PAWSD considers Knolls requests
Information and billing changes discussed — B2

Hospital district sees 2027 draft budget
Expected to 'change greatly' — B6



The Pagosa Springs SUN

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PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 | www.PagosaSUN.com | VOLUME 119 — NO. 3, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

Will the super El Niño bring super snow?

Forecasting the 2026-2027 winter in Pagosa Springs

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

This fall and winter, southwestern Colorado and Pagosa Springs will experience the impacts of super El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean, which will help shape precipitation, temperatures and storm conditions.

Often, El Niño is tied to average or higher precipitation totals over the winter. Will a super El Niño lead to a super winter with extremely high precipitation? What makes an El Niño super, anyways? We turned to the National Weather Service (NWS) and local weather experts to find out.

Grand Junction-based NWS Meteorologist Matthew Aleska explained that the term El Niño describes warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

During neutral conditions, Aleska stated, trade winds push warm surface waters across the Pacific, from near the west coast of the U.S. and South America towards Asia. These waters are then replaced by colder water moving up from deeper in the ocean, cooling the surface.

However, during an El Niño event,

■ See Snow A8

Board of Health discusses potential changes to regulations for septic systems

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of Health (BoH) on Sept. 17, the board heard from Water Quality Manager Jessica Green about potential changes to the county's regulations involving on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS).

Green commented that the OWTS program "has been pretty overwhelming" for staff since the beginning of the year.

"We have seen an increase in code enforcement cases," she said, explain-

■ See Septic A7



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Fall colors and sunny skies highlight the local landscape as seen from north of Pagosa Springs last weekend. Sunny skies are expected to stick around through the weekend, offering more opportunities to glimpse the fall colors before another round of moisture potentially makes its way to the area next week.



Rendering courtesy Reynolds Ash + Associates

A rendering shows the proposed renovation design for the building at 449 San Juan St., which formerly served as the Archuleta County Courthouse.

Renovation design for former courthouse approved by town planning commission

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Oct. 13, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, sitting as the town's Design Review Board, approved a sketch major design application for major renovations at the former courthouse building at 449 San Juan St.

The board also approved final design for renovations to the parking lot adjacent to the building.

Planning Manager Owen O'Dell explained that the building "goes back to 1928," and that the current owner, listed as Ronnie Urbanczyk, has hired the local architectural firm Reynolds Ash + Associates to do "facade and parking lot improvements."

A town staff report on the matter states that the project "is contemplated as a two-phase project beginning with the parking lot and then shifting the focus to the courthouse."

The aim is "to beautify the building to make it more marketable to potential business in the future," while enhancing "the parking area to offer more downtown parking and to serve any future business that may inhabit the courthouse building," the report states.

The building has not seen a major renovation in years, and with the recent fire and exodus of county offices, the owner sees an opportunity to "revitalize the building," O'Dell explained.

Brad Ash, the lead architect on the project, explained that the renovations would aim to attract business opportunities for mercantile, boutiques and restaurants, contributing to downtown revitalization.

O'Dell added that any potential business moving into the space would have to consult with the town's building and planning departments to ensure the business is allowable in the zoning district, listed as Mixed-Use, Town Center (MU-TC) in the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC).

The materials planned in the renovations are "a mix of stucco, brick veneer, wood accents, awnings, and some new windows," the report states.

It adds, "The mix of design materials are intended to complement the existing character of downtown…while paying homage to the original intent when the building was first constructed."

At the meeting, O'Dell explained that in the "downtown overlay" of the MU-TC zoning district, applicants are not required to add any additional parking and that the applicant's proposal to add parking went "above and beyond."

After the parking lot improvements, there would be about 72 spaces of public parking in the lot, O'Dell explained.

Ash explained that the construction crew would be "looking to beat the weather" to get the parking lot done right away and that he doesn't foresee these spaces to be fee-based, so they would be open to the public.

"We've significantly increased the parking for downtown," he said.

O'Dell noted that the project meets many of the goals outlined in the town's 2018 Comprehensive Plan, such as enhancing parking, recreation, transportation and new business growth downtown.

