



McCelvey sentenced to 12 years in prison

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

After entering a guilty plea to vehicular homicide and vehicular assault in August related to a fatal 2025 crash, Justin Levi McCelvey, 39, of New Braunfels, Texas, was sentenced to 12 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections during an emotional Oct. 1 sentencing hearing.

The two-vehicle crash took place near milepost 18 on U.S. 84 on Feb. 15, 2025, and killed two — 24-year-old Aaron Tenorio and his 7-year-old nephew Dante — and left Angelica Talamante with serious injuries.

The hearing lasted more than two hours, with family members, friends

and others of both the victims and the defendant speaking.

Judge Justin Fay accepted the entry of plea on Aug. 13 and presided over the sentencing hearing.

As part of the plea agreement, McCelvey pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide, a class three felony, and vehicular assault, a class four felony.

■ See Sentenced A7



McCelvey

Town council votes to postpone decision on major subdivision development

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Oct. 6, the Pagosa Springs Town Council decided to continue a decision on a proposed subdivision development being called Ponderosa Mountain by the developers.

A continuance decision by the council is a formal vote to postpone a final decision on the specific agenda

item to a future date and time, Town Manager David Harris explained.

The decision came after the majority on the council expressed that they were leaning toward denying the application, but needed more clarity on the criteria the denial decision would be based upon.

The developer, listed as Modern Community Builders LLC, came before the council.

■ See Decision A10



Resident Jane Weitzel addresses the Pagosa Springs Town Council during the council's consideration of a planned development agreement for the proposed Ponderosa Mountain subdivision on Oct. 6.

SUN photo/Derek Kutzer



Fall colors begin to show in the valley coming down the west side of Wolf Creek Pass as afternoon rain storms roll over the mountains on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 6. Rain is expected to again visit the area this weekend and into next week.

SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

County planning department operating on limited hours with three positions vacant

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Planning Department is currently operating on limited office hours.

According to the county's website, the Planning Department's hours are from noon to 4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; by appointment only on the first and third Tuesday of the month; 12:30 to 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month; and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

During an Oct. 6 work session held by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that temporary business hours are expected to last between 30 and 45 days, "and then return back to normal hours."

He also noted that residents should continue to email all Planning Department related questions and applications to adminp@archuletacounty.gov.

Gonzalez explains in an email to The SUN that "Meeting the needs

■ See Planning A8

Monthly sales tax collections down for second consecutive month

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

According to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on Oct. 7, sales tax collections in Archuleta County for August were reported to be down 2.85 percent compared to figures from August 2025.

Eaton's report notes that the 2.85 percent decrease translates to a total of \$47,627.53 less received this August compared to August 2025.

For this August, Eaton notes that

the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,625,262.15 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax, with \$811,212.79 going to the county and \$810,913.24 going to the town.

January saw a decrease of 10.64 percent (\$149,587.01) in sales tax collections, while numbers for February reflected a 1.17 percent increase (\$16,020.75). March figures reflected a 1.01 (\$15,560.32) percent decrease, and numbers for April reflected a 9.07 percent decrease (\$125,110.70).

■ See Tax A8

County extends local disaster declaration

By Randi Pierce
and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

In a special meeting on Oct. 1, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously opted to extend the county's declaration of a local disaster related to recent heavy rains and flooding.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez initially signed a disaster declaration on Sept. 25.

Declarations signed by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision last for seven days unless extended by the BoCC.

Gonzalez explained the declaration

is based on "all the rains we've had the last several weeks," particularly starting on or about Sept. 14, which caused damage to personal and public property, infrastructure, and safety threats and concerns.

He noted the closure of several portions of roads because of flooding and washouts.

"I as the county manager signed a local disaster declaration on Sept. 25," he said, which allowed the county to reach out to other entities to have them help as local abilities were exhausted.

Gonzalez indicated the extended declaration will allow the county to continue working with government partners on assessment to potentially

take it to a higher level for assistance and funding.

The resolution states the "storms and flooding require emergency action to avert danger, damage, injury or loss of life or property, including but not limited to unknown economic, environmental, financial and natural resource impacts."

It adds, "the September 15th flooding event has compromised portions of the roadway, shoulders, drainage structures, [culverts] and other transportation infrastructure creating hazardous conditions and impacting the safe reliable movement of residents, emergency responders and traveling public" and "the cost and magnitude

of responding to, and recovery from, the flooding currently occurring, as well as the continued threat of flooding and debris flows, exceeds of the County's available resources. Further, the potential impact to public safety, property, and critical infrastructure requires additional resources."

The declaration further explains "that the effect of a declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans."

The declaration also ratifies previous

■ See Declaration A7

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Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Making the community a safer place

On Saturday, we had the pleasure of joining a sold-out crowd of fellow community members for Rise Above Violence's annual Runway for Rise Recycled Fashion Gala.

And, like we are each year, we were blown away by the creativity of the teams in taking recycled, reused, thrifted and natural elements and putting creations that are nothing short of spectacular on the runway.

It was an evening of smiles, laughter, creativity and fun, and we were delighted to hear it was a record year in raising needed funds for the organization's work.

Despite all of the amazing facets of last weekend's fundraiser, we remain sad that Rise Above Violence — now in its 30th year — needs to exist at all.

But we're so thankful it does.

We're also sad that October needs to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but we're grateful that it is.

The awareness and services provided during months like Domestic Violence Awareness Month and through organizations like Rise Above Violence are critical in making the issue smaller and helping there to be fewer victims in the future.

We are grateful here in Archuleta County to have had Rise Above Violence actively seeking to help lessen and erase domestic violence from our community — no small task — for 30 years and counting.

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

And that's not all they do.

Rise's executive director, Carmen Lewis, stated Rise served 52 victims in its first year and has grown to serve an average of 400 victims annually.

To date, Rise has "provided life-saving services, support, and hope to 5,749 unduplicated victims — this means over one-third of our community has been individually served — a staggering testament to both the pervasiveness of domestic violence and the profound reach of this organization's impact with thousands of lives forever changed through compassion, advocacy, and empowerment," proclamations made this week

by the county and town state.

I would venture a guess that many of us likely know someone who has sought services and/or received help from Rise in some capacity, which is sobering.

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

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

If you'd like to help locally, visit www.riseaboveviolence.org for more information.

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

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

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Oct. 8, 1970, Pagosa SUN — TENNIS STAR — Tom Okker, of Holland and the world's number one rated tennis star, and his wife are visiting here this week. Mr. and Mrs. Okker are shown above as they discussed the area. Mr. Okker is a member of the Davis Cup Team, which has purchased land at Pagosa to build a large tennis complex.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 8, 1926

We are reminded that this week marks the fifteenth anniversary of the flood, which in 1911 caused two deaths and tremendous damage in Archuleta county.

Otis Snooks of Piedra on Sunday killed the fourth bear this season in his vicinity. It was of the brown variety and the meat was shipped to Denver Tuesday by the Dickerson market of Pagosa Springs.

This section was visited by one of the heaviest rain storms of the season last Saturday morning, which did not cease until the following day and which was accompanied by about 18 inches of snow on Wolf Creek pass and the higher mountain ranges. Travelers, however report the pass now devoid of snow and in excellent condition.

At the sheriff's sale of the Ralph Flaugh cattle Tuesday, on behalf of Co. Treas. L.H. Birch an excellent price was realized for the entire herd of 166 head, 41 of which were calves. They were purchased by P.C. Crowley of Chromo and Harry Macht of Pagosa Springs for \$6,419.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 5, 1951

The first annual Archuleta County Fair held last Friday and Saturday was declared a big success by all concerned and by all in attendance. Attendance was good both days despite the inclement weather and the crowds all enjoyed the exhibits, the football game and the junior rodeo. One of the highlights of the two day fair was the catch-it contest and several of the youngsters really earned the calves they tied up.

The largest contributors to the fair were the stockmen who donated calves for the catch-it contest. They were: H.W. Sisson, Woodrow Dunlap, Terry Robinson, H. Ray Macht, Claude Hurt, S. Lloyd Jones, Dutch Crowley, Babe Shahan, Irwin Crowley, Joe Hersch, John Mills, West Carlin, Dailey Hott, John Legurski, Geo. and Carl Kleckner and Harry Eaklor.

The calves were caught by the following youngsters who must take care of them and keep records on the animals until next fair: Buzzy Smith, David Smith, Essie Mae Jackson, Ronnie Norton, Nathan B. Richards, Ivy Lou Mobley, Stanley Belmear, Bob Shahan, Joe Shahan, Larry Wright, Russell Crowley, Judy Decker, Franklin Anderson and Minnie Belmear.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 7, 1976

Fall weather seems to have set in. There are many beautiful fall colors in the mountains, big livestock trucks are on the highways moving cattle and sheep to other areas for winter pasture or to feed-lots and local ranchers are fast getting their cattle out of the high country.

This next week will see big game hunters arriving in large numbers. Because of a recent increase in hunting fees for out of state hunters there may be a few less than last year. However, this is one of the very best elk hunting areas in Colorado and it is doubtful that there will be any shortage of hunters on the local scene.

A local man, Fred Harman III, leads a far different life today than he did when growing up in the Blanco Basin on a ranch. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harman of Red Ryder fame.

Mr. Harman carries the title of Assistant Director of Technical Services for the CBS television network. His work there consists of making all technical arrangements for broadcasts. So far this year he has arranged all of the technical services for the Democratic National Convention, the big bicentennial telecast, and the Republican National Convention.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 4, 2001

A meteor shower is considered the potential culprit behind a series of 15 to 18 fires on Cat Creek Road Sept. 25.

Pagosa Fire Chief Warren Grams said the fires were located in canyons and arroyos over a four-mile area, which seems to rule out arson.

"We don't feel these were set fires," Grams said, "We think it had to be a natural event." Firefighters did return to the scene Monday with equipment to help locate possible meteoric remains, but were unsuccessful.

Members of the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District responded with county fire crews to the fires about 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 25. About 25 firefighters remained on the scene until 1:30 a.m., Sept. 26. Crews returned about 8 a.m. to mop up and douse any remaining hot spots.

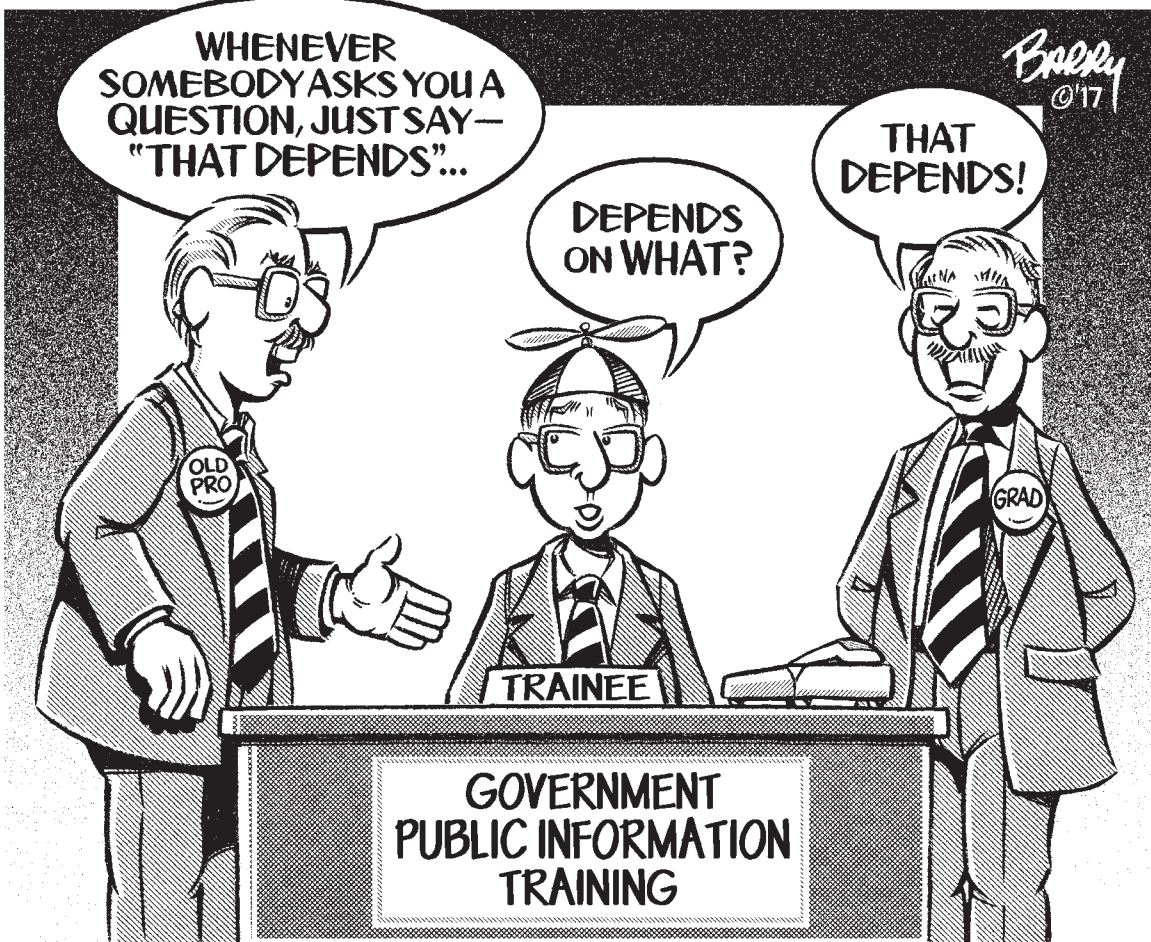
Grams said neighbors in the area extinguished another four or five fires in the lower grasslands, some of which burned close to structures.



Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture	Type	Depth
9/29	58	46	1.45	NA		NA
9/30	53	47	0.30	NA		NA
10/1	67	39	0.34	NA		NA
10/2	70	37	0.02	NA		NA
10/3	74	38	T	NA		NA
10/4	73	40	0.00	NA		NA
10/5	73	40	0.00	NA		NA

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

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

Dear Editor:

And - this is crucial - we need in Washington a representative who is accessible, who talks with us and listens to us.

He is determined to lower the cost of living, he will work on agricultural issues, he will defend our public lands, and he will work for affordable health care in our state and country.

He deserves our votes.

It's time to vote in this election - one of the most important in our lifetimes. So, please, be certain you are registered to vote, and then do it!

If you have any questions go to GoVoteColorado.gov or archuleta-dems.org for quick answers.

Dear Editor:

We all hate political ads, and rarely is what you hear in any political ad entirely true. But in terms of lies in political ads, the ad currently running in which Jeff Hurd claims to be lowering our health care costs has to be an all-time record bald-faced lie. The truth is totally the opposite of what the ad claims. Jeff Hurd cast the deciding vote for Trump's Big Ugly Bill. This bill included drastic cuts to Medicaid, but he voted for it even though a higher-than-average percentage of his constituents are insured by Medicaid. He also voted against extending the now-expired expanded subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and then cast the deciding vote for the Big Ugly Bill that allowed those subsidies to expire. Together, the cuts that Hurd supported to Medicaid and the ACA will make health care dramatically more expensive for hundreds of thousands of Coloradans. And the House vote for these cuts to our health care would have failed had it not been for

This doesn't just affect individual Coloradans; it also impacts our hospitals. They will have less income, more uninsured patients, and more emergency room visits. All of this means a big hit in the budget of our hospitals, particularly rural hospitals like Pagosa Springs Medical Center. Yes, Hurd voted for Trump's band-aid bill to provide some additional funding to rural hospitals, but this funding does not come anywhere close to covering the increased costs and reduced revenue that hospitals will face because of his votes on the ACA subsidies and Medicaid. So any claim that Hurd is reducing your health care costs is nothing but a big fat lie.

Fortunately, we have an election coming up. By voting for Dwayne Romero for the US House of Representatives, we can have a congressman who will vote to protect our health care and truly make it affordable – just the opposite of what Jeff Hurd has in fact done. Please vote for Dwayne Romero.

John Farley

Dear Editor:

We citizens of this unique Constitutional Republic have been given rights and responsibilities laid out in Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Both of these documents are being trampled upon. “No kings” rallies are fairly ridiculous, as the Declaration of Independence specifically addressed this issue. The fact that people can protest in this country is proof we don’t have a king. More concerning are politicians that swear to uphold the Constitution, but don’t.

Be restlessly assured that those against the Constitution and Bill of Rights, those that want to change our representative Republic into a Democratic Socialist (DSA) system, will not stop. The reason is deeper than this surface view. Suffice it to say there is an unseen battle raging.

As far as voting and rights go, there is a lingering question on why so many hunters, Republicans, and Christians don't vote. Why would 50% of hunters not vote consistently? Do they not realize there is a big push to eliminate their sport and their right completely, as seen in Oregon? Are they so wrapped up in the hunt preparation, animal processing, etc. to not find one hour to read the issues, fill out their ballot, and deliver their conscience to the powers that be? Ridiculous!

How about Republicans that sit on their hands in midterm elections particularly, but also in primaries and Presidential Election cycles? This is around 59%. Is it good enough to simply complain about what those elected officials push into your lives? Nonsense. The only way to get effective change is to VOTE. You may have all kinds of ridiculous grievances that irritate you, but that does not absolve you from performing your rights and duties in the party that you have claimed represents your conscience.

Now for Christians and their consciences. The moral compass we are guided by does not allow for laziness. Proverbs 6:9-11; "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty comes like a robber." The DSA groupies would like nothing more than to bring this to fruition. Prov. 12:24 states "The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor." Is

this what you want? Also see Proverbs 6:6-8, 10:4-5, 13:4, 14:23, 15:19, 18:9, 19:15, 20:4, 21:25, 24:30-34, 26:13-16, Romans 12:11, Colossians 3:23-24, Ephesians 4:28, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, Matthew 25:14-30. When something in Scripture is repeated twice, it is something to pay attention to.

Repeated many times, it's imperative.

Are solid Christians happy to sit back and bask in perceived comfort without lifting their hand to vote the moral code God gave us? Will you make excuses for voting immorally? Does a non-vote for you seem okay? Don't you think God has given us responsibilities? If Christians (and Jewish Americans [29%]) don't vote the moral code, all of it, then we cannot expect to get the results and blessings laid out in God's Word.

There is no excuse! Non-votes elect your opposition. Please vote!

Dear Editor:

As a emergency room doctor at the local hospital, I see every day how important all financial resources are to providing timely, high-quality emergency care.

Later this year, PSMC will begin a vital renovation of our Pagosa Springs Medical Center Emergency Department to improve safety and efficiency. A portion of this project is funded through a \$150,000 state grant. Grants like this allow our small rural hospital to make improvements that would otherwise be difficult to fund.

This is one reason Ballot Question 7B matters. If voters approve 7B, PSMC can continue operating as it does today, with the flexibility to pursue and accept grants that support our local healthcare. A NO vote could require PSMC to limit grants in the future to maintain its enterprise status.

7B does not raise taxes, or impose a new tax. It allows PSMC to continue using the resources available to strengthen emergency care and keep healthcare local.

I encourage you to vote YES for 7B.
Dr. Jared Halterman, DO

Dear Editor:

I was a Denver Public school

■ See Letters A4



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Crews clean up and prepare subgrade for sidewalk, curb and gutter pouring operations after significant rainfall on the 100 block of U.S. 160.

Week of Oct. 12-16

Work activity

Note: All work is subject to weather conditions. 1st Street is reduced to one lane alternating in each direction for planned utility work and paving operations. This reduction will be seven days a week; 24 hours per day for two weeks. Concrete pouring will begin on Oct. 10 and will continue as weather permits.

- 1st Street intersection and 100 block: Beginning the week of Oct. 5, 1st Street will be reduced to one lane alternating in each direction for planned work. This reduction will be seven days a week, 24 hours per day for two weeks. This is a joint project with the Town of Pagosa Springs that will include utility updates and concrete paving operations.

- **4th Street intersection:** The north side of 4th Street is planned to be closed beginning Tuesday, Oct. 13, so that crews may finish paving connections in this intersection. Hot Springs Boulevard will remain open for the duration of this work, and the closure is anticipated to last three days.

- 5th Street intersection: The south side of the 5th Street intersection will remain closed as work continues. Alternative delivery access to businesses on 5th Street will be through the old courthouse parking lot. Crews will be continuing utility work at this location as well as planned asphalt paving operations as a part of the Town of Pagosa Springs work.

- 7th Street intersection: Crews are prepping the south side of the 7th Street intersection for paving operations the week of Oct. 12. Please note that pedestrians and vehicles should utilize 5th Street and Lewis Street, and 8th Street as alternatives to cross U.S. 160.

- 8th-10th streets: The south side of 8th through 10th streets is planned for milling operations and asphalt pouring, with milling planned for the week of Oct. 12.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



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■ **Continued from A3**
teacher from 1979—2013. I loved my job. At the same time, I saw tremendous waste in time and money. Looking back on the last 10 years, I dug into the latest data. (NCES, U.S. Census Bureau, Colorado Department of Education, and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development).

There is a fairly striking story here: In the 2003-04 school year spending was \$7,478/student. In the 2022-23 year we went up to \$14,884/student. Yes, that is almost a 99% nominal increase. Colorado ranks 28th among the 50 states, 27 spend more/pupil, and 22 states spend less.

The long-term pattern is striking: Mathematics
483 → 463
A decline of about 20 points since 2003.
Reading
495 → 490
Essentially flat over the long run, although 2025 produced a significant decline from 2022.
Science
489-ish → 502
Roughly stable to somewhat higher.

Colorado's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)'s score, often called the nation's report card, was 278, six points higher than the other states average. Yet this score of 278 was below the 2003 score of 283—No progress made. So despite considerably higher spending, Colorado has not produced a corresponding long-term improvement in eighth-grade math performance.

The really important point is Colorado spends substantially more per student today than 20 years ago, yet its eighth-grade NAEP math score is slightly lower than it was in 2003.

Why are we spending so much more but not getting dramatically better academic results? That's the next question worth investigating. Does the money really trickle down to the students? Increased spending does not translate to increased learning. That's why I'm voting No on proposition NN.

Gregg Heid

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:
I am writing in support of Ballot Issue 5A to fund the construction of a new PK-8th grade school for our children, teachers, and community. Previous letters to the editor of this paper have addressed some of the educational and financial arguments for why all of us in this community should support 5A. If readers still have questions, I urge you to visit www.CitizensForASD.org for more information.

I want to address an issue related to 5A that I am hearing about as I talk to people about the new school.

There are some in our community who support the idea of building a new school but have said they will not vote in favor of 5A because the downtown location was not chosen as the site for the new school. I understand the preference for building the school downtown. This would have been my preference, and it was a viewpoint for which I advocated. But we must recognize that there was a robust two-year process which resulted in the uptown location being chosen. This process involved community members, school district staff, and architectural professionals. This process included community discussion, technical analysis, and public input. This process culminated in the school board voting to select the uptown site as the location for the proposed new PK-8 school.

Having served on the school board from 2013-2020, I know from experience that executing this type of community process takes an enormous amount of effort, communication, and coordination—but it's worth it. When done correctly, community processes such as the one done for 5A, yield authentic and reliable results that reflect community desires and support. I urge all voters to trust the process that our school district and community diligently executed and to vote in favor of 5A.

One last thought: A couple of years after the new school is built at the uptown site, it will seem perfectly normal to have a school in that location. The new school, and all its benefits, will be a source of pride in our community, and the fears about it not being downtown will be forgotten. Our children and our educators deserve a new school. Let's trust the process and get it done for them.

Brooks Lindner

Opposition to Jeff Hurd

Dear Editor:
Rural Coloradans are polite, but

we're savvy people. Our district sent Lauren Boebert packing because we recognize trainwrecks. GOP think-tank strategists instead produced Jeff Hurd, a family man who stays out of the tabloids. Their gamble: a smile, a suit, and bland Hallmark words will distract us from Hurd's votes which wreck programs that allow working families to survive. But we're not distracted.

Hurd voted for HR1, an unbeautiful bill that devastates families with a cruel game of duck, duck, goose. 1 in 5 Affordable Care Act enrollees were immediately shoved off health insurance when Hurd eliminated ACA subsidies to balloon billionaire tax breaks. Thousands will die unnecessarily. About 22 million people (including 4 million small business owners) saw health insurance costs spike. Millions more will lose coverage, and more will die - Hurd's slaughter for his billionaire bosses.

Hurd's Medicaid cuts stab deeper yet. Nationwide, 40% of kids enrolled in Medicaid will lose coverage by next summer - picture 5M kids learning how to endure pain and exhaustion, their future overshadowed. Then add 12M adults daily risking medical bankruptcy, disease and death. Meanwhile, Hurd's insurance is top-notch, courtesy of us taxpayers.

Hurd thinks it's not enough to forgo medical care. In Colorado alone, 12,600 kids of 33,700 people lost SNAP benefits, the slim barrier protecting many families from hunger. How shall we tell our children "no dinner tonight," Jeff?

Let's vote this billionaire sycophant out of office. (PS - vote against Naomi Riess, who also covers for HR1.)

Kirby MacLaurin
Durango, Colo.

Speed kills

Dear Editor:
I regret to share some disturbing news here in Aspen Springs, Unit 1. We have lost 4 deer in our neighborhood alone on Simmons Drive this year due to speeders. 2 are does and 2 are fawns.

This is a problem that continues every year, especially during the birthing season. One of the does that was hit was just 15 feet from the 20 MPH speed limit sign. Earlier this year I found a doe on my property that had died from being hit by a speeder. I have found other deer out on the property and on the side of the road that in the past years have died from speeding drivers in the neighborhood. This is on E. Simmons Drive where it is posted at 20 MPH, not on the state highway that has a 60 MPH speed limit.

The score so far this year is 4 deer dead, 0 speeders. Please, slow down!
Doug McKelvie

Support for Katie Stewart

Dear Editor:
I heartily endorse the re-election of Representative Katie Stewart. During her first two years in office, she sponsored several bills positively addressing rural Colorado issues, including affordable health care, early childhood education, and accessible housing - all important concerns in this district.

One bill saves patients money by allowing emergency medical services to bill for on-site care, without having to transport patients to a hospital. The money goes toward care, not transportation.

Another allows counties to raise their lodgers tax to help pay for child-care and first responders, important expenses in rural areas.

And yet another bill helps mountain resort communities, who traditionally have a higher cost of living, offer home ownership by increasing the average median income level from that in urban centers so that more people can qualify for the Proposition 123 benefits.

I live in HD59, and I know that affordability, education, housing, and health care are all critical issues; Rep. Stewart has been working hard at tackling these concerns. She did so much in her first two years, let's see what she can do when re-elected. Please vote for Katie Stewart, HD 59.

