district showing progress on its reservoir project would also strengthen its case.

Tedder commented that the litigation between the SJWCD and PAWSD may cost the community approxi-

mately \$500,000 by the end of next year.

The board then discussed specific questions about the contract with RJH, including more questions about the timing of RJH's work, discussion of the potential of doing an economic analysis for the benefits of turning the reservoir area into a state park, and questions about what capability RJH might have to help manage the Running Iron Ranch and generate income from the property.

Following this discussion, the board voted to appoint Riehm, Cooper, Jones and Tedder to the subcommittee to continue negotiations with RJH and finalize the contract.

The board also agreed that the board would need a special meeting to approve an initial selection announcement for RJH in the near future and decided to schedule this meeting for Oct. 24.

Discussion of the contract continued at the Oct. 24 meeting, with Riehm going through the comments made by the subcommittee on a contract submitted by RJH.

After a review of the questions and RJH's responses to these comments, which largely concerned the details of the contract and its timing, the board voted to approve the contract with RJH, with this approval subject to the completion of work on aligning the firm's tasks to the district's budget and resolving the comments made by the board and its legal counsel.

Riehm stated that the board would be giving RJH back a contract and notes on it.

He added that the subcommittee would also have permission to move forward with finalizing the specific list of tasks for RJH to complete in collaboration with the firm.

This work would involve having a work session with the firm and then

SJWCD makes decision on office location

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed options for relocating the district's offices at its Oct. 20 meeting.

As discussed at previous meetings, the lease for the district's current location at 46 Eaton Drive is ending due to the owner of the building wanting to expand their business and utilize the space the district is currently occupying.

SJWCD treasurer Joe Tedder and Administrative Assistant Sally High led the search for new locations and delivered a report to the board on what they found.

Tedder explained that he and High visited two locations, including one

location on U.S. 160 one block east of Our Savior Lutheran Church and one office located on Cornerstone Drive in Aspen Village.

He stated that the U.S. 160 location has residences on the upper floor and two office spaces available on the lower floor in addition to a common area with a small bathroom.

Tedder explained that each of these office spaces was about 180 square feet and that he and High thought that one could serve as the district's office while the other would act as a meeting room.

He explained that the district would be competing with another potential tenant for one of these office spaces, although this tenant also wanted to use this space as a meeting room and would be willing to let the

SJWCD use it for free.

Tedder stated that the single office would cost \$450 per month to rent while both would cost \$900.

He then summarized the Aspen Village location, which he indicated would be on the second floor of the Cornerstone Drive complex.

He indicated that this upstairs area is "very nice" and contains several offices and a "very, very nice board room."

Tedder explained that the district would rent one of the office spaces and could then rent the board room for \$30 an hour.

He explained that he was unsure how large the office space is, but that it would also include two desks and access to Wi-Fi, printers and ■ See Office A15

soliciting further board feedback on the items discussed, Riehm stated, adding that these details would need to be finalized before the contract can be signed.

Jones highlighted that the subcommittee would have the authority to finalize the contract once these tasks are completed.

She added that this contract would allow the district to get work started, but would not include all the work included in the RFP, with the remaining work to be covered by future contracts.

The board then unanimously approved Jones's motion to authorize the subcommittee to work on and finalize the contract.

josh@pagosasun.com

Thanksgiving issue Thursday, November 27 Early Deadlines

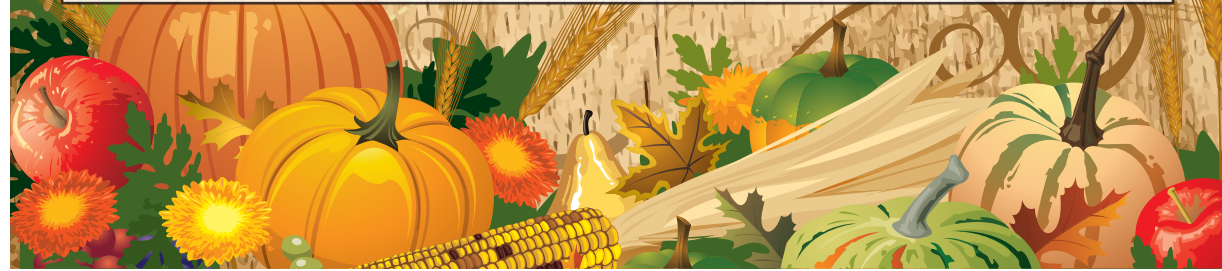
Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, November 21

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Monday, November 24

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, November 20

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28
in observance of Thanksgiving

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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 ENCMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF 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 11/13/2025
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF 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 #44899
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C., 355 Union Blvd. Ste 250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155
Attorney Fee: #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
/s/Jason X Chavez
jasonxchavez10@gmail.com
720-628-7239
Published: October 16, 23, 30 and November 6 and 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276157)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Phone No.: (970) 264-8160
Plaintiff: Judith L. Talbot and Brian J. Lyons
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 Marla C. Underrell, LLC
Marla C. Underrell, Esq., Reg. No. 31076
101 West 11th Street, Suite 104
Durango, Colorado 81301
Phone: 970-403-8090
Fax: 970-403-8091
Email: marla@underrell-law.com
Case Number: 2025CV00441

SUMMONS TO QUITE 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 Office as 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. UNDERRELL, LLC
/s/ Marla C. Underrell
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Marla C. Underrell, Atty. Reg. No. 31076
101 West 11th Street, Suite 104
Durango, Colorado 81301
Office Phone Number: 970-403-8093
Cell Phone Number: 970-317-0341
FAX Number: 970-403-8091
E-mail: marla@underrell-law.com
Published October 23, 30 and November 6, 13 and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (276756)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Tel.: 970.264.8160
Plaintiff: Peregrine Property Owners Association, Inc. v.
Defendants: James Otis Relyea, et al.
Case No.: 2025CV00048
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Christopher B. Conley (51651)
Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC
700 South 21st St Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901
Tel. 479.242.5906
Email: ir@ecrlegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S): Bonnie B McCafferty, Valery R Shimbol, Geraldine A Anderson, Pam J Myers
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 is an in rem action of judicial foreclosure on your timeshare interest(s) located at Peregrine Townhouses for failure to pay assessments to Peregrine Property Owners Association, Inc.
Published in the *Pagosa Springs Sun*
First Publication: November 6, 2025
Last Publication: December 4, 2025
/s/ Christopher B. Conley
Christopher B. Conley
Published November 6, 13, 20, 27 and December 4, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (278005)

FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS HEARING ON DECEMBER 4, 2025
LPEA has applied for a GENERAL VARIANCE on the tract of land within SEC 26, TWN 35N, RNG 2W, at 2140 County Road 500, Pagosa Springs, CO (PL-VAR-25-082). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Adjustments on December 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published November 13 and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (278739)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER HEARING ON DECEMBER 4, 2025
Joshua Wagner has applied for the COX EAST ALLISON SUBD AMEND 2025-02 FINAL PLAT in Sec: 14 Twn: 32 Rng: 6W, 45 Country Meadows Place, Arboles, CO (PLN25-043). The property is zoned COMMERCIAL (C).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to planning@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on December 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.
Published November 13 and 27 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (278737)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON DECEMBER 4, 2025
LPEA has applied for a utility substation, BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT on the tract of land within SEC 26, TWN 35N, RNG 2W, at 2140 County Road 500, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN-25-079). The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR).
Comments regarding this proposal may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to Planning@archuletacounty.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on December 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Administration Office Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs. Public comment will be taken at the meeting.
Published November 13 and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (278738)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON DECEMBER 4, 2025
The Day Family Living Trust has applied for the DAY FAMILY LIVING TRUST MINOR SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT REVIEW, creating Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 3 in Sec: 8 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W, at 2520 & 2530 E US HWY 160, Pagosa Springs, CO (PLN25-050). The property is zoned COMMERCIAL (C).
Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147-1507, telephone: (970) 264-1390 or to planning@



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

inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.
Published November 13, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (278735)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of David Walker Stringer, Deceased
Case Number 2024FR0016
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before December 13, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.
Jennifer Stringer
5238 Spruce Avenue
Castle Rock CO 80104
Published October 30, November 6 and 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (277577)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of VERNON OURAY O'NEAL, also known as VERNON O'NEAL, Deceased; Archuleta County Probate Case Number: 2025 PR 30040. All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before March 1, 2026 or the claims may be forever barred. Amos L. Soignier, Esq., Soignier Law Firm, LLC, 2855 Main Ave., Suite B101, Durango, CO 81301.
Published October 30, November 6 and 13, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (277583)

Marine Corps celebrates birthday



Photos courtesy Tom Zilhaver

Archuleta County Marines and their guests gather on Nov. 10 to celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. In tradition, the oldest Marine in attendance, Ernie Garcia, presented the first piece of cake to the youngest Marine, Amber Bonner, as a symbol of passing the traditions, legends and responsibilities from the old Corps to the new Corps. Garcia, who entered the Marine Corps in 1953, was born in 1935. Bonner entered the Corps in 2019 and was born in 2002.

Office

■ Continued from A14

scanners.

High stated that renting this office would cost \$708 per month, including the costs of Wi-Fi and renting the board room for one meeting a month.

SJWCD board member Charles Riehm commented that he thought this space would be ideal for the district.

Following a brief discussion of the logistics of holding executive sessions in this space, SJWCD president Candace Jones raised the issue of if this space would comply with Colorado public meeting access requirements since it is upstairs and the building does not have an elevator.

Jones commented that the board needed to investigate this issue further, but could make a motion to choose an office space subject to confirming that the space would not violate access laws.

She added that, if the Aspen Village space could not be used, she would want the board's opinion on if it should pursue the other office space or look for another location.

Tedder commented that SJWCD board member Bill Nobles had mentioned another option to him that day

which he would want to look into before making a final decision.

High highlighted that this option of renting an office within First Southwest Bank would be unsuitable due to issues with the building being closed outside of banking hours.

The board then unanimously voted to move forward with finalizing

a lease for the Aspen Village location subject to confirming that the space would meet access requirements.

The board closed the conversation about the relocation with a brief discussion of the logistics of moving the district's possessions to a new location.

josh@pagosasun.com



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Community news.