When opened up to questions and comments, board member Chris Pitcher emphasized that he'd like to urge the applicant to "think about how this building interacts

■ See Renovation A8

2027 tourism budget outlined

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Oct. 13, the board heard from Executive Director of Tourism Jennifer Green, who presented the recommended 2027 Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board's budget.

Green indicated that the tourism board voted to recommend this budget to both the county and the Town of Pagosa Springs during its regular meeting held on Sept. 15.

According to Green's presentation, the total revenues proposed in the 2027 budget is listed at $1,560,000, and the estimated 2026 revenues are listed at $1,470,500.

She noted that, currently "we only have county lodging tax through the second quarter."

She added, "Oddly enough, last year, Q3 was the lowest quarter of county lodging tax collections, which I think is wrong."

She explained that, "with that in mind," her projected number for the county for 2027 is about $500,000.

"I am anticipating the town's lodging tax increasing, mainly because construction will be over. We are planning a very large push to make sure everybody knows that the construction is over," she said.

Green noted that tourism is "basically budgeting flat compared to what we thought was going to happen in 2026."

She added, "Obviously, we've had a lot of headwinds this year with tourism. It's not just Pagosa. We want to make sure that's clear."

Green also indicated that the risk of wildfires has heavily impacted "where people are choosing to vacation in the summer."

She explained that the tourism board is not pursuing any grants through the Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) because, after receiving grants for three consecutive years, the board is required to take a year off from applying for grants through the CTO.

Green then reviewed personnel expenses, which is listed at a total of $496,782 and includes four full-time employees and two part-time employees.

"All employees report to Executive Director," Green's presentation states.

Green's presentation also indicates that $330,000 is budgeted for infrastructure expenses, with $75,000 of that going to the Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (PARC).

"And I put that in there because I heard through the grapevine that Commissioner [John] Ranson and council member [Gary] Williams had discussed using lodging tax to help provide funding with PARC," Green said.

Green then explained that $33,140 is budgeted for data expenses for services used through Placer.AI and Visa credit card transaction data.

"So, we will have three years of historic data when we purchase Visa transaction data. That will give us a better idea of the sales tax impact

■ See Tourism A17

School board discusses importance of defining athletic philosophy

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Wednesday, Oct. 7, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) discussed the status and efforts of the newly formed athletic advisory committee.

BoE member Butch Mackey brought up the topic during the board comments period of the meeting, indicating the advisory committee is "getting fired back up for the school year."

He added, "Having a full-time athletic director hopefully will prove to be fruitful for us."

The athletic director for ASD currently is Curtis Nehring.

Mackey also noted that anyone is allowed to attend the athletics advisory committee meetings

Superintendent Rick Holt explained that one of the matters the committee has attempted to address is the shortage of referees in the area.

"We had a real shortage of referees for football," he said.

Holt also mentioned that the committee is currently focusing on the topic of "creating kind of an athletic philosophy that expands from seventh grade to senior year."

He explained that part of the goal with creating that philosophy is to be able to clearly outline how the district treats its different teams and players.

"It's just something that the district has not had. It's relied on the individual efforts of individual coaches who have developed incredible programs," Holt said.

He explained that would be helpful "rather than create a cult of personality where that person leaves and then everything has to start all over again."

Holt noted that the advisory com-

■ See Board A17

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
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Postmaster, Address Service Requested

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Moisture	Type	Depth
10/6	76	40	0.00	NA	NA
10/7	75	41	0.06	NA	NA
10/8	74	37	0.00	NA	NA
10/9	71	37	0.00	NA	NA
10/10	65	52	0.00	NA	NA
10/11	67	46	0.06	NA	NA
10/12	59	45	0.40	NA	NA

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Our View

Do your research and vote

Between this issue of The SUN and last week's, we've printed more than 50 letters to the editor, many of which focus on aspects of the Nov. 3 election.

They present a variety of opinions and viewpoints on a broad array of topics, but all have one thing in common: The writers felt the issues important enough to put themselves out there and share their views with their fellow community members.

The volume of letters underscores the importance of this year's ballot to so many. How we vote between now and Nov. 3 is likely to have a large impact on our community, state and nation for decades and generations to come.