Barbara McLachlan
Durango, Colo.

Support for Weiser, Romero

Dear Editor:
DJT has mastered one powerful lesson - elections are emotional. Any strong emotion would serve. Love of country, love of neighbor, strong respect for justice and due process would be admirable, but our whiner-in-chief gloms onto fear and hate. Fear of "the other" is predictable, or alternatively, hatred of

"anyone who disagrees."

I've been a registered Independent since the late 1960s. I've never witnessed the level of political bullying that we've seen since January 2025. What else could explain near unanimous GOP support for a bill that strips medical coverage from hundreds of thousands of citizens and SNAP benefits from additional thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors? All to reduce taxes for billionaires? Seriously? They can't carry their own weight?

These same enablers tolerate Trump's war of choice and the ruinous tariffs that are bleeding us dry. Well, the piper has come for payment, and average Americans are paying through the nose.

Every time a politician makes a false promise, ducks a question, rubber stamps a disastrous policy, ignores pleas for accountability, we rightfully feel abandoned. Bullied by Trump, the GOP has caved in and orphaned their constituents on every issue.

Candidates like Weiser and Romero haven't been bought and paid for. They can't be primaried. They won't be bullied.

Let's not allow ourselves to be manipulated by bullies or by billionaires.

Vote to be represented, not abandoned.

Sincerely,
Kathy Muth

Voting Republican

Dear Editor:
Quit taxing my overtime!
Rep. Katie Stewart says she wants to make life more affordable. Then why did she vote to keep taxing my overtime?

The federal government gave eligible workers a tax deduction for part of their overtime pay. Colorado lawmakers could have let workers get that relief on their state taxes, too. Instead, Stewart voted "Yes" on HB25-1296, which keeps Colorado's tax on my overtime pay.

I work extra hours because my family needs the money. The state should let me keep more of what I earn, especially when that means spending less time at home.

Stewart talks about helping working families, but her vote says otherwise. These Democrats have gone too far in Colorado. I'm voting for balanced leadership. I'm voting Republican! It's time for a real change, and it's time to quit taxing my overtime.

Cathy Patterson
Durango, Colo.

Opposition to ballot measures

Dear Editor:
Please vote against misleading ballot measures: Amendments 81, 82, 85, 86, and Propositions 132 and 136, backed by dark money group Advance Colorado (learn more at whoisadvancecolorado.org); Props 133, 134, and 135, pushed by Protect Kids Colorado (Christian Nationalist aligned).

It's ironic that millions of Americans' addiction was a get-rich scheme by the very wealthy Sackler family. Proposition 132 is a related money-making scheme - it fills private prisons with our family members. How? By requiring judges to apply the same sentence for one pill as a drug cartel trafficker gets (8-32 years in prison) when what a user needs is treatment. Incarceration is very profitable - except for individuals, families, and communities.

The mass-texted lie is that Prop 132 will increase treatment. But it doesn't fund treatment - it actually reduces treatment by diverting funds to incarceration.

The same prison-profit objective lies behind Proposition 133, opposed by many organizations dedicated to protecting and serving victims of trafficking. The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault says "Rather than stopping child sex trafficking, Prop 133 hurts trafficking victims, treats them the same as perpetrators, and gives traffickers a tool to further exploit them." Prop 134 subjects our girls to potential physical gender examinations before they can compete in sports. Prop 135 would strip parents (and providers) of decisions involving care of their children - more prison profit.

Vote Yes for Amendment 87 to tax the wealthy and NN to fund our schools (we're 43rd in the nation). No on all the rest.

Kelly Pontius
Durango, Colo.

Support for 7B

Dear Editor:
I have had the privilege of working at the local medical center for more than 13 years. During this time, I have

watched our young, remote, and rural hospital grow, bringing much needed healthcare services here, where we live. This has been and is important for our own health as well as for our community's economy.

I believe part of Pagosa Springs Medical Center's sustainability has come from its ability to operate outside of TABOR spending restrictions. That flexibility has helped PSMC invest in services our community needs rather than requiring patients to travel hours for care; services that include the PSMC Center for Cancer and Blood disorders.

A yes vote on 7B keeps that ability in place. The ballot question specifically begins, "WITHOUT RAISING TAXES," and asks voters to allow the Upper San Juan Health Service District, which is one and the same as PSMC, to continue retaining and spending its revenues without TABOR limits as it has since 2006.

Please vote YES on 7B.

Respectfully,
Jodi Scarpa

Opposition to ballot measures

Dear Editor:
"Pride Month" was observed in June, and celebrated by some, here in Pagosa Springs. For myself, and many taxpayers, it was disturbing that two public entities chose to be financial sponsors for "Pagosa Pride" events: Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), a 'Gold' sponsor, and our own Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD), a 'Silver' sponsor.

Both of these public entities are heavily dependent upon taxpayer dollars for their ongoing operational needs. Both serve important services to county residents. Both often complain about financial shortfalls. Yet both found resources available to serve as generous sponsors of this highly controversial, politically charged organization and were completely dismissive of the serious moral concerns many residents have over this organization's cultural values, political positions, and abnormal activities and events.

But now comes PSMC with ballot measure 7B, requesting to be permanently 'de-Bruced' from the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR). Why? To retain and control any refundable tax revenues they received above TABOR limits. Are you serious? If they are so short on funds, why are they using their financial resources to be a Gold Sponsor of highly controversial Pride events?! Now they ask for more otherwise refundable tax dollars to be placed under their permanent control? Unbelievable!

By now, I hope our County Commissioners have addressed this issue with the ACPHD. But since they have no control over the hospital district, it will be up to us voters on November 3 to reign in the leadership within the PSMC so that this breach of trust and misuse of funds ends now.

Vote NO on Ballot Issue 7B to protect your tax dollars and keep this permanent de-Brucing from

Men • Women • Children

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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

taking place. This is a disgusting and inappropriate financial use of public funds. Say 'No' to send a clear message, "Don't ever let this happen again!"

State ballot Proposition NN is similar. It is a tax increase that permanently reduces or eliminates TABOR refunds. Rather than have those unused tax dollars go back to the taxpayer, they will be retained by the state and used, supposedly, for education or other purposes whether needed or not.

Finally, state ballot Amendment 87, which is seven pages long and very complicated (so you know there are problems), seeks to increase state taxes by \$2.7 billion annually for various public services. It turns Colorado's flat tax system into a graduated or progressive form of taxation. It will amend TABOR's very

■ See Letters A5

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What: Informational Meeting

When: Tuesday, October 13, 6-8 p.m.

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

PSMC will present class information including:

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■ Continued from A4

fair and predictable single-rate guaranteed tax system. Multiple rates will be applied to multiple income levels. As in California, businesses will very likely begin relocating to other states, and Colorado will attract fewer and fewer new businesses. Jobs will be lost. We've seen the results elsewhere: Government will expand and wasteful spending will further grow out of control. It will be disastrous for our state.

So please vote NO on Proposition 7B, NO on Proposition NN, and NO on Amendment 87. Much is at risk if we do otherwise.

Ellen Schmidt

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

Drive north on CR 400, Four Mile Road, this fall and you'll see two things at once: some of the best color in the county, and a dirt-and-gravel surface that looks like it lost a fight. Washboard ruts. Potholes you have to steer around. Every so often the county grades it smooth and spreads a little fresh gravel and within a short time it's back again. That's not maintenance. That's a stall.

I'm not picking on Road & Bridge. The county has said plainly, in its own budget documents, that it deferred capital maintenance and replacement as a fiscal "survival tactic" after voters twice rejected justice-facility funding and the county had to build the detention center anyway. Its own 2021 audit shows the Road & Bridge fund spent only about 43% of its final capital-outlay budget that year. And in the county's 2025 survey, 74% of residents said road service needs improvement. Not a guess, it's in the public record.

I bring this up because Bill Hudson, writing in the Pagosa Daily Post, wants the school district to take the same approach: patch the existing buildings for a fraction of the cost and skip building the new PK-8 school. On paper, a \$17 million repair bond looks cheaper than \$129 million. But CR 400 is what deferral looks like twenty years in. Band-aid spending doesn't avoid the bigger bill. It postpones it, and it compounds, because labor, materials and interest all get more expensive while you wait. The county's own 2011-to-2026 experience with this school project makes the same point: the identical PreK-8 school that cost \$49 million in 2011 costs roughly \$129 million today, even before interest.

We're living through the same lesson on Highway 160. People are frustrated by the construction now. But when it's done, we'll have a highway built to last, not a patchwork that needs redoing every few years. That's the standard of investment worth wanting for our kids' schools, not a stopgap that leaves the next generation paying more to finally finish the job we avoided.

Vote yes on the school bond. Fix it once, fix it right, and stop kicking the can down a road that already shows us where that leads.

Bob Scott

Support for 1A

Dear Editor:

Finally after years of county neglect and siphoning of funds from road maintenance budgets we have an opportunity to do something about it. This does not cost us anything unless you actually stay in a hotel and 80% of these funds is mandated to go road maintenance. If we don't vote for this we've no right to complain about potholes and washboards. I'll take great satisfaction when I take the wife to a motel once a year for our anniversary romp knowing that I'll be contributing to improving our roads. Probably the easiest voting decision this year..

James Snead

Support for Katie Stewart

Dear Editor:

Katie Stewart, our current state representative in Denver, is running for reelection and I know she has sponsored at least two pieces of legislation that should please our county commissioners. I have attended the board of county commissioner meetings enough to know that there are issues and problems that are discussed repeatedly and that any progress in solutions are regularly reported. One of these problems was with Prop 123, passed by Colorado voters in 2022 to provide a revenue stream for affordable housing projects. Some of the requirements for ownership of the affordable units were extremely difficult to satisfy in some rural communities, especially mountain resort communities like ours. There were many discussions and much concern regarding these difficulties in the BoCC meetings with regard

to local affordable housing projects and Katie sponsored HB26-1313 to amend prop 123 to better serve our mountain community. She has also brought forward a bill to expand tax credits for nonprofit developers of affordable housing which applies to rental properties. I'm sure the commissioners must be grateful to Katie Stewart for sponsoring and ushering legislation that is so beneficial to our community.

Representative Stewart also sponsored HB26-1069, which provides that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be reimbursed for calls when the patient is not transported to ER. That's right, EMS has only been getting reimbursed when they transport the patient to ER. Now, when Medicaid patients are treated and stabilized at home, EMS, including social workers, will be reimbursed — this is an enormous benefit in our rural community where Pagosa Springs Medical Center provides the funding for Emergency Medical Services. It will also cut down on expensive ER visits while reducing crowding in the ER. Representative Stewart worked across the aisle with our state senator, Cleave Simpson, to pass this (and other) legislation — she has made a goal for next session of legislating similar reimbursements for patients with private insurance. This is the type of state representation for which our commissioners are no doubt very grateful as they directly address county issues that have been problematic.

Katie Stewart also sponsored HB26-1262, which protects our state's drug compounding laws from federal restrictions, making sure that compounding pharmacies can continue to operate.

Katie hit the ground running when she took over from Barb McLachlan nearly 2 years ago. She is capable of working across the political aisle and she continues to grow her expertise in order to support rural Colorado communities. I encourage voters to check out Katie Stewart's website for other areas where she has worked to make a difference in the lives of southwestern Coloradoans. Her family has lived in Durango for four generations — she has a deep understanding of our issues and she deserves your vote.

Lee Stopher

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

As most local voters are aware, our school district has proposed Ballot Issue 5A to build a new school that will become a cutting-edge center for education of our younger Pagosa kids. The school will house kids in the pre-kindergarten classes through grade 8. Of course the central issue is always cost, and local voters should understand that the actual cost to them will be approximately \$48 million. This cost reflects two discounts. First, the cost that is mentioned in Ballot Issue 5A is \$79.9 million, and this already includes a 40% discount provided by a grant from the State of Colorado's 'BEST' program (Building Excellent Schools Today). Second, for our local residents, there is an additional 40% discount owing to the fact that 40% of the already-discounted \$79.9 million will be paid by part-timers who do not have a vote in our election. (The 40% part-timers was estimated in 2025 by our Town and County's excellent report entitled "Regional Housing Needs Assessment"; see Exhibit 36 on page 38 of that report.) Thus, the actual cost to local taxpayers will be approximately \$48 million. This is not an affront to the part-time property owners; it simply reflects the truth of who pays taxes. For example, if my family owned property in another state, then my family would be subject to any tax increase that might be passed by the local electors in that state.

Black and gold are the colors of athletic teams here in Pagosa, and in an era in which school construction costs have been rising by about 8% per year, the 2026 ballot is a golden financial opportunity to ensure that our kids receive a top-notch education in the coming decades.

Please vote 'Yes' on Ballot Issue 5A to support a vibrant learning environment for our kids and their teachers!

Gwen Taylor

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

I currently serve as a member of the Archuleta School District Board of Education, but my opinions concerning ballot issue 5A reflect my personal viewpoint and not that of the Board.

Ballot issue 5A will allow the school district to build a new pre-kindergarten through grade 8 school at a bargain price owing to the co-opt of a \$50 million 'BEST' grant from the State of Colorado and the fact that the district already owns the land for the school. For example, the monthly

cost will be only about \$20.60 for a home with an assessed value of \$400,000 (to calculate the cost for your property, refer to the website <citizensforasd.org>).

The education of our Pagosa students begins in preschool, it is nourished in elementary school, leaps forward in middle school, and blossoms in high school, and many of our graduates pursue careers that ultimately have a positive impact beyond the borders of Archuleta County. This is the power of public pre-K-12 education locally, with potential global effects.

Our kids are as bright as those in any place in America—they are driven intellectually in our district's schools, they are adaptable, and they have grand potential. Let's invest in our young kids now by providing an

inspirational and stimulating learning environment that will benefit both students and faculty. As our Colorado forefathers did for us during our youth, let's invest in our kids so that they may have the educational basis necessary to become successful throughout our state and country.

A few years back, a fellow named John Denver crafted a song that celebrates the gift that is our children, stating:

You are promise of all the ages

You are the Prodigal Son

You are the vision of prophets and sages

You are the only one

We can all agree that our children are the foundation of the future of Archuleta County, of Colorado, and of America. Let's provide our young kids

■ See Letters A6

GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to §1-5-205 C.R.S., that a General Election will be held in Archuleta County, Colorado, on:

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Mail Ballots

Beginning October 5, 2026, the Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder will mail a ballot packet to every active voter registered in Archuleta County. **To be counted, mail ballots must be received by the Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2026. Postmarks do not count.**

The deadline to request a replacement ballot by mail is Monday, October 26, 2026. Voters can also obtain a replacement ballot in person at the Election Office.

Polling Locations

Beginning Monday, October 19, 2026, the Election Office located at 305 Village Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO, will serve as the official Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC).

VSPC hours:

October 19 through October 30 (Monday – Friday): 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October 31 (Saturday): 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

November 2 (Monday): 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 3 (Election Day): 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

VSPC Election Day Only

Open November 3, 2026 | 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Ross Aragon Community Center

451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

VSPC Election Day Only

Open November 3, 2026 | 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Archuleta County Extension Office

344 HWY 84

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Drop-Box Locations

Secure ballot drop-boxes will be open 24/7 with video surveillance from October 5, 2026, through 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2026.

Locations:

• Pagosa Springs Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

(in front of the building to the left of the entry doors)

• Tara Community Center, 333 Milton Lane, Arboles, CO 81121

Drop-Off Location

You may also drop off your voted ballot at the Election Office located at 305 Village Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Hours:

• October 5 through October 15, (Monday – Thursday): 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

• October 19 through October 30, (Monday – Friday): 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

• October 31 (Saturday): 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

• November 2 (Monday): 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

• November 3 (Election Day): 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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State Representative – District 59

Archuleta County Offices

County Commissioner – District 3

County Clerk and Recorder

County Treasurer

County Assessor

County Sheriff

County Surveyor

County Coroner

Judicial Retention Questions

Colorado Supreme Court Justice

Colorado Court of Appeals Judge

State Ballot Measures

Amendment 81

Amendment 82

Amendment 83

Amendment 84

Amendment 85

Amendment 86

Amendment 87

Proposition NN

Proposition 132

Proposition 133

Proposition 134

Proposition 135

Proposition 136

Proposition 137

County Ballot Measures

Archuleta County Ballot Issue 1A

School District Ballot Measures

Archuleta County School District 50JT Ballot Issue 5A

Special District Ballot Measures

Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue 7B



Kristy Archuleta

Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder

PO Box 2589 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

970-264-8331



■ **Continued from A5**

with modern resources with which to learn and thrive and provide them a great launch pad for entry into high school, after which they will proudly represent Pagosa Springs in the world. That's a philosophy we can all support—even those of us with gray hair whose kids have graduated and moved on to contribute positively to society. Our new school will be an educational investment in America! Please support our young kids in Archuleta County with a 'Yes' vote on ballot issue 5A.

Tim Taylor

Support for Dwayne Romero

Dear Editor:

Rep. Jeff Hurd's proposed GAME Act should concern anyone who believes that public decisions should be made through transparent, democratic processes.

Hurd's proposal, a legislative bypass to the normal BLM process, would exchange roughly 2,179 acres of BLM land for about 2,091 acres of private land. The private owners each contributed \$7,000 to Hurd's campaign. Their ranch has spent heavily on lobbying for the exchange.

This raises a reasonable question: Why is Congress being asked to create a special legislative pathway for a private land transaction involving major political donors, rather than allowing the normal administrative process to run its course?

The proposal's supporters say the exchange would benefit the public by consolidating public lands and improving access, but they say congressional authorization is necessary because the normal BLM process is inconvenient.

Those arguments deserve public scrutiny. So does the larger principle.

We are increasingly seeing powerful people treat democratic procedures as obstacles rather than safeguards. Billionaire Peter Thiel has contributed millions of dollars to political candidates and conservative political organizations, including substantial support for JD Vance. At the same time, Thiel's company Palantir has become a major federal contractor. Palantir itself acknowledges that 55% of its revenue comes from government clients.

These facts do not establish a quid pro quo, but they do illustrate why the intersection of political money, private interests and government power deserves close scrutiny.

The same principle applies when presidents attempt to redirect money Congress has appropriated for specific purposes. The Trump administration recently moved to transfer more than \$52 million appropriated largely for Ukraine, European allies and Middle Eastern partners to Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru. Congressional committee leaders objected, saying the transfer violated statutory requirements; the administration defended the move as consistent with its own foreign-policy priorities.

These are very different situations. But they share a troubling theme: the people with the most power increasingly seem to regard democratic processes as something to work around when those processes are inconvenient.

Democracy is slow by design. It requires public scrutiny, competing viewpoints, hearings, oversight and votes. Those procedures can frustrate powerful people. That is precisely why we need them.

The question surrounding the GAME Act is therefore bigger than one land exchange. It is whether we still believe that public lands and public money should be governed through processes that give ordinary citizens a meaningful voice—or whether those processes become optional when wealthy interests and

powerful politicians decide they are too cumbersome.

We deserve a representative who will put democratic accountability ahead of political access. Dwayne Romero would be that kind of representative. He would respect the processes that give citizens a voice, stand up to the influence of big money in politics, and work to make government more accountable to the people it serves—not to the wealthy and politically connected. If we want to restore faith in our democracy, we need representatives who believe that the rules should apply equally to everyone.

Lisa Tedder

Difficult decision

Dear Editor:

For many of us, the decision on 5A is difficult because we care deeply about our public schools. We love our schools and want them to remain a strong integrated part of our community. That is why it is so hard to be asked to physically move our elementary and middle schools away from the community's core.

I had a recent conversation where the desire to keep schools downtown was dismissed as "nostalgic." But I would argue that valuing a school's relationship to its town is not resistance to change. It is actually a forward-looking planning principle.

Our downtown schools are within walking distance of the Ruby Sisson Library, Riverwalk, San Juan River, Reservoir Hill, Yamaguchi Park, GeoDomes, Community Center, Town Hall, and kid-friendly businesses. These are not sentimental decorations, but educational and civic resources available to every student. By walking from school to these places, children learn that the community belongs to them.

And that they belong here.

That connection is about more than preserving the past; it helps raise young people with pride in their schools and in the community they call home.

Supporting schools does not require supporting every school plan. As a parent, I know firsthand our schools need real investment, and I hope new buildings may be part of the answer. A downtown solution may be harder, but difficulty alone should not decide the outcome. As we make this choice, what do we want our schools' relationship with Pagosa to look like for generations to come?

Kelly Tuten

Opposition to 5A

Dear Editor:

Mark Twain once said, "It ain't the things you don't know that get you into trouble, it's the things you think you know for certain, that just ain't so!"

Could you acquire a wonderful education without a building? Abraham Lincoln would answer, yes! Alexander the Great would answer yes, as he had been privately tutored by Aristotle himself! And all the home-schooled children of our day would answer yes, because their parents and others made education happen. Education is not about the buildings! But to listen to some in our School District, and other residents who are in favor of a new \$130M+ new PreK-8 school building, you'd think the children of Archuleta County are being taught in squalor! . . . How will they learn or succeed without a new school? We'll be letting them down! Don't they deserve the best?!

With all the drama, all the financial machinations, and all the heart strings being pulled, have we lost sight of what really makes Education happen?

My wife spent 30+ years as a primary education teacher in both public and private schools. Her first experience: the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona, teaching young Native American Apache children in an

old run-down stone schoolhouse. She will assure you that the building had its many flaws. Yet, these students thrived under her tutelage learning to speak, read, and write English, learning arithmetic, and all other foundational subjects. This benefited them whether they chose to remain on or off the Reservation.

The imperfect building did not hinder their learning because successful Education is not dependent upon any building. True meaningful Education comes about when committed teachers are faithful to their calling, love their students, and are dedicated to their academic success. It happens when students connect in love and trust with their teacher, and then dedicate and commit themselves to learning. That old Reservation schoolhouse did not educate those students. A dedicated teacher did, in spite of the building's imperfections!

Near the end of her teaching career, she taught primary grades in a Benjamin Franklin traditional school in AZ. That campus had a number of self-enclosed, simple modular units, that were all windowless, but free from outside distractions. Her students thrived, and year after year exceeded grade level standards. Again, the building mattered little. Quality education happened through the loving interaction between student and teacher.

Many other examples could be cited from successful one-room school houses of years past, to the opposite end of the spectrum, where students in multi-million-dollar new schools fail to meet grade level standards annually. Why? It is because Education happens only within buildings, new or old, not because of them.

So, vote NO on 5A. Do the maintenance, improvements, and upgrades, but save the millions for the teachers and school systems that actually make Education happen. And remember, if you are certain that the Building makes Education happen, think again, because "that just ain't so."

Dwight Vilhauer

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

We write this letter to ask for a Yes vote for 5A. This ballot measure is for our schools.

The School District has spent two years getting public input, planning and evaluation.

Our schools are too old and renovation simply will not solve the problem.

We need a modern PK-8 campus. This will be safer and more secure for our children.

We have to support our young workforce. Otherwise, we will lose valuable members of our community.

Sincerely,

Drs. Rhonda and Bill Webb

Ballot support

Dear Editor:

I, like many of our neighbors, signed the commonsense petitions to protect Colorado's Children. I was very pleased to find that Propositions 133 (The Children Are Not For Sale Act), 134 (The Protect Girl's Sports Act), and 135 (The Protect Children From Irreversible Surgery Act) all made it on our ballot. Looking at their website (ProtectKidsColorado.com), the candidate pledge in support of these propositions along with the pledge not to try and reverse them if elected pops up first. I was pleased to note that Naomi Riess was an early signer. I also noted that our current Representative, Katie Stewart, has not signed. As these propositions seem so reasonable I wondered why not. Further investigation, of the above web site, revealed a list of bills from the Colorado Legislature that had made these propositions necessary. There is a long list of bills, starting in 2019, in support of radical gender ideology.

remaining 10 percent will support the Archuleta County Fund and help increase the amount the fund will be able to grant in the future. Sponsorship ensures that 100 percent of each \$100 donation goes directly to Archuleta County nonprofits.

For more information about the Archuleta County Fund and 100+ Women Who Care, as well as other opportunities to support local nonprofits, visit www.swcommunityfoundation.org/counties-served/#archuleta.

The Community Foundation serves as the hub of philanthropy for Southwest Colorado, connecting people, ideas and resources to build a vibrant and resilient region. For more information on giving back and supporting community needs, visit swcommunityfoundation.org or call (970) 375-5807.

For the entire time that Katie Stewart has been in office, since 2025, she has voted yes on each of these. She has voted to strip parental rights, forcing gender rejecting treatments and procedures on troubled young people who have no grasp or the nightmare of infertility, chronic pain, bone loss, permanent sexual dysfunction, cancer risk and permanent need for expensive medications to try and support the costume changes being performed on their bodies. The US Department of Health and Human Services have concluded that there is no reliable evidence of benefit of these procedures, there are numerous documented side effects and risks. The Colorado Legislature and Representative Stewart have mandated that Colorado taxpayers pay for sex rejecting procedures without any age limit or residency requirements.

Hospitals and health care professionals are backing away from providing these treatments in the wake huge malpractice payouts to permanently damaged detransitioners and growing evidence of harm and not help. The Colorado Supreme Court has interpreted these laws to mean that doctors and hospitals must perform these procedures and treatments against their medical judgement, oath to do no harm, and their faith. Compelling speech that violates your conscience and faith is deplorable, compelling someone to provide treatments or perform surgery that you believe to be unethical is unthinkable. These laws have resulted in the Alliance Defending Freedom filing yet another federal lawsuit against the state last month, representing the Christian Medical and Dental Association (Christian Medical & Dental Associations v. Sullivan - ADF Media). So far the state has lost 3-0 against ADF at the Supreme Court. That is a lot of tax dollars supporting unconstitutional bills drafted by our state legislature. It is time to send someone not driven by irrational gender ideology to try and quell this insanity at our state legislature and to protect our Children. Vote yes on Propositions 133, 134, and 135 and vote for Naomi Riess. Vote to protect our rights to be able to say that the Emperor has no clothes.

Lynda Yeager



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Community Foundation supports Upper San Juan Search and Rescue with \$10,500 grant, invites women to new giving circle

By Rachel Rosenthal
Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Archuleta County Fund, held at the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado, has awarded its 2026 grant to Upper San Juan Search and Rescue (USJSAR). The organization will receive \$10,500 to go toward purchasing a new utility terrain vehicle.

The Archuleta County Fund was established to grow permanent philanthropic resources for the Pagosa Springs community. Each year, up to 5 percent of the fund balance is distributed through an unsolicited grant process, where a local committee of community members selects the recipient.