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HAPPY Thanksgiving

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with a grateful heart.



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ARTS & LIFE

Early Community Thanksgiving Dinner

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Thursday, Nov. 20 • 445 Lewis St.



Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church



Photo courtesy St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church members work together to prepare next week's early community Thanksgiving meal.

Early Thanksgiving meal for all to be served Thursday, Nov. 20

By Anthony Aldwell
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

The early Pagosa community Thanksgiving meal will be served to all comers next Thursday, Nov. 20, in front of 445 Lewis St. from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or until the 400-plus projected take-away meals are all served.

Members of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church will be preparing a traditional Thanksgiving dinner in Center-point Church's well-equipped kitchen on Wednesday and Thursday morning, before they are shuttled downtown for distribution.

This annual community feast, offered free to the public

one week before the actual Thanksgiving Day, will include roasted turkey, savory dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans and pie.

"It is a joy to share our Thanksgiving gratitude with our neighbors," notes St. Patrick's Rector Wren Blessing. "We all can be grateful for the beauty of this incredible community we call home."

Serving will begin at 11 a.m., aiming to serve until 12:30 p.m., or until all of the prepared meals are served. Due to anticipated high demand, we recommend folks arrive before noon to pick up your meals.

All are welcome to partake in this special community meal.

Happy Thanksgiving, Pagosa.

Live Performers

Thursday
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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SUN

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Owner, CEO
Jim O'Rourke
Publisher, Advertising, Circulation
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com
Editor
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com
Reporters
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com
Classified Advertising/Front Office
classads@pagosasun.com
Head Pressroom Robert Penton
Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon
Mailroom William Thomas

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Christmas in Pagosa

An old-fashioned celebration

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THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN ENCOURAGES YOU TO SHOP AT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Circle of Friends seeks sponsors for families in need for Christmas

By Kimberlee Knapp
Circle of Friends

The Pagosa Springs school systems have identified several families in dire need of help this Christmas. These families are local and have children enrolled in the local school district.

You can lend a hand by sponsoring a family.

This entails providing each child with two gifts — a needed gift and a fun gift (toy, etc.), as well as a gift card from City Market so the family can purchase items for a Christmas dinner.

Each sponsor can request a specific family size and will be provided the gender, age, sizes (shirt, shoes, pants, jacket), needs and interests of each child. Family names will be kept confidential. These families range in size from four to 10 members and many include small children.

Your sponsorship will keep the Christmas spirit alive for these children in our community.

A Pagosa Springs women's service group, Circle of Friends, is organizing this effort. All gifts are due at Centerpoint Church on Dec. 18 between 1 and 6 p.m.

Families that have been paired with a sponsor will be notified and will pick up their gifts on Dec. 19 at the same church.

Sponsors can join with neighbors or coworkers and divide one needy family between them.

Monetary donations toward gifts for a specific family are accepted if you are unable to shop. It is the goal of the organization to have all families assigned to a sponsor by Thanksgiving at the latest.

This is a great way to bring true Christmas spirit to our community in these truly challenging economic times.

Please consider bringing joy to a child this holiday season. Your assistance will make a huge difference to a local family.

For more information, contact Kimberlee Knapp at kimberleeknapp@yahoo.com.



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men's & women's



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happy
Thanksgiving

from our family to yours

The Tile & Carpet Store

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204 Bastille Dr. (N. Pagosa Blvd, Left at Bastille Dr.)

Salvation Army of Archuleta County launches annual fundraising campaign

By Tom Bruin
Salvation Army of Archuleta County

The Salvation Army of Archuleta County will launch its annual fundraising campaign on Saturday, Nov. 22.

This year, various individuals, organizations, churches, and civic groups throughout the community will volunteer by ringing bells and collecting donations at the iconic red kettles.

Bell ringing will occur daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays at the entrance to City Market. No bell ringing will take place on Thanksgiving day.

As an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, the Salvation Army of Archuleta County consistently supports those in need through emergency shelter, substance abuse rehabilitation, prescription medication assistance, and family and

newborn support services.

All decisions are made locally by volunteers, enabling rapid adaptation to the community’s evolving needs.

One hundred percent of red kettle donations positively impact Archuleta County.

2024 impact highlights

Following are 2024 impact highlights (year-round services funded by prior campaigns):

- Provided 312 nights of safe emergency shelter to individuals and families facing homelessness or crisis.
- Delivered 1,840 meals through food pantry distributions and hot meal programs.
- Assisted 87 households with utility and rent payments to prevent evictions.
- Supplied prescription medications to 41 residents unable to afford

■ See Campaign on next page

Santa Claus
is coming
to town!

& he is stopping by
RE/MAX Eagle’s Nest!

Sunday, Dec. 7th
between Noon and 2:00 PM
390 Boulder Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO

Have a complimentary photo taken with Santa
and tell him what you are wishing to get for Christmas.
Each child will receive a gift from Santa!
Enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies!

Food drive! We are collecting food for the Healthy Archuleta FSFE Food Coalition. Donate one of the items below or give a cash donation and be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Gift Certificate to Wolf Creek Ski Area

Canned Beans (black and pinto)	Crackers, Saltine
Canned Fruit (in fruit juice)	Dried Pinto Beans
Canned Meats (tuna and chicken)	Dry Breakfast Cereal (such as cheerios or corn flakes)
Canned Pasta Sauce	Dry Milk Powder
Canned Soups (meat and vegetarian)	Jelly
Canned Tomatoes (all styles)	Oatmeal
Canned Vegetables (mixed veggies or individual such as green beans, carrots, or corn)	Pasta Noodles, dry
Carton Milk (non-refrigerated/aseptic containers)	Peanut Butter (crunchy or creamy)
	Spaghetti Noodles, dry

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Community UMC
Thrift Store

Christmas Shop
DECORATIONS & GIFTS

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OPEN NOVEMBER 3 - CHRISTMAS
427 LEWIS STREET

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST
THRIFT STORE IS A MINISTRY OF
COMMUNITY UMC

Campaign

■ continued from previous page critical treatments.

- Supported 19 families with newborn essentials, including diapers, formula and cribs.

These outcomes demonstrate the tangible difference every contribution makes in addressing poverty, addiction, and hardship right here in our community.

Every donation makes a meaning-

ful impact. As you encounter a red kettle this holiday season, please consider contributing. Your generosity helps address human needs year-round.

For more information about the red kettle initiative or to volunteer as a bell ringer, please contact Tom Bruin at (224) 730-7910 or visit www.facebook.com/ArchuletaSalvation-Army.



Santa Claus is coming to town!

Save the date!
Sunday, December 7th
between Noon and 2 p.m.
at RE/MAX Eagle's Nest!
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Season's Greetings

Chrystal Snow Memorial Holiday Toy Drive seeks local hearts and hands

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

A season-long mission to brighten the holidays for kids in need is underway, led by the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI). The Chrystal Snow Memorial Holiday Toy Drive invites families, neighbors and local businesses to join in collecting and distributing new toys to children across the county.

What's happening

- Purpose: Gather and distribute new, unwrapped toys for children in Archuleta County.
- When: Ongoing this holiday season, with active drop-off boxes at various local businesses and a final

push outside Walmart from Nov. 29 through Dec. 11.

- Where: Drop-off centers at participating local businesses (listed below), plus outside Walmart after Thanksgiving.
- How to help: Donate toys, sign up to volunteer, participate in in-store toy drives with local partners or sponsor events.

Drop-off locations

Boxes are already in place at: Ace Hardware, Rosie's Pizza, Walmart, Wyndham, Kip's, Riff Raff, Pagosa Springs Barbershop, Community United Methodist Church, Bank of the San Juans, Bliss Scoops and Sweets, Uncle's, FroYo, and Pagosa Baking Company.

Special note: Outside Walmart collection will run Nov. 29-Dec. 11.

Need toys or want to help?

If your family needs toys, contact PCI at (970) 585-6253 or visit the PCI website.

To volunteer, go to www.pagosa-communityinitiative.org and click on "volunteer" to sign up to help us man the table outside Walmart (big need).

Why it matters

Last year, the toy drive supported more than 200 children and their families.

Organizers stress that every donation helps ensure a memorable holiday.

■ See Toy on next page

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Transgender Day of Remembrance gathering planned

Pagosa Pride

Pagosa Pride is hosting an evening gathering for Transgender Day of Remembrance on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m.

This day is set aside annually as an observance to commemorate the lives of transgender, nonbinary and gender nonconforming people who have been killed due to violence and discrimination.

This educational and candlelight vigil is to hold space for broadening our understanding and sharing with others in a safe space.

The mission of Pagosa Pride is to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, to advocate for equity and social justice, and to provide space for people of all colors, gender identities and sexual orientations to feel safe, welcome and loved.

Join us for an evening of reflection and community building as we share a short presentation, “Trans 101,” hold space for our transgender family and friends, and light candles of remembrance.

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is providing space for this time of remembrance, located at Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak.

Toy

■ continued from previous page

day for kids, and they aim to reach teens, who are often underserved in toy drives. The effort also coordinates with schools and community groups to identify those most in need.

Additionally, you can drop off to PCI’s office at 550 B Hot Springs Blvd., open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, call (970) 585-6253 or visit the PCI website.

A community-driven effort to brighten the holidays, the Chrystal Snow Memorial Toy Drive invites everyone to drop off a toy, lend a hand or simply help spread the word. Each gesture helps light up the season for local families.

Your source for
community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100



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>



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



33 Fawn Court • \$949,000

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

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
\$649,000

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
\$230,000

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 dogs 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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Shellie Hogue
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ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
www.shelliehogue.com



Gail Brault
REALTOR®, Broker Associate
C: 970.946.2051
GailBrault1957@gmail.com



Barbara Swindlehurst
REALTOR®, BROKER/ OWNER
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Photo courtesy Curtains Up Pagosa

Curtains Up Pagosa Director Jeannie Abbas debriefs a recent full run rehearsal with the “The Grinch” cast. The classic Christmas tale will hit the stage Nov. 20-22.