While all of the measures are complex and have pros and cons, looking at just our local measures, how we vote will determine if our children have the opportunity for a new school building or not, if our medical center can continue to grow and meet our needs with the help of grant funding or not, and if tourists will help pay to sustain our infrastructure or not.

Then we have the multitude of state measures that are, in some cases, nothing short of confusing.

We continue to delve into the multitude of races, amendments and propositions on this year's general election ballot as our ballot sits on our coffee table, ready and waiting.

We are looking at the numbers; reading why different groups are (sometimes surprisingly) for and against measures; looking at who brought forth the measures and why; and contemplating what the benefits or consequences would be for our family, our community, our state and our nation.

We encourage everyone to do the same if they haven't already.

We encourage everyone to look at the measures, question them, understand why others are for and against them, and seek the facts.

We also encourage you to look at the numbers for yourself, as well as looking at what knowledgeable people in a position of authority on the topic have to say.

And we ask you to please remember that doing your research doesn't mean seeking out opinions that align with yours and calling it a day.

Beginning on page A9 of this issue you'll find this year's ballot measures and their proposed changes. While the details may seem mind-numbing, they undoubtedly offer a much clearer picture of what each means and are important to not overlook.

It's important as we look at all that that we also look at our future.

As we mull over how to vote — and as we continue to see our community rapidly grow, change and improve — we've continued to circle back to a driving question throughout our research: What does success look like?

What does success look like for our families now and into the future? For our community? For our state? For our nation?

We're not totally sure yet what will lead to success at all levels (I'm sure few are).

One thing, however, is certain: Being informed, engaged and voting will help us determine what the majority believes will lead to success.

Message Randi

Randi Pierce

Looking Back



From the Oct. 3, 1968, Pagosa SUN — QUEEN AND ESCORT – Karen Hartong, homecoming queen, is escorted off the field by Scott Kleckner after being awarded the title at half time ceremonies. Miss Hartong was a representative of the junior class.

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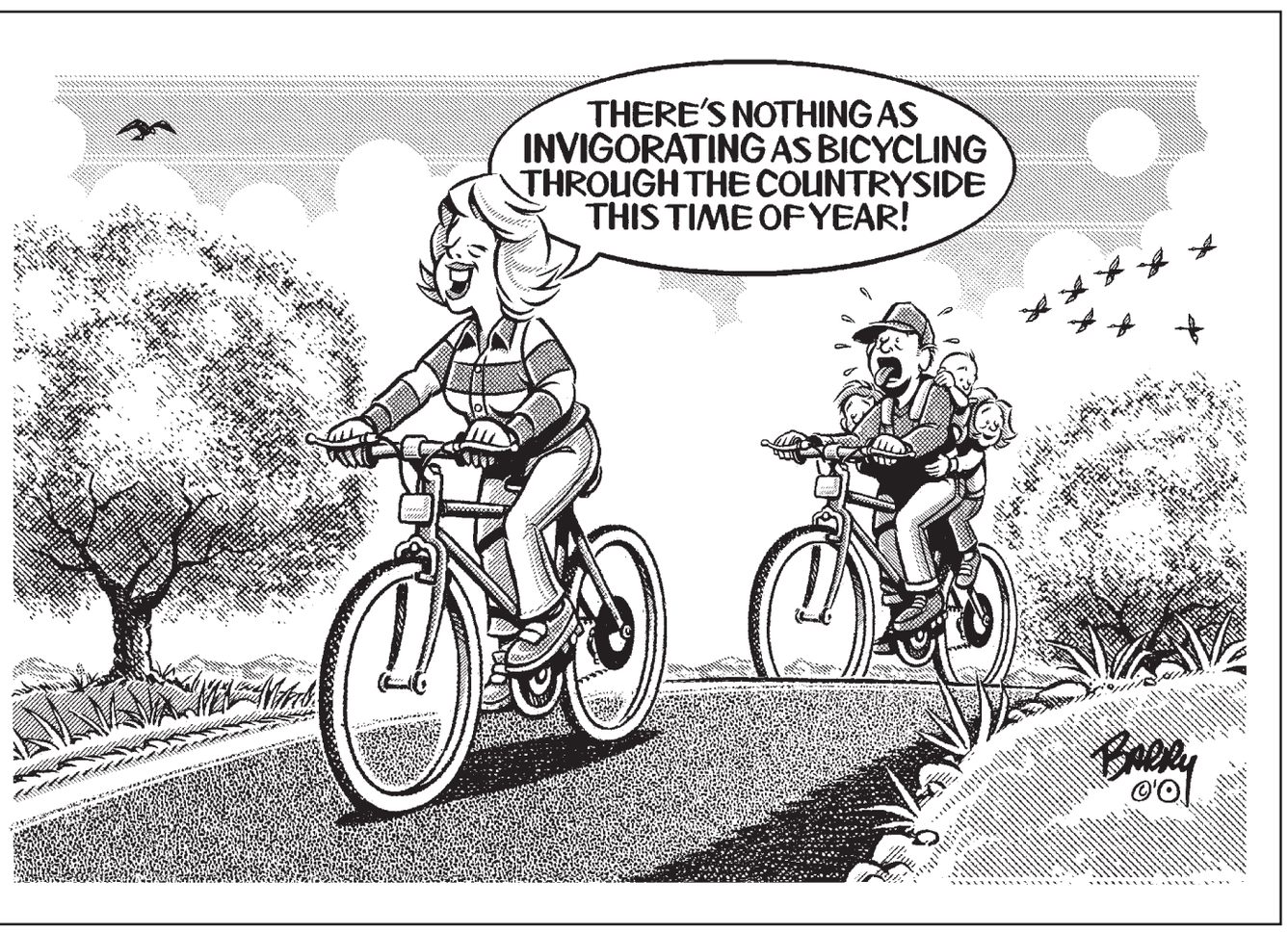
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Legacies