"When emergencies happen in remote locations, USJSAR is the sole

dedicated resource equipped to respond," said Brian Skean, vice chair of USJSAR. "Support from the Archuleta County Fund directly protects both residents and visitors by ensuring our volunteer rescuers have the reliable, modern equipment required to save lives and respond to emergencies in our county."

Pagosa's 100+ Women Who Care

The Community Foundation is also introducing a giving circle called Pagosa's 100+ Women Who Care.

The goals is to find 100 women who donate \$100 and nominate a nonprofit. The top three nonprofits will present to members on Oct. 30, with the winner taking 70 percent of the amount fundraised and 10 percent going to each runner up. The



Lynn Anthony

Lynn was a man who brought people together. He was loving, energetic, playful and full of life, with a gift for making people feel seen, valued and cared for. He loved people deeply and never seemed to miss an opportunity to express that love. If Lynn loved you, you knew it.

He was attentive to the needs of others and had a remarkable ability to see the good in people. He was forgiving, encouraging and fiercely loyal to his family and friends. When he learned that someone was sick or going through a difficult time, Lynn might show up with a homemade dessert simply to lift their spirits. He took his role as “big brother” very seriously and always had



time to listen, offer encouragement or lend a helping hand.

Lynn was born in Houston, Texas, where he worked as a travel agent. His adventurous spirit and love of travel eventually took him to Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. In Los Angeles, he became involved in several movie productions and television projects, including “The Beverly Hillbillies,” and wrote material for several comedians. His creativity found expression in so many areas of his life. He loved the arts, cooking, old movies, dancing and entertaining others with his wonderfully playful imitations of famous people.

Lynn had a special talent for making a home beautiful. He loved decorating and renovating homes and designing gardens, and he had an eye for transforming ordinary spaces into places filled with warmth and beauty. “Lynn made everything beautiful” was not simply something he did — it was part of who he was.

He also loved entertaining. Whether telling stories and jokes,

hosting holiday celebrations, preparing a meal or simply gathering people together, Lynn found joy in creating moments that people would remember. His laughter, humor and enthusiasm brought energy to every gathering.

His compassion extended far beyond those closest to him. Lynn showed his love for others through service and volunteering. He read to children at public libraries, helped at the Humane Society thrift store, and served others at Loaves and Fishes. He cared deeply about people and was never shy about speaking out when he saw injustice or cruelty.

Lynn loved his grandmothers and his sweet Aunt G, and he cherished his family and friends. His faith and love for others were woven into his daily life. When Lynn said his prayers each night, he included everyone. There was always room in his heart for one more person to love, encourage or remember.

For the last 12 years of his life, Lynn was blessed to call Pagosa

Springs home, a place he dearly loved in retirement. There, as throughout his life, he continued to create beauty, build friendships, serve others and make people feel welcome.

Lynn is survived by his beloved partner of 43 years, Mike; his mother, Rebecca Hernandez; his brothers, Mark and Donnie; his sisters, Becky and Rhonda; and a huge number of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who were fortunate enough to know and love him.

Lynn leaves behind far more than memories. He leaves behind the love he gave so freely, the people he brought together, the lives he touched, the beauty he created and the countless acts of kindness that made the world a little better.

He taught those around him to love generously, forgive freely, find the good in people and never be shy about saying, “I love you.”

Lynn will be deeply missed and forever loved.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

Sentenced

■ Continued from front

The plea agreement stipulates to a total of 12 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections, with 12 years for vehicular homicide set to be run concurrent to a sentence of six years for vehicular assault.

McCelvey was also facing first-degree murder and alcohol-related charges prior to the agreement.

The plea agreement stipulates to a factual basis that states, “On or about February 15, 2025, in Archuleta County, Colorado, the defendant, Justin Levi McCelvey, drove a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and such conduct was the proximate cause of the death of Dante Tenorio and serious bodily injury to Angelica Talamante; further, such conduct was a cause of the death of Aaron Tenorio.”

McCelvey was represented by attorney Jeffrey S. Pagliuca.

Deputy District Attorney Mac Dudley of the 6th Judicial District opened comment at the sentencing, stating, “Everyone is here today because of the known catastrophic consequences of the choice to drive under the influence of alcohol.”

Dudley told the court that, on Feb. 15, 2025, the defendant “barreled down” U.S. 84 in a pickup weighed down with a snowmobile.

Dudley noted McCelvey had a blood alcohol content of between 0.18 and 0.253.

He stated the truck reached speeds of more than 100 mph and was traveling about 74 mph at the time of impact with the smaller SUV.

At that moment, he told the court, the lives of these families changed.

Dudley explained he was asking the court to impose the stipulated sentence, which he added is intended not as rehabilitation, but as punishment for McCelvey’s choice and as a deterrent for others.

Dudley also suggested that something was “glaringly absent” from McCelvey’s alcohol evaluation and presentencing investigation report were that only hours before the crash McCelvey had purchased a half gallon of whisky in Chama, N.M., with that bottle being half empty in the back seat of his truck.

Dudley further alleged the material suggested McCelvey was not taking the matter seriously.

Dudley also stated the plea agreement was reached through a lot of discussion and based on factors like airbag modules and cameras not working properly, as well as the GPS data not being accurate due to how remote the crash location is.

Following Dudley, family members, friends and acquaintances of the victims addressed the court, sharing photos, videos, memories and descriptions of their loved ones, as well as the impacts the losses have had.

“I am not at peace,” the mother and grandmother of the victims

stated, it “unimaginable despair” and stating she suffers and grieves all day every day.

“He killed my son,” the stepfather of Dante stated, indicating his daughters are growing up without their brother and McCelvey destroyed a family.

A friend recalled travels with Aaron Tenorio and, like others, including one of his college professors, talked of his desire to continue with his schooling to obtain a master’s degree in public health.

The professor and family members also highlighted Aaron Tenorio was a first-generation college graduate who overcame obstacles.

She called the incident a tragedy on multiple levels with the lives of two young men lost.

The friend noted that losing them will haunt them the rest of their lives.

The mother of one of Dante’s best friends stated that day would be 593 days since the crash, explaining she knew that because “my son counts every single day how long it’s been.”

“He was the one thing that was right in this world for us,” Dante’s father said of his son, noting his son didn’t dislike anyone and wanted to be friends with everyone.

The father noted that McCelvey ruined lives and stated he prays McCelvey doesn’t find peace.

Others described Dante as happy, wanting to be part of a community and being a learner.

Talamante’s stepmother spoke of the trauma and the long road to recovery both mentally and physically Talamante faced after having a 50/50 chance of survival, as well as the trauma the family has been through, and recalled when she first heard about the crash.

Another family member acknowledged that, while she knows McCelvey did not intentionally kill the two, he did intentionally drink and drive.

Others also spoke of the decision to drink and drive, as well as McCelvey “absconding” for a month.

McCelvey turned himself in on Nov. 20, 2025 — after he went missing for a time and after a warrant was issued for his arrest while he was out on bond.

Another family member noted Aaron Tenorio and Dante are now just pictures on a wall, with family members losing their only son and only brother.

That family member also discussed the grief, sorrow and anger, stating he cannot currently forgive McCelvey and, while the plea is not what they wanted, he asked the court to accept it and stated he believes in karma and that the universe will make things right.

He offered good luck to McCelvey, adding he’s “going to need it.”

Several of those who spoke suggested neither McCelvey nor his family has reached out, and he has

closed have been reopened.

He also explained that Road and Bridge crews have been performing maintenance on county roads 700 and 335, and planned to work on county roads 600 and 326 next.

Gonzalez noted that crews plan to blade county roads 917, 975, 500, 335, 326, 359, 400 and 382.

Later in the work session, Commissioner Warren Brown explained that he has “been in contact with” State Rep. Katie Stewart over the flooding in our area and the local disaster declaration.

“I know that they have been prompting the governor’s office to get us a response,” he said.

not shown remorse.

Pagliuca later informed those present that he advised that no one reach out to the victims’ families due to the ongoing court case and a court order to not reach out to any potential witnesses.

Prior to allowing McCelvey’s friends and family to speak, Pagliuca indicated the court had also received many letters.

Several of McCelvey’s friends and family members expressed remorse for the situation, stated they had heard McCelvey express remorse, and told the court and families that the families had been in their prayers.

Several described McCelvey as someone who has been accountable for his actions, a loving father to his three children, a business owner with a master’s degree, polite, respectful, responsible, generous and caring, among other descriptors.

His mother noted that McCelvey’s father passed a way a few years ago, which has been hard on him.

She added he spent a lot of time with his father in Colorado, and when he is in Colorado those memories are at the forefront.

She added that she prays this “grave mistake” will not define him.

“He’s not a monster,” McCelvey’s sister stated, discussing McCelvey’s help in raising her own son.

“Justin is responsible for the choices he’s made,” a stepsister told the court, adding he can spend the rest of his live taking responsibility, growing and honoring the lives lost.

She added, “Justin is a good man” — a sentiment echoed by several of the speakers.

Following the family members and friends speaking, Pagliuca stated that “senseless” is the only way to describe the incident.

He called it unfathomable and unimaginable, relating that he always told his own kids that if they were to get into a vehicle under the influence or with someone else under the influence and something were to happen, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Pagliuca alleged that both drivers were under the influence — an argument Fay later suggested he is not persuaded by.

Pagliuca also noted that McCelvey has expressed to him that he is deeply remorseful and is accepting the serious consequences.

He added that he hopes all of the families can somehow find peace.

“I really am truly 100 percent sorry for my involvement in all of this,” McCelvey said. “It was not my intention, and it certainly wasn’t malicious and intentful. I feel for the families. I would feel the same way they do towards me, and I do. Every day I pray for them, I pray for me, I pray for my family. I’ve hurt them. I’ve hurt my family. And, if I could, I would trade places with little Dante, and

Brown indicated that the governor’s office “is looking at both La Plata and Archuleta County as far as the extent of the damage.

“I do appreciate the fact that they have been very communicative and that we’re working towards that end.”

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VOTE YES FOR 7B
PSMC EMS and Hospital

Comments in Favor of the
Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue

A YES vote on the Upper San Juan Health Service District ballot issue will allow the district, which operates Pagosa Springs Medical Center and provides EMS and ambulance, hospital, and outpatient medical services, to continue to collect, retain, and spend its revenues without raising taxes.

This measure is important to maintain strong, reliable local healthcare in a rural community where access to emergency and medical services cannot be taken for granted.

Pagosa Springs Medical Center provides the only ambulance and emergency medical service covering approximately 1,800 square miles. EMS must be ready 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with trained EMTs and paramedics, ambulances, medical equipment, and personnel available whether or not the cost of a call is fully reimbursed. The next closest hospital and emergency room are approximately an hour away.

Government grants have already provided millions of dollars in matching funds for PSMC ambulances and hospital facility improvements. Preserving the District's financial flexibility helps ensure that PSMC can continue to pursue and accept valuable outside funding opportunities rather than placing a greater burden on local resources.

The District (PSMC) is also different from many governmental entities because the large majority of its revenue is earned by providing healthcare services. More than 90 percent of PSMC's annual revenues come from payments for medical services, while less than 10 percent comes from taxes and governmental grants. Yet those local tax revenues and grants remain important to maintaining services and investing in the facilities, equipment, ambulances, and infrastructure necessary to provide modern healthcare.

Vote YES to keep local resources working for local healthcare — without raising taxes.

PAID FOR BY THE BALLOT ISSUES COMMITTEE FOR PAGOSA MEDICAL. REGISTERED AGENT: JODI SCARPA.

Commissioners hear community survey results for comprehensive plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session on Sept. 22, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard a presentation from Director of Development Eva Kruse on the results of a community survey conducted for input to help guide the county's new comprehensive plan.

Kruse noted that the survey had 366 responses, "which was phenomenal."

She mentioned that the primary focus from the respondents was on housing and water supply within the community.

She also explained that a focus group was conducted with representatives from various water districts in the region, adding, "we got a lot of input from that."

Kruse reviewed results from the survey, indicating that 93 percent of respondents were full-time Archuleta County residents.

According to the presentation, "The respondent pool skews strongly

toward established full-time homeowners in the Pagosa Lakes area and toward residents aged 55 and older. This shapes how the results should be read, particularly on housing, where respondents were substantially more concerned about the local workforce than about their own households."

Kruse noted during the work session that "respondents were split on how much growth was appropriate, but they definitely were strongly aligned on how it should happen."

She explained that 87 percent of respondents wanted new developments to pay their "fair share" of infrastructure costs.

According to the results presentation, which can be found in its entirety online at www.archuletacounty.gov/county-government/development-services/archuleta-county-comprehensive-plan, "water is the top priority."

The presentation explains that 67 percent of respondents "named securing a long-term water supply among their top three priorities for the next 20 years."

Kruse mentioned that the "setting and the small-town character" are things that residents value the most.

According to the presentation, "Natural beauty and mountain setting" were named by 84 percent of respondents as reasons for living in the community.

The presentation also notes that "The county rates well as a place to live and poorly as a place to earn a living," with Kruse noting that the majority of respondents indicated the county is a good place to live but ranked poorly as a place to earn a good living.

Kruse also explained that 781 written comments were received through the 366 responses, and she expressed gratitude for residents taking the time to fill those out.

Kruse commented that the number of written comments received "means a lot of people actually took time to fill that out."

She also mentioned that over the past three months she has had numerous meetings with constituents who were curious about what's going

on in the community.

She noted that some of those meetings were with people expressing support or opposition for certain developments or regulations.

"I'm happy to take it all because that's what it's about," she said, noting that the written comments from the survey are super valuable.

Kruse noted that 80 percent of survey respondents indicated that there was not enough affordable housing available in the community, adding, "of course, we know this."

According to the presentation, 92 percent of respondents "are concerned that local workers in health-care, education, service, and public safety can find housing they can afford in the county."

Kruse explained that the drafts of the water supply and strategic growth elements of the comprehensive plan will be presented at the next Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room at 398 Lewis St.

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Planning

■ Continued from front

of residents is our priority and we wanted to assure them that they can continue to direct questions related to their already open or new applications to the email and contact information found on the Department's County webpage or in-person during the temporary office hours schedule."

Gonzalez also explains that the county has three Planning Department positions budgeted for 2026, that includes the development services director and two planning personnel.

"The three positions are vacant and are currently being advertised on the job boards," Gonzalez wrote.

During the Oct. 6 work session, Commissioner John Ranson offered some comments on the matter, mentioning that during a meeting in September he was "bragging about our management team here," noting he still believes the county has "top-notch people" in "key positions."

Ranson explained in a later interview that Development Director Eva Kruse is no longer employed with the county.

Ranson commented during the work session that "we had some problems, but that's life; you're always gonna have that kind of stuff

going on."

Ranson also noted that he was "disappointed," but added, "I do believe we can make lemonade out of lemons."

He also explained that this would be the "second build around" for the Planning Department during his current term.

"Part of the first one was my doing and my responsibilities," he said, explaining that he was "not pointing fingers."

Ranson expressed that the county should "take a step back here," suggesting to get the building community involved "to help rewrite some rules and regulations that seem to cause the problems."

He added, "God bless us if we could simplify it."

Ranson suggested the county wait on looking to hire someone to fill the development director position, "so this doesn't happen again."

Ranson noted that in the meantime, other county staff are assisting in Planning Department-related work.

Gonzalez's email also explains that "The County plan is to continue all work in-house but does not rule out the possible short-term use of a third-party contractor to handle a pending or new project, if deemed

necessary."

Ranson went on to express optimism on the situation, stating, "I really believe that we can turn this into a big positive."

He explained that the department has grown by a rate of 30 percent per year over the past five years.

"I think we can become more efficient," he said, indicating the county could save up to \$250,000 "and still have first-class service."

Gonzalez also explained that the intent is to perform a land use code rewrite, noting the county is currently conducting a comprehensive plan rewrite and is using feedback received through that to help guide the land use code rewrite.

"We will be absolutely addressing that land use code," he said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that she agrees the county needs to rewrite its land use code.

She also noted that the county attorney and assistant attorney could possibly help with that process.

"Why don't we just start from scratch? Because we definitely have too many regulations that we are not enforcing, because we just don't have the staff to do it," she said, noting that was an issue even before losing staff members.

Medina suggested the county start with what's required by state statute.

"Throw everything else out the door and then work on building what else Archuleta County needs," she said.

Commissioner Warren Brown suggested that the Planning Department situation is a good reason to have an administrative building that houses the majority of county departments.

"I think that this underscores the need for an administrative building where all of us can be under one roof all the time," he said, adding that it is "not to micromanage, but to be aware."

He added, "And sometimes perspectives and thoughts can change if folks are too far removed from administration."

Brown expressed that having the ability to have daily conversations would prevent things from getting "out of hand."

"That is the benefit of centralized leadership, and I think it just underscores the need for that," he said.

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Tax

■ Continued from front

May figures showed a decrease of .48 percent (\$6,553.63). June figures showed a 1.63 (\$28,804) percent increase, and July figures showed a 1.12 (\$21,331.76) decrease.

According to data in Eaton's press release, the year-to-date comparison for January through August of this year shows a 2.83 percent decrease, or \$288,018.12 less received compared to figures from January through August 2025.

Eaton's report notes that a total of \$12,179,634.43 in sales tax has been

collected so far this year.

Categories that were up in the month-to-month comparison, according to Eaton's data, include:

- Retail Trade at 5.44 percent, or \$47,497.78.
- Finance and Insurance at 63.86 percent, or \$1,618.46.
- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 37.25 percent, or \$11,535.19.

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

- Construction at 39.6 percent, or \$11,846.01.

- Manufacturing at 13.36 percent, or \$10,720.41.

- Information at 6.73 percent, or \$1,818.41.

- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 15.34 percent, or \$2,387.75.

- Accommodation and Food Services at 18.86 percent, or \$71,305.19.

- Other Services (except Public Administration) at 28.76 percent, or \$8,673.65.

- Miscellaneous at .75 percent, or \$1,527.54.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Orphan Wells Mitigation Enterprise Board increases industry fee to sustain Colorado orphan-well works

Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission

The Orphan Wells Mitigation Enterprise Board approved an increase in Colorado's annual industry-funded orphan-well mitigation fee to sustain plugging, environmental cleanup and reclamation as the program plans to accelerate work in 2027.

Beginning in April 2027, operators will pay \$285 per well in the higher-production tier and \$155 per well in the lower-production tier as part of the fees collected by the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission (ECMC). The current rates are \$225 and \$125, respectively. The marginal-well mitigation fee will remain \$115 per well.

The board's action follows the Orphaned Well Program's highest-output year.

In fiscal year 2026, the ECMC plugged 161 orphaned wells, 69 percent more than the prior year. The program performed work at 807 sites across 91 projects, addressed 284 facilities and completed 1,035 discrete tasks at those sites related to plugging wells, decommissioning production equipment, and performing environmental and reclamation work. Field-project expenditures totaled \$26.5 million, with funding from federal grants, operator-funded enterprise fees and claimed bonds.

"The record work completed this year shows that Colorado has built a program capable of turning industry fees and federal grants into real work in

communities," said ECMC commission chair Jeff Robbins, who also chairs the Orphan Wells Mitigation Enterprise Board. "The board's responsibility is also to look ahead. A measured fee increase will help ensure that the industry-funded program can keep pace as additional wells enter the inventory and federal funding changes."

Even with that progress, new and newly identified liabilities continued to enter the program. As of July 1, the inventory included 2,156 orphaned sites with 996 remaining wells to plug on those sites. The program annually reviews funding levels to ensure they match forecasted inventory for the next fiscal year.

"Data helps us identify risk, direct resources and measure whether we are moving work faster," said ECMC Director Jennifer Walker Graf. "The fiscal year 2026 results show that added capacity increased field performance. A sustainable funding base will allow ECMC to keep using that data-driven approach to move priority sites through plugging, remediation and reclamation."

The Enterprise Board reviews fees annually based on current and forecasted circumstances as well as anticipated expenditures. Staff estimates that the number of active wells paying the fee declined from about 45,000 in fiscal year 2022 to 37,630 in fiscal year 2026. As a result, annual fee revenue declined from approximately \$9.3 million to \$8.5 million during the same period. At existing rates, projected revenue would continue to decline as the number of

active wells are forecasted to continue to decline.

The new approved fees would generate an estimated \$10.7 million in 2027, compared with approximately \$8.1 million if rates remained unchanged. Staff expects the program to spend up to \$30 million annually to maximize available federal infrastructure grants and sustain work after those grants expire in fiscal year 2030-2031.

"Predictable funding allows us to build and retain the staff and contractor capacity needed to plan work across multiple years," said Orphaned Well Program Manager David Andrews. "Additional resources can accelerate the work, but plugging is only one step. Many sites also require facility removal, environmental investigation, remediation and reclamation before the work is complete."

The orphan well mitigation fee is paid by oil and gas operators and supports work at orphaned sites where no responsible owner or operator can be found or is willing or able to complete the work.

The ECMC will report annual collections and adjustments to the Enterprise Board, which informs the board concerning its yearly determination regarding appropriate fee levels.

The Orphan Wells Mitigation Enterprise was established by Senate Bill 22-198 as an industry-funded mechanism to plug orphaned wells and remediate and reclaim related sites. More information and the fiscal year 2026 annual report are available on the ECMC website.

Invest in our Schools. Invest in our Community.

As an Archuleta County commissioner from 2011-2021, I was a well-known fiscal conservative.

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I am a saver. That is a value I know I share with a great many of you.

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Archuleta County tire collection event a success despite challenging weather

Archuleta County

This tire collection event presented some challenging conditions, with heavy rain and muddy conditions throughout the day. Despite the weather, the Archuleta County team worked together to assist everyone who participated in this important community event.

In just one day, nearly 1,200 tires were collected and removed from properties throughout the county.

Removing unwanted tires provides several important benefits to our community. Tires can serve as significant fuel during a wildfire, potentially contributing to the intensity and spread of a fire. Tire removal also helps eliminate potential mosquito-breeding sites.

With recent reports of West Nile virus in Archuleta County, reducing these potential breeding areas is another important step toward protecting public health and reducing the risk of future outbreaks.

There are also benefits to property owners and the community as a whole. Removing accumulated tires helps improve the appearance and



Photo courtesy Archuleta County

Despite the rainy weather, Archuleta County collected nearly 1,200 at a recent tire collection event.

condition of properties, and can contribute to maintaining or improving property values throughout the county.

This event was made possible through grant funding from the state

of Colorado, which helps cover the cost of the tire collection program held every three years.

A sincere thank you goes to everyone who helped make this event successful.

It truly was a community effort, and together we were able to make a meaningful difference for Archuleta County's environment, public health, wildfire preparedness and quality of life.

Decision

■ Continued from front

fore the council seeking approval of a planned development agreement (PDA) with the town and a zoning map amendment.

Both of these items came before the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission on Sept. 8, where it recommended approval to the council.

The planning commission also approved the sketch major subdivision application for the development at that meeting.

The subdivision in question proposes to have its main access point off of U.S. 160 and Great West Boulevard, west of downtown.

The developer, represented by Jonathan Fink at the meeting, plans to fully develop the 70 acre site in phases, with a mix of residential and commercial lodging units.

Fink explained that phase one would include building 82 for-sale residential homes and 82 stand-alone cabins for commercial lodging, equipped with a clubhouse, pickleball courts and a swimming pool.

He explained that 30 homes, out of the total of 82, would "qualify as workforce housing" and would be deed restricted in perpetuity.

In the future phases of development, which would take place over about a 10-year period, 12 percent of the remaining homes would be dedicated to workforce housing for the community, he explained.

"There will be no difference in quality between the workforce-dedicated homes and the market price homes," he explained.

"All homes will be built to the same standards, and no one will know the difference between them," he said.

The price tag quoted by Fink for the workforce housing dedicated homes would land around \$360,000 and would be aimed at those making 90 to 130 percent of the area median income (AMI).

The market price homes would land at around \$590,000, he added.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained that the town could receive some public benefits from the development, such as addition to the secondary road network and a public commuter trail (known as the Town-to-Lakes Trail) and public open space.

While many of the public comments on the matter expressed concern about too high of a density for that area, Dickhoff explained that the proposal actually displays "fairly low density."

The planning commission recommended an R-12 zoning for the residential section of the subdivision, but the proposal for phase one was coming in at "more like R-6," he explained.

When opened to questions, the council also expressed concern about density issues and if the public infrastructure in place could support the amount of growth that this area would see.

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed concern about the roads in that area, the access point off of U.S. 160 and if they'd be able to support the level of growth that the subdivision is proposing.

"Those roads aren't meant to handle that much traffic," she said.

She also asked why, if the development is coming in at R-6, rather than R-12, the council wouldn't just zone it to R-6 to keep the density lower for that area.

Dickhoff explained that future phases might come in at higher density and the developers wanted that flexibility.

Council member Leonard Martinez expressed that he was concerned that the development is coming at a time when the town is in the middle of attempting to upgrade its troubled sewer infrastructure.

"Why now?" he asked, when "we're in the middle of fixing our infrastructure?"

Martinez also expressed that the tourism economy represents a "single point of failure" for the town's economy, and that he is worried that this development would "exacerbate" that problem.

In the past, Martinez has advocated for seeking to diversify the economic activity in the area, beyond the tourism economy.

Several public commenters on the matter showed concern about water availability in the face of persistent drought, but Fisk explained that he has received assurances from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) that there is sufficient supply to meet the demand.

Fisk also said that "no one would be moving in until 2028, and the way that PAWSD is going, they are highly confident that the infrastructure is already there ... and we're lucky that we're right on the main line of all the utilities running down Highway 160."

He added, "The electricity is there, the television distribution people are there, the water is there, the sewer is there, but even with that we're not going to build 164 houses on day one."

One public commenter, Robin Nay, explained that she is concerned about fire danger and evacuation routes if this section of highway becomes a dense residential area.

"It scares the hell out of me," she said.

Another commenter said that she agreed with the mayor that an "R-6 zoning would be much more palatable," to reduce the density in the area.

Council member Mat deGraaf expressed concern that this just isn't a good fit for Pagosa Springs.

"I want to be upfront," he told the developers, "that I think I'm going to be a burr in your side through this process."

He added, "I don't believe that you quite understand what this community needs and wants ... I respect what you're doing, but I will be a voice of opposition in a lot of places."

A public commenter also stated that he thought the developer came in with a "certain amount of hubris, when he said that the people who live here want a certain lifestyle."

How do the developers know "what that lifestyle is when they themselves don't live here?" he asked.

Resident Terri Pritchard added during public comment, "This project is not for Pagosa. We can do better than this."

She explained that she came here from Los Angeles, commenting, "Don't Los Angelesize this place. We all ran away from it."

She added the council should break the cycle and say no to the development.