‘The Grinch’ to arrive in Pagosa Springs next week

By Anthony Aldwell
Curtains Up Pagosa

“Who Likes Christmas? Whos Like Christmas.” And Pagosa Springs, too. The Who family will celebrate Christmas on the Pagosa Springs High School stage next weekend, but beware: the Whos’ nemesis, the Grinch, will arrive with them too in his attempt to steal and abolish Christmas in Whoville. Will he be successful? Here’s how to find out. Curtains Up Pagosa will present this Dr. Seuss favorite, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas: The Musical” next week with three evening shows at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 20, 21, 22, as well as an afternoon matinee on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m., all in our high school auditorium. Featuring snappy dialogue, catchy

tunes you will be still singing as you depart and lively dancing by all, this show starts the Christmas season in Pagosa with a show that is entertaining for all ages. Best of all, all members of this rousing production will help the audience ponder: What is the true meaning of Christmas? Curtains Up Pagosa, our community theater, is once again pleased to produce a show that highlights the theatrical and musical talent resident in Pagosa Country and one that features the live musical accompaniment performed by the Pagosa Springs Community Band. Tickets are available online at: www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa, with pricing at \$20, and \$15 for seniors and students. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. It will be well worth your time and support.



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Community news.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

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Sierra Sosa
Occupational Therapist



Bill O'Connell, Jackie Rea, Peg Wanta, Physical Therapists
Stefanie Dodson, Physical Therapist Assistant

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75 S. Pagosa Boulevard
at the PMSC Medical Wellness Building
or email jodi.scarpa@psmedicalcenter.org

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Engel & Völkers Pagosa Springs

serves lunch to the WW Clyde Road Crew to say “Thank You”

The Engel & Völkers Pagosa Springs real estate team recently gathered on the newly poured concrete of downtown Pagosa Springs’ main thoroughfare to serve lunch to the hardworking WW Clyde construction crew. The celebration marked the completion of a key phase of the U.S. 160 Pagosa Springs Reconstruction Project that has transformed the look and feel of the area.

After months of early mornings, long days, and countless hours in the elements, the road crews, supervisors, and managers took a well-earned break to enjoy pizza, dessert, and cold drinks—all courtesy of Engel & Völkers Pagosa Springs. Each crew member also received a gift card to local coffee shops and restaurants as a small token of gratitude for their hard work and craftsmanship.

“The men and women of WW Clyde have worked tirelessly creating an exceptional improvement to our downtown,” said the Engel & Völkers team. “This U.S. 160 Pagosa Springs Reconstruction Project will serve our community for decades to come, and we simply wanted to say thank you in a tangible way.”

The weather cooperated beautifully, adding to the cheerful atmosphere as laughter and conversation filled the fresh new roadway. What might have been a typical workday turned into a moment of community camaraderie—neighbors recognizing neighbors for a job well done.

Mike & Lauri Heraty and all the E&V Team extend their appreciation to WW Clyde for their hard work and professionalism. Gratitude and good food go hand in hand when it comes to celebrating progress in our small mountain town.



To see more of the
WW Clyde crew,
scan here



Pagosa Real Estate
Market Update

ENGEL & VÖLKERS[®]

286 Pagosa St

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PagosaRealEstate.com



Photos courtesy Paula Byra
Those looking to compete in the second annual gingerbread house contest benefiting Rise Above Violence can register beginning Thursday, Nov. 13.



Trinity Anglican Church

“O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength; By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
Holy Communion Sunday at 10am.

246 Harman Park Dr. • trinityanglicanchurch.org

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1

Entry permit

5

Ming things

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Comic-strip possum

14

Border upon

15

Insect stage

16

"Argo" setting

17

Faction

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Disguise

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Doesn't include

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Orchestral section

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Recruiter's objective

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Solomon's strength

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In truth

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Atlas enlargement

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Narnia's creator

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Fish delicacy

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Lumber along

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"Bet you can't!" taunter

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Twelve Oaks neighbor

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Bud holder?

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____ City: Detroit nickname

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Busy places

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Not localized, as a problem

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Patio material

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Smelly pranks

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Fillion or Lane

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Attributed

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Thrill

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Drug bust qty.

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Salty drop

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Emphatic refusal

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Lab procedure

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List anagram

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Levels

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Brings into play

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5 "Law & Order" extra, maybe

6 Accumulate

7 Elliott or Neill

8 Freudian topic

9 Tourist shop offering

10 Southwest workers

11 Spoon-administered

12 Smitten

13 Snake eyes

19 Parking penalties

21 Novel idea

24 Dwayne Johnson, familiarly

25 Yard machine

26 Diaper bag supply

27 Mosaic technique

29 Ludicrous distortions

30 Sophia of "Two Women"

31 Baker's need

33 Classical tongue

36 Like some traits

37 Far-off place, figuratively

39 Nickel or steel

40 Rope fiber

42 Concert memento

43 Rising stars

45 Dog to avoid

46 Trawling items

47 Skater's jump

48 Bangkok native

50 If all ____ fails...

51 Specks

53 Camping gear chain

54 Caesar's hello

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

PagosaSUN.com

Gingerbread house contest to benefit Rise Above Violence

By Paula Byra

Special to The PREVIEW

The holiday spirit is about to get a little sweeter as the Pagosa Baking Company announces its second annual gingerbread house contest, themed "Home-A Safe Place to Land." This community minded event, benefiting Rise Above Violence, aims to bring our town together while showcasing creativity and culinary skills.

Last year's event was a great success.

Participants can enter in one of three categories: Family (\$30 entry fee), Teen (\$15 entry fee) and Adult (\$30 entry fee). In addition to these categories, a special prize — the Home-A Safe Place to Land Rise Prize — will be awarded to the entry that raises the most funds for the cause.

With a limit of just 12 total entries, the competition promises to be both fierce and festive.

Rules for participants:

- Application process: Entries will be accepted starting Nov. 13. Participants can register online or pick up a form at Pagosa Baking Company.

- Creation specifications: Contestants will be given a 12-inch-by-12-inch board for their gingerbread houses. All materials must be edible, and the use of premade kits is prohibited.

- Judging criteria: Entries will be judged based on creativity and taste, with each creation required to feature an element that can be removed for tasting.

- Delivery: All entries must be delivered to Pagosa Baking Company on Dec. 3 or 4 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- Voting: Community members can participate in online voting anytime, while in-person voting will take place at the bakery Dec. 4-8.

- Winners announcement: Win-

ners will be revealed during the Holiday Open House on Dec. 14 from 3 to 5 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

Last year's contest brought joy to kids and adults alike with many first-time gingerbread artists participating.

For those eager to showcase baking skills and spread holiday cheer, registration opens soon. For more information and to register, please visit pagosabakingcompany.com or pick up your form at Pagosa Baking Company.

Join us in celebrating the joy of the season and supporting Rise Above Violence through delicious creativity.

Help Protect Pagosa's Night Sky Join the Dark Sky Steering Committee

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking motivated volunteers to help guide our effort toward International Dark Sky Community certification by 2026. Committee members will assist with lighting inventories, sky quality measurements, community outreach, education, and the promotion of responsible night lighting throughout the Town of Pagosa Springs.

Preferred backgrounds

- Astronomers
- Ecologists
- Science teachers
- Night sky enthusiasts or hobbyists

Ideal volunteers

- Passionate about protecting the night sky
- Strong communicators with creative problem solving skills
- Ready to attend meetings, participate in events, and collaborate with Town staff
- Committed to supporting long range dark sky goals for the community.

For more information, please visit www.mypagosa.org or contact oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-8610.

Astrotourism photo contest winners announced

By Dena Laterza

Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

Pictures speak louder than words, they say. Since more travelers are seeking out the feeling of awe experienced while viewing the night sky, we asked for photos in and around Pagosa Springs that we could use to advertise our wonderful dark sky.

Colorado is one of the leading dark sky destinations in the United States, and we want to entice visitors to come enjoy stargazing in our town.

Of all of the entries, we felt the first place image captures the local beauty of the San Juan National Forest at night. The photo entitled "Tree Top Points the Way" was taken by Patricia Wise using her Samsung Galaxy mobile device.

Notably, the second and third place winners both capture the rare

and stunning northern lights as seen from our area. They are "Wolf Creek Aurora" by Barbara Jetley and "Aurora Borealis, Village Lake" by John Farley.

We had fun with the contest and want to thank all participants.

The awards were presented at the Nov. 12 Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting.

The photos can be viewed at www.pagosasun.com.

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Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project will be featured at Nov. 13 Growers and Producers Forum

Healthy Archuleta

Want to learn more about growing fruit trees in Pagosa Springs?

Please join us for our next Growers and Producers Forum meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The meeting will run from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Our speaker for this event will be from the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project, based in Cortez, Colo. They will be sharing their story about what the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project is about and how they're continuing efforts to keep heritage apple trees growing and producing in Montezuma County, as well as our Southern Colorado region.

The founders of the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project, Jude and Addie Schuenemeyer, began working with the heritage apple trees almost 20 years ago.

Discovering that there still existed a number of older apple tree varieties still growing in the area, they decided to take steps to not only preserve these trees, but also found ways to propagate new trees for future generations to enjoy.

These varieties have been proven to grow exceptionally well in the Four Corners region, adaptive to climate extremes and elevations — so much so that thriving homestead and commercial orchard operations

existed until the mid-20th century, when outside commercial growers determined that only red shiny apples were what the public wanted to consume.

Many of the apple varieties planted in the region during the late 19th and early 20th centuries were lost because of this decision and became extinct, never to be grown again.

Organized as a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsorship of Onward! A Legacy Foundation, the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project works to not only propagate new trees for its orchard genetic bank, but also shares their knowledge and educates anyone interested in growing, grafting, pruning and harvesting these long-lived heritage varieties and encourage those living in our region to grow more apple trees.

In doing so, it extends the varieties life span and helps to preserve the history, going back to the late 1800s, of a fruit-growing community.

Healthy Archuleta is happy to invite the community to attend this special Growers and Producers Forum meeting on Nov. 13 to learn more about growing fruit trees in our area. There will be a slide presentation by the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project, with plenty of time for questions afterward. Please feel free to bring a light snack and drink.

To learn more about the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project, you can visit www.montezumaor-

chard.org.