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 15, 1926

The stockmen of this vicinity are busy gathering their beef cattle for shipment the latter part of the month.

Al Hall, who was in charge of the construction of the log house at the W.B. Turner ranch on East fork, has again assumed the management of the Trimble Springs hotel.

Joy reigns unconfined among the St. Louis Cardinal fans, their favorites having copped the world's series by defeating the New York Giants in the seventh game Sunday.

All members of the Women's Civic Club are urged to be present at a special meeting of the organization to be held next Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 at the home of Mrs. Joseph Hersch, as urgent and important business is to be transacted in connection with the club's Hallowe'en party arrangements.

Chas. Masten, an employee of the Houser mill, was hurt yesterday while working in the lumber yard, he being struck heavily in the leg by a board.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 12, 1951

Hunting season opens on Monday of next week and from all advance information it appears that ranchers and farmers had better lock up the cows and go to town for a few days. Hunters started to arrive here as early as the fore part of last week and are coming in ever increasing numbers every day.

Archuleta County, in part, is a two deer area, elk area and there are plenty of bears here. With the reported fine hunting in this area, a record crowd of hunters can be expected.

A steer shown by Jean Macht at the La Plata County Fair last week sold for 41 1/2¢ a pound and placed seventh in the class in which it was entered. The 27 head of 4-H steers sold to 35 buyers averaged 43¢ a pound.

Two cases of polio have been reported in Pagosa Springs in the past six weeks, according to Dr. McIntyre, head of the San Juan Basin Health Unit. Dr. McIntyre stated that there seemed to be no indications that there was an epidemic of the dread disease but emphasized that all residents would be wise to take extra precautions to clean up all garbage and destroy all flies in the vicinity of their home.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 14, 1976

It may be a hot election in Archuleta County this year. There have been 182 voters register to vote since the primary election registration cutoff.

Out of the number 97 registered as unaffiliated, 50 as democrats, and 35 as republicans. This brings the total number of registered voters in Archuleta County to 1839, the largest in the history of the county.

General election this year is November 2 and there are several aspects of that election that may be attracting the additional voters. One, of course, is the two races for county commissioner in Archuleta County. Another is the race for United States Congressman, and the third is the large number of proposed constitutional amendments.