One public commenter, Shane Jones, who explained that he is the listing broker on the property, described a situation where the developers came to him asking questions about the property, and he referred them to the town-approved Comprehensive Plan of 2018, which is the guiding document for future development in the town.

Jones explained that the comprehensive plan foresaw higher density for this area of development.

"If density is the concern, well, they are doing less density than the recommendation of the comprehensive plan," he said.

He added, "Maybe we should redo the plan if we decide we don't like it," but, for now, the plan is the guiding document.

After public comments had ended, it was time for the council to discuss further and make a decision on the

matter.

Martinez made a motion to deny the approval of the PDA and zoning amendment, citing his "heritage" as a sixth-generation community member and that "the decisions we make now have an impact generations from now."

He continued, "And I believe the timing for this project is not good for our community at this time."

Council member Brooks Lindner stated that he respects Martinez's point of view on this, but also added that what Jones explained about the Comprehensive Plan approved by the town as its guiding principle also makes a lot of sense to him.

"There's a real disconnect there that needs to somehow be addressed," he said, adding that the fact that the applicant is not currently the owner of the property made him lean toward denying approval.

Pierce chimed in to say that, "For me, them not having the things worked out with PAWSD and La Plata Electric and even with our own sanitation district," citing the "amount of money they are gonna have to invest for the modeling for that."

deGraaf expressed that what the developers "are proposing, in my mind, does not fit with what I want this community to look like in the future ... I chose to sit up here so that my voice can be heard, because I feel that I speak for other members of the community."

Pierce asked Dickhoff about the process going forward, asking if the council could slow down the process while the outlook for the utilities is figured out.

Dickhoff explained that if the utilities say they can't handle the development, at that point the developers would "make the determination that they can't move forward."

He explained that the next step for the developers would be the "preliminary major subdivision application," and it's at that point they have to include all the modeling for utilities.

If the items on the agenda were approved, "their next step is engaging with all that utility stuff right away ... so they know the capacity and their obligation for each one of those entities," he explained.

Martinez again stated that, from a risk-management perspective, he thinks that now is not the right time to approve this.

Dickhoff advocated for the need for workforce housing in the community, saying, "If we don't have workforce housing for our youth and our young families, we are not going to have young families in our community, and we are really struggling right now."

He added that if the council does in fact deny this application, town staff would want "some guidance" on the rationale for denial, because the application seems to fit all the criteria in the comp plan and the Land Use and Development Code.

Pierce suggested that it was time for some sort of decision, either to approve, deny or continue the decision.

Dickhoff again explained that if the council denies the application, that he would like the council to refer to the "portion of approval criteria that you feel that this project did not meet as the basis for denial."

deGraaf said that, "Personally ... it's just my feeling" that this project doesn't fit "in our town."

"I understand what you're asking for," but, he said, "I feel like I can't give you that concrete direction that you would want so you can do your job. My feeling doesn't have the foundation that I wish it could."

Lindner chimed in to say that he would "not be ready" to give enough detail on the criteria for which he would deny the application. "Which is

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LIBRARY NEWS

They say reading is over. Our library says otherwise

By **Taylor Worsham**
SUN Columnist

A recent stroll through the library's magazine aisle stopped me in my tracks.

The August 2026 cover of Atlantic Magazine featured an apocalyptic cover with the headline “The Age of Reading Is Over.”

Rose Horowitz's argument is quite shocking: Society is entering a “postliterate” age where sustained reading of long-form books is in steep decline.

Horowitz cites statistics from the American Time Use Survey, like the proportion of Americans who read from pleasure on any given day fell from 28 percent in 2004 to 16 percent in 2023. Even more alarming, she references National Endowment for the Arts data that claims that fewer than 50 percent of American adults read a book of any kind in 2022.

I acknowledge this is a deeply troubling societal trend, not only as an enthusiastic reader but as a librarian that has dedicated my life to advancing literacy and the love of reading. After reflecting on “The Age of Reading is Over,” I feel even more impassioned to advance public libraries' essential mission to cultivate a community of readers.

The age of reading is not over in Pagosa Springs. In fact, we are ushering in a new era with an expanded library full of books to read and enjoy.

The Ruby Sisson Library continues to purchase new and classic titles, for all ages, reading abilities and interests. Reading is a foundational skill; it can be a transformative experience and truly is a forever pastime. We hope you'll come to see us at the library and discover your next great read.

Adult education programs

With our new library we are also reimagining our adult education program and are currently seeking volunteers.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer tutor to help members of our community get their GED or learn ESL (English as a second language)? The library is looking for tutors to work with students one-on-one for two hours a week to help us sustain our adult education programs. We are also taking new students for both GED and ESL.

If you are someone who enjoys cultural exchanges or are looking

to brush up on your Spanish, think about joining our Intercambio program at the Library. Intercambio connects volunteers with adult English learners through relationship-based classes. Our curriculum, training and ongoing support make teaching easy, enjoyable and impactful. Intercambio seeks compassionate volunteers to help English learners build language skills, confidence and cross-cultural connections in person.

We do not require volunteers to have experience before getting involved. Our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL/ESL) curriculum requires no prior teaching or second language experience. Empathy is required. Volunteers should have patience, curiosity about other cultures and a positive, learner-centered mindset that values diverse experiences and perspectives.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor or a student, please email our volunteer coordinator, Nicole Holt, at esl@pagosalibrary.org.

Board vacancy

We have an unexpected vacancy on our library board.

The library board establishes library policies, oversees library finances, and advocates for the library in the community.

Members serve three-year terms and must be residents of Archuleta County. The time commitment is generally one meeting per month.

If you would like to serve, please send a letter of interest to director@pagosalibrary.org.

New Craft and Hobby database marks makerspace opening

To celebrate the opening of our new makerspace, we are launching a new database called Craft and Hobby.

Packed with videos for all ages teaching skills like sewing, woodworking, gardening and outdoor photography, Craft and Hobby is available free with your library card online from home or on the go.

We are planning lots of hands-on activities in the new makerspace and will be using Craft and Hobby to provide instruction for participants.

Take a look at the extensive catalog of instructional video at www.pagosalibrary.org/how-to.

Hoopla e-book collection replaces CloudLibrary

On Aug. 18, our library consor-

tium adopted Hoopla, an e-book and e-audiobook platform that replaces CloudLibrary. Our entire CloudLibrary collection has migrated to this new Hoopla platform, so if you were on a waitlist for a book in CloudLibrary, try a search for it in Hoopla.

To get started, download the Hoopla app and register as a Ruby Sisson patron with your library card number.

If you are already a Hoopla user with another library, you can add the Ruby Sisson collection by choosing “settings” on the bottom app menu, then “Library Settings.”

If you need a little extra help, stop by and we'll work with you. For extended help, our Tech Time drop-ins are every Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Meeting room reservations

Large community meeting rooms and smaller study rooms are now available to reserve. Those looking to reserve the spaces for two- or four-hour blocks can inquire at the library or call (970) 264-2209. A library card or driver's license is required. Reservations can be made up to one month in advance.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources. No appointment is needed, but please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

New books collections brimming with interesting titles

For a full list of new titles and to reserve your copy, go to www.pagosalibrary.org and choose “Search the Catalog” at the top of the screen.

Don't forget, if there is a waiting list for the book, it may be available now as an e-book or e-audiobook on Hoopla or Libby.

Need help? Just ask. We love talking about books.

New in large print

- “Heart of Glass” by Jennifer Hillier is a thriller featuring two friends in a quiet seaside town that faced tragedy at the hands of a serial killer. The book's twisting turn of events across decades unravels the secrets they've worked so hard

to bury in their carefully constructed lives.

- “The Wild Beneath” by Kelly Anderson tells the story of Annie MacLeod, who always knew she was different, growing up on a sailboat in the Pacific Northwest, navigating by stars and swimming with sea creatures alongside her parents and best friend Evan. But when a tsunami shatters her world, Annie is stranded on land and forced to confront how eccentric she is.

New fiction

- “Hollow Bones” by Jodi Picoult is the story of Molly Fitzgerald, who was only 2 months old when her mother went to an appointment at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, and never came home. Now an adult, she runs the Rhode Island Department for Emergency Preparedness, mapping out ways to save lives during storms, epidemics and airplane crashes.

- “13 little love stories: an anthology inspired by Taylor Swift songs” is a collection by young adult authors of contemporary romances inspired by the songs of Taylor Swift.

- “The Pirate Queen” by Ariel Lawhon is a thrilling historical adventure inspired by the life of Grace O'Malley, the infamous Irish sea captain and folk heroine who risked everything to protect her people against the powerful Elizabethan regime.

New nonfiction

- “Home Food Storage: A Preparedness Plan for Creating and Using an Emergency Food Supply” by Michael Allison is a comprehensive guide to creating a practical food storage system for everyday life and long-term emergencies.

- “Printing with the Sun: Capturing the Beauty of Nature with Cyanotypes” by Madge Evers covers the basics of the cyanotype process with step-by-step photographs and clear instructions. It includes more than a dozen projects that will build your printmaking skills and introduce you to new aspects of the art.

- “Wildcat: The Untold Story of Pearl Hart, the Wild West's Most Notorious Woman Bandit” by John Boessenecker is the first book to uncover the enigma of Pearl Hart. Hailed by many as “The Bandit Queen,” her epic life of crime and legacy as a female trailblazer provide a crucial lens into the lives of the rare women who made their mark in the American West.

Seeds of Learning partners with Head Start to expand opportunities for local families

By **Emily Martinez**
Seeds of Learning

Seeds of Learning is excited to announce a new partnership with Head Start that will help make high-quality early childhood education more accessible to families in our community.

At Seeds of Learning, we have always believed that every child deserves access to a safe, loving, high-quality early learning environment, regardless of their family's income. This new partnership with Head Start is another way we can help make that possible.

We know how difficult it can be for families to find high-quality child care that they can also afford. Our

goal has always been to find ways to remove those barriers and help families access the care and education their children deserve. Partnering with Head Start gives us another opportunity to do just that.

Seeds of Learning currently works with families through several programs and funding sources, including Colorado's Universal Preschool Program, the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, scholarships and tuition assistance. Adding Head Start as a partner gives eligible families another avenue for receiving support with the cost of early childhood education.

Seeds of Learning is a nationally accredited early childhood education program and holds a Colorado Shines

Level 5 rating. While we are very proud of those accomplishments, what matters most to us is what they mean for our children and families. Our teachers work every day to help children grow socially, emotionally, physically and academically while creating an environment where children feel safe, loved and excited to learn.

This partnership is also about supporting the whole family. When parents know their child is in a safe and nurturing environment, they are better able to work, attend school and provide for their families. Early childhood education is about so much more than preparing children for kindergarten. When we support a child, we are also supporting their family, and when we support families, we strengthen our entire community.

Seeds of Learning and Head Start share a commitment to ensuring that a family's financial situation does not prevent a child from receiving

high-quality early education. We are excited to work together and see the opportunities this partnership can provide for local children and families.

Families who believe they may qualify for Head Start funding are encouraged to reach out. Even if you are unsure whether your family meets the eligibility requirements, we encourage you to contact Seeds of Learning or Head Start to learn more about the program and determine whether your family may qualify.

We don't want families to assume they won't qualify and miss out on an opportunity that could help them. Reach out, ask questions and let us help you find out what resources may be available for your family.

Seeds of Learning is excited for this next chapter and grateful for the opportunity to continue working with community partners to make high-quality early childhood education accessible to more children in Archuleta County.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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Applications due soon for Rotary's teacher mini grants

By **CiCi Stuart**
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs' annual teacher mini grant applications are due Monday, Oct. 12.

The program awards a limited number of mini grants up to \$400 for special classroom projects to individual teachers in preschool through 12th grades in Archuleta County.

The mini grants provide working capital to innovative teachers who want to develop new ideas to enrich or enhance the student classroom experience. The mini grants must support the academic standards of the classroom.

Archuleta County Democrats offer rides to help voters cast ballots

By **Lee Stopher**
Archuleta County Democratic Party

Need a ride to a ballot drop box or a polling place? The Archuleta County Democratic Party is here to help.

“We're launching this effort because we believe every eligible voter should be able to cast their ballot,” said Shawna Seed, chair of the Archuleta Democrats. “Anyone — regardless of party affiliation — can request a ride.”

The ultimate goal is to provide benefit and/or to affect as many students as possible. Grant awards will provide for materials, equipment and other resources necessary to carry out a proposed project that augments the school's standards and goals.

The club has offered the mini grants for more than 12 years and provided up to \$4,000 yearly, now benefiting more than 700 students each year. The funds come from community donations and Rotary projects. The grants are reviewed and awarded by a team of Rotarians.

Principals and directors have the applications for the teachers.

To request a ride, fill out the form at <https://archuletadems.org/staff/ride-form>. The party will match folks requesting a ride with volunteer drivers.

About a dozen people have volunteered as drivers, Seed explained.

Informative.

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www.mountainmendam.com/when-mold-is-a-health-concern-vs-a-maintenance-issue/

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Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

The Pirate boys' cross-country teams gathers before the Salida High Mountain Desert Twilight on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Pirate harriers eye regional competition in season's final races

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross country teams competed at the Salida High Mountain Desert Twilight on Saturday, Oct. 3, and closed the gap between them and a team in their region.

The athletes got the chance to run under the lights with the collegiate peaks as their backdrop Saturday evening.

Though there were a couple teams from the region at the meet, coach Josh Kurz explained he wanted his team focused on tracking down the Gunnison Cowboys in Salida.

"We're really focusing on that," said Kurz. "Our region, trying to qualify for state. And the boys were within five points, which is super encouraging because I think Gunnison is second in our region. So, super encouraged that we were that close."

The Lady Pirates finished further behind Gunnison than the boys did, but they were dealing with illness, and Kurz stated he believes that when the team is back healthy again they'll be fully competitive.

Kurz emphasized that he thought the course would run faster than it did, because courses on golf courses are typically some of the fastest. Still,

11 total kids dropped time from last week's race.

Rylan Ash led the way for the Pirates, finishing 10th overall with a time of 17 minutes flat.

Miles Dempster finished behind him in 30th with a time of 18:17.00. Weston Sweet finished 33rd with a time of 18:20.00. Jacen Easling finished 47th with a time of 18:56.00, and Kieran Kurz finished 66th with a time of 19:45.00 to round out the top five scoring Pirates at the meet.

Liam McKnight finished 67th with a time of 19:46.00. Wells Witting finished 87th with a time of 20:38.00. Stetson Osborn finished 100th with a time of 21:01.00. Isaac Hanto finished 101st with a time of 21:02.00. Silas Yost finished 104th with a time of 21:21.00. Cole Hancey finished 107th with a time of 21:29.00. Jacob Freeman finished 117th with a time of 22:40.00. Davyn Leiker finished 121st with a time of 23:18.00. Matthew Mars finished 127th with a time of 23:54.00. Zander Hernandez finished 131st with a time of 25:18.00, and Eli Hanto finished 135th with a time of 28:01.00.

The boys placed sixth out of the 13 teams that scored with 150 points, just five points more than Gunnison, who finished in fifth.

Ash's 10th overall finish was impressive, noted Josh Kurz, because

he was seeded at 19th.

McKnight was the male monster of the week, dropping 4:49 from his time last week and posting a new personal record.

Easling, Hernandez and Leiker each posted personal record races in Salida, as well.

Madi Stretton led the way for the Lady Pirates, finishing 21st overall with a time of 21:41.00.

Lily DeClark finished behind her in 32nd with a time of 22:52.00. Lucy Rivera placed 35th with a time of 23:17.00. Bella Jackson finished 39th with a time of 23:35.00, and Elsy Wood finished 58th with a time of 25:44.00 to round out the top five scoring Lady Pirates.

Olivia Diffey placed 59th with a time of 25:49.00. Vivy DavRem placed 61st with a time of 25:52.00. Isabelle Ratcliff placed 63rd with a time of 26:17.00. Skylar Leiker placed 73rd with a time of 30:33.00.

The girls placed seventh out of the seven teams who scored.

The coach emphasized that Stretton had her best race of the season in Salida and was seconds off her personal record.

Rivera was the monster of the week on the girls' side, dropping 1:32 from last week's time. Ratcliff posted her personal best race in Salida.



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Lady Pirate Isabelle Ratcliff runs at the Salida High Mountain Desert Twilight on Saturday, Oct. 3. Ratcliff placed 63rd at the event.



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Pagosa Springs, Co 81147

GOLF

Dimond, Pickering tie for 38th at state

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs High School Pirate golfers Tyler Dimond and Chatwin Pickering tied for 38th at this weeks' 3A state golf tournament in Alamosa.

The tournament took place at Cattails Golf Course, a par-71 course, in Alamosa on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 5 and 6.

"Overall, it was a good experience, according to coach Mark Faber, who added, "I'm very proud of both of them."

The golfers were part of a four-way tie, scoring 164 over the course of the two-day tournament.

"I was excited for the way they looked after the practice round," Faber said adding, "I thought we were in a pretty good spot, and we had a really rough start to round one for both of them — as rough as it's been all year, I think, just for the first four or five holes."

Faber acknowledged they may have been nervous, but that he's not sure what led to it.

Dimond and Pickering ended day one as part of an eight-way tie for 60th after what Faber called "two very mediocre rounds for both of them the first round."

Both Pirates shot an 87 on Monday.

Dimond's effort included shooting par on six holes, while Pickering shot par on seven holes.

Both also improved by 10 strokes



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

Pirates Tyler Dimond and Chatwin Pickering pose for a photo at this week's state tournament, where they tied for 38th.

on Tuesday, logging 77s.

Faber noted it was the first time he's ever had golfers shoot the same score both days of the tournament.

"I'm really, really proud of the way they finished," Faber said. "They came back the next day, and both of them ... played a lot better and actually finished the round really strong."

Dimond logged a birdie on his last hole, which Faber highlighted, and shot par on 10 holes on Tuesday. Pickering logged birdies on four holes Tuesday, as well as shooting par on six holes.

"Chatwin played as well as he could play," Faber said, highlighting Pickering was one under on the last

nine holes, "which is really good."

Faber noted that it was a well-run tournament, with those involved doing a great job getting the course ready.

Faber also thanked the local golf course for letting the Pirates practice and participate as the season draws to a close.

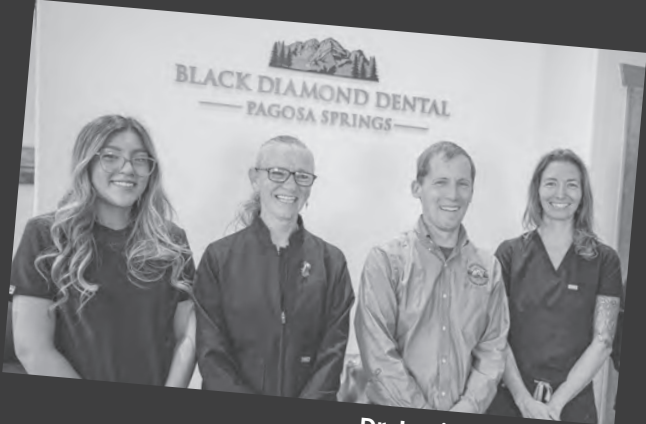
Faber noted that the team is young and he feels good about where a lot of the Pirate golfers ended the season.

He also highlighted everyone is set to return next year, with no seniors on this year's squad.

"I think we should have a pretty promising team," Faber said.
randi@pagosasun.com

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- Rose H.

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COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38 38 103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2026 008

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On July 28, 2026, 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)
Elizabeth Rae Atencio
Original Beneficiary(ies)
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR The Central Trust Bank, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
COLORADO HOUSING AND FINANCE AUTHORITY
Date of Deed of Trust
November 30, 2020
County of Recording
Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust
December 02, 2020
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.)
22007722
Original Principal Amount
\$171,830.00
Outstanding Principal Balance
\$155,141.82

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 1 OF BLOCK 3 IN PIEDRA PARK SUBDIVISION NO. 2A, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JANUARY 23, 1961 AS RECEPTION NO. 60166, COUNTY OF ARCHULETA, STATE OF COLORADO.

APN #: 616108308011
Purported common address: 53 W Cedar Dr, Arboles, CO 81121.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

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

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 11/05/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, 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 9/10/2026
Last Publication 10/08/2026
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: 07/08/2026

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
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:
Steven Bellanti #48306
McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369 6122
Attorney File # CO 26 1056015 JH

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 September 10, 17, 24, October 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313414)

NOTICE OF SALE

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

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 11/19/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, 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 9/24/2026
Last Publication 10/22/2026
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: 07/28/2026

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
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:
Lama M Baddah #62210
Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (855) 263 9295
Attorney File # 26 037177

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 September 24, October 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313415)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38 38 103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2026 008

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust: On July 8, 2026, 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)
James A Pacheco and June J Balizan
Original Beneficiary(ies)
Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS") as nominee for The Central Trust Bank, ITS Successors and ASSIGNS
Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Deed of Trust
September 06, 2019
County of Recording
Archuleta
Recording Date of Deed of Trust
September 09, 2019
Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.)
21905117
Original Principal Amount
\$250,381.00





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\$55 annual out of county

Outstanding Principal Balance
\$200,461.16

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 2 OF BLOCK 2 IS ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 4, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD AUGUST 20, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74785.

Purported common address: 511 Blue Jay Cir, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

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

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 11/05/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, 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 9/10/2026
Last Publication 10/08/2026
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: 07/08/2026

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
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:
Steven Bellanti #48306
McCarthy & Holthus, LLP 7700 E Arapahoe Road, Suite 230, Centennial, CO 80112 (877) 369 6122
Attorney File # CO 26 1056015 JH

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 September 10, 17, 24, October 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (313414)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: 970-264-8160
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Daniel L Fiedler #47916
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-507-8528
Case Number 2026CV30057
Plaintiff:
PATRICK H. DISNER v.
Defendants:
MEADPROP UNITS, LLC, ARCHULETA COUNTY PUBLIC TRUSTEE, PAGOSA LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION and All Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest In The Subject Matter Of This Action.

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFF: PATRICK H. DISNER
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION

Application for a MINOR PLAT AMENDMENT in CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE UNIT TWO, to vacate a right-of-way at 84, 104, and 114 Yeoman Dr.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317949)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2026.

Application for a MINOR PLAT AMENDMENT in CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE UNIT TWO, to vacate a right-of-way at 84, 104, and 114 Yeoman Dr.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317949)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2026.

Application for a MINOR PLAT AMENDMENT in PAGOSA VILLAGE SERVICE COMMERCIAL, to re-subdivide lot 17XX, also known as 118 N Pagosa Blvd, creating lots 15XZ and 17XZ.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services- Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317952)

ARCHULETA COUNTY AUGUST 2026 PAYABLES VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
STROHECKER ASPHALT & PAVING	ASPHALT	\$ 429,447.76
PAGOSA COMMUNITY INITIATIVE	PCI CMP FISCAL AGENCY TRANSFER	\$ 219,349.28
CIGNA HEALTH	MED BENEFITS	\$ 195,525.94
PURVIS	LDG TAX/CONSV TRUST/UTILITIES	\$ 150,467.00
COLUMBIA PACIFIC LEASING	VEH LEASE	\$ 90,903.81
PINNACOL ASSURANCE	WORKERS COMP	\$ 73,889.00
DESERT MOUNTAIN CORP	MAG CHLORIDE	\$ 54,983.43
PS MEDICAL CENTER	INTERGOV'TL AGREEMENT/CLASSES/	
	FAIR SVCS	\$ 50,273.04
	GRAVEL/MUD LOADS	\$ 33,325.46
	CNTY FUEL	\$ 32,175.54
	FLEET FUEL	\$ 27,896.53
	CNTY P-CARD PURCHASES	\$ 27,891.83
	GUARDRAIL REPAIRS	\$ 18,717.50
	TENT RNTLS	\$ 17,000.00
	CNTY CLEANING SVCS	\$ 16,275.00
	PAG TRAILS RDS	\$ 13,347.25
	SWITCHVOX CLOUD SVCS	\$ 11,675.16
	CNTY ELECTRIC UTILITIES	\$ 10,837.71
	INMATE FOOD	\$ 10,652.92
	FLEET SUPP	\$ 10,384.30
	PLEDGE RESOLUTION	\$ 10,000.00
	ELM FOUNDATION GRANT	\$ 10,000.00
	FLEET SUPP	\$ 8,802.60
	SWL QTRLY RPT/FEES	\$ 8,660.89
	2026 PINK RODEO PROCEEDS	\$ 8,596.88
	DENTAL BENEFITS	\$ 8,540.83
	LIFE/ACC BENEFITS	\$ 7,947.25
	FLEET PARTS/SUPP	\$ 7,376.17
	LF MONITORING	\$ 7,145.50
	CNTY LANDLINES	\$ 7,109.29
	RENT 305 VILLAGE DR.	\$ 6,500.00
	HERBICIDES	\$ 6,465.06
	VEH REPAIRS/SUPP	\$ 6,232.55
	DELL TECH	\$ 6,206.34
	LIVESTOCK WASHRACKS	\$ 5,500.00
	LABOR/SFTWR SUBSCRIPTS	\$ 5,154.92
	USJ HHF PARTNERSHIP	\$ 5,000.00
	REPAIR SVCS/PARTS/SUPP	\$ 4,658.02
	CNTY CELL PHONE/DATA	\$ 4,653.13
	MONTHLY LEASE	\$ 4,166.67
	COMM CONSULTING	\$ 3,800.00
	TIRES	\$ 3,682.00
	CNTY COPIER USAGE	\$ 3,638.46
	INMATE MENTAL HEALTH SVCS	\$ 3,460.69
	ACSO EQUIP	\$ 3,199.00
	HERBICIDES	\$ 3,010.00
	FAIR SET UP/TEAR DOWN	\$ 3,000.00
	FLEET SUPP	\$ 2,614.25
	RURAL OUTREACH SUBSIDY	\$ 2,500.00
	FAIR SVCS	\$ 2,435.01
	CNTY PUBLICATIONS	\$ 2,383.59
	POSTAGE	\$ 2,294.00
	R&B SUPP	\$ 2,132.96
	WATER/SEWER UTILITIES	\$ 2,050.14
	CHUCKWAGON SALES	\$ 2,035.00
	VISION BENEFITS	\$ 1,901.12
	FAIR 2026 PHOTOGRAPHY	\$ 1,845.00
	CNTY CLEANING SVCS	\$ 1,583.09
	FREEZER USAGE/SVCS	\$ 1,462.50
	FLEET PARTS/SUPP	\$ 1,432.86
	SUBSCRIPTS	\$ 1,412.00
	MED SUPP	\$ 1,409.90
	ACSO EQUIP	\$ 1,402.91
	NATURAL GAS UTILITIES	\$ 1,369.77
	PIEDRAMILL CREEK/CLOMAN-ENG SVCS	\$ 1,334.50
	TRASH UTILITIES	\$ 1,314.40
	FLEET SUPP	\$ 1,177.40
	SFTWR SUBSCRIPT	\$ 1,243.75
	CNTY SUPP	\$ 1,187.27
	MTNLY GPS FEES	\$ 1,176.56
	JANTL SUPP	\$ 1,111.23
	TOWING SVCS	\$ 1,100.00
	DETEN EQUIP	\$ 1,047.00
	ANN CONTRACT FEE	\$ 1,020.00
	FLEET PARTS/SUPP	\$ 1,004.49
	COMP EQUIP	\$ 976.38
	SIGNAGE/INSTALLS	\$ 912.79
	FLEET PARTS/SUPP	\$ 901.37
	MBSRSHPS/CONF DUES	\$ 900.00
	REIMB-FAIR HOTEL ROOMS	\$ 895.62
	FLEET SUPP	\$ 888.28
	CNTY OFF SUPP	\$ 855.03
	TIRES	\$ 851.10
	INK CARTRIDGES	\$ 785.06
	BACKGRND CHKS	\$ 773.50
	ON CALL SVCS	\$ 744.00

19 Two: 35 Rng 2W
Respectfully submitted this 15th day of September, 2026

/s/ Daniel L. Fiedler
Daniel L. Fiedler
First publication: September 24, 2026
Last publication:
Published September 24 and October 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317936)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Tel.: 970.264.8160
Plaintiff:
Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc. v.
Defendants:
GARY LEE HAMMAN, SURVIVNG JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF KATRINA LEE HAMMAN, DECEASED
Case No.: 2026CV30044
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Christopher B. Conley (51651)
Eck, Conley & Richardson, PLLC
700 South 21st Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901
Tel. 479.242.5906
Email: ir@eclegal.com

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANT(S): Gary Lee Hamman, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Katrina Lee Hamman, deceased

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) for failure to pay the Monthly Payments to Wyndham Vacation Resorts, Inc.