And to find out more about the Healthy Archuleta-sponsored Growers and Producers Forum meetings, please visit www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org, click on Resources and then click again on Local Food Producers.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service on Nov. 15 at 10 a.m. will be Sacred Heart Crystal Bowl Meditation" and a sacred feather wand playshop.

Increase your heart frequency to expand your creative universe of possibilities and create a personal sacred feather wand with Shayla Azriel.

The service will be held at Xanadu Retreat. A \$40 love donation will be collected.

Upcoming event

• Dec. 19, 5 to 7 p.m.: Christmas party at the information center.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious

paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self." Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity.

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 pagosacomunitynewthought@gmail.com; or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



Photo courtesy Justin Treptow, Thingamajig Theatre Company

Dale Scrivener (Manny) on piano, Laura Moore (Maria Callas), and Samantha Luck (Sharon Graham) in "Master Class," playing through Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Final weekend for 'Master Class' at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

By Tim Moore

Thingamajig Theatre Company

There are just two performances left of Thingamajig Theatre Company's stunning production of "Master Class" — Saturday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 16, at 3 p.m.

Don't miss the chance to experience what audiences are calling "jaw-dropping," "powerful," and "not to be missed."

"Master Class," by Terrence McNally, is inspired by the real-life Juilliard sessions of legendary opera diva Maria Callas.

Set in a classroom where Callas teaches a group of young singers, the play is both blistering funny and

deeply moving. It reveals a woman at the height of her artistry and the depths of her vulnerability confronting her own legacy, her love for Aristotle Onassis and her complicated relationship with fame.

Audiences have been captivated by Laura Moore's electrifying portrayal of Callas, with many describing the performance as "breathtaking" and "emotionally stunning." One audience member shared that "the room was silent, completely taken in — she had us exactly where she wanted us."

Presented in Thingamajig's intimate black box theater at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, "Master Class" is a rare and unforgettable

theatrical experience that has left audiences in awe.

Tickets are available at pagosa-center.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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NOTICE OF Planning Commission Vacancy

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from Town residents interested in serving as a regular or alternate member of the Planning Commission. This position is appointed by the Town Council and plays an important role in reviewing development proposals and guiding the future growth of our community.

Planning Commission members serve a four-year term and generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Additional meetings or work sessions may be scheduled for specific planning and development topics. Interested individuals must be a Town resident.

If you are committed to community service and interested in helping shape the future of Pagosa Springs, we encourage you to apply.

For more information, member qualifications, and applications to serve, visit www.mypagosa.org or contact oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-8610.

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UU service to focus on gratitude, bread communion

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

We come to the time in the month of November when our focus turns a bit more toward family and friends gathered in thanksgiving and bounty. The idea of breaking bread is a phrase and tradition with deep roots.

For the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship, the Nov. 16 Sunday Service will host Julie Loar, offering wisdom and inspiration with “Gratitude and Breaking Bread.”

Loar states, “The act symbolizes unity, hospitality and shared connection, often used to foster bonds between people. The act of physically breaking bread together is a powerful gesture of sharing, whether for a casual meal or a significant celebration. The phrase and practice originate from ancient times when people would literally break a loaf of bread apart to share it, often as a sign of hospitality, covenant or trust.”

Loar is a favored speaker both locally and beyond. She is the multiple award-winning author of eight books and dozens of articles, and previously served on the board of the Pagosa UU Fellowship and many community organizations.

We are honored to have Loar along with musical offerings by NewFangle, namely Dave Pettus, Susan Kuhns and Dave McNamee, as we gather in community for conscious giving of thanks through ritual and song.

We will also share in the ancient ritual of breaking bread together. All are invited to bring familial tradition, ancestral or a favorite/necessary dietary offering of bread for a UU-style bread communion as we experience this ancient practice.

Our Sunday morning programs begin at 10:30 a.m., and all are invited to stay for coffee hour after the service. We hold space for many topics to engage and deepen growing our spirits, building beloved community and doing good in the world.

Our Community Hub is a place for groups to gather and grow, such as weekly meditation practice from 5:30 to 7 p.m. each Sunday evening, and other groups throughout the month.

The fellowship is one of the faith partners of Pagosa Pride and will provide space for a short program for Transgender Day of Remembrance on Thursday, Nov. 20, beginning at 6 p.m.

Find more information at Pago-

saUU.org, where you will also find our current newsletter. We invite all to our small faith 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.

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Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs planning January workshop

By **Laurah Brock Young**

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

The Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs has a discussion each month focusing on a spiritual topic. Although we are not offering a discussion during November and December, it is in anticipation of a special event in January 2026.

On Jan. 11, 2026, we plan a Raise Your Spiritual IQ Workshop called “Understanding Your Dreams – Dive Deeper into the Purpose and Meaning of Your Dreams.”

Join us for a deep dive into the spiritual purpose, benefits, and how to recognize and interpret the nine types of dreams.

Are you interested in tips and techniques to help with recalling and interpreting your dreams? Would you like to learn how dreams help by offering inner guidance and understanding the spiritual lessons dreams

provide for daily life? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you will enjoy this free workshop.

No prior experience is needed—just curiosity and an open heart.

This is for anyone seeking deeper meaning in life, spiritual tools for personal growth or a fresh perspective on how divine love works through all experiences.

We will provide more information about the workshop as we get closer to the January date. You can always find us on our Meetup site: <https://www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/>.

The Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs is sponsored by Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

To learn more about Eckankar, visit <https://www.eckankar.org> or <https://eckankar-colorado.org/>.



ANCIENT HYDROTHERAPY CAN LOWER MODERN STRESS (Part 2)

(continued from last week)

Water seems to have special powers in getting rid of stress and rejuvenating our body.

It affects the skin and muscles.

It calms the lungs, heart, stomach, and endocrine system by stimulating nerve reflexes on the spinal cord.

When you submerge yourself in a bath, a pool, or a whirlpool, you experience a kind of weightlessness. Your body is relieved from the constant pull of gravity.

Water also has a hydrostatic effect. It has a massage-like feeling as the water gently kneads your body.

Water, in motion, stimulates touch receptors on the skin, boosting blood circulation and releasing tight muscles. The more the water is in motion, higher is its stress-relieving benefits.

In a study of 40 persons at University of Minnesota, 85% of the participants preferred a whirlpool bath to a still bath.

Only whirlpool was effective in reducing the participants’ reactivity to stress although both still and whirlpool baths were effective in reducing anxiety.

Herbal baths can be particularly soothing when you are experiencing a period of stress.

Source: “Hydrotherapy”

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

“And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” Isaiah 58:11



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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 common merganser.

Often referred to as the “fish duck” in old texts and references, the common merganser is certainly the most ubiquitous fish-feeding diving duck in our region. Found on rivers and large lakes, these birds possess toothlike serrations on their bills designed for holding on to slippery, writhing fish, which have also earned them the name “sawbills.”

As for identifying these pescatarians, females and immature males have a notable punk rock crest of disheveled, rusty-red head feathers, white chin, orange bill and a largely gray body. In mature plumage, males have an iridescent dark green head and back, a brilliant red bill and a largely white body. At the end of breeding season (late summer), the males become temporarily flightless, resembling female birds while they molt and replace feathers before resolving into their breeding plumage by late fall. All birds have a distinctive white wing patch and very straight bill, notably pointing them forward in flight.

Females lay approximately six to 12 eggs, one brood per year. Amazingly, the young nestlings waste no time venturing from the nest to seek food sources, leaving as quickly as two days from hatching. Much like wood ducks and goldeneyes, mergansers seek out natural cavities in dead trees or hollow logs, oftentimes excavated by woodpeckers initially. With the right habitat characteristics and proximity to water, they will utilize an artificially constructed nest box.

In 2018, a video of one female common merganser caring for 76 young, known as a “crèche,” went viral. Known as both a cooperative breeder, females will often take in the young of other breeders. They’ve also been documented utilizing brood parasitism, meaning that they may drop their eggs in the nest of other species (goldeneye sp. or other merganser sp.), possibly to ensure better nesting success. A little-known fact, common mergansers have historically been monitored as an aquatic environmental health indicator, as their diet and condition can echo issues ranging from acidification to the presence of toxic metals or pesticides. Fortunately, their population appears to be semi-stable currently.

On Nov. 19th, the Weminuche Audubon Society chapter will gather to review bird identification for this year’s Christmas Bird Count. The session will focus predominantly on waterfowl species. If you’re interested in shoring up your duck ID or contributing to the count, join in. For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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S A G C D I A E I M N P D O B R N U O A
I N Q S R T A L F V A G S Q E U G T L R
O N R U A O N M U T E W S H E R M W S M
N A B M R C L E L S N R T U G G O R A F
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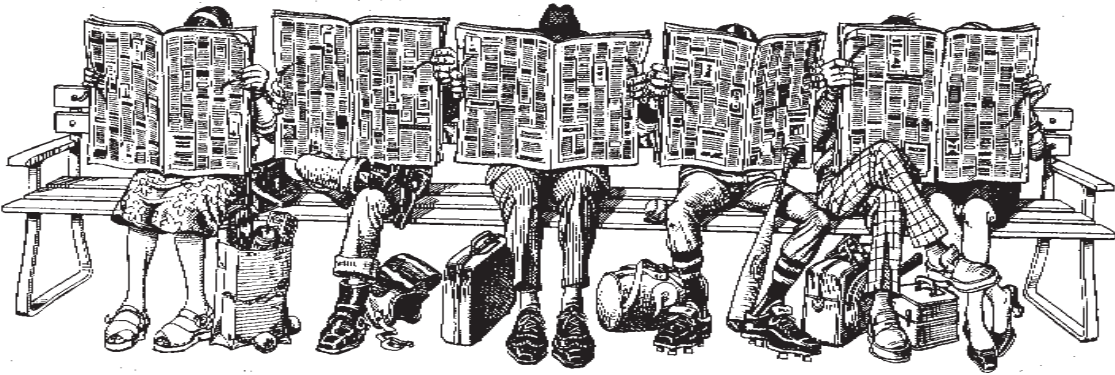
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Stay hydrated this winter: why it matters for older adults

By **Ricardo Martinez**
PREVIEW Columnist

As temperatures drop, many older adults tend to drink less water, unaware that their bodies still need just as much hydration as during warmer months.