In Archuleta County 1441 of the total registered voters reside in Precincts one and two. Precinct 3, Chromo, has but 80 registered voters, precinct 4 at Arboles has 159 voters and precinct 5 at the Piedra also has 159 voters.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 11, 2001

"We're maintaining heightened awareness," is how Russell Crowley, the Archuleta County Director of Emergency Preparedness, describes the county's response to the threat of local terroristic attacks.

"There isn't much more was can do," Crowley said, "We don't know what form an attack will take, if it comes. We're pretty much in a position of reacting, rather than taking the initiative."

Crowley's county office is connected with the Colorado Office of Emergency Preparedness. If anything threatening happens locally, Crowley will call the state headquarters of the COEP. Officials there will decide on an appropriate response.

Local citizens who observe unusual activities that may be connected to terrorism are urged by Crowley to call the Archuleta County Sheriff or the Pagosa Springs Police Department. Each incident will be evaluated on an individual basis and a response selected.

"Do not call 911," Crowley said, "unless the urgency is extreme. It won't take many calls to overload 911 phone lines. Use the regular sheriff or police telephones."

Letters

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

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

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

Support for 7B

Dear Editor:

Please take a minute and think about how important it is to keep our healthcare local at Pagosa Springs Medical Center. It's important to us all. It means an ambulance comes when we call 911 with a health emergency or after an accident. Local care means we drive fewer hours on the road to get care, take less time away from work and spend more time at home with family and friends who support us.

For someone receiving cancer treatment, managing an ongoing illness, or recovering from surgery, traveling out of town for care is difficult. Each trip may require a family member to take time off or to find someone to care for children, and winter weather can often make this situation even harder.

I support Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue 7B because it's for my family, for yours and for everyone in this community who counts on PSMC for care. A yes vote does not raise taxes. I'll say that again, a yes vote doesn't raise your taxes one cent, it just lets our hospital continue to use the all the money it collects to benefit us all. And this is no change, our voters approved this in 2006, again in 2016, and we need to approve it again.

The value of our hospital reaches far beyond its walls, it's valuable to every person in our community.

Please join me in voting yes on Ballot Issue 7B to keep our healthcare local.

Sincerely,
Kate Alfred

More than a building

Dear Editor:

'Tis the season of costumes and campaigns. As Vote yes on 5A signs appear across Pagosa, campaign season has a way of dressing a complicated decision in a simple slogan. The promise of a beautiful new school is powerful. We all want inspiring classrooms for our children and wonderful spaces for our teachers. But the question before us is not, "Do you support our schools?" It is, "Is this the right plan for our children and our town?" A rendering can show us a building. It cannot show us everything it leaves outside the frame. A few weeks ago, that question took on new meaning as I drove west toward Durango. I passed the stone sign thanking visitors to Pagosa and inviting them to return, then continued beyond it. Farther down the highway, I reached the area where the district plans to move our elementary and middle school students. My heart sank. The Vista Boulevard site west of town would separate students from the connected network of neighboring schools, the library, the river, parks, trails, athletic fields, and civic spaces our community has spent generations building for them. For families across our community, separation would mean more driving, more scheduling, and more childhood spent in cars. Right now, elementary students walk to the library. Middle school PE classes walk along the San Juan River. Imagine what it gives a child to step outside during an ordinary school day, move beside living water, breathe fresh air, and laugh with friends. Perhaps it is the season, but lately I have imagined the voices of Pagosa's past, present, and future. I hear those who wrote grants, built parks, created accessible pathways, and connected these places for our children. I hear the present asking us to pay attention. And I imagine future children asking us to protect this inheritance for them. We do not need to manufacture a magical learning environment from the ground up. Our children already have one. A large lot can hold an impressive building, but it cannot recreate generations of community investment or the connections surrounding our schools today. A no vote asks us to reimagine our school buildings without sacrificing what makes growing up in Pagosa extraordinary. Our children will live inside the choice we make today. My hope is that they inherit more than a new building. May they inherit the river, the paths, the library, the parks, and the feeling that they belong to a community that recognized what was precious and chose to protect it.

Cody Allione

Support for 7B

Dear Editor:

Supporting local healthcare can be as simple as voting yes on Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue 7B.

It does not raise taxes. It allows the District to continue keeping and using the revenue it collects to support Pagosa Springs Medical Center, as voters have allowed both in 2006 and 2016.