Published in *The Pagosa Springs Sun*
First Publication: September 17, 2026
Last Publication: October 15, 2026
/s/ Christopher B. Conley
Christopher B. Conley
Published September 17, 24 and October 1.8 and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317165)

FOR A PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON OCT 22ND, 2026.

Rezoning of RURAL Sec: 31 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W LOT 3, (NW4SW4), 570131300007, 760 River Forest Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO. The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR) with a proposed change to RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR).

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@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearings. The Archuleta County Planning Commission meeting will be held on October 22nd, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published October 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317989)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2026.

Application for a MINOR PLAT AMENDMENT in CHRIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE UNIT TWO, to vacate a right-of-way at 84, 104, and 114 Yeoman Dr.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317949)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2026.

Application for a MINOR PLAT AMENDMENT in PAGOSA VILLAGE SERVICE COMMERCIAL, to re-subdivide lot 17XX, also known as 118 N Pagosa Blvd, creating lots 15XZ and 17XZ.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services- Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317952)

partment, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317952)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON OCTOBER 20TH, 2026.

Application for a MINOR PLAT AMENDMENT in ROCK RIDGE COUNTRY ESTATES, to subdivide lot 1, also known as 72 Great West Ave, creating lots 1Z-1 and 1Z-2

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on October 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published September 24 and October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (317956)

FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON OCTOBER 22, 2026.

Application for a CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, for a Bed & Breakfast at Subdivision: PAGOSA IN THE PINES BLOCK: 10 Lot: 10X PIP Sec: 16 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W, 78 W Golf Place, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Comments regarding this application may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on October 22, 2026 at 6 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published October 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318571)

FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON OCTOBER 22ND, 2026

Application for CERULEAN SKIES RANCH BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, for an RV Park at 6116 US Highway 84, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or PLANNING@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Planning Commission on October 22, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link.

Published October 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318804)

NOTICE OF BUDGET
(Pursuant to 29-1-106, C.R.S.)

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to San Juan Water Conservancy District for the ensuing year of 2027. A copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of the San Juan Water Conservancy District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at the Regular Meeting of the San Juan Water Conservancy District to be held at 4760 West Highway 160 Suite A2 on October 19 at 4 pm. Any interested elector of San Juan Water Conservancy District may inspect the proposed budget and the file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget in December 2026.

Published October 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318916)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED
2026-003
R015798

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on September 9, 2026, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to KENT TAYLOR ("COP HOLDER"):

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 6 Lot: 79 AS 6 Sec: 16 Twn: 34U Rng: 3W

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 137 ALLISON PLACE, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2025. The property was assessed in the name of JAMES PARKER ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On September 9, 2026, KENT TAYLOR ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificate holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11-5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10 am on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, the sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges. You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website:

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: September 22, 2026
/s/ Elsa P. White
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County, Colorado
https://www.archuleta-county.gov/conty-government/elected-offices/treasurer/scheduled-tax-lien-auctions/
Published October 1, 8, and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318591)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Case Number 26 PR 18
Estate of Gary David Mundt Jr., Deceased
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 January 1, 2027, or the claims may be forever barred.

Cathleen M. Mundt, Personal Representative
314 Beaver Circle
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published October 1, 8, and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318396)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Kyle Davidson, Deceased
Case Number 2026 PR 00039
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 May 15th 2027 (date)*, or the claims may be forever barred.

Jackson Walsh
268 Hermosa Sv/ PO Box 3901
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published October 8, 15, and 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (319183)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Rex Donald Vaughan
Case Number 2026 PR 30039
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 February 1, 2027, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published October 1, 8, and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318361)

Pagosa Secure Storage
80 Bastille Dr. Unit #42
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Team Pagosa Realty
Notice of Disposal of Contents
10/09/2026
Gary Mundt
314 Beaver Circle
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published October 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318759)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon*

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

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

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
PER DIEM-CW TRNG ACADEMY	\$ 688.00
PREPAID POSTAGE/METER LEASE	\$ 686.54
PLNG SIGNAGE	\$ 660.50
SFTWR SUBSCRIPTS	\$ 620.57
FLEET SUPP	\$ 584.43
FLEET SUPP	\$ 578.47
INMATE/JANTL SUPP	\$ 572.70
REIMB-LDG IACME CONF	\$ 559.35
PER DIEM-MTGS/REIMB-TRVL	\$ 540.53
PER DIEM-GRANT MGT	\$ 534.40
FLEET SUPP	\$ 516.72
ON CALL SVCS	\$ 516.00
DETEN SUPP	\$ 514.53
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-DT INSTRUCT CRS	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-DT INSTRUCT CRS	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
PER DIEM-CATA CONF	\$ 506.00
AUCTIONEER	\$ 500.00
FAIR ADS	\$ 500.00
INMATE SUPP	\$ 495.95
CONTRACT SVCS	\$ 475.00
RNTL PERMIT PARTIAL RFND	\$ 467.00
ACSO EQUIP	\$ 466.81
PER DIEM-SCFC CONF/REIMB-CLIENT NEEDS	\$ 444.87
ON CALL SVCS	\$ 444.00
MILEAGE REIMB-FAIR JUDGE	\$ 443.30
WASTE TIRES	\$ 434.50
SCREENING SVCS	\$ 426.40
PER DIEM-CCCA SUMMER CONF	\$ 414.00
STORAGE RNTL	\$ 400.00
CKCKGRND CHKS	\$ 399.21
FLEET PARTS/SUPP	\$ 394.10
A/C REPAIR SUP	\$ 365.17
ELECTION FOOD PREP	\$ 350.00
MILEAGE REIMB-FAIR JUDGE	\$ 348.40
COMP EQUIP	\$ 336.32
Q2 2026 COURSES	\$ 320.00
EMPL TESTING	\$ 315.00
PER DIEM-SNOW & ICE CONF	\$ 301.00
PER DIEM-SNOW & ICE CONF	\$ 301.00
PER DIEM-SNOW & ICE CONF	\$ 301.00
PER DIEM-SNOW & ICE CONF	\$ 301.00
SVC CALL/SUPP	\$ 295.00
TOILET RNTLS/SVCS	\$ 280.00
FLEET PARTS	\$ 272.99
AMERICAN FLAG	\$ 267.68
REIMB-FAIR SUPP	\$ 265.43
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EMPL EVAL	\$ 250.00
PRINTER CONTRACT	\$ 226.29
BROADBAND SVCS	\$ 215.10
ACSO SUBSCRIPT	\$ 206.00
QTRLY FIRE ALARMS	\$ 174.99
REIMB-MILEAGE	\$ 172.28
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ROYALTY SASHES	\$ 150.00
ONTY SUPP	\$ 142.82
PER DIEM-CW VISIT	\$ 136.00
FLEET DELIVERY SVCS	\$ 133.00
REIMB-CONTEST SUPP	\$ 129.17
CAR WASH SVCS	\$ 117.23
PLNG DOC REV	\$ 110.00
COBRA BENEFITS	\$ 75.00
ANSWERING SVC	\$ 67.82
FAIR DEPOSIT	\$ 65.00
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REIMB-MILEAGE	\$ 59.45
FNGPRNTG	\$ 57.50
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 50.00
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 50.00
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 50.00
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 50.00
PICTURE FRAMES	\$ 45.00
CPR CLASS	\$ 40.00
FLEET SUPP	\$ 33.46
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 25.00
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 25.00
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 25.00
ELECTION JUDGE	\$ 25.00
DETEN SUPP	\$ 23.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,738,862.20

VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates look to raise standards, build momentum

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team fell to 4-11 with losses in their last two games to league opponents Alamosa and Bayfield.

The Lady Pirates closed out last week with a game in Alamosa on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The Mean Moose came into the game with an 11-4 record and are ranked top five in 3A.

The Lady Pirates dropped the match to Alamosa in four sets.

After losing the first two sets 25-15 and 25-10, the Lady Pirates won the third set 25-23 before dropping the fourth set 25-8.

“We were able to take the third set from Alamosa, which was a lot of fun and a good confidence boost for us,” coach Chelsea Caler wrote in an email to the SUN. “We struggled more with serve receive and defense, and our hitters had a hard time finding a rhythm.”

Dawson Iverson and Ellie Vining led the Lady Pirates with seven kills each. Sydney Plake and Avea Bruce each had four kills.

Vining also led the team with six aces. As a team, the Lady Pirates had an 89.6 percent serve completion percentage.

Vining led the team with two total blocks.

Tatiana Monterroso led the team with 16 digs.

Liana Vega led the team with 17 assists.

“Ellie and Dawson did a great job keeping us in it offensively,” wrote Caler. “We’re still working on reacting quicker to tips, rolls and deep corner shots.”

The Lady Pirates were back on the court Tuesday, Oct. 6, for their second match against Bayfield this season.

Earlier this season, the Wolverines beat the Lady Pirates 3-0 in Bayfield and, on Tuesday evening, they beat the Lady Pirates 3-0 again, this time in Pagosa Springs.

The Lady Pirates lost the first set 25-21, the second set 25-17 and the third set 26-24.

Stats for the matchup were not available by press time Wednesday.

“Even though we lost, I was really proud of how the girls played together,” Caler wrote. “They were communicating, supporting each other and competing for each other.”

Caler also emphasizes that the girls made every adjustment that she gave them in real time, “whether it was on the block, shifting our defense, taking advantage of certain shots or serving specific players.”

The Lady Pirates are now two games into their final month of the season.

In order to keep the team focused for the final stretch of games, Caler notes that the team is going to build off the momentum and their ability to make in-game adjustments like they did against Bayfield.

The girls’ next game is on Thursday, Oct. 15, against Centauri in La Jara.

Action is anticipated to begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Falcons are 10-5 and ranked sixth in 2A.

“We’re past the halfway point, and the focus now is continuing to raise and hold our standards, stay connected and keep improving,” Caler wrote. “If we can keep playing for each other the way we did against Bayfield, we’ll be in a good place.”

jsellner@ourorkemediagroup.com



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Dawson Iverson blocks and returns the ball to the Bayfield Wolverines on Tuesday, Oct. 6. The Lady Pirates will play next on Thursday, Oct. 15.

SOCCER

Pirates aim to rebound against Bayfield in final home game

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys’ soccer team lost their second game in a row to the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers over the weekend.

The Pirates now sit at 4-3-1 on the season.

The Pirates and the Panthers closed out their home-and-away set Saturday, Oct. 3, in Cortez.

The Panthers took the first match-up in Pagosa Springs 2-1 on Thursday, Sept. 24, and then over a week later defeated the Pirates once again, this time by a score of 2-0.

“I mean, it’s a tough loss,” coach Trevor Gian said. “We were definitely excited to get the opportunity to play them again and, you know, as much as the result is a loss, I felt the game was definitely much closer than the 2-0.”

The two teams took the field for the second time in a little over a week on what Gian called a hot and humid day.

He also described the ball as sticky

and the field as wet and muddy in some spots.

Montezuma-Cortez scored on a header after a miscommunication by the Pirate defense, and they also put one in the back of the net off of a free kick. They were also able to keep the Pirates from scoring, even though Gian explained he felt that his team had opportunities.

Gian emphasized that the team was dealing with both injuries and sickness before the game and while the game could have gone either way, he credited the Panthers for capitalizing on the opportunities they were given.

The Pirates now have four regular-season games left before the post-season.

They are currently ranked No. 30, and the top 32 teams will make the playoffs.

Their Pirates’ next game, which is also their final home game, is against Bayfield on Thursday, Oct. 8.

The Wolverines are 3-7-3 and are ranked 50th in 3A.

The Pirates previously beat the Wolverines 4-0 on Sept. 21.

Along with being the final home game of the season, the game against Bayfield is the Pirates’ senior night.

The Pirates will also travel to Crested Butte on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The Titans are 8-3-1 and ranked third in 2A.

The Pirates could potentially be without starters on defense, in the midfield and their starting goalkeeper again this week, according to the coach.

Gian emphasized that he’s taking time to assess personnel and creating a game plan that plays to the strengths of the players he can put on the field.

Going forward, he suggested he really wants the players to buy into preparation.

“I feel physically we’re there,” Gian said. “We left everything out on that field on Saturday, and I don’t doubt anything we do physically. It’s just going to be our preparation. It’s going to need to be spot on.”

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, the team will travel to Alamosa for a rematch with the Mean Moose beginning at 6 p.m.

The Pirates previously defeated the Mean Moose 4-1 at home on Sept. 18.

Alamosa is 1-7 on the season.

jsellner@ourorkemediagroup.com

FOOTBALL

Pirates to head to Aspen for league matchup

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Coming off their bye week, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team will be traveling to Aspen on Friday, Oct. 9, to take on the Aspen Skiers at 7 p.m.

The Pirates enter the matchup as the No. 16-ranked team in the state’s 2A division, just a few spots behind the No. 13-ranked Skiers.

Pagosa has an even .500 record through their first six games of the season, sitting at 3-3, which includes a league record of 2-1. The Pirates are in fourth place in the Western Slope League.

Aspen has an overall record of 4-2, including a league mark of 2-1, and sit in third place of the Western Slope

League.

The Delta Panthers have remained undefeated on the season and are in first place of the Western Slope League, followed by the Basalt Longhorns in second place with a 2-1 league record.

The Pirates have three games remaining in the regular season, all against league opponents, including their matchup against Aspen on Friday.

The following week, the Pirates will host their final home game of the regular season on Friday, Oct. 16, as they take on the Gunnison Cowboys at 7 p.m. at Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Pirates will then travel to New Castle to take on the Coal Ridge Titans on Friday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m.

Coach Nathan Morales explained

that the Pirates are “ready to get on the bus and go” for their matchup against Aspen, noting the team is in for a seven-hour bus trip.

He commented that Pagosa is used to long travel days, as that is the nature of living in rural Southwest Colorado.

Morales explained the Pirates have had a busy week of practice and he is looking for the team to “execute well” on all sides of the ball and “take care of business” against Aspen.

With the Pirates currently sitting in the last state playoff spot, Morales mentioned the Pirates just getting to “keep playing our football,” needing better each day and working hard in order to make a strong push for the postseason.

clayton@pagosasun.com

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PIRATES**
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Outdoors



Pagosa Ranger District to conduct prescribed fire on Eight Mile Mesa

U.S. Forest Service

The Pagosa Ranger District is planning prescribed fire operations on Thursday, Oct. 8, pending all required approvals and favorable environmental conditions.

This project is located 6 miles south of Pagosa Springs on the top of Eight Mile Mesa between the communities along County Road 335/Lower Blanco and Loma Linda. Fire managers will be targeting roughly 250 acres of the total 579 acres available in the project area.

Smoke will be visible from U.S. 160, U.S. 84, downtown Pagosa Springs, Loma Linda and County Road 335/Lower Blanco.

This fuels reduction work is immediately adjacent to two subdivisions and is a critical step in protecting lives and property from unwanted fire in a landscape prone to lightning-caused wildfires.

The Eight Mile Prescribed Fire will build upon mastication work funded by the Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program completed in 2022, as well as thinning work from 2023. These efforts on the mesa top complement critical defensible space work on adjacent private lands being implemented by partners including Wildfire Adapted Partnership and San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership, as well as others.

While the summer was hot and dry, fall has brought cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity and significant rainfall. Prescribed fires are often implemented on the cusp of wildfire season to effectively consume the targeted vegetation.

Prescribed fires are used to help reduce overgrown vegetation to help protect local communities, infrastructure and natural resources from wildfires. The forests in Southwest Colorado are part of a fire-adapted ecosystem, which has historically experienced frequent, low-intensity fires on a large scale. Prescribed fire replicates that fire regime under controlled conditions.

‘Thinking Like Water’ series to kick off Thursday, Oct. 8

By Monica Nigon

Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership/Confluence Collective

The five-part docuseries “Thinking Like Water” will kick off this Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Liberty Theatre at 7 p.m.

The film series follows “water wizard” Bill Zeedyk and his collaborators as they work to restore meadows and streams by working with nature. The first film is titled “Willing to Try Things” and introduces Zeedyk’s low-tech, low-cost methods of induced meandering to repair degraded creeks and drainages in the Southwest.

The kickoff event will start with a highly-demanded second screening of “Reviving Our River - The Pagosa Gateway Project,” a short film by local filmmaker Christi Bode. The film chronicles the ambitious \$1.5 million project to restore 2 miles of the San Juan River near Pagosa Springs, led by the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP).

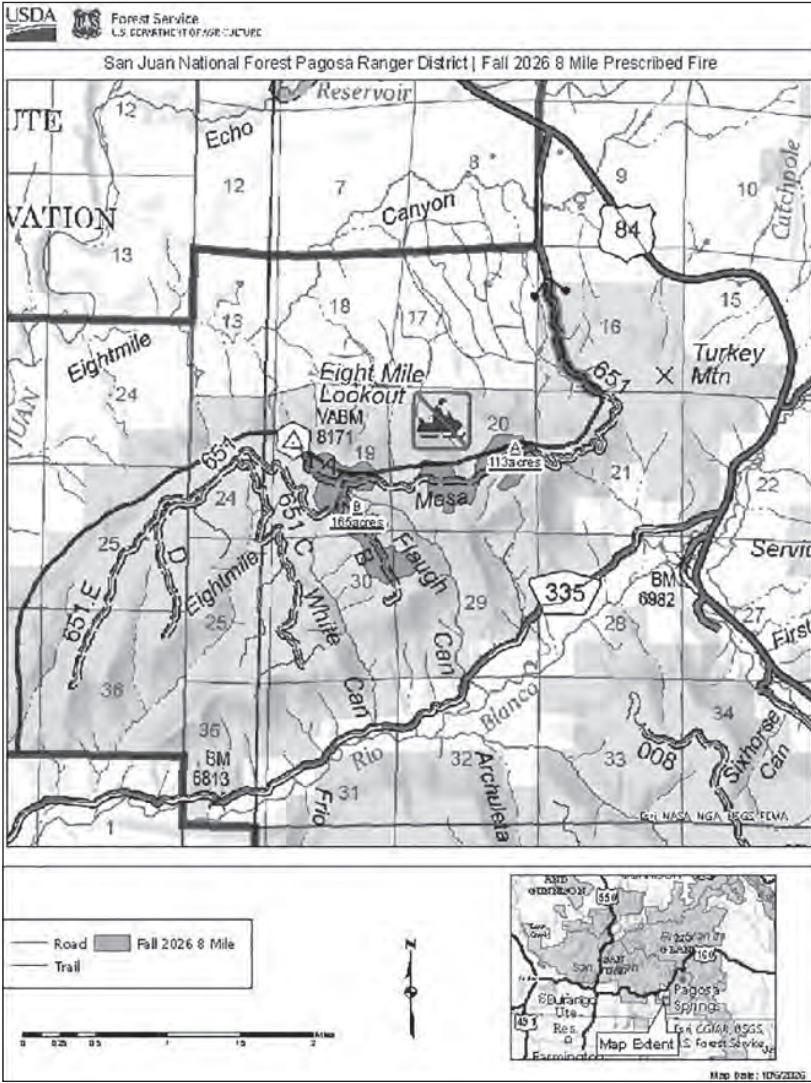
We expect tickets to go fast, so reserve yours soon at pagosamovies.com/movies. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The entirety of the series is sponsored by WEP, Audubon Rockies, San Juan Mountains Association, Chama Peak Land Alliance, Confluence Collective and the Biophilia Foundation.

The series, produced by Renea Roberts of Cerrillos, N.M., will be screened throughout the winter and early spring.

Each episode is guided by a different host, who travels with Zeedyk to different locations to highlight various techniques Zeedyk and other practitioners use in the field of low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR).

LTPBR is a cost-effective solution to restoring degraded streams and mead-



Map courtesy U.S. Forest Service

A map depicts the site of a planned prescribed fire at a site 6 miles south of Pagosa Springs on the top of Eight Mile Mesa between the communities along County Road 335/Lower Blanco and Loma Linda. The Pagosa Ranger District is planning operations on Thursday, Oct. 8, with fire managers targeting roughly 250 acres.

controlled conditions.

Prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov/apcd/wood-smoke-and-your-health. For more detailed information about air quality, go to airnow.gov or download the app.

Weather conditions will be evaluated in the hours before a burn

begins. If conditions warrant, scheduled prescribed fire activities may be canceled.

Project maps and additional details can be found on the 2026 San Juan National Forest Prescribed Fire Program page at <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/cosjf-2026-san-juan-national-forest-prescribed-fire-program>.



Photo courtesy Monica Nigon

An example of a low-tech process-based restoration structure, a one-rock dam, under construction in Gunnison, Colo. The five-part docuseries “Thinking Like Water” will kick off this Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Liberty Theatre at 7 p.m.

ows that may have been damaged by various disturbances such as drought or flooding, using natural and local materials like rocks and logs.

Throughout the “Thinking Like Water” series, Zeedyk and his associates discuss the technique of “letting the water do the work.” The method uses the power of running water itself to induce water back to being level with the floodplain. Floodplain connectivity promotes drought and flood resilience of streams, wetlands and mesic meadows.

LTPBR is especially effective when installed in sloping wetlands in mountainous regions like those of the Upper San Juan River Basin. Water running through a sloping wetland has significant “stream power” (high erosional

capacity), making it all the more fitting for LTPBR structures. Low-tech structures can assist in leveling a landscape, slowing the flow of erosional events, and allow the moisture to soak into the soils, effectively raising the level of the water table.

Storing water in wetlands then creates a positive feedback loop in which healthier wetlands and meadows hold yet more water. In fact, for every 1 percent increase in organic matter in soil, the landscape can hold 20,000 gallons more water per acre. More water means more vegetation, which helps prevent soil erosion and increases forage.

Learn more about the wide-ranging benefits of LTPBR and speak with local practitioners this Thursday.

Wildlife on the move: Colorado State Patrol sees annual increases in wildlife crashes

Colorado State Patrol

While wildlife crashes happen year-round in Colorado, October through December is the peak season due to animals moving to lower elevations (migration) for the coming season.

Many species of Colorado wildlife are highly vulnerable to being struck at this time of year because it is also

their peak mating season. They are more mobile, easily distracted and more likely to be crossing roadways.

When looking at the past five years of Colorado State Patrol (CSP) data (2021-2025), the number of wildlife crashes investigated by the CSP has increased year over year.

In 2021, there were 2,296 wildlife crashes. In 2022, there were 3,187. In

2023, there were 3,489. In 2024, there were 3,787. In 2025, there were 3,904.

“Last year troopers responded to over 3,900 crashes involving wildlife, with autumn as the most active months,” explained Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the CSP. “While white-tailed deer and elk are the most frequently struck wildlife, we have

■ See Wildlife A17



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Attorney



Daniel L. Fiedler
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Section B

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

14th Pagosa Springs SUN — November 9, 2022

Honoring Our
TROOPS & VETERANS

We proudly salute America's veterans and active-duty military whose courage and dedication have protected our freedom and our way of life for generations.

We recognize their service and their sacrifice, their selflessness and their bravery, their hard work and their faith.

Please join us in celebrating the men and women of our military, past and present, this Veterans Day.

There is no rest for an American Soldier
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Colorado Parks and Wildlife temporarily suspends current chronic depredation directive for wolves

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Sept. 30, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) announced that, after evaluating the current status of translocation efforts, survival rates of wolves in the state and other biological factors, it would be temporarily suspending its chronic depredation directive, which provides guidance for gray wolf lethal removals.

“CPW will evaluate any future removals of wolves on a case-by-case basis using a very conservative approach to address the concern that population growth may not occur this biological year, which ends March 31, 2027,” a press release on the matter states.

The same day, a group including some of the state agricultural organizations — Colorado Farm Bureau (CFB), Colorado Cattlemen’s Association (CCA), Colorado Livestock Association (CLA), Colorado Wool Growers Association (CWGA), and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU) — formally condemned the announcement and “unconscionable action.”

“This reprehensible decision directly contradicts direct stakeholder input that was painstakingly gathered over years of good faith dialogue between the Department, sportsmen, wildlife advocates, farmers, ranchers, biologists, and more,” states Carlyle Currier, president of the CFB and a fourth-generation Western Slope rancher, via the press release. “It’s nearly unfathomable that CPW intends to abdicate their obligations to our farming, ranching, and rural communities after so many strides in rebuilding trust on conflict mitigation, non-lethal tool employment, fair-compensation structures, and broader reintroduction success.”

In its press release, CPW discusses population counts, survival rates, human-caused wolf mortality, efforts taken to address population challenges and future translocations of wolves.

Archuleta County wolf activity

Archuleta County has periodically

seen collared wolf activity, with the agency reporting lone wolves have made their way in and out of Archuleta County watersheds.