Cold weather can dull the body's thirst response, making dehydration a hidden risk, especially for seniors whose fluid balance naturally decreases with age.

Proper hydration is essential for regulating body temperature, maintaining healthy blood pressure, aiding digestion, and supporting joint and muscle function. Even mild dehydration can cause fatigue, dizziness, confusion, or increase the risk of falls — common concerns for older adults during winter.

Simple ways to stay hydrated during cold weather

Experts recommend that seniors sip water throughout the day, even if they don't feel thirsty.

Warm beverages such as herbal teas, clear broths, or hot water with lemon are excellent ways to stay hydrated and maintain body warmth. Foods with high water content, like soups, fruits and vegetables, can also boost hydration.

Keep a reusable water bottle nearby as a reminder to drink regularly. For those taking medications that affect hydration, it's important to consult a health care provider for personalized guidance.

Staying hydrated is a simple yet powerful way for older adults to stay healthy, energized and resilient throughout the colder months.

Autumn match campaign

We depend on donations as part of our funding to provide our programs and 20,000 lunches a year, including the home-bound using Meals on Wheels. Our other sources of funding are not enough.

You can make a difference. An Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) supporter will donate up to \$5,000 if matched between now and Dec. 31. Your donation of \$10 becomes \$20, \$20 becomes \$40, \$50 becomes \$100, or whatever amount you give will be doubled in value.

You can donate to the matching campaign in many ways:

- Call ASI at (970) 264-2167 or stop in and use your credit card, saying it's for the matching campaign. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the Ross Aragon Community Center (the riverside entrance at the portico).

- You can send a check to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, with "Match" on the memo line, or use this link: <https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/ArchuletaSeniors>.

Senior News

November holiday closures

ASI will be closed on Nov. 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving. No programs or lunch service will be provided those days.

Upcoming events

Put us on your schedule. We will have a tree at the Festival of Trees on Dec. 5 and 6. Also, there may be a competitive team jigsaw puzzle contest fundraiser with prizes in January — more details will follow.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at the Pagosa 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 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 held 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-

■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page
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.

There will be no class on Nov. 26.

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

This class will be held only Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Senior Center from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. There will be a break after that until Jan. 8, 2026.

Tai chi chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortless 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 Nov. 14.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Silver Fox’s Den in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab ‘N’ Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab ‘N’ Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call before 9 a.m. Please note

that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Nov. 13 — Giant stuffed portabella mushroom with couscous, garlic toast, garden salad, fruit, Snickers cake and milk.

Friday, Nov. 14 - Korean pork ribs, quinoa brown rice, ginger carrots, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Monday, Nov. 17 — Philly cheesesteak on hoagie roll with peppers and onions, cheesy cauliflower, garden salad, strawberry rhubarb pie, and milk.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 — Chicken and mushroom crepes, asparagus, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 — Minestrone soup with focaccia bread, beet salad with goat cheese and walnuts, carrot cake, fruit, and milk.

Thursday, Nov. 20 — BBQ pork ribs, creamed corn, apple crisp, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Nov. 21 — Egyptian pomegranate molasses chicken, roasted potatoes, garden salad, fruit, baklava and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don’t forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

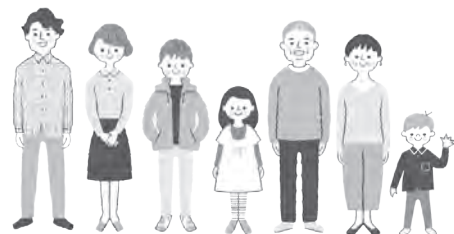
Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any

■ See Senior on next page



Open Enrollment for Health Insurance

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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, Nov. 13

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.

Online Author Talk. Noon, virtual. Watch nationally renowned authors give hourlong presentations live via Zoom, or watch the recording later. "The Search for Truth and Persistence of Love Across Time" with novelist Amanda Peters. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum. 4-5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will focus on growing fruit trees.

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.

Friday, Nov. 14

Notary Drop-in. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Read with Maple, the therapy

Senior

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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

dog who loves stories.

Vets4Vets Fundraising Dinner and Dance. 5-9 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Tickets are \$49 per person and may be purchased online at <http://bit.ly/47telHo> or at the door. All proceeds benefit local veteran support services.

Saturday, Nov. 15

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church fellowship hall, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. Social time will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending around noon. The meeting is held in the fellowship hall (park in the back parking lot and enter through the right-hand door). For more information, visit pagosapiecemakers.com.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. For more information, call Marie Roscoe at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You can also register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Western Heritage Day. Noon-3 p.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds. Join in passing on living history, heritage, tradition and legacy while honoring and remembering those who have gone before us.

Pagosa Springs High School Improv Show. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. High School students will present a special improv show. Admission is \$5.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Master Class.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Nov. 16

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'Master Class.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts,

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 or visit www.psseniors.org for more information.

2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, Nov. 17

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., ■ See Calendar on next page

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Voters Approve Ballot Issue 2A to Strengthen Town's Sewer Infrastructure



"On behalf of Town Council, I'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to the voters of Pagosa Springs and the advocates of 2A for their strong show of support and civic engagement," stated Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce. "This decision not only addresses immediate infrastructure challenges but also safeguards the community's long-term prosperity and resilience."

The new 1% sales tax takes effect on January 1, 2026, and is estimated to generate \$3.6 million in its first year. This revenue will help prevent future system failures, reduce environmental risks, and support the health and safety of residents and businesses.

Learn more at pagosasprings.co.gov/2AElectionResults

Help is Available for Archuleta County Flood Victims

Some residents and businesses are still dealing with property damage after this month's flooding. Several organizations are offering free disaster assistance to support recovery efforts. Additionally, a new disaster assistance loan program is available for local businesses thanks to the Region 9 Economic Development District. Check out the resources at pagosasprings.co.gov/FloodAssistance.

Holiday Happenings

• **Holiday Lighting Contest:** The holiday lighting contest for households and businesses is back! Register by Wed., Nov. 19. Voting and contest begin Nov. 28. Register at <https://bit.ly/2025HolidayLightingContest>.

• **Festival of Trees Events:** Two nights of celebrations, including a visit and cookies with Santa on Thurs., Dec. 4 (free), and dinner, music and live auction on Fri., Dec. 5 (\$30). Get tickets at pagosasprings.co.gov.



pagosasprings.co.gov

View the town's monthly e-newsletter online at
pagosasprings.co.gov/newsletter

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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. Annie Gian from Rise Above Violence will speak about what the organization does. Please come by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch. The speaker will present at noon.

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.

American Sign Language Class. 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

DivorceCare/DivorceCare for Kids. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program that provides a safe environment for people who are experiencing the hardship of divorce or separation. It features experts on divorce and recovery topics. DivorceCare for Kids is for kids 5-12, with topics mirroring the adult sessions. For more information, email Jim Shook at jshookup@gmail.com or call the church at (970) 731-2205. You can register online at www.divorcecare.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

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.

Online Author Talk. Noon, virtual. Watch nationally renowned authors give hourlong presentations live via Zoom, or watch the recording later. "Unlock the Secret Language of Connection with supercommunicator Charles Duhigg. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/>

[pagosalibrary/upcoming](https://libraryc.org/).

Adult DIY. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. What is gratitude to you? Discuss the concept with others.

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>.

Tween Baddie Buddies Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. For ages 11-14. Snacks will be provided.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

CSU Extension and Faigrounds Fall Open House. 5-7 p.m., CSU Extension building and Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. Mingle with staff and community members, and learn about upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities and resources available.

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, Nov. 19

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11 a.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Take a moment to visit with certified therapy dog Mia. A great way to destress, boost your mood and relax.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Notary Drop-in. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

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>.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Bird Identification Class. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Enter through the side door closest to the parking lot. Join the Weminuche Audubon Society for the first of three bird identification classes in preparation for the Christmas Bird Count. A Zoom link will be available at weminucheaudubon.org.

Thursday, Nov. 20

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.

Early Community Thanksgiving Dinner. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., pick up at 445 Lewis St. All are welcome to partake of this takeaway turkey and trimmings dinner.

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

■ See Calendar on next page

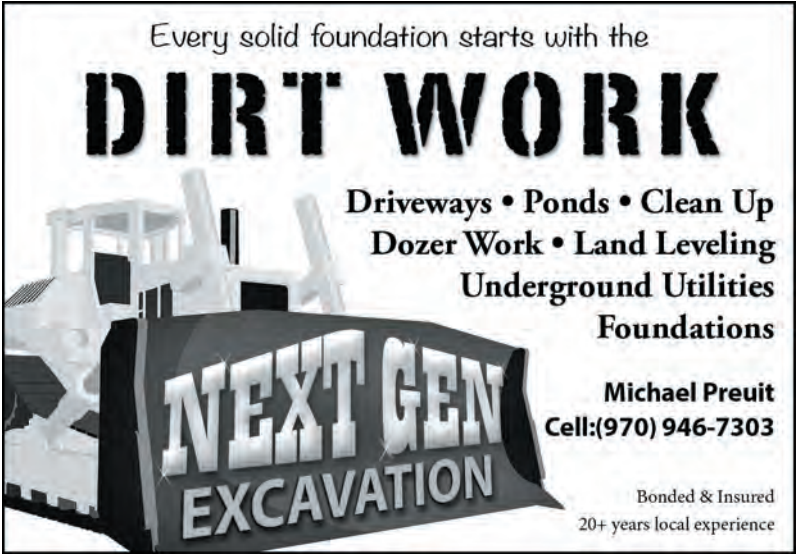
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Sign up now for Holiday Lighting Contest

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

Once again, the Pagosa Springs area will be bright with holiday cheer this season.

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board and The Pagosa Springs SUN are sponsoring a lighting contest this holiday season. The lighting contest will make the holiday season shine. It includes enhanced lighting in downtown Pagosa Springs, as well as many other festive events taking place in and around the Pagosa Springs area through the end of December.

Participating addresses will be promoted to locals and visitors. Voting will be conducted online between Nov. 28 and Dec. 17.