This vote is about the people who make up our community: our families, friends, and neighbors. We differ in income, age, ethnicity, race, personal beliefs, and physical abilities. But every one of us may need medical care.

That includes happy people, mean people, nice people, and cranky people. It includes people we agree with and people we don't. Illness and injury do not make those distinctions, and access to local healthcare should not depend on them either.

PSMC is here for our community through ordinary appointments, ongoing treatment, and some of life's hardest moments. Keeping healthcare close to home is something we can support together, even when we see other things differently.

Ballot Issue 7B offers a simple way to do that without increasing taxes. A yes vote continues an existing authorization that helps support care for the whole community.

Please join me in voting yes on 7B, for our families, our friends, our neighbors, and perhaps even the cranky person we might become when we're having a bad day.

Sincerely,
Ashley Bridges

Not a moment to celebrate

Dear Editor:

What??? Now the Department of Defense is planning to live stream a military execution?? Have we devolved into blood lusting barbarism, cheering on public executions? Have we not deplored public executions in Iran and other places? Are we going to invite our children into the room to watch the show in living color?

I thought we were better people. I thought we were the ones who were supposed to display humanity and decency to the rest of the world. This is not a moment to celebrate.

Jean Broderick

Opposition to Jeff Hurd

Dear Editor:

Coloradans are deeply saddened by the ongoing violence in the Middle East. We feel particularly concerned when it is American weapons, supplied by American taxpayers, that are blowing up hospitals, clinics and schools.

Our Congressman, Jeff Hurd, is supporting legislation that can only make things worse. He strongly favors yet another weapons package for Israel, this time to the tune of $2.8 billion.

This very bad idea, promoted by President Trump, includes 40,000 additional 2,000-pound bombs.

Congressman Hurd is also supporting legislation that would permanently merge the American military weapons pipeline with Israel's, establishing a Pentagon office specifically designed to make this happen. This unprecedented merger would not require a yearly vote like foreign aid does. It would be permanent.

The United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative is intended to "expand and accelerate bilateral defense technology research, integration, and industrial cooperation" between the United States and Israel. This "Initiative" would be led by an "executive agent" appointed by Pete Hegseth. No other country has this kind of privilege with the U.S. military.

Jeff Hurd is supporting and promoting such legislation, while accepting large campaign contributions from the Israel lobby.

Putting this massive arsenal in the hands of people like the current leaders of Israel is an invitation to death and destruction. The people of the Third Congressional District should not be represented in Congress by someone who is actively promoting such measures.

Sincerely
Luke Danielson
Gunnison, Colo.

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

Much has been written in the last few weeks, both in support of and against 5A and the building of a new K-8 school. The major issues seem to be the location, the cost and need for a new building, and what makes quality education. As a longtime educator at Pagosa Springs High School and a 40-year resident of Pagosa, I'd like to offer my perspectives on these issues.

The uptown location offers many advantages over the downtown location. It is a large open area that will require far less ground work and thus be less expensive than the site near the high school. Instead of losing playing fields, we will add athletic fields and a track. In addition, the majority of the district's student population (roughly 65%) live west of HWY 160 and placing a school out there will create far less traffic in the

■ See Letters A4



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

The traffic switch was completed early this week on the east end of the project. Motorists are driving on the south side of U.S. 160 while work continues on the north side.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Oct. 19-24

Work activity

Note: The forecast continues to call for inclement weather; all project work is weather dependent. Crews may work consistent weekends, especially when work cannot be completed during the weekdays due to inclement weather.

• 1st Street intersection and 100 block: 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 until work is completed. Crews will work around the rain forecasted to finish paving the north side of the intersection in order to reopen both travel lanes.

• 5th Street intersection: The 5th Street intersection is scheduled to be closed Monday, Oct. 19. The Town of Pagosa Springs is continuing geothermal utility work for the coming week(s). Alternative delivery access for 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 this week if weather permits. 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 the week of Oct. 26.

• Harman Park and Piedra Road: Work continues at this intersection, with work hours between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Crews are continuing to form and pour sidewalks, with planned island demolition and replacement in the coming week(s). We ask that drivers slow down and please allow extra time to get through the work zone.