The most recent collared wolf activity map released by CPW, which covers Aug. 25 through Sept. 22, shows watersheds in Archuleta County with collared wolf activity.

According to John Livingston, CPW Southwest Region public information officer, Archuleta County again saw a lone wolf that “continues to travel all over the state” and, as of Sept. 24, had moved out of the county.

Livingston explains in an email to The SUN, “As it continued to move, it lit up a few watersheds in our area but has since already moved out of Archuleta County. We did make a few notifications to presidents of the local Cattleman’s Association, the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office, county commissioners and the National Forest supervisors. But the wolf remained in the high country in really remote areas.”

Population counts and survival rates

“The CPW team works tirelessly to monitor reproduction and recruitment through camera traps, staff observations of wolves, and other methods,” the CPW press release states.

The press release further explains that, while minimum population counts reflecting the number of wolves CPW can confirm are typically shared once per year in the spring when the Colorado Gray Wolf Annual Report is published, CPW is sharing a mid-year population county, including pups born this year, to address recent public concerns about the state’s wolf population.

According to the CPW release, Colorado is now home to four reproducing wolf packs, a fifth pack of four siblings that travel together, and several wolves that do not live in packs that could potentially pair this winter.

Wolf program staff have identified breeding adults, other adults (if present), yearlings and pups born in each of the packs and had detected 45 gray

wolves as of Sept. 24, it states.

This count, the agency notes, includes a high count of 20 pups born in Colorado this year. Typical survival rates of pups range between 50 percent to 60 percent in western wolf populations, so this number will likely fall by the end of the biological year in March 2027.

Pup survival in Colorado in 2025-2026 was high, it notes, with 82 percent of detected pups surviving their first year.

Adult survival during the last biological year (April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026) was 61 percent, which is below the 75 percent survival rate more typical of an unharvested wolf population, the press release explains.

“Additionally, CPW staff biologists and veterinarians are investigating evidence of hair loss in multiple wolves in two packs in Northwest Colorado, which could be associated with an infectious skin parasite and, if so, could impact wolf survival,” it states. “No final diagnosis has been confirmed at this time. The agency will share further details when the investigation is complete.”

Human-caused mortalities, management actions

According to CPW, to address chronic depredation, the agency has lethally removed five wolves this biological year (April 1, 2026, through present) and is investigating one additional wolf mortality.

The agency’s removal efforts were conducted under CPW’s statutory and regulatory authority as well as the agency’s current administrative directive concerning chronic depredation, it notes.

“Up to this point, CPW has carefully followed the adaptive management framework called for in the wolf plan, our chronic depredation directive, and has conducted the appropriate consultations in every action we have taken this season,” said CPW Director Laura Clellan via the CPW press release. “Each decision

■ See Wolves A18

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Wildlife

■ Continued from A16

other species such as pronghorn, bear and marmots that ensure every region of our state is susceptible to wildlife encounters. It is up to all of us to remove distractions and watch out for these beautiful animals.”

Some of the highest-risk areas, according to 2021-2025 Colorado State Patrol wildlife crash data, include:

- U.S. 160 (Durango to Pagosa Springs and Durango to Mancos).
- U.S. 50 (Pueblo to eastern state line, Blue Mesa Reservoir and Gunnison to Parlin).
- Interstate 70 (Floyd Hill, Mt. Vernon Canyon and Eagle).
- Interstate 25 (Castle Rock to Larkspur).
- U.S. 285 (Morrison).
- U.S. 40 (Craig to Steamboat, Tabernash, and Berthoud Pass).

- U.S. 24 (Riverside to Buena Vista, Newett to Johnson Village).
- U.S. 550 (north of Durango and from Montrose to Ouray).

Wildlife collisions cause heavy damage to vehicles, and the animal often does not survive. The most effective way to reduce the likelihood of a crash and the severity of damage is for drivers to obey the posted speed limit. And if visibility decreases for any reason, drivers should consider further reducing their speed.

Tips to avoiding a wildlife crash

- Don’t exceed the speed limit.
- Scan roads (or shoulders) for movement and eye shine.
- Use bright lights at night when safe.
- If you have time and space be-

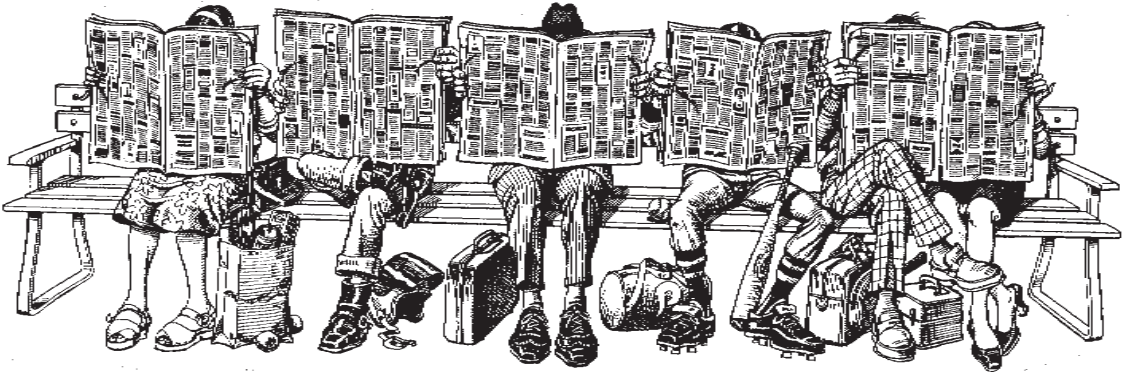
hind you, stop for wildlife on the road/use hazard lights.

- Be aware of groups: Remember that if you see one animal, there may be others nearby.

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

If you are involved in a crash with an animal, call 9-1-1 just as you would in any other emergency. In addition, if you witness wildlife in distress from possibly being struck on or near the side of the road, call *CSP for the proper resource to be notified and sent to the scene.

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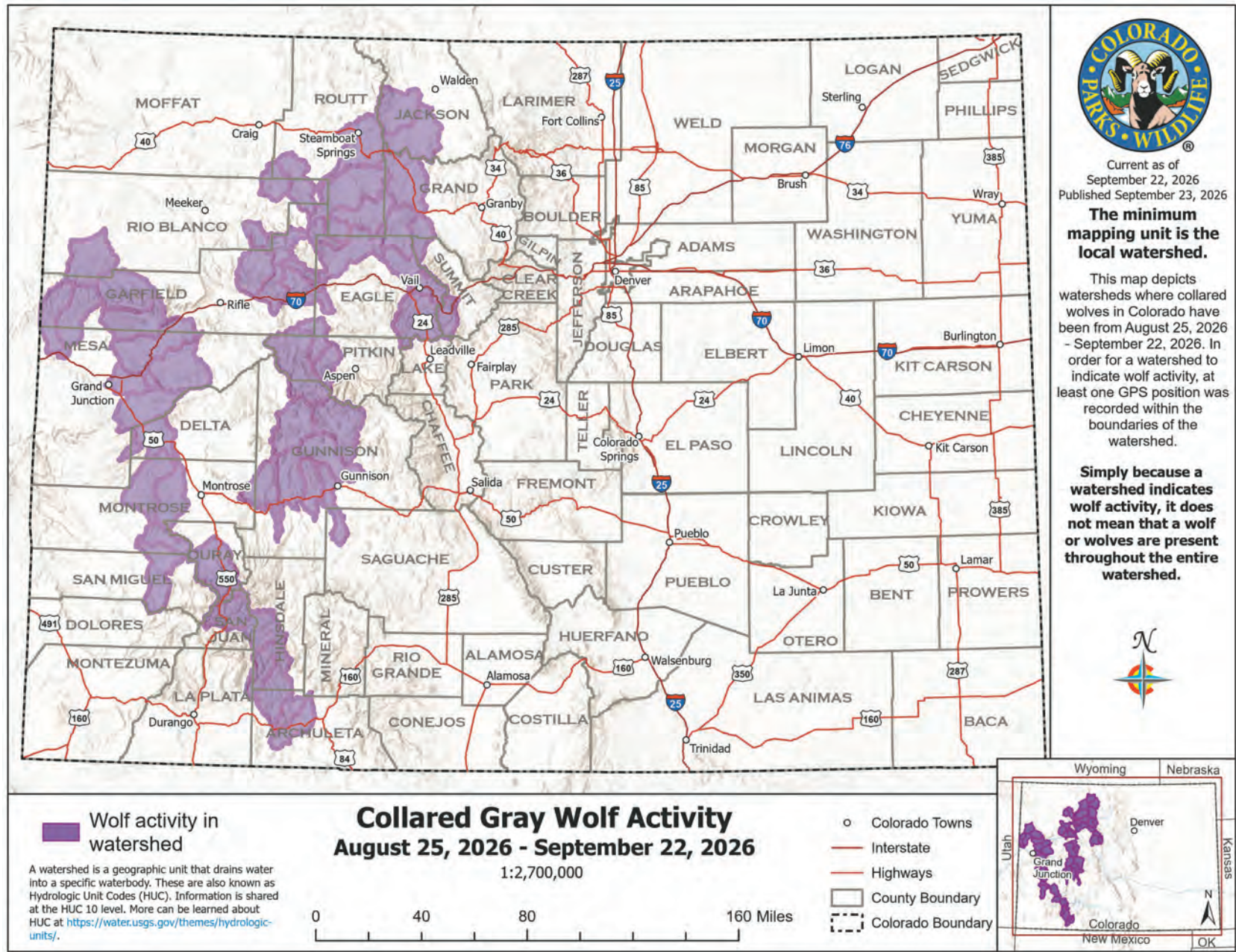
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A map depicts watersheds where collared wolves in Colorado were from Aug. 25 through Sept. 22. According to John Livingston, CPW Southwest Region public information officer, Archuleta County again saw a lone wolf that “continues to travel all over the state” and has since moved out of the county.

Wolves

■ Continued from A16
to lethally remove a wolf is painstakingly evaluated and considered, and this option has only been pursued when all other viable options have been exhausted.”

Efforts to address population challenges

Due to the challenges with the current population, and in alignment with the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan’s direction to use an adaptive approach to wolf management, CPW explains it will evaluate additional requests for lethal removal on a more conservative basis.

The wolf plan states that when evaluating the use of lethal control on a context-specific basis, CPW must consider the trade-offs among many competing factors, including “wolf reproductive and recruitment success, wolf population size and listing status,” the agency explains.

The plan also states that CPW will monitor and, if necessary, adjust the extent of lethal removals to meet conservation and management needs, noting that “excessive levels of lethal removal can inhibit the recovery of wolf populations.”

The press release notes CPW will work with stakeholders to revisit its chronic depredation directive and the conditions under which removals may take place.

It adds those revisions will be in place by April 1, 2027, and the start of the new wolf biological year in coordination with the release of the Gray Wolf Annual Report.

In the interim, the agency explains, CPW staff “will continue to work diligently with producers to deploy all reasonable non-lethal tools and methods.”

Concurrent with the suspension of the current chronic depredation directive, the press release notes CPW commits to the following actions:

- CPW will continue to work with stakeholders on the two petitions concerning wolf depredation (wolf damage compensation and wolf chronic depredation petition) submitted to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
 - CPW will extend the range riding season in select locations based on conflict and producer willingness.
 - CPW will continue to support livestock producers through non-lethal tools, technical assistance, site assessments and issuing Injurious Non-lethal Hazing permits.
 - CPW will continue to review Retroactive In The Act permit applications.
 - CPW will continue to apply the standards of the current compensation regulations and ensure compensation for losses to wolves as defined within those regulations in a timely manner.
 - CPW will continue to explore options for further translocations of wolves.
- “We’re doing everything we can to meet our objective of a sustainable population while working with livestock producers and continuing

to follow the adaptive guidance provided in the Wolf Restoration and Management Plan. Right now, we’re in a critical moment for wolf restoration in Colorado,” Clellan said.

She added, “Our current genetic analysis demonstrates that the wolf population has high diversity, indicating that inbreeding is not a hurdle to wolf recovery. While this is promising news for the program, achieving a successful reintroduction effort and a self-sustaining population of wolves will require doing everything we can to ensure the survival of existing wolves in the state.”

Future translocations

CPW also continues to explore options for future translocations with a goal of meeting the recommendations laid out in the Colorado Wolf Restoration and Management Plan, according to the agency’s press release.

That goal is 30-50 total translocated wolves over a 3- to 5-year period.

“This is the number experts agreed provided the best chance to establish a self-sustaining wolf population in Colorado, however, right now the agency must consider all options based on the current population,” the press release states.

“CPW is proud of the work that has been done in meeting the complex and challenging goals and requirements outlined in Proposition 114 to restore a self-sustaining population of gray wolves in the state,” Clellan said. “CPW staff have worked to resolve technical, social and political challenges with professionalism while balancing the diverse human interest groups impacted by wolf restoration. At this time, CPW is leading with the central tenets of sound, science-based wildlife management by looking first at the biological and population success of wolves.”

Opposition

In their press release, the agricultural organizations accuse the reintroduction effort of failing, suggesting mismanagement of the effort, and accuse CPW of abandoning landowners.

Bonnie Eddy, executive director of CWGA, expressed additional frustration, adding, “Since the inception of the wolf recovery planning process, the Colorado Wool Growers Association (CWGA) has strongly pushed for a reasonable definition of ‘self-sustaining’ wolf population. It’s shocking to see CPW abandon its landowner partners to capitulate to politics and jerk the rug out from under livestock producers that are experiencing ongoing wolf attacks

on livestock. It’s been very obvious since the first wolf release that the efficacy of non-lethal deterrents is very limited.”

The press release adds, “These drastic steps serve as the capstone to an introduction effort that has unilaterally failed to date. While voters narrowly approved the program in 2020, the implementation proved to be woefully mismanaged, as the political interference rises. Notwithstanding CPW’s initial efforts alongside producers in seeking the 10(j) designation—today’s measure to desert that effective management tool signals broad disdain for the public-private partnership long championed and threatens further abandonment of rural Colorado.”

“This is the latest example of this administration’s failure to adhere to the Wolf Management Plan. The reintroduction has been an ill-advised effort that places a burden on the Western Slope. The failure to follow the Wolf Management Plan has made the issue worse. This political interference has placed CPW in the position of being forced to disregard best practices and it harms their relationship with the public” said RMFU President Chad Franke via the press release.

The ag organizations suggest the effects of CPW’s action will be seen quickly.

“As we quickly approach the 2026/2027 calving and lambing session, the repercussions will be immediately felt as we concurrently navigate the remaining 6 months of the biological wolf year that continues to reflect an unfavorable ecosystem trajectory for a sustainable population,” the press release states.

“Colorado’s livestock producers have worked in good faith, invested in nonlethal tools, and done what this administration has asked of them. In return, we expect this administration to uphold its commitment to act when wolves repeatedly kill livestock,” said Mark LeValley, president of the CCA. “Lethal removal is a necessary part of wolf management and conflict management, and it must be used when wolves become chronically depredating. Suspending that tool leaves ranching families to bear the consequences and undermines the accountability this administration owes rural Colorado.”

The press release notes the organizations “will continue to advocate for state wildlife management that equips farmers and ranchers with reasonable conflict mitigation tools, mirrors the realities on the ground, and provides a realistic avenue to bridge the disconnect between the state and our rural communities.”

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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance

7-10 p.m. • Oct. 24 • CSU Extension building



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

October 8, 2026



Photo courtesy Al Myatt

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs’ 11th Annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance will bring friends and neighbors together for an evening of fun, fellowship and community spirit. Proceeds from the event support Rotary’s many local service projects, including Meals of Hope, a new initiative with a goal of providing 20,000 meals to families in our community.

A ticket to so much more: Rotary’s Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance gives back to Pagosa Springs

By Terri House
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

When you buy a ticket to the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs’ Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance, you are buying a night of great country music, dancing and fun with friends.

But you are also buying something much bigger. You might be helping a local student take the next step toward college or trade school. You could be putting weekend food into the hands of a child, helping a teacher bring a new idea into the classroom, placing a dictionary in the hands of a third-grader or giving a young person

■ See Dance on next page

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Wednesday

Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Dance

■ continued from previous page
an opportunity to develop leadership skills or experience another culture.

And this year, you could also be helping Rotary put thousands of meals on local tables.

That is the real story behind Jewels and Jeans.

For more than a decade, boots have been scooting, neighbors have been laughing and the Pagosa Springs community has been coming together for a cause at the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs' annual barn dance.

Now in its 11th year, this home-grown Pagosa Springs tradition will return Oct. 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the CSU Extension building at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

What those tickets make possible, however, lasts much longer than one Saturday night.

Turning one night of fun into a year of impact

At its heart, Jewels and Jeans is a fundraiser for the community Rotary members call home.

Over the years, Rotary fundraising has helped provide more than \$600,000 in scholarships to local students pursuing college and career-training opportunities. Funds have also supported the Feed Our Children Backpack Program, teacher mini-grants, dictionaries for local third-graders, youth leadership programs, Rotary Youth Exchange, community grants and numerous other local projects.

This year, Rotary is adding another ambitious project: Meals of Hope.

The club is working toward packaging approximately 20,000 meals for local families, bringing Rotarians, students and community volunteers together to turn simple ingredients into thousands of meals for neighbors who need them.

That means every barn dance ticket, every auction bid and every additional contribution will help Rotary keep that circle of giving going.

"When you buy a ticket, you are not just getting a great night out," said Rotary Club president-elect Kim Moore. "You may be helping send a student to college or trade school, putting food in a child's backpack or giving a teacher the resources to bring an idea to life. It is an investment in the future of our community."

Event co-chair Kirsten Bennett said that combination of fellowship and purpose has been part of the barn dance from its beginning.

"This dance began with a dream of bringing people together for a wonderful night while also doing something meaningful for our community," Bennett said. "Eleven years later, it has become a tradition that people look forward to, and its impact continues long after the music ends."

An auction worth arriving early for

And then there is the silent auction, which includes everything from artwork, jewelry and handcrafted pieces to food, wine, spa experiences and weekend escapes.

Among the getaway packages is an overnight trip to Ouray, including dinner. Those looking for an entirely different Southwest experience can bid on a one-night stay in Abiquiu,

N.M., breakfast for two and a tour of the beautiful Ghost Ranch complex. One lucky bidder can head to Creede for a getaway featuring a one-night hotel stay, two tickets to the Creede Repertory Theatre and dinner for two.

Closer to home, bidders will find packages made for relaxing and indulging.

A spa basket includes a facial, manicure, pedicure and chocolates. Another basket pairs restaurant gift

■ See Dance on next page

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Three actors, one boat and a shark that won’t work: ‘The Shark Is Broken’ to bring the backstage story of ‘Jaws’ to the stage

By **Samantha Luck**
Thingamajig Theatre Company

A broken shark can be a gift to a playwright. When Bruce, the mechanical shark built for “Jaws,” wouldn’t cooperate during filming, the delays left Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider and Richard Dreyfuss with long stretches together aboard the Orca. “The Shark Is Broken” takes that stalled production as its starting point and asks what might happen when three actors, a boat and a lot of waiting collide.

Written by Ian Shaw and Joseph Nixon, the play is a comedy about the making of a movie, not a retelling of it. There are no familiar shark attacks to recreate. The action is in the con-

versation: the jokes, rivalries and negotiations that arise when performers are confined together and each has a different idea of what the film, and his own place in it, should be.

Thingamajig Theatre Company will bring the play to the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts beginning Oct. 9. Directed by Laura Moore, the production stars Tim Moore as Robert Shaw, Scott Morehead as Roy Scheider and Cameron Vargas as Richard Dreyfuss. The run through Nov. 15 is the opener for Thingamajig’s 2026-2027 fall and winter season.

The opening performance on Oct. 9 will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a special talk-back with the cast and crew.

The setup offers more than back-

stage trivia. Shaw is a proud, volatile presence; Scheider is the steady force; and Dreyfuss is ambitious, restless and determined to establish himself. Their friction provides the comedy, but the play’s more revealing moments come when the teasing turns serious. Beneath the quarrels about fame, craft and who carries a movie are three people confronting different versions of success.

The boat setting tightens the whole evening. The men can’t easily escape one another, and the stalled production turns dead time into the main event. That gives the play a distinctive rhythm: a laugh can land, then leave room for a more personal admission. The famous Indianapolis speech, which becomes part of the

story, brings the audience close to the process behind a scene that helped make “Jaws” endure.

For local audiences, the show has the pleasures of a familiar film seen from an unfamiliar angle. Fans will recognize the world and the personalities; newcomers can follow the human drama without knowing every detail of the movie. At its heart, “The Shark Is Broken” is about creative work under pressure and what people reveal when they are waiting for the machine to start again.

“The Shark Is Broken” will run Oct. 9 through Nov. 15 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Tickets are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling the box office at (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

San Juan Stargazers aim to hold star party Oct. 10

By **Joan Mieritz**
San Juan Stargazers

The San Juan Stargazers may be having a star party on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Looking at a weather forecast for Friday, Oct. 9, it shows a bright sunny day, and Sunday, Oct. 11, shows rain for the day. And, of course, Saturday shows the sun with a cloud and rain drops. But, we cannot complain about the new weather patterns that

are bringing us much-needed rain from the Pacific in the fall and, this year, not too much.

It is easy to understand how difficult it was for the ancient people to live here. It is amazing to compare our lives and times to what they had to contend with. I would hate to depend on what I could grow on my land or my allotment from a shared crop. It is also understandable that there was not one date when everyone left. Ancient people had individual lives,

individual situations and individual temperaments with varying levels of tolerance. It can contribute much to your life to compare our lives to the ancient ones.

There are several club members who live on or near Hatcher Lake. There will be a consensus by 6 p.m. and a very brief article on our website, Sanjuanstargazers.org, where you follow the arrow at the bottom of the homepage.

Since the public is invited, we

need to have a public official notice, and it’s a wonderful opportunity to see the website. As always, individuals can independently show up with or without their telescopes even if it is officially canceled.

■ See Stargazers on next page

Dance

■ continued from previous page

certificates with wine, wine glasses and chocolates. A champagne-themed basket includes champagne, glasses, chocolates and gift certificates to three local restaurants.

There are also two wine racks, each stocked with five bottles of wine, several lovely pieces of artwork, beautiful jewelry and other surprises. And for someone looking for something a little more rustic, there is even a rifle rack among the offerings.

The silent auction has long been part treasure hunt, part friendly competition and part opportunity to support Rotary. This year’s collection gives guests plenty of reasons to keep an eye on their bid sheets throughout the evening. Best of all, winning something wonderful means giving something wonderful back to the community at the same time.

A band built for a dance floor

Of course, it would not be a barn dance without the music.

Vanishing Breed, featuring Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Odis Sikes, will take the stage with classic country music and what the band describes as “the best Texas-style honky-tonk music this side of ... well ... Texas.”

Sikes, an accomplished acoustic

guitarist and powerful lead vocalist, is a Vietnam veteran and regional resident. Sikes has spent a lifetime making music. In August 2024, that dedication was recognized when he was inducted into the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame.

Vanishing Breed promises exactly the kind of music a barn dance calls for: country favorites, honky-tonk energy and plenty of reasons to get out of your chair.

Come hungry

Dancing burns calories, so Rotary has that part covered, too.

Hungry guests can purchase a hearty barbecue dinner for \$25 per plate, sold separately from the barn dance admission ticket.

Dinner includes a choice of sliced brisket or pulled pork with assorted barbecue sauces, accompanied by coleslaw, white cheddar macaroni and cheese, rolls, and assorted cheesecake bites.

A cash bar will also be available throughout the evening.

Contests for best dressed and best dancer will add another little dose of friendly competition to the evening.

Advance tickets are available at Tangled, Wednesday Bouquet or online at <https://tinyurl.com/3rd6tsp8>.

Those who cannot attend but would still like to support the Rotary

Club of Pagosa Springs and its community programs may make a donation at PagosaSpringsRotary.org.

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A community that supports itself: Friends and Neighbors in Need to host fundraising breakfast/lunch

Friends and Neighbors in Need

The campaign is called “Who is Under the Blanket?” and is borrowed from a life-size bronze sculpture by Timothy Schmalz titled “Homeless Jesus.”

The sculpture is a visual representation of the gospel passage Matthew 25:40 that reminds us to see Christ in the most marginalized amongst us: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

It turns out there are 30 of these sculptures around the world, but the one we saw just seemed to appear as we made our way to the riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. When you see it, the sculpture compels one to sit on the bench and touch whoever is under that blanket as the figure is completely shrouded in a blanket, and the only clue that the figure represents Jesus is the presence of the crucifixion wounds on the exposed feet.

Thus, the work of Friends and Neighbors in Need (FaNiN) in Archuleta County: Our original mission was to provide support to anyone who found themselves in emergency situations.

The founding partners were St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) and the Pagosa Catholic Community. Providing emergency support requires a partnership with the many agencies who already exist like the Pagosa Outreach Connection, the Archuleta County Public Health Department, the Archuleta County Department of Human Services, Archuleta Seniors Inc., Rise Above Violence, Healthy

Archuleta and others.

The network is impressive, and the collaboration is, frankly, humbling.

But, in April of this year, we were finding families and individuals who needed more support than the emergency services of our original mission. We have since expanded our mission to include families and individuals who may need ongoing support, thus the campaign theme: “Who is Under the Blanket?”

This coming Sunday, Oct. 11, CUMC will host a breakfast and/or a lunch to raise funds for Friends and Neighbors in Need and specifically the family advocacy campaign “Who is Under the Blanket?”

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased beforehand at the CUMC offices or by texting (505) 506-7649 requesting to purchase tickets. The breakfast is a traditional eggs and bacon, but with a hint of Mexican flavor, and will be served from 9:30 to 11:30am at the CUMC on Lewis Street. Lunch will be posole or a birria stew and will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the same location. Takeout orders will be available.

An interesting dynamic is taking place with pre-purchased tickets: We are receiving requests to pay for tickets for those that may need a meal. So, obviously, donations are very warmly received at the CUMC or by stating as such, in a text message to (505) 506-7649.

In preparing for this weekend, we found other events that, quite frankly, fit in the category of “A Community Supporting Itself.”

On Oct. 10, The Longer Table — a free meal for our community — will take place at Yamaguchi Park starting at 4 p.m.

FaNiN is a sponsor, as is 4-H, the CSU Extension, the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, Rise Above Violence, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and more.

Entertainment will be provided, but there are no speeches, no selling, no promoting of anything other than just the community celebrating itself.

On the same evening, the feast day of John Paul II will take place with a Polish-themed meal at the Pope John Paul II Catholic Church Narthex, nominally at 6 p.m.