Residential lighting contest

The holiday residential lighting competition will award cash prizes for first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third (\$250).

Participating residential properties must be decorated by Nov. 28. Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 25.

We ask residential properties to turn on their lights every evening

from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 28 and the end of the year.

Business lighting contest

The business lighting contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a property to decorate. Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 28.

We ask business properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 28 and the end of the year.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 25. Business prizes of first (\$1,000), second (\$500) and third (\$250) will be awarded as advertising in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Storefront window contest

The storefront window contest is open to any Pagosa Springs area business with a storefront window to decorate.

Participating businesses must decorate by Nov. 28. We ask business properties to turn on their lights every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 28 and the end of the year.

Winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec.

25. Storefront window prizes of first (\$500), second (\$250) and third (\$125) will be awarded as advertising in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

How to enter

To enter the contest, please complete the following form by end of day on Nov. 19: <https://bit.ly/2025HolidayLightingContest>.

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Friday, Nov. 21

Notary Drop-in. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/

[curtains-up-pagosa](http://curtains-up-pagosa.com).

Saturday, Nov. 22

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.

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.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'

2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas.'

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Community events.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

National Family Caregivers Month: nearly 12 million serve as Alzheimer’s caregivers

By Jim Herlihy

Alzheimer’s Association of Colorado

An estimated 3.5 percent of the U.S. population — more than 11.9 million people — is currently serving as volunteer, unpaid caregivers for their 7.4 million loved ones living with Alzheimer’s disease.

This veritable army of spouses, children, siblings, grandchildren, friends and neighbors is giving its time — and often its own money — to care for loved ones living with Alzheimer’s, the last major disease without a prevention or cure.

November is a special month to honor this unique, dedicated group of people. Originally designated as National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, the event later was expanded by President Bill Clinton to honor our nation’s caregivers: National Family Caregivers Month.

“Providing one-on-one care for a loved one is a very personal experience,” said Jim Hammelev, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association of Colorado.

The reality is that these volunteer caregivers are generally inexperienced in the tasks facing them. Half (51 percent) report having no prior experience performing medical/nursing-related tasks. But, despite the physical, emotional and financial strain, 45 percent of caregivers surveyed by the Alzheimer’s Association reported the experience was “very rewarding.”

Alzheimer’s caregiving by the numbers

The statistics surrounding Alzheimer’s caregiving are as startling as the disease itself. The sixth-leading cause of death in the United States

and the only leading disease without a prevention or cure, Alzheimer’s poses a massive health care challenge that could not be met without the selfless acts of volunteer caregivers.

Here’s a statistical look at the disease and the caregivers:

- Alzheimer’s caregivers across the U.S.: more than 11.9 million in 2024.
- Duration of care: more than half (57 percent) of family caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s or other dementias have provided care for four or more years. Some provide care for up to 20 years.
- Number of hours: In 2024, volunteer caregivers in the U.S. provided nearly 19.2 billion hours of unpaid care, an average of 31 hours of care per caregiver per week.
- Value of care: The unpaid Alzheimer’s care provided in 2025 is projected at \$413 billion (on top of projected costs of \$384 billion in paid care).

The value of unpaid care is nearly 16 times the total revenue of McDonald’s in 2024 (\$25.9 billion).

• The health of caregivers: Surveys conducted by the Alzheimer’s Association show that 44 percent of dementia caregivers report anxiety; 32.5 percent report depression; and for caregivers at a mean age of 64, 32 percent report thinking about or making plans for suicide vs. 2.7 percent of U.S. adults age 56 and older (direct age comparator not available).

A total of 18 percent of spousal caregivers die before their partners with dementia (Alzheimer’s Association).

• Medical system support: In a survey of caregivers from a large health care system, fewer than four in 10 respondents (39.2 percent)

agreed that their primary care providers help them with managing symptoms of a care recipient with dementia.

• Double responsibilities: One in four caregivers report they are “sandwich generation” caregivers, meaning they care for children under age 18 as well as an aging parent.

• Out-of-pocket costs: It was estimated in 2021 (the last year surveyed) that dementia caregivers pay \$12,388 on average per year in out-of-pocket costs in their caregiving role.

In Colorado

There are more than 91,000 Coloradans living with Alzheimer’s disease. Supporting them are more than 178,000 volunteer caregivers.

Caregiver training/education

The Alzheimer’s Association offers a wide range of educational programs and services — all at no charge — for caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer’s disease. To learn more, go to www.alz.org or call the Association’s free 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Driving Miss Betty, a new normal

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Leaning on a cane, I hobbled into my friend's house. I noticed her mangled toes. I was surprised since I've not seen her without pointed-toe shoes with high heels for 30 years. How did her feet get that bad? Living large like we all have.

She noticed my stare. "I can't wear shoes anymore. I don't drive, either." She led me into her living room. "How was your drive?"

I answered her question with the same panic I had endured in the car. "We made the seven-hour trip in six hours. With my eyes closed, my head on my lap, feet welded to the floor, my stomach flip-flopping, I made it without too much grumbling. I grabbed the seat, held on and cried out for deliverance. I glared at the double line and begged my son not to go over it."

I said, "Stephen, I can't go through another accident. I'm still recuperating from the last one. Have mercy on me."

My friend offered me a cup of coffee and asked if I'd like to lie down on her sofa.

With my nerves still on high alert, I tried to calm down. "Do you remember when Jesus told Peter he would grow old and he would be carried where he didn't want to go? That was a far-fetched idea when I heard it then. That wasn't going to happen to me. Well, it's happening now."

"Let me put it this way. Since I still can't drive, I must rely on family members to drive me. My son was kind enough to bring me to visit you, my friend. I need to remember that. I shouldn't grumble."

Then I asked a question that had been on my mind for the past year since the accident and my 53 visits to the physical therapist. "Will we ever be able to return to normal?"

She shook her head. "I don't think so."

"And maybe you don't want to put on those high heel shoes again. You have a good excuse not to wear them."

"Could be."

"I've stepped down from leadership and scaled down my commitments. I've spent a lot of time at home in prayer; I keep writing and I make sure my Sweet Al is safe. I guess this is what the new normal looks like?"

I listened to Keanu Reeves in a video on YouTube. He had a recent encounter with God. He played the John Wick character and is a recipient of numerous accolades in a career on screen spanning four decades. He understands about getting older. His message was for the older people who are giving up, no longer in the spotlight, no longer relevant or feeling like their life is spiraling the drain.

He said, "Older people believe lies

Artist's Lane

from the devil and they quit living." The next sentence is the one that hit me in the face and set my mind to thinking about our last days. "Your deepest pain might be your greatest assignment. Do you want to miss God's greatest call on your life?"

I said to my friend, "Maybe this new normal is that in our deepest pain we find our greatest assignment and we need to accept it with a cheerful heart. People see us differently in our physically impaired state. They are watching as we walk out our faith, being stretched beyond what we've ever experienced before. At this time of life, maybe we are in our greatest assignment and we don't even know it."

She said, "At this time of life, I pray I won't grumble. It's my biggest fault." She used the example, "When I go to McDonald's and I buy a senior citizen's cup of coffee for 69 cents, I tell the little boy behind the counter, who is wearing a hoodie over his head with his long sleeves, 'Take off your hoodie so I can see your eyes. Roll up your sleeve and don't drag it through my coffee.' Can you believe I tell them to do all of that for a 69-cent cup of coffee?"

I know what she means. Maybe our hardest assignment is to stay sweet when it hurts to stand or walk. When we check into a handicap room, we find the bed 4 feet tall and

we have to get someone to help us get into bed. They have a low, step-in tub with a slick surface and tell us that we they don't have a walk-in shower. And no bar to hang onto with the lowest commode possible. I am sure the people who design the handicap rooms have not been impaired. They have no idea. They just hear our complaints.

Older people want it to be what we call normal. But, things are not normal anymore. Because we can't drive ourselves, we need to let others drive us. That means, when my son is fiddling with the GPS and I say, I've been there a thousand times, I can tell you how to get there."

He says, "Please, let me drive, Mother." I need to let him.

Or when my daughter is driving at a slow crawl, looking at messages and dog pictures coming in on her phone or applying mascara to her eyelashes, I need to learn to sit back and let her drive. After all, she takes her day off to drive me to doctors' appointments and physical therapy.

My job and my hardest assignment is showing gratitude to the Lord for letting me live a full life. And being kind to those who have put their lives on hold to help me.

Final brushstroke: In this new normal, we are trying to live sweetly with a cane in hand and staying relevant to this younger generation. Most of all, understanding God might have left the biggest assignment for us to do in our lifetime — stay sweet in a world in which we need others to help us.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

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November's Educational information is

5 Signs You Have a Hidden Mold Problem.

Mold is one of the most common and costly issues homeowners face—and it often thrives out of sight. Just because you don't see black patches on your walls doesn't mean mold isn't there. In fact, hidden mold can be even more dangerous because it quietly damages your home and affects your health before you even know it's there.



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100 years ago this month: historical events from November 1925

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of November has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here’s a look at some that helped to shape the world in November 1925:

- The western comedy “Go West” opens on Nov. 1. Silent film legend Buster Keaton stars as “Friendless” and Fatty Arbuckle appears in an uncredited role.
- Sixteen people lose their lives in a small village in Wales when a dam bursts on Nov. 2. The burst comes after five days of heavy rains.
- The Victrola Talking Machine Company introduces its new electrically-recorded phonograph records on Nov. 2. The records can be played on the Victor Orthophonic Victrola, which cost around \$95 in 1925, or the equivalent of nearly \$1,700 in 2025.
- The film “The Pleasure Garden” is released on Nov. 3. The release marks the directorial debut of English filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock.
- Italian Socialist Tito Zaniboni is arrested in a room at the Dragoni Hotel on Nov. 4. The hotel is located across the street from the Chigi Palace in Rome, and Zaniboni is accused of renting a room with the intent of shooting Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini, who was scheduled to deliver a speech from the palace balcony.
- The National Hockey League awards a franchise to Pittsburgh, Penn., on Nov. 7. The club is named the Pirates, which is also the name of the city’s baseball team. The franchise moved to Philadelphia for the

1930-1931 season before ceasing operations at the end of that campaign.