• Pedestrian safety: Pedestrian crosswalks are open at 2nd, 3rd, Hot Springs, mid-block at 4th, Lewis, 6th and 8th. Our team continues to see pedestrians jaywalking and crossing at unsafe locations. Our work zone is active in several locations and we want to keep everyone safe. Please observe marked crossing locations.

Harman Park and Piedra Road intersection

Safety benefits of this work includes pedestrian safety upgrades and ADA accessibility improvements. Enhancements to the Harman Park and Piedra Road intersection will include:

• Removal of existing islands to be replaced with expanded islands to include ADA-accessible ramps.

• Installation of new sidewalks north and south of the intersection.

• Signal enhancements to include pedestrian countdown lights and push buttons.

Stay informed and connect with the project

• Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.

• Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.

• Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.

• Subscribe to project updates: subscription.cotrip.org.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

• be 500 words or less

• include the actual first and last name of the author

• include the author's address and daytime phone number

• be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

Letters

■ Continued from A3

already congested area around the high school. Lastly, as a safety issue, the district needs to move the Middle and Elementary schools off the highway. There is much more traffic on the highway than would ever have been imagined when the buildings were originally constructed, and in a post-Columbine world, playgrounds and building access are difficult to secure in close proximity to the highway. The uptown location is a safer option.

Each year critical maintenance needs and costs rise in our aging Middle and Elementary schools. Leaky roofs in both buildings and significant recurring sewer problems at the Middle School are large issues that need more than bandaid remedies. The fact that many rooms in both the Elementary and the 7-8 buildings have no windows make them gloomy and restrict fresh air, and both school cafeterias are too small to accommodate a reasonable and efficient amount of students at one time. No one wants an increase, even a minimal one, in taxes, but passing 5A now will give us a leg up in obtaining a Best Grant, saving taxpayers 40% of the total cost. We can continue to pour money into recurring repairs, or we can save money over the long game by building now.

No one agrees more than I do that superior education is the result of high quality teaching. But teachers and students will thrive and excel best in a quality 21st century environment and facility. We are blessed to be part of an incredibly vibrant community. We support retirees who enjoy theater, live music and many recreational activities. We support businesses and services that grow and offer opportunities to both residents and tourists alike. We support families, many of which are parented by graduates of Archuleta School District, and are dedicated to their children's health, mental well being, safety, education and future—which is also our future. As a community it is our responsibility to ensure that it grow and prosper. Let's support our entire community and vote yes on 5A.

Nancy Esterbrook

Support for Dwayne Romero

Dear Editor:

Experience matters in our elected representatives. Dwayne Romero has the life experience and the work experience to better represent us in Washington than our present representative, Jeffrey Hurd.

Romero was raised by a single mother and knows what it is like to struggle financially. At the age of 12, he was folding laundry in their home to help the family make ends meet.

After graduating from West Point, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers , earning a Bronze Star during the Persian Gulf War and graduating from Ranger School. Two of his daughters have served in the military; one is still on active duty. This experience makes him aware of both the value of service and how important it is to avoid military conflict unless the safety of our country is at stake.

Romero was Colorado's director of economic development under Gov. John Hickenlooper and runs his own small property management company in Basalt. The Romero Group employs about 120 people.

Romero served on the Aspen City Council for two terms and on the Aspen Board of Education, including acting as BOE president.

One of his first goals in Congress will be repealing the One Big Beautiful Bill, which slashed Medicaid funding, putting rural hospitals like Pagosa Springs Medical Center at financial risk of closing.

Our choice is clear. Elect a man who knows how to build things, serve, and get things done, or re-elect a pleasant, but ineffectual former gas and oil lawyer to Congress.

Lynn R. Frederick

Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

Who's funding the candidates running to represent us in Southwest Colorado?

Public campaign finance records show 79% of Naomi Riess's monetary contributions came from contributors listing HD59 communities, compared with just 21% for Katie Stewart. Naomi received almost three times as much local funding.

Naomi's backing comes primarily from our neighbors, businesses and county Republican parties. Most of Stewart's money came from Front Range addresses, including political committees.