And, St. Patrick’s Episcopal church is having its Annual Clothing Giveaway on Friday, Oct. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 a.m. to noon. This event not only serves those in need in our community, but then the remaining clothing items will be donated to the Navajo Nation and the communities in need on the reservation.

Of course, as a community, we do many things for our visitors, but it is heartwarming to see what we do for ourselves.

Friends of the Library to hold membership event Oct. 17

By Kim Rochester

Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends invites you to our first social gathering and membership drive in the newly expanded library.

Join us Oct. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the new library meeting room for appetizers, drinks and desserts. We will have door prizes, too. And, it’s free.

Current Friends and those who want to join the Foundation and Friends are welcome. You may join or renew your membership at the door.

Stargazers

■ continued from previous page

Following are the directions to the public star party south of the Hatcher Lake dam. Everyone is invited.

Drive north on Piedra Road 4.7 miles from U.S. 160. If you can see Hatcher Lake to your left you have gone too far, but you just missed it. Try to watch your odometer because 4.7 miles is close to the road that goes left off Piedra and is labeled La Ventana. There is also a large sign with the name of the subdivision. If you can get there during daylight it is a beautiful place to be. You will see a parking lot on a small road to the left off Piedra with a wooden

lavatory. The big fishing pier has been removed. The road makes a big loop through the trees just south of the Hatcher dam. There is a large parking lot to set up telescopes, and cars can park along the road.

We hope to see you. We hope the weather will allow us to gather.

Just to mention, Mont McAllister will be doing the James Webb Space Telescope presentation at our next educational meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5. It will be on galaxies discovered by the James Webb — just some of them. There are way too many to show in one night. But, we will be awed by the sites of one night.

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What: Informational Meeting

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Where: PSMC EMS Training Room
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PSMC will present class information including:

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

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

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Photo courtesy Andy Butler

Fall in the San Juan Mountains is a perfect time to pursue landscape photography — the topic of the next Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting, set for Oct. 14.

PSMC Welcomes



Danielle Kahn, AGNP-C

PSMC is proud to announce that Danielle Kahn, Oncology Nurse Practitioner, has joined the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and is now accepting appointments.



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- ◆ \$79.9M proposed bond for required match of BEST grant

A BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) grant is a state grant. The grant would be about \$50 million, roughly 40 percent of the cost of the project!

Eligibility to receive the BEST grant relies on our community's ability to generate matching funds, which is what this bond does.

Without the local bond there is no grant, and that \$50 million in state money goes to another Colorado school district.

Ballot Issue 5A includes funding for Pagosa Peak Open School, our public charter school, to update and equip its facilities.

Approximately \$1.7 million will be used to convert the school's warehouse space into learning space and replace its aging HVAC fan coils.

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Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting to focus on landscape photography

By Andy Butler

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club will next meet on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m., at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Our program this month is “Landscape Photography.” Using a video by Joel Sartore on this subject as a starting point, we will discuss tips and techniques for making great landscape photos.

A National Geographic photographer, Sartore is well known for his National Geographic Photo Ark project, a multiyear effort dedicated to documenting threatened, endangered and lesser-known animal species in the world's zoos and wildlife sanctuaries. Sartore is also noted for his educational programs on learning the techniques of photography.

This will be a hybrid meeting, also available on Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed to members; others who wish to attend may request the link by email to abulter@mac.com.

If attending in person, feel free to arrive any time after 6 p.m. to socialize. The presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. Photography Club meetings are open to the public.

Photo Club Digital Photography Contest open for entries

The 2026 Pagosa Springs Photography Club Digital Photography Contest is now open for entries.

Any Photography Club member can participate, and new members can join the club at the time of entry. The submission deadline is Oct. 14.

There are four themed categories: Nature, People, Landscape and Creative. You can submit up to six photos (no more than two per category) for a flat fee of \$10.

Just send in your digital image files, not prints. Independent judges will evaluate the images, and cash prizes will be awarded at an awards celebration on Nov. 11.

There will also be a “People’s Choice” voting on the images entered. See our webpage for complete information on submitting your photos and an entry form: <https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/2026/08/29/2026-pagosa-springs-photography-contest-enter-now/>.

October Virtual Shutter Challenge

The Photography Club sponsors

■ See Photography on next page

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End of Life Education to hold trio of meetings in October

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

End of Life Education will have three important meetings in October: one on Oct. 15 about the newest options for burial and cremation, one on Oct. 20 about Colorado laws allowing people options of ending life earlier if they feel it is necessary, and one on Oct. 29, when the emergency response team will try again on 911 calls.

I realize that this is no one's favorite topic, including mine, but I cannot count the times that people have said to me how important and helpful these sessions have been.

For people who have led a planned-for and orderly life, it is so important to find out what options are available and make what choices you have.

The meetings will begin at 1 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in the fellowship hall with a side door right off the parking lot. (The front doors are often locked if there are no other church activities.)

There is a basket for a church donation, or people can bring food for the church pantry.

On Oct. 15, Keris Meskimen will be in person with a detailed presentation on the many new more-natural options for burial and cremation. Our grandchildren will be using these new methods, but for now they are only easily available closer to big cities. It is getting more affordable to transport a body. People can do it themselves if the time of death has not been more than 24 hours. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn the latest techniques and the newest options that are available. It seems to give some peace.

There is so much to learn about end-of-life options. In the future we are also planning on having more time for large- and small-group

discussions so you can explore your thoughts and feelings about many end-of-life issues.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m. we will be meeting at the Methodist Church to discuss the laws our state has made available to us to shorten the end-of-life process. You will learn about the actual laws, but, more importantly, we will go over the exact steps that are required.

If you want the help that the state has provided, you must follow the laws and regulations exactly, and you must have a doctor following the entire process. Unfortunately, it is not covered by Medicare. Even if you think you could never do something like that, it is good to consider what our state has given to us if someday we need that option. We will end with a small-group discussion to explore the possibility.

When you come to any of our meetings, you can get the booklet for end-of-life decisions that is given to you when you enter a hospital in Colorado. Now is a better time to get it and carefully read the choices that you can make.

We will spend extra time on Oct. 20 going over the three forms that Colorado law provides for our benefit to make the end of life meet our choices. Again, it is so much better to think about the options that are available before they have to be made. There will be time to go over each form and each choice.

On Oct. 29 we will try again to meet with the EMS team to find out what happens when you call 911.

You may hope your fairy godmother shows up, but it is actually a team of what I think are true heroes. This is when you need to have a do-not-resuscitate form on your refrigerator. You might ask why you would ever want to not be resuscitated. The truth of the matter is that if they resuscitate you, it means that you were actually dead.

I have decided that if I am dead, I would prefer to stay dead. My life is over, and I am grateful for a quick and easy end.

Now, if my grandchild can be resuscitated at an early age, that makes sense. I know of a man who was resuscitated in his 50s and he is happy he did it. But if you have lived a full life, there comes a point that you don't want to be resuscitated only to die again, perhaps a slower and more painful process. There is life and then there is also quality of life. So, there is much to be considered.

In September, the EMS team could not make our meeting because they had work to do. I always have back-up plans, but we spent the entire time with questions about many other things and the group left very satisfied. This is an incredible opportunity to explore the most certain experience of life with the choices we have.

I want people to know how important these sessions can be and help themselves by being as prepared as possible. It is not morbid to face reality, and it does not make you sad. It can make you love others and appreciate much more the life you have and available choices until the end.



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Photography

■ continued from previous page
a monthly challenge on its Facebook page. This challenge is open to all photographers.

The theme for October is "Window Light."

Demonstrate the beauty of natural window light through photography. Capture a subject illuminated by soft, directional light entering a window. Experiment with shadows, highlights, silhouettes, reflections and different times of day. Focus on mood, composition and storytelling. Create a compelling image showing how window light transforms an ordinary scene.

Share up to three compositions by commenting on the post about this topic at www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub. Please like or comment on the images posted by others, as well.

Join the club

The Photography Club aims to provide a venue for its members to learn how to improve their photography from fellow photographers.

The club offers programs and outings designed to help photographers of all levels enhance their skills. Membership is just \$25 a year (\$35 for families).

The club sponsors educational presentations on photography, outings to photogenic locales, and regular opportunities to share and discuss images with one another.

You can download a membership form from our website (<https://pagosaspringsphotoclub.org/about/>) and send it in with your payment (the form has all the details), or you can bring it to a club meeting.

VOTE YES FOR 7B

PSMC EMS and Hospital

Comments in Favor of the Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue



A YES vote on the Upper San Juan Health Service District ballot issue will allow the district, which operates Pagosa Springs Medical Center and provides EMS and ambulance, hospital, and outpatient medical services, to continue to collect, retain, and spend its revenues without raising taxes.



This measure is important to maintain strong, reliable local healthcare in a rural community where access to emergency and medical services cannot be taken for granted.



Pagosa Springs Medical Center provides the only ambulance and emergency medical service covering approximately 1,800 square miles. EMS must be ready 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with trained EMTs and paramedics, ambulances, medical equipment, and personnel available whether or not the cost of a call is fully reimbursed. The next closest hospital and emergency room are approximately an hour away.



Government grants have already provided millions of dollars in matching funds for PSMC ambulances and hospital facility improvements. Preserving the District's financial flexibility helps ensure that PSMC can continue to pursue and accept valuable outside funding opportunities rather than placing a greater burden on local resources.



The District (PSMC) is also different from many governmental entities because the large majority of its revenue is earned by providing healthcare services. More than 90 percent of PSMC's annual revenues come from payments for medical services, while less than 10 percent comes from taxes and governmental grants. Yet those local tax revenues and grants remain important to maintaining services and investing in the facilities, equipment, ambulances, and infrastructure necessary to provide modern healthcare.



Vote YES to keep local resources working for local healthcare – without raising taxes.

PCI after-school programming, community events continue to grow

By Courtney Wieters
Pagosa Community Initiative

It's an exciting time at the Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) as our youth and community programming continues to grow.

This fall, PCI anticipates offering 15 clubs across our elementary and middle school after-school programs, giving local youth opportunities to explore their interests, build new skills, connect with peers and find a place to belong.

Clubs and tutoring begin the week of Oct. 12, with additional clubs planned for the winter and spring. Offerings include art, music, sports, tutoring, Dungeons and Dragons, horticulture, outdoor exploration, and other special-interest programs based on the interests of local youth and families.

PCI also has several community events coming up this fall. Families are invited to join us for a Pumpkin Painting Party on Oct. 24, from noon to 2 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity for families to get creative, enjoy some fall fun and connect with one another.

As the holiday season approaches, PCI will also launch its annual Chrystal Snow Memorial Toy Drive, beginning with the first Stuff the Bus event of the season on Black Friday, Nov. 27. The PCI team will be in the community collecting gifts to help provide holiday presents for families throughout Archuleta County. Information about opportunities to volunteer, donate or register to receive gifts will be available soon.

From after-school clubs and family activities to community support during the holidays, PCI is proud to continue creating opportunities for learning, belonging and creativity throughout Archuleta County. We are grateful for the community support that makes these programs and events possible.

Have questions or want to get involved?

If you have questions about donating or volunteering your time, contact Rebecca Tenpenny, executive director, at Director@Pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

If you have questions about youth programs, contact Courtney Wieters, youth programming director and operations supervisor, at Youth@Pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

If you have questions about family

services, emergency funds or the toy drive, contact Steven Viola, family services director, at Familysupport@Pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

For more information about PCI's programs, events and registration, visit pagosacommunityinitiative.org/afterschool.

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Local youth invited to action-packed fall, winter events sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship

By Kim Lund
Child Evangelism Fellowship

Middle school students in fifth and sixth grade have a full calendar of exciting opportunities ahead, as JYC (Junior Youth Challenge) rolls out a series of fun, faith-filled events held after school Fridays in the choir room.

These events are designed to bring kids together in a safe, welcoming environment.

Kicking things off in October will be a high-energy gaga ball tournament on Friday, Oct. 16, where students can compete for cash prizes. Open to all skill levels, the event encourages friendly competition, teamwork, and plenty of laughs. Organizers emphasize that no prior church experience is needed — just come ready to play and meet new friends.

Later in the month, students can celebrate the season at the festive Pumpkin Party on Oct. 23, featuring pumpkin painting, snacks, music and interactive games like Bible Jeopardy. The event blends creativity and fun with a meaningful message from

God’s word, making it both entertaining and encouraging for young attendees.

November will bring two unique opportunities. First, “The Ultimate Survival Guide: Equipped for the Wilderness” on Nov. 13 will offer hands-on activities where students will learn outdoor-inspired skills such as navigation, teamwork challenges and even making their own trail mix. The event ties these activities into a practical lesson about trusting God to provide, giving students something valuable to take home beyond the fun.

Later in the month, the Thanksgiving Bible Scavenger Hunt and Pie Contest on Nov. 20 invites students to put their detective skills to the test. Participants will race to solve clues, enjoy games and music, and compete in a favorite pie contest — all while hearing a powerful message from scripture. Organizers promise an afternoon full of laughs and epic memories.

The season will wrap up in December with the cozy and creative Gingerbread House Decorating Party

on Dec. 11. Students will design their own gingerbread masterpieces while enjoying treats like root beer floats, music and prizes. The event also includes a life-changing message from God’s word, rounding out the year with a focus on both fun and faith.

All events are sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship and are designed to create a positive space where middle schoolers can connect, grow and have fun together. Each gathering includes engaging activities, opportunities to build friendships and a short, meaningful Bible message relevant to everyday life.

With a mix of games, creativity, competition and encouragement, JYC’s upcoming lineup offers something for every fifth- and sixth-grader looking for a place to belong this season. If you have questions or would like to register, contact Kim Lund at (308) 665-5973.

Community.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

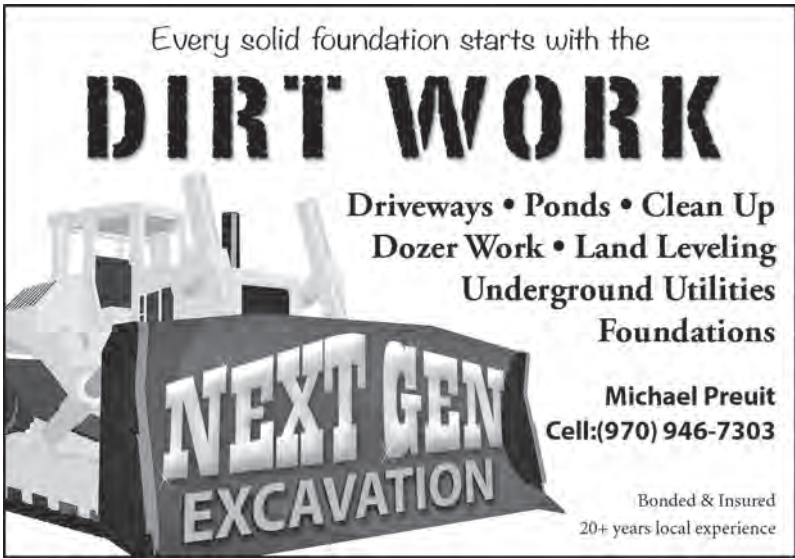
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Protecting your brain at every age: Health fair to feature keynote neurologist

Healthy Archuleta

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Archuleta Health Fair and Expo on Oct. 24 from 7 a.m. to noon at the Pagosa Springs High School.

The fourth annual health fair is a community-centered event designed to empower you with the tools, insights and resources needed to live a vibrant, healthy life.

This year, we are thrilled to host a vital and timely keynote presentation featuring Dr. Arturo Montaña, MD, a board-certified neurologist at Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

The keynote will focus on protecting and maintaining brain health throughout life. The presentation will explore practical strategies for keeping the brain healthy as we age, along with risk factors, prevention and treatment options for common neurological conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, stroke and nerve damage.

The keynote will also address traumatic brain injury (TBI), an especially relevant topic in a community where skiing, biking, climbing and other outdoor activities are part of everyday life. Participants will learn about the potential effects of brain injuries, when to seek care, and available approaches to treatment and recovery.

Come away with a better understanding of how to protect your brain, recognize concerns early and support lifelong brain health.

Montaña is a board-certified neurologist and neurocritical care specialist who recently joined Pagosa Springs

Medical Center, expanding access to neurological care in our community.

He earned his medical degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and completed advanced training in neurology and neurocritical care. His clinical expertise includes stroke, TBI and concussion, dementia, Parkinson's disease, seizures, neuropathy, and other conditions affecting the brain and nervous system. Montaña speaks both English and Spanish.

Don't miss this opportunity to take control of your health, meet local medical providers and hear directly from one of our region's leading experts in brain health. The keynote presentation is scheduled for 9 a.m., in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's mobile public health clinic will be on-site at the fair to provide low- and no-cost adult vaccines. The clinic will have hepatitis A, hepatitis B, HPV, meningitis, MMR, pneumonia, polio, Tdap, varicella, shingles and RSV vaccines for adults, and additional seasonal vaccines if available. Vaccines are available at no cost for uninsured and underinsured Coloradans. Find more information about the CDPHE clinic at www.mobilepublichealth.com.

Take advantage of all these amazing opportunities to better your health. Register Today on Healthy Archuleta's website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

As a reminder, labs are only available between 7 and 10 a.m. Please register early to confirm your appointment time.

ment time.

Love the health fair? Be a volunteer. To support this important community event, sign up on our website: www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html. Click the "Be A Volunteer" button.



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I am a saver. That is a value I know I share with a great many of you.

I understand seniors on a fixed income are reluctant to vote for any tax increase.



However ...

Without suitable public schools ...

- How do we encourage families of working age to plant roots in Pagosa?
- Who will work in our hospitals, doctor's offices, police and fire stations and grocery store?
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The education bond is a necessity.



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on 5A.**

Paid for by Steve and Jennifer Wadley.

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold Going Deeper Sharing Circle Sunday

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) will use the hymn "We Laugh, We Cry," written by Shelley Denham, in "Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal," as grounding words for the Going Deeper Sharing Circle on Sunday, Oct. 11, as we look to our monthly theme of living the questions.

This small group meets the second Sunday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. We gather to reflect and share as we practice deep listening.

The setting for this circle is similar to group spiritual direction and has been used in all faith traditions throughout the centuries. If this piques a curiosity, join us in this open, safe circle of deepening your own life's journey and spiritual growth.

We will explore the following questions to go a bit deeper, allowing space for new questions that may arise within the group:

- What are the big questions that are currently shaping your life? How

do you know when a question is inviting a chance for deeper learning and connection?

- What have you learned from others to help you live with mystery and openness? What helps you feel curious about new things?

Visit our website, PagosaUU.org, where you will find information about upcoming services and programs.

We offer space for ongoing programs and events at the UU Community Hub, such as the Tara Meditation Group held Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Qigong practice on Monday afternoons at 1 p.m. The Wise and Wakeful Circle, hosted by Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, meets the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month: a community that stands with survivors

By Kaylie Jackson-Hauf
Rise Above Violence

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness, supporting survivors, and bringing attention to an issue that impacts individuals and families in every community.

Throughout the month, we are given an opportunity to learn, to have important conversations and to stand together in support of those whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence.

Supporting survivors begins with understanding that no two experiences of domestic violence are exactly the same. Abuse can affect every part of a person's life, and the path toward safety and healing is rarely simple or predictable. What someone needs, when they need it and what moving forward looks like will be different for every survivor.

Meaningful support begins when we make space for those differences with compassion, patience and understanding.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month asks us to look beyond individual experiences and consider the kind of community we are creating together.

Domestic violence thrives in silence and isolation, and changing that requires more than awareness alone. It requires a willingness to recognize warning signs, challenge attitudes that excuse or minimize abusive behavior, model healthy relationships and create spaces where people feel safe enough to ask for help.

Throughout October, Rise will join communities across the country in

raising awareness, sharing resources and creating opportunities to better understand domestic violence and its impact. These conversations are important not because awareness alone creates change, but because awareness can change the way we respond. It can make us more thoughtful in the questions we ask, more intentional in the way we support others and more willing to speak when something is not right.

This past Saturday, Oct. 3, our community showed us exactly what it means to turn awareness into action.

At Runway for Rise, we witnessed the power of collective purpose as we raised a record-breaking amount that will go directly toward providing essential services for survivors and prevention education programs.

To our amazing sponsors, dedicated teams, enthusiastic voters, tireless volunteers and our wonderful community: You are the heart of this mission. The energy, compassion and commitment surrounding the event were a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community refuses to stay silent and instead chooses to show up. This is what community looks like, and this is how we Rise Above Violence.

As we begin Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we invite our community to listen, learn, participate and reflect on the role each of us can play.

Supporting survivors is not always found in grand gestures. Often, it is found in the quieter choices: listening without judgment, offering compassion, creating a safe place to turn, continuing to show up and reminding someone that they do not have to navigate what comes next alone.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Save the dates for the following activities at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center:

- Thursday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m.: “The Importance of Higher Self Connection and How It Can Change Your Perspective of Life’s Fulfillment.” We will introduce yourself to your higher awareness and wisdom through your higher self, your direct connection to God and “all that is.” This will be with Shayla White Eagle McClure Azriel, a higher self coach life coach, teacher of holistic health and wellness, and shaman of spiritual awareness through nature and the creator’s universal laws. This will take place at the SpiritFire Center at Xanadu. An \$11 donation will be collected. For more information, text or call (970) 309-6067.

- Sunday, Oct. 18: “Activating the Pineal Gland with Star Meditation” accompanied with Himalayan singing bowls and crystals. With shaman Scott Maki and Xanadu. A \$20 donation will be collected. Limited space is available. Contact (970) 309-6067.

The center also offers educational classes and workshops.

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.

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.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 European auto, once
- 5 Untidy one
- 9 Gave meds to
- 14 Netflix rival
- 15 Come clean
- 16 Opening words
- 17 Door anagram
- 18 Tried hard
- 20 Narrow down
- 22 Tomorrow, in Tulum
- 23 Dutch painter Jan
- 24 Wrapped garment
- 25 Pickling herb
- 28 City of India
- 30 Not a nice guy
- 32 Distant
- 35 Plant starter
- 36 Pain in the chest
- 37 Helped in a heist
- 39 Pieces of hair
- 40 Reverses
- 41 "Get outta here!"
- 42 Old gun, slangily
- 43 Angelic figure
- 44 Like some fries
- 46 "___ bien!"
- 47 Aunt Bee's charge
- 49 Skier's quarters
- 53 Gawks
- 55 Tel Aviv's land
- 56 Chamber of Commerce members
- 59 German seaport
- 60 With regard to
- 61 Collette of film
- 62 Coastal flier
- 63 Evade a question
- 64 Mining finds
- 65 He played Ken

DOWN

- 1 Exhibits
- 2 Check the books
- 3 By oneself
- 4 Overdone, to a cook

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18				19					
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23							24				25		26	27
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40							41					42		
43							44				45			
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				53		54				55				
56	57							58			59			
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

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- 5 Dinner in a pot
- 6 Late DWTS judge Goodman
- 7 Card game for kids
- 8 Make cloudy
- 9 Pop star, sometimes
- 10 Five Nations tribe
- 11 Stretching tight
- 12 Before, in poems
- 13 Pentagon org., previously
- 19 Walt Disney, e.g.
- 21 Ragtime dance
- 24 Cast off
- 26 Lavin or Blair
- 27 Part of LCD, in math
- 29 Potential shipwreck spot
- 31 Signs up for
- 32 Soul-seller of legend
- 33 "Li'l" comic strip character
- 34 Set right

- 38 Honoring, as at a wedding
- 39 Actress Elisabeth
- 41 Type of swimmer's kick
- 45 The New _____ (weekly)
- 48 Alfredo alternative
- 50 Vegan no-no
- 51 Thelma portrayer

- 52 Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy"
- 54 Initial stake
- 55 Goddess of fertility
- 56 Album after "Thriller"
- 57 Dos preceder
- 58 OH to MA direction

Answers to Previous Crossword:

B	E	S	T		A	L	B	U	M		A	B	B	A
A	R	E	A		R	E	E	S	E		D	A	L	I
B	A	C	K		L	O	G	G	E	D		A	L	U
E	S	T	E	E	M			R	I	P	P	L	E	S
				A	V	A	N	T		T	I	T	O	
L	A	T	H	E		A	R	E	A	T		O	W	E
A	V	A	I	L		S	U	N	T	A	N	N	E	D
R	I	S	K		C	H	I	M	E		A	I	D	S
G	A	T	E	H	O	U	S	E			L	A	N	G
O	N	E			I	M	A	M	S			A	N	G
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C	O	U	N	T	E	D				A	D	R	I	A
H	A	L	T				N	O	N	O	N	S	E	N
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Community Connections awarded \$494,000 OpenAI Foundation grant to pioneer AI innovation in disability services

By Tara Kiene
Community Connections

Community Connections Inc. has been awarded a \$494,000 grant from the OpenAI Foundation through its 2026 People-First AI Fund.

The award will support an innovative initiative to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can transform the delivery of disability services, positioning Community Connections as a leader in developing AI-powered solutions for rural case management agencies.

Community Connections is one of 163 nonprofit organizations selected nationwide from nearly 1,700 applicants to share \$50 million in funding. The People-First AI Fund supports community-based organizations exploring how artificial intelligence can strengthen their work while ensuring the people and communities they serve have a voice in shaping how the technology is used.

As Southwest Colorado's state-designated Medicaid Case Management Agency, Community Connections helps people access long-term care benefits, coordinate services and navigate complicated health care and support systems.

Serving more than 1,500 people annually across five rural counties, the organization must navigate increasingly complex state and federal regulations, documentation requirements and reporting obligations. These requirements involve multiple disconnected government systems and labor-intensive administrative processes that consume valuable staff time and resources.

Community Connections is pursuing an innovative approach to these challenges, exploring how AI can streamline administrative processes while preserving the personal relationships at the heart of effective case management. The organization believes its initiative could be among the first of its kind for Medicaid case management agencies, potentially establishing a model for how AI can strengthen disability services nationwide.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity to rethink how we work and what we can accomplish for the people we

serve," said Tara Kiene, president and CEO of Community Connections. "The state and federal requirements associated with Medicaid case management are incredibly complex, and our staff spend an enormous amount of time navigating disconnected systems, duplicating documentation and managing administrative processes. We see tremendous potential for AI to help us work smarter, freeing our staff to focus on what matters most: building relationships and helping people live healthy, fulfilling lives in their own communities."

Community Connections is partnering with the Durango-based Center for Rural AI, a nonprofit initiative dedicated to helping rural communities become leaders in the development and adoption of artificial intelligence.

Together, the organizations will explore innovative solutions to longstanding challenges in Medicaid case management, with the goal of creating tools and processes that can be replicated by other rural agencies nationwide. The partnership brings together Community Connections' decades of experience in disability services and the Center for Rural AI's expertise in developing practical, community-driven AI solutions.