- The divorce trial of socialite Leonard “Kip” Rhinelander and Alice Jones begins in White Plains, N.Y., on Nov. 9. At the urging of his family, Rhinelander sought an annulment of the marriage upon finding out that Jones was biracial. An annulment was never granted, but the marriage ultimately ended in divorce, and neither ever remarried.
- On Nov. 10, the archbishop of Canterbury appoints a 12-person committee of six doctors and six clergymen to investigate the veracity of faith healing.
- Louis Armstrong and His Hot Five record their first songs together on Nov. 12. The recordings are considered highly influential for the development of jazz music.
- Polish Prime Minister Wladyslaw Grabski and his cabinet ministers resign on Nov. 13. The mass resignations occur over a difference of opinion with the Bank Polski SA regarding economic issues plaguing the country.
- The American Basketball League opens its inaugural season on Nov. 15. The league is the first national professional basketball league in the United States.
- General Motors purchases British auto manufacturer Vauxhall Motors for \$2.5 million on Nov. 16.
- The autopsy of Tutankhamun concludes on Nov. 19. Limited forensic science available at the time, coupled with significant deterioration of the body, limits the findings of the autopsy.
- The luxury train the Orange Blossom Special begins operations on Nov. 21. The train transports travelers from New York City to Miami, Fla.

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- The “Hat Law” goes into effect in Turkey on Nov. 25. The law forbids the wearing of non-western headgear, including the fez or the turban.
- A state funeral is held for queen mother Alexandra at Westminster Abbey in London on Nov. 27. The procession marching behind the casket includes the kings of England, Denmark, Norway and Belgium.
- The Grand Ole Opry debuts as a radio show on Nov. 28. Fiddler Uncle Jimmy Thompson is the first to perform on the show.
- The new Madison Square Garden on Eighth Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets in Manhattan hosts its first event on Nov. 29. The event is a six-day bicycle race known as “Six Days of New York.”



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10 a.m., Monday, November 24

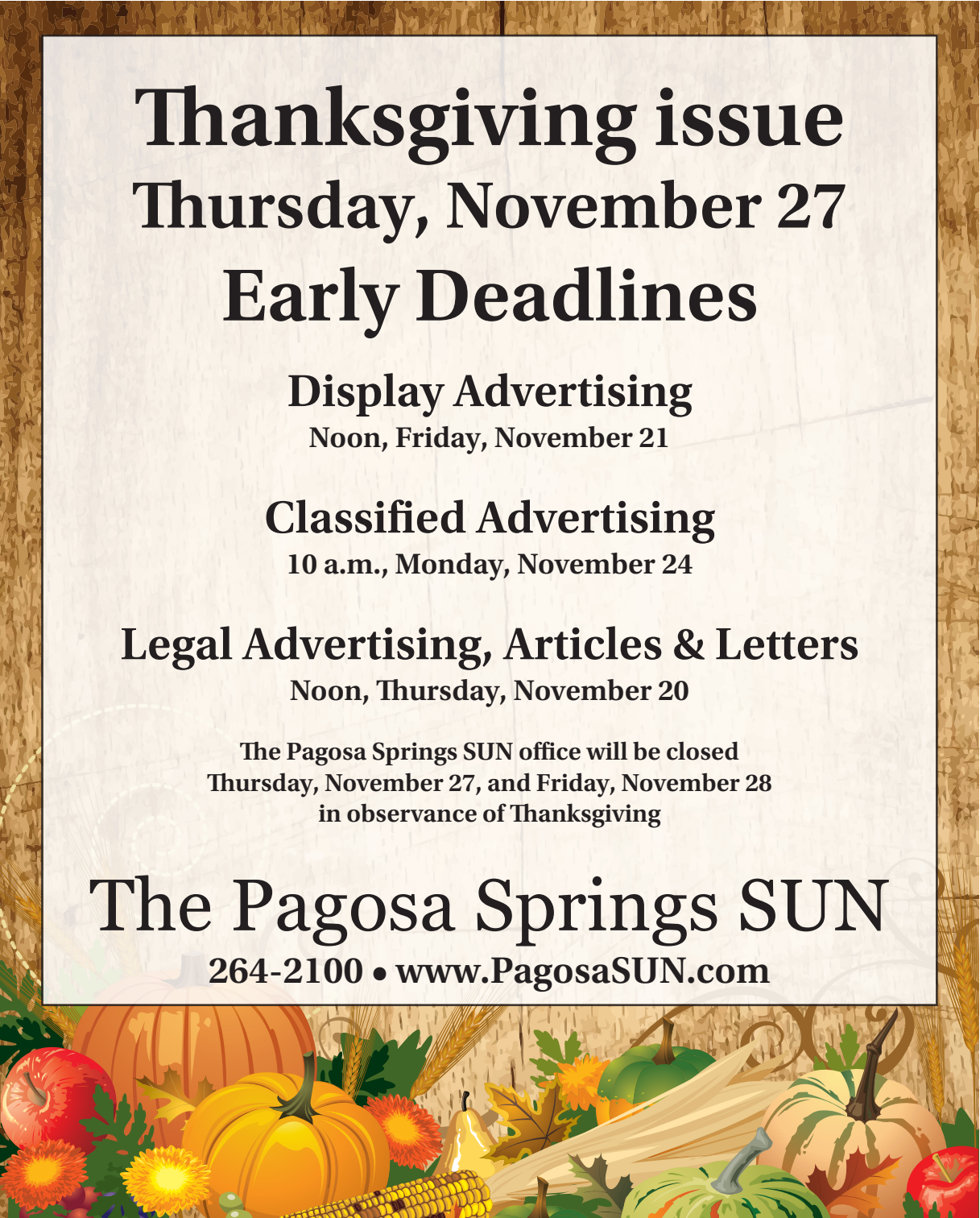
Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters

Noon, Thursday, November 20

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28
in observance of Thanksgiving

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FREE WOOD CHIPS. Please leave a message with your phone number after the child's message. (970)731-5098.

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, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER (8 YEARS) looking for another client to serve. Trained in most lower level medical procedures. Excellent food preparation and proficient in all household tasks. Please call Rick at (303)601-2390 to schedule an in -person interview.

HEALTH

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions in the hot springs, bodywork, massage, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy — supports brain / nervous system, Qi gong, somatics — resolves trauma. (970)903-5309. (970)844-0645.

HELP WANTED

NEWSPAPER REPORTER — We are searching for a talented reporter to fill a full-time position in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, at The Pagosa Springs SUN. Our journalists are driven to find stories that matter to our community and are dedicated to fairness, accuracy, and ethics. The successful candidate for this position is someone who knows how to cover hard news but also loves to write about people and their passions. They know that a good interview is often a good conversation and know when to ask the tough questions, but also when to listen. The ideal candidate has exceptional writing skills and is willing to put in the extra effort and research to deliver an engaging story. Preferred qualifications for this position include: Degree or diploma in journalism, or a related field; At least 1-3 years of experience as a reporter with experience covering hard news and feature stories or experience at a college newspaper; The ability to meet tight deadlines and report the news as it happens; Superior language, writing and editing skills; Strong photography skills; Able to work a variety of schedules, including evenings, nights and weekends; Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills; Ability to work in a fast-paced environment; A valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle; Willingness to live in or near Pagosa Springs, Colorado. If this sounds like the perfect position for you, we would love to hear from you! To apply, please send your resume, letter of interest and relevant samples of your work to Chad Richardson, Vice President of News, crichardson@orourkemediagroup.com. Company Benefits: We offer competitive compensation plans and employees are eligible for medical, dental, vision, life insurance benefits, paid time off and our 401 (k) savings plan. This is an excellent opportunity for career development and growth within the company O'Rourke Media Group is a fast-growing company that owns and operates hyper-local, community newspapers, websites, niche publications and a full-service digital agency. We are family-owned and mission-driven to save newspapers and local media companies by investing in the people, resources and technology needed to thrive for many years to come. We believe that every community can benefit from a well-run, properly resourced, local newspaper and website. Our News teams produce hyper-local, high interest local news and accurate and trustworthy reporting. Our Sales and Digital Fulfillment teams bring omnichannel advertising solutions to local businesses in the communities we serve. O'Rourke Media Group now operates in nine states and 38 markets with 51 publications and hyper-local websites. We started from ground zero in December 2018, totally bootstrapped, confident and with an entrepreneurial mindset.

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT is accepting applications for a Full Time Judicial Clerk I in Pagosa Springs. Provides case processing assistance and customer service. Complete job description at www.coloradojudicial.gov/careers

(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.

HELP WANTED

ARCHULETA SENIORS now hiring a Kitchen Assistant. Entry level food preparation and packaging. Hours 8a.m. to 3p.m., part -time, no weekends. Paid Time Off and a Health Stipend after 90 days. Pick up an application in person at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd, 1 -3p.m. weekdays.

ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER needed to fulfill accounting responsibilities for Ponderosa Lumber. Accounting, computer and credit / collection knowledge preferred. We offer a competitive wage, paid time off, 401(K), profit sharing and medical /dental benefits for being a full -time associate. Please apply in person at Ponderosa Lumber, 2435 Eagle Drive, Pagosa Springs or call (970)731-4111 and ask for Jim.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.

PagosaSUN.com

HELP WANTED

AUTOMOTIVE LEAD TECHNICIAN WANTED. Join a shop that values **expertise, integrity, and relationships.** At **CT's Automotive**, we're looking for an experienced technician ready to lead a team in our **16 year customer trusted** repair shop! Electrical Diagnostic Skills/Experience preferred. **Competitive Pay:** \$28-\$45/hr+ hybrid (hrly base + flat rate) — earn \$55K –\$100K+ annually (depending on experience, performance and skills). **No Weekends!** Monday –Friday schedule. **Benefits:** Paid holidays, PTO, IRA with / match, health and wellness perks, uniforms provided, work boot allowance, quarterly tool allowance. **Training and Growth:** Paid ASE training and career development. Award-winning, family-oriented, 4.9 star rated — **Start "Building relationships one vehicle at a time" with us! Apply today:** 163 Goldmine Dr. Unit B.

BUCKSKIN TOWING AND REPAIR is looking for a tow truck driver. Must be at least 21 and be able to pass a drug test. Call (970)264-2500 for more information, or email resume to buckskin-ap@outlook.com.

HELP WANTED

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

COLORADO ROCK & DIRT EXCAVATION is expanding our team. We are looking for experienced Class A CDL Drivers -local driving only. This is a full -time position, offering competitive pay, health insurance, 401K and PTO. Please email resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com.

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 or stop by the office at 2039 E. HWY 160, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

FRAMERS HELP NEEDED. Part time or full. Year round work. Pay based on experience. Apply in person at 172 Goldmine Dr. or call (970)585-1021.

HELP WANTED

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.

HOT TUB SERVICE TECH> \$20 per hour start pay. Full or Part Time. Must have vehicle. Will train. Call /text (970)344-8437.

IMMEDIATE OPENING at Square Top BBQ. Counter Service/Bartender for Thursday -Friday -Sunday, 10:45a.m. -6:30p.m. Apply in person.

J AND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com).

HELP WANTED

MECHANIC WANTED, DULCE at Repair Remedy. \$22 per hour to start. One month, \$25. Jacob, (970)585-4508.

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for dependable LMTs to join our team. Utilize your healing gifts. TOP PAY \$55/ hour +tips. Email rachdevloo@gmail.com.

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.

OFFICE MANAGER /Admin Assistant /Reception. Monday -Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Pay based on experience and proven work history. Starting at \$20 per hour, if you have more experience starting pay will increase. Minimum requirements include 3 year minimum customer service, bookkeeping, computer skills, high school diploma. Postion available now. Call (970)903-3942.

JOIN OUR TEAM



O'Rourke Media Group is recruiting for an Advertising Account Executive. We're seeking a proven sales professional that has a demonstrated track record of driving growth and new business development. Great opportunity for an experienced media sales rep, recent college grad or those looking to make a career change from outside of the media business. We offer an excellent compensation plan ranging from \$50K to \$100K+, great support and training, a fun work environment and lots of autonomy.

OMG is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. For more company information, please go to our website at www.orourkemediagroup.com.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Advertising Account Executive is responsible for managing client relationships, developing advertising strategies, and ensuring client satisfaction. This role requires a blend of sales, marketing, and communication skills.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Client Management:

- Act as the primary point of contact for assigned clients.
- Build and maintain strong, long-lasting client relationships.
- Understand clients' business objectives and advertising needs.

Strategy Development:

- Collaborate with internal teams to develop effective advertising campaigns.
- Present campaign proposals to clients and negotiate terms.
- Monitor campaign performance and adjust strategies as needed.

Sales and Business Development:

- Identify and pursue new business opportunities.
- Prepare and deliver sales presentations.
- Engage in networking activities.
- Meet and exceed sales targets.

Reporting and Analysis:

- Provide regular reports on campaign progress and results.
- Analyze data to identify trends and insights.
- Present findings to clients and internal teams.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Advertising, Business Administration, or a related field.
- Proven experience in sales or account management, preferably in the advertising industry.
- Strong communication, negotiation, and presentation skills.
- Ability to build and maintain client relationships.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving abilities.

SKILLS

- Client Relationship Management
- Sales and Business Development
- Strategic Planning
- Communication and Presentation
- Data Analysis

Interested candidates should apply directly with an email message and resume to Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com. Feel free to provide Linked In credentials as well.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

PETS



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.

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Apply in person Monday-Friday

Applications on terrysace.com

Join us in serving our Pagosa community!

Must have experience with outdoor power equipment, problem solving, self-starting and customer service oriented.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SANCTUARY LOOKING FOR OUTDOOR help. (970)264-2592.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF PAGOSA SPRINGS animals need you... Do you love animals? Are you looking for meaningful work? We are looking for passionate individuals who want to help us expand community outreach and increase adoption successes while caring for and enriching the lives of unwanted and abandoned pets. Full time (32 hours) \$17.00 an hour with potential for increase after 60 days. Part time (24 hours) \$16.50. 4 -10 shifts available. Weekends required. A clean driving record (past 5 years) and super work attendance references needed. Apply at www.pagosahumane.org or email a resume to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org.

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.

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7 -PIECE, BEAUTIFUL, HIGH END, large, ornate outdoor aluminum rectangular patio table. Seats 6, with cushions. \$500. (970)585-4528.

ALMOST NEW 3 WINTER HAKKAPELITTA snow/mud tires. Size 245/60/R18. Great tires, made in Finland for their harsh winters. \$100 for all three. (970)585-4528.

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SNOWBLOWER, Honda HS928, tracks for great traction, Hydrostatic drive, Throws 50 feet, Not new, but lightly used and well maintained. \$800, (970)946-2684.

SNOWBLOWERS. Tract Atlas, 24 inch, 4HP, \$350. Craftsman MTD -Pro, 28 inch, 9HP, electric /pull start, \$600. Airen's 1128, 28 inch, 9HP, electric /pull start, \$600. All serviced, run, operate. Take all, \$1,100. (970)382-1285.

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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 YORKIE BOY PUPPY, \$1,000. (970)317-5859.

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.

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. \$3,850. (970)903-2492. Leave message.

2002 SUBARU FORESTER with Thule cargo box. Lovingly cared for. New all -season tires and more. \$2,500. Information, call (970)903-2492.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

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.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE — \$350 /MONTH. Utilities included, Internet plus \$50, at the Pagosa Hotel — available November, 1 -year lease, call Jacque, (970)946-7636.

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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

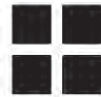
HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

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COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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.

THREE UNITS IN UPTOWN 419, 364, and 1477 sq. ft. Available now. \$900 - \$2400. Utilities included. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

TWO ROOM OFFICE SUITE with bathroom. Street level, light and bright with off street parking. \$1,000 per month includes utilities. 138 Pagosa Street. (970)946-2728.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

1 B/1 B TINY HOME for rent, \$1000 plus utilities on 1.5 Acres. Available December 1. Text (970)403-4323.

3 BED, 2 BATH HOME in Holiday Acres. Freshly painted inside. Call (208)582-8440. Owner maintains land. Avail now.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, electricity, water, sewer included. \$1,500 per month. Remodeled, privacy fence, no pets, no smokers. (970)946-2058.

5 BEDROOM, 2 BATH MOBILE. Two living rooms, privacy fence, remodeled. No pets, no smokers. Water, sewer, electric included. \$3,200 per month. (970)946-2058.

ADORABLE ONE BEDROOM, one bath kitchenette cottage attached to a larger home, private entrance, off street parking. Homeowner lives in California, rarely on property. \$995 per month. Contact Lori, (619)992-0700.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 1 car garage townhome. All utilities included This is an 8 month rental which runs October through May of 2026. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 3 bath 1 car garage townhome in downtown Pagosa Springs. Available now through September of 2026. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. \$3000 /month. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit the website teampagosa.com.

CABIN ON A PEACEFUL 5 ACRE LOT. Close to town and amenities off a paved public road. 2 full bedrooms with a bedroom loft above. 2 full bathrooms. 2 car garage with an attached garage for storage. City water. Perfect for mid term or long term rental. \$2,200 per month. (719)510-1984.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTAL — Two bedroom and bath. Private Deck. \$1,800. Walking distance to hot springs and shops and restaurants in old downtown. Available now. (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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

EXCELLENT DOWNTOWN LOCATION, 1 bedroom /1 bath, 1,138 sq. ft., loft and separate building. See photos and complete description on Zillow.com 220 Hermosa St. (970)507-0791.

HOMES AND RENTALS AVAILABLE for immediate move in. Lake Forest: 3 Bedroom /2 Bathroom Home —\$2,500/month. Duplex: 3 Bedroom /2 Bathroom —\$2,200/month. Lake Hatcher: 3 Bedroom /2 Bathroom Home —\$2,500/month. Storage Units: 10x10 —\$90/month. 10x15 —\$100/month. Call Sunrise Property Management today at (970)731-4344 to schedule a tour.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LOVELY NEWLY REMODELED 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home on wooded lot. Available around November 20th. \$3500 / month Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.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. \$1,950/month. Available now. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

Email us at
classads@pagosasun.com
to submit your classified.

PagosaSUN.com

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

PANORAMIC VIEWS. OFF-GRID, one bedroom cabin in Cabezon Canyon near Chimney Rock National Monument. AWD required in winter, full bath. \$760 per month plus utilities. (970)883-2600.

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.

RV SPACE FOR RENT. \$600 plus utilities on 1.5 acres, electric and sewer hook ups. Available December 1. Text (970)403-4323.

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. \$2,150 /month. Available October 10th. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

UPTOWN SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM 2 bath 2 car garage townhome. Available December 10th. \$2400 /month. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.com.

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

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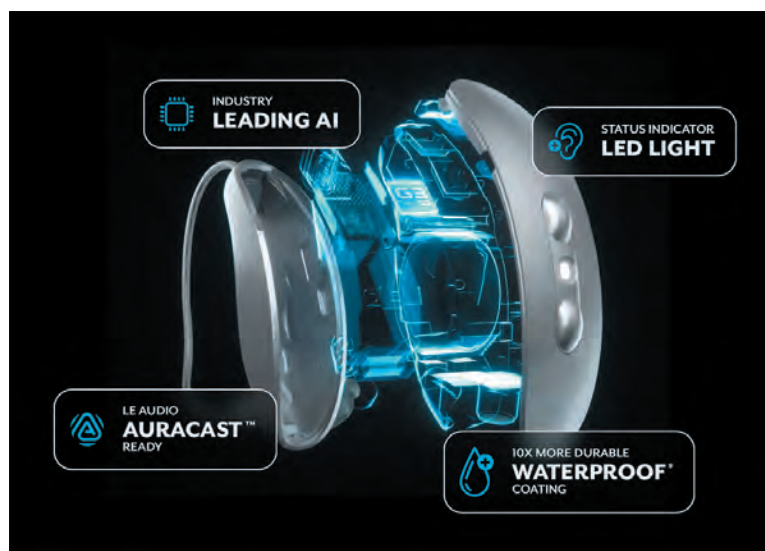
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