"Rural organizations face unique challenges, but they also have tremendous potential to lead innovation," said Andrew Aitken, founder and executive director of the Center for Rural AI. "Our partnership with Community Connections is an opportunity to demonstrate how AI can address complex, real-world challenges while keeping people at the center of the solution. By developing tools that can be shared and adapted by other agencies, we have the potential to create a model that extends far beyond Southwest Colorado and helps transform how disability services are delivered nationwide."

The initiative will explore several opportunities, including integrating fragmented administrative systems, automating routine workflows, reducing repetitive documentation and developing an internal knowledge assistant to provide staff with consistent, accurate information.

Another key component is the po-

tential development of an accessible, client-facing portal incorporating features such as voice-to-text, translation and simplified reading formats. Designed with input from the people Community Connections serves, these tools could help people with intellectual disabilities, visual impairments,

■ See Grant on page 15



Trinity Anglican Church

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

RUNWAY FOR RISE RECYCLED FASHION GALA

Photos courtesy Jeff Laydon

Scene ... enjoying a fashionable, eco-friendly evening and raising a record amount for Rise Above Violence at the fourth annual Runway for Rise Recycled Fashion Gala. The annual event was held on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.



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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 Say's phoebe.

This flycatcher will nest on rocky ledges or crevices, in abandoned wells and mine shafts, in tree cavities, holes in banks and under bridges. The feature that these sites have in common, and that often puts the Say's phoebe in close contact with people, is protection from above, a requirement that is easily satisfied under the eaves of a porch or on rafters in an outbuilding and where we often find them.

Say's phoebes may share the same territories as black phoebes, but their use of different habitat types means they rarely compete for resources. Black phoebes nest near water, and Say's often live in very dry, sparsely vegetated open areas far from water. Say's breed further north than any other flycatcher, from central Mexico to the arctic tundra, in an area west of a line that almost divides the United States in two.

Say's phoebes are small, long-tailed birds colored brownish-gray above with a gray breast and cinnamon on the belly. For its size, the head of this bird looks large and sometimes has a peaked shape. Their simple, whistled songs in spring are short, but repeated for several minutes.

Like other members of the tyrant flycatcher group, Say's phoebes eat almost entirely insects, adding spiders, millipedes and berries on occasion. Their most common prey are wild bees and wasps. These birds are often seen perched on fence wire or posts, low shrubs, plants or rocks, watching to dart out and nab an aerial insect or pouncing to grab one from the ground.

Like a mountain bluebird or American kestrel, this phoebe will hover low over the ground when aerial insects are scarce. In cold weather, this hunting tactic allows the bird to forage closer to the ground where it is warmer and insects are more active. It is one of the reasons why the Say's phoebe arrives earlier in spring and stays later in fall than other insect dependent birds.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

Grant

■ continued from page 13

literacy challenges and other communication barriers better understand their services, navigate available resources and make informed decisions about their care.

Beyond improving its own operations, Community Connections envisions creating a model that other rural agencies can adopt. By developing tools and processes that can be shared and replicated, the organization hopes to extend the impact of this investment well beyond Southwest Colorado, helping other providers address similar regulatory and administrative challenges.

"Rural organizations face many of the same complex regulatory requirements as their urban counterparts, but often lack the staffing, resources and infrastructure available in larger

metropolitan areas," Kiene added. "We have an opportunity to lead the way in exploring how AI can address these challenges and develop solutions that could benefit case management agencies across the country. What's especially exciting is that we're approaching this work with the people we serve at the center of the process, ensuring that innovation translates into meaningful improvements in their lives."

The grant provides unrestricted support, giving Community Connections the flexibility to advance its mission while pursuing this innovative work. The organization will prioritize accessibility, privacy, data security and accuracy, with staff training and community input guiding the responsible exploration and potential adoption of AI technologies.





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If you've ever engaged in unselfish acts of giving, you know that doing so feels good.

Researchers now are documenting not only the physical but mental benefits of altruism as seen in this research abstract below.

This study investigated whether altruistic social interest behaviors such as engaging in helping others were associated with better physical and mental health in a stratified random sample of 2016 members of the Presbyterian Church throughout the United States.

METHODS: Mailed questionnaires evaluated giving and receiving help, prayer activities, positive and negative religious coping, and self-reported physical and mental health.

RESULTS: Multivariate regression analysis revealed no association between giving or receiving help and physical functioning, although the sample was highly skewed toward high physical functioning. Both helping others and receiving help were significant predictors of mental health, after adjusting for age, gender, stressful life events, income, general health, positive and negative religious coping, and asking God for healing (R2 =.27).

Giving help was a more important predictor of better reported mental health than receiving help, and feeling overwhelmed by others' demands was an independent predictor of worse mental health in the adjusted model. Significant predictors of giving help included endorsing more prayer activities, higher satisfaction with prayer life, engaging in positive religious coping, age, female gender, and being a church elder. Frequency of prayer and negative religious coping were not related to giving help.

CONCLUSIONS: Helping others is associated with higher levels of mental health, above and beyond the benefits of receiving help and other known psychospiritual, stress, and demographic factors.

Source: "Altruistic social interest behaviors are associated with better mental health." By C.E. Schwartz. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14508020>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!
"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." Proverbs 11:25, ESV

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By Eric Smith, DDS
San Juan Dental

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I've performed thousands of implant procedures, and I've learned that patients don't just want teeth replaced — they want honest answers, comfortable care and confidence that they're in good hands.

Dental implants are one of the most dependable and natural-feeling ways to replace missing teeth. They are designed to look good, function well and last for years. Just as important, modern implant treatment is often far more comfortable and straightforward than people expect.

We also believe in being fair and transparent with pricing. Good dentistry should feel like a sound investment, not a mystery.

Our goal is to clearly explain your options, answer your questions and help you choose what is best for your health and your budget. No pressure. No gimmicks. Just experienced care and treatment recommendations you can trust.

So if your smile is missing something — or if your confidence is too — come see us. We'd be honored to help you smile, chew and laugh a little easier again.

San Juan Dental offices may be reached at (970)264-9436 or www.pagosa.dentist.

San Juan Dental is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN's Community Connect sponsored content program.

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The Pagosa Springs
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Illustration courtesy of San Juan Dental

Dr. Eric Smith of San Juan Dental shows off a temporary “gap” to prove a point: missing teeth can happen to anyone, but dental implants offer a natural, lasting solution for your smile.



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www.mountainmendm.com/when-mold-is-a-health-concern-vs-a-maintenance-issue/

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Indigenous People's Day: honoring history, culture and community

By **Ricardo Martinez**
PREVIEW Columnist

Indigenous Peoples' Day is an opportunity to recognize and honor the history, culture, traditions and contributions of Indigenous peoples.

The day encourages us to learn about the people who have lived on and cared for the land for generations, while also acknowledging the experiences, challenges and resilience of Indigenous communities.

Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day helps promote understanding, respect and appreciation for the diverse cultures and traditions that are an important part of our nation's history and continue to enrich our communities today.

At Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), we recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day because honoring history and culture is an important part of building a respectful, inclusive and connected community.

Our senior center brings together people from many backgrounds, and we believe there is value in learning from one another and recognizing the contributions of Indigenous people in our region and beyond.

For our seniors, the day also provides an opportunity to share knowledge, stories and experiences across generations.

By recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day, ASI encourages respect, understanding and community connection while honoring the people and cultures that have helped shape the place we call home.

Holiday Closure

ASI will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, for Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

However, the group will not meet on Oct. 12 due to Indigenous Peoples Day.

Salmansohn 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 classes

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:45 to

Senior News

10:45 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.

American mahjong

American mahjong is played using a set of tiles and the current year score card. Play includes groups of three or four players and follows a pattern of division exchange and display of tiles.

Bring your card and come to play or watch and learn from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays at the Senior Center.

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-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 of play, 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.

Rummikub

Come check out Rummikub on Tuesdays from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. It is a tile-based game for two to four players, combining elements of the card game rummy and mahjong.

Emotional freedom

On the second Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., join the "Tappers," who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

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 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Senior Center.

This activity is open to all ages. Help

us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Tai chi

Tai Chi classes are held again now at the Senior Center on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Tai chi is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice.

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

Join us for bingo on Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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 a 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 Community Cafe, also known as 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 8:45 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 or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Oct. 8 — Beef vegetable soup, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, Oct. 9 — Turkey and gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, carrots, garden salad, fruit, scones and milk.

Monday, Oct. 12 — Closed for Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Tuesday, Oct. 13 — Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, garden salad, fruit, cherry crisp and milk.

Wednesday, October 14 — Miso glazed salmon, brown rice, broccolini, garden salad, fruit, pecan pie and milk.

Thursday, Oct. 15 — Chicken and mushroom crepes, peas and pearl onions, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt, and milk.

Friday, Oct. 16 - Zuppa Toscana soup with Italian sausage and kale, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, mini angel food cake, and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don’t forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and

where to meet.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

HUD Publisher’s Notice



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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

ANSWER:

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!

Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, Oct. 8

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. 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.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Annual Clothing Giveaway Donation Acceptance. 9 a.m.-noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

'Written in Bark — Aspens and Arborglyphs' Hike. 9 a.m. The hike is free, but sign-up is required at SJMA.org.

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Soccer. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Bayfield.

Teen Secret Snacks. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 14-17. See if you really know your favorite treats. Join for tasty treats and a few laughs as you try a few different secret snacks. Get them all right for a small prize.

'Thinking Like Water' Kick-off Screening: 'Willing to Try Things.' 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre. Join a collaboration of local organizations for the kickoff screening of the five part film series. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 9

A Tour of Two Trails. 7:15 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance

of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Annual Clothing Giveaway Donation Acceptance. 9 a.m.-noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime and connect with fellow caregivers. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Annual Clothing Giveaway. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Shark is Broken.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Oct. 10

Chimney Rock Through the Ages Tour. 8 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour explores both the natural and cultural history of the area through geologic time and incorporates the anthropology and archaeology of the Puebloan people. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Annual Clothing Giveaway. 9 a.m.-noon, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

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. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles

with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

■ See Calendar on page 21

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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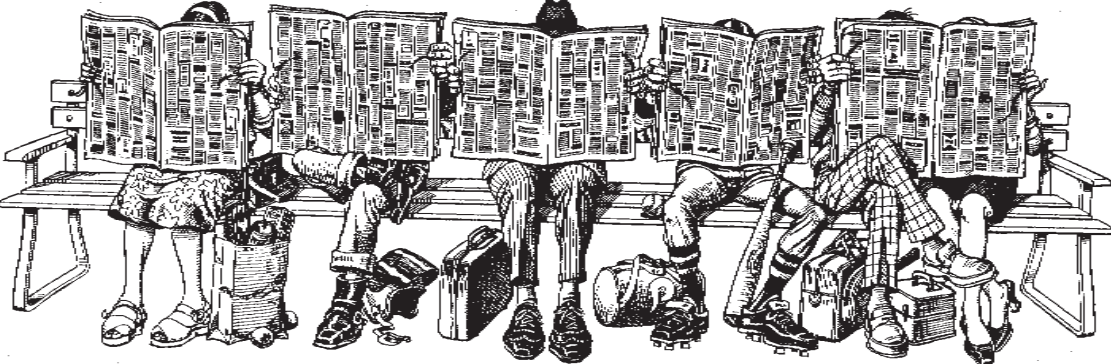
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 19

LEGO Build: Castles. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Bring your own LEGOs or use the library's. This month's focus is on rockets.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

The Longer Table. 4 p.m. Yamaguchi Park.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Shark is Broken.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Oct. 11

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Friends and Neighbors in Need Fundraising Breakfast/Lunch. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by texting (505) 506-7649. Breakfast will be service 9:30-11:30 a.m., and lunch will be served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 12

Sunrise at Chimney Rock. 6:45 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This program offers a unique two-hour tour of the archaeological sites with a special emphasis on the view of the sun rising atop the mesa. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

DivorceCare. 6-7:30 p.m., Center-

point Church library, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. DivorceCare is a program that provides a safe environment for persons who have gone through, are going through or are considering going through a divorce. You can register online or join at any class during the 13-week session. For more information, call Jim and Holly Shook at (951) 733-1893 or email jshookup@gmail.com, or the church at (970) 731-2205 or centerpointchurchpagosa@gmail.com. There is no cost for the program.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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.

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.

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.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Introduction to Weaving. 10 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Instructor Gloria will lead participants in a small-loom weaving project. Registration is required, and only 10 seats are available. To register, call (970) 264-2209 or email judy@pagosalibrary.org.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Rummikub. 1:15-3:45 p.m., Senior Center.

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to discuss "My Friends" by Fredrik Backman. Books are available to check out from the library.

Tween Scare-ariums. 4-5 p.m., Sis-

son Library. For grades 5-8/ages 11-13. Make a spooky terrarium in time for spooky season.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

A Day in the Life of the Ancients Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

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.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:30 p.m., Senior

Center.

A Tour of Two Trails. 5 p.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This tour provides an in-depth discussion along the Great House Trail about the connection of Chimney Rock to the greater Chacoan culture, the significance of the mesa-top Great House and the day-to-day lives of the ancestral inhabitants of Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Arrive any time after 6 p.m.

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. 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.

A Day in the Life of the Ancients

Tour. 9:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. A family-oriented tour along the accessible Mesa Village Trail to visit an ancient agricultural village and learn about daily life 1,000 years ago. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Great House Tour. 10:30 a.m., Chimney Rock National Monument. This family-friendly tour goes to the top of the mesa ridge for a 360-degree panoramic view of the landscape and a close-up of the two pinnacles with stops along the way to learn about ancient Puebloan structures. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids. For more information and tickets, visit www.chimneyrockco.org or call (877) 444-6777.

'Chimney Rock: Knowing Our Ancient Puebloan Neighbors.' 12:30-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Chimney Rock National Monument and the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association will present this lecture

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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

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

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

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 30.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**

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The underpainting: hidden from view

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

As I worked on my newsletter explaining how valuable an underpainting is, I saw a correlation between an art lesson and people.

An oil painting usually has many layers of paint to produce a final piece of art. The artist will start with a sketch and will pencil in the subject. The composition contains lines, shade and shapes to create the design. Dark paint is applied first on the prepared canvas, which is known as an underpainting.

Great ideas, even brilliant ones, will come to the artist's mind and will be painted in. Some won't work — wrong color, a mistake, too jolting, all which the artist will paint over, covering many layers of paint.

Those layers are forgotten. But examining the painting, an appraiser will use the underpainting to validate the painting's authenticity.

A picture of Christ, "Salvator Mundi," (Savior of the World), c. 1500 was appraised by the underpainting and proven authentic by a discrepancy. With an infrared light, the experts discovered changes made by the artist, showing that Christ's thumb was originally sketched in a different posi-



tion. This finding confirmed it to be an original creation, rather than a copy, making the value worth millions.

How does this correlate with a person? Under the light of the Holy Spirit, a person is proven to be authentic by how they handle life. By understanding our past, great ideas, mistakes and all our warts, God sees our value.

Going back to the axiom, the true beginning, when that person is in the mother's womb, God is busy knitting that baby together, physically, mentally, it's personality, and designs a path for him or her to walk on.

God, the master painter, is creating a person of great worth. He will apply heavenly layers, covering up our mistakes by forgiving and healing us. The Lord is working toward a finished and satisfying end — a master piece. In choosing, we make mistakes. We change the direction we are supposed to be going. We hide the mistakes we've made, trying to conceal what

others might see or how they will think less of us. But those mistakes reveal our authenticity, our true selves.

The world, trials and our environment will form us, but mistakes will authenticate us. Those mistakes are usually in the underpainting. More paint is added, more texture is felt on the surface, making an original and the real thing.

We can follow our growth back to those trials we faced and how God has us in the palm of His hand. He is holding the brush. He is the author and finisher of each of us.

My underpainting is the core of my existence, as my true colors come forth. There are times when layers of paint are necessary, changing the position of a thumb. I am an underpainting of mistakes and trials, but I have accepted God's forgiveness through faith in Him.

Final brushstroke: The underpainting stays hidden until we are confronted by the expert, Jesus. He comes with the healing light, Himself. To authenticate a person's words and work, we will know them under the true light of Jesus.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Classifieds

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

CLASSIFIED ORDERS

Clip & bring with check or credit card number to
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Payment must be received by the deadline.

Classified deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.
(Earlier deadlines for holidays.)

Name _____

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Zip _____ Phone _____

Category: _____

Ad: _____

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
delivered by Denise Fisk and Joan Lucariello.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Tai Chi. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center. An Archuleta Senior Center program.

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.

Teen Scare-ariums. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For grades 9-12/ages 14-17. Make a spooky terrarium in time for spooky season.

Planets, Popcorn and PJs with Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers. 6:30-8:30 a.m., Sisson Library. The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers will teach about dark skies, constellations, planets and more. There will also be a telescope to look at the sky.

Friday, Oct. 16

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership. 9-11 a.m., Archuleta County administration building.

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 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. For more information, email melanie.jonason@att.net.

Bingo. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Crafternoon: Twisting Trees. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5 with caregivers. Head to the library to learn how to make some spooking twisting trees.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Football. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Gunnison High School.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Shark is Broken.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Oct. 17

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. All quilters and wanna-be quilters are welcome. Social hour is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information on meetings and classes, email pagosapiecemakers@gmail.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. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Puzzle Palooza. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Put together some puzzles and have some family fun.

Friends of the Library Social Gathering and Membership Drive. 5-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Current Friends and those who want to join are welcome to join the gathering for appetizers, drinks and desserts.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Shark is Broken.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Oct. 18

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Addams Family Musical.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

Community
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Classified Categories	
Announcements	Miscellaneous
Autos	Mobile Homes
Business Opportunity	Open House
Commercial for Rent	Personals
Commercial Property	Pets
Condos	Ranches
For Sale	Recreational Vehicles
Health	Residential Rentals
Help Wanted	Services
Homes for Sale	Timeshares
Land/Building Sites	Vacation Rentals
Livestock	Wanted
Lost and Found	Yard Sales

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AAA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: ID 858-319-763 password 754-234. For information call Kathi (970)946-1482, Ranza (970)903-3849 or (970)731-9774 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? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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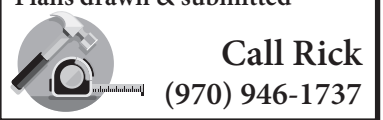
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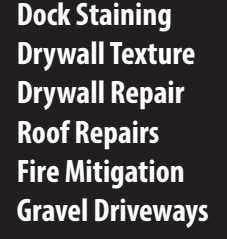
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Company Location: Pagosa Springs, CO

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92 CHEVY 5 SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION 4x4 extended cab. New differential. Needs motor. (970)731-1116.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales. 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

2002 POLARIS 500 4 WHEELER with extras, \$4000. Saddles for, 4 vintage 1950 to 1960, 2 Porter, 1 J.H. Rowell, \$300 each. (970)264-5837.

3R RANCH- SEASONED FIREWOOD 14" to 22" long, mixed lengths, no picking through the pile, you load and you haul, \$195 per cord split or \$110 per cord rounds. (970)264-5160.

8 PLUS 8 FT. CEDAR LOGS 4 to 12" in diameter. Large world coin collection, 1850s on. Vintage Navajo rugs, serious only, not a giveaway. (970)317-5065.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? It's time to get stocked up. Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for \$550. Pine mix. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD DELIVERED, PINE/ DOUG FIR MIX \$250 per cord, \$1400 for six cords. Call Kathie (303)358-6218.

FIREWOOD. Tired of not getting a full cord? 4'x4'x8", \$265 full cord, pine and fir mix. Very dry, split last year, 14 cords available. Delivery extra. Just off Piedra and 160. (970)398-1928.

FORKLIFT Lektro model 2020. Manufactured in the middle 1960s. Max lift 1000 pounds. No forks. Currently has a roll clamp on it. Uses 6x8L 16 deep cycle batteries, included. Hydraulic pump doesn't work, chain driven steering needs a little work. \$1,000. Call Shari, (970)264-2101.

PINE ASPEN \$180 unstacked. \$280 stacked. Loads 8x5x4. (970)382-1285.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

TWO 50-GALLON STEEL DRUMS with lids. Used, great condition, clean, \$35 each. Can be seen on Thursday or Friday at Pagosa Springs SUN, 457 Lewis Street.

LIVESTOCK

EXCELLENT HORSE QUALITY GRASS HAY. Barn stored. \$10. (970)264-6779. Please leave a message.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

TURN KEY POLARIS UTV 2014 RZR XP 1000 with 12 ft Lumna Trailer. Excellent condition, 4400 miles. Many extras included. Text (702)371-0672 info.

YARD SALES

KP PAWN ESTATE SALE. 10/9, 10/10 and 10/11 9a.m.- 3p.m. 309 Chamisa Dr, Durango. Tools, Tools, Tools. 1935 partly restored Chevy truck, lots of collectibles, yard art. Shop, garage and house full of stuff. Video on KP Pawn Durango Facebook or estatesales.net

MULTI- FAMILY GARAGE SALE. Saturday, October 10 only from 8a.m. -3p.m. 121 Nocturn Drive.

NES ESTATE SALE IN ARBOLES on Oct. 10- 11 from 10a.m.- 3p.m. daily. Fun sale with antique and vintage items. Fishing, outdoor, tools and more. 16813 Hwy 151 in Arboles. Photos at nesestatesales.com

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PART -TIME MAINTENANCE /GROUNDS. Hands-on position includes general maintenance, groundskeeping, and an early-morning pool cleaning rotation. 20-25 hours /week. Experience with tools is a plus, but we're happy to train someone with a strong work ethic and willingness to learn. More details at pshotsprings.com. Submit application /resume at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd., or email sales@pshotsprings.com. Subject: Maintenance.

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Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

YARD SALES

SKI STUFF, CLOTHING, ANTIQUE FURNITURE, tools, tires, trailer, knickknacks. 555 Paciente Pl. 10/9- 10/11, 9a.m.- close.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AVAILABLE. Liberty Theatre building. Main Street access, parking, AC, fiber Internet, Eastern Range and river views, keyless entry. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

LARGE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park. 112 acre lot— \$995 /month. and 1.27 acre lot— \$750 /month. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities are located at the street. Tenant must verify end use with the county. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

PAGOSA SECURE STORAGE- 80 Bastille Drive. Offering "Smokin Deals" on all units. Temperature Controlled Units available. Managed by Team Pagosa Realty (970)731-8599 Call today for availability.

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.

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OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM 1 BATHROOM plus 1 large bonus room. Uptown Vista. Open feel, nice views, natural lighting, no smoking, no pets. \$1698/ month plus deposit. (970)239-1675.

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, fenced yard, 1 -car garage, on Lake Hatcher, close to national forest. \$2400 monthly. Call (970)946-4906.

BEAUTIFUL BRAND NEW DUPLEX units A and B. Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1 car garage units. Bonus office or den area. Pets allowed. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

BRIGHT, SUNNY, NEWLY REPAINTED 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath unit with attached garage, 2 outdoor parking spaces, sundeck and fireplace in downtown. Utilities included except for internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up). Background check and credit report required. All appliances except washer and dryer. No smoking, pets upon approval. \$2650 per month. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

DOWNTOWN NEAR HIGH SCHOOL and Yamaguchi. 800 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$1600. (720)320-4921. Tree, parking, patios, storage, 650 S. 6th.

FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM HOME Utilities included. Full bath, washer, dryer, fenced yard, pets OK. October -June lease. \$1650 per month. Text (970)308-1986.

FURNISHED BEDROOM FOR RENT. Personal restroom, walk- in closet, etc. \$700/ month. (970)398-0990.

FURNISHED DOWNTOWN 3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH townhome with a 1 car garage. Available 12/10/26- 09/30/27. Call Team Pagosa for more information. (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LONG- TERM RENTAL: 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom house. Approved pets allowed. Nice neighborhood, conveniently located with a fenced yard. Call (580)651-2288 for details and an application.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO RENT a house with me. Call Teresa. (512)667-0791.

NEMINISTORAGE.COM 10x20 \$165, 10x15 \$145, 10x10 \$125, 5x10, \$95 monthly. (970)264-3333.

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH unit in downtown. Fireplace, small patio, community area with picnic table. All utilities included except internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up and snow removal). All appliances included. 2 parking spaces. Background check and credit report required. Pets upon approval, no smoking. \$2100 per month. Available July 15. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM 1.5 BATH condo near Lake Pagosa. Available NOW. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

RECENTLY REMODELED TOWNHOME, AVAILABLE NOW \$1850. 2 bedroom 1.5 bath. Fenced in backyard, utilities not included. Not furnished, pets considered. Located in central Pagosa. Background check, deposit, 1 year minimum required. (310)944-0775.

RV SINGLE SITE on 8 acres. 1 mile south hospital. Hilltop location at end of cul de sac. Great views no traffic. Septic, city water, 30 AMP electric. Burt. (619)992-9100. \$800 / month.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

SHERPA REAL ESTATE is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website <https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals> or stop by one of our two locations.

STAND ALONE GROUND FLOOR STUDIO APARTMENT in Pagosa Hills subdivision. Sun lit, cozy, room with sliding glass doors on to deck with beautiful views of East Range mountains. (Nook area) for bed. Nice kitchen and living room, unfurnished, \$900/ month plus utilities. No smokers and one pet upon approval. (970)946-2728.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 1 car garage home. 1 pet allowed. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 2 car garage home in nice neighborhood. Water paid. \$2995 per month. Available NOW. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

UNFURNISHED ROOM WITH PRIVATE BATHROOM. 73 year old wanting long term roommate, non-smoking, no pets. Hatcher Lake. \$600/month plus half of all utilities. Martine, (407)346-2764.

UNFURNISHED UPPER LEVEL CONDO on the golf course. Loft bedroom. 1 and 1/2 bathrooms. Pet approved. Call for more information. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

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2 BR CABIN the in woods on 1.2 acres, updated kitchen, stainless steel appliances, new septic and cistern. \$259,900. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

HOMES FOR SALE

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 BR 2BA HOME 1680 sq. ft., all newer appliances, nice wood and metal accents, close to shopping. \$265,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

HUNTER'S LOG CABIN ON 23 ACRES, BORDERS NATIONAL FOREST on two sides. Has a well and brand new septic. MLS Number 837311. \$429,900. For further information, contact Lee Riley, I Sell Pagosa. Jann C Pitcher Real Estate. (970)946-3856.

NEAR NAVAJO LAKE, 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on 2.2 acres on quiet street, central water, lots of updates, \$355,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

ARBOLES 2 ACRES with approved septic and well. \$100,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

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