How much influence should groups outside our district have in choosing our representative? These aren't local groups; these are Denver PACs and lobbyist mouthpieces.

House District 59. Look beyond the advertising and ask who's paying for it.

I support Naomi Riess because she has lived, worked and raised her family here for decades. She understands our rural communities and stands up for Southwest Colorado.

Her campaign's foundation is grassroots. It's real, and it's here at home. That matters.

Ken Fusco Sr.
Durango, Colo.

Support for 1A

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed County lodging tax increase because it represents a fair and practical way to address the challenges created by our growing tourist economy while investing in the services our local community depends on every day.

Importantly, the tax will be paid almost entirely by tourists—not by the people who live and work here year-round. These visitors are an important part of our economy but also contribute to the wear and tear on our roads and increase demand on public safety and other government services. It makes sense that those who are visiting and using these services should help contribute to the rising cost of maintaining and funding them.

The proposed revenues would be directed toward three areas important to our community: improving County roads, strengthening public safety and emergency dispatch, and supporting childcare programs for our local workforce. These are needed investments in the basic infrastructure and services that allow our community to function—and that support both residents and the businesses that depend on good roads, public safety response, and a reliable local workforce.

And noteworthy, these funding priorities did not come out of a vacuum. County officials identified these areas after numerous community forums and public input. Residents shared their concerns and priorities, and these spending areas emerged from that local conversation.

Voters should be confident that the revenues generated by the lodging tax are being directed toward needs that our community itself identified as important.

The more visitors use our roads and public services, the more important the need to implement a sustainable way to help pay for the additional demands placed on our community. This lodging tax allows us to do that without putting an additional funding burden on local families and year-round residents.

I encourage our community to support the lodging tax increase by voting yes on 1A.

Sincerely,
Longinos Gonzalez

Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

Colorado is facing serious headwinds. Our public schools are largely failing, higher education is in decline, property taxes are skyrocketing, and TABOR – our last line of defense against out-of-control spending – is under continuous assault.

Strip away the noise, and a single cause underlies it all: a lack of legislative priority. When everything is important, nothing is important. We need legislators with real executive experience – people who understand the basics, set a limited number of priorities, and move those priorities forward.

This election, I am supporting Naomi Riess for House District 59. Her business background enables her to see the big picture and focus on the five or six issues that can meaningfully improve life in Southwest Colorado. We need clear progress on economic development, education, energy/environment, water, and health (for a summary of our economic problem see the two guest editorials by R. Zalneraitis in The Herald on May 29 and June 1). These are the priorities that matter to me, and I'm glad we have a candidate for HD 59 who recognizes that.

Erik Goodwin
Durango, Colo.

Support for Stewart, Weiser, Romero

Dear Editor:

It's no surprise that the campaign materials I receive from Republican candidates use inflammatory language and feature photos designed to make the Democratic candidate look unattractive. The GOP cannot tout anything good it's done; all it can do is disparage their opponents. By contrast, campaign materials I have received from Katie Stewart describe what she has done and intends to continue doing for working families in Colorado.

We now have a U.S. President who has told a foreign country, one he started an unprovoked, unauthorized war with, to attack America! This is truly unprecedented, but the grifter's supporters find a way to justify his words and actions. The local Republican candidate for Colorado Governor has just been cited for the most egregious campaign finance violations in Colorado state history, and boasts that he has murdered people. The Republican candidate for Colorado's state house doesn't really have a problem with selling off public lands. And of course, our current representative to U.S. Congress cast the deciding vote that cut funding for SNAP, Medicaid and health insurance subsidies, while increasing the federal deficit. He will not do his job and insist that war can only be decided by Congress. He says things that sound like he cares about us but votes only to prop up the biggest traitor this country has ever had as president: a huge disappointment to say the least. Luckily, we now have the opportunity to vote him out.

(See letters by John Farley, Lee Stopher, Lisa Tedder and Kelly Tuten in the October 8 edition of The Pagosa Springs Sun.)

It's no wonder the GOP is worried that despite spending billions of dollars, they could very well lose this election. Let's also remember the current president is trying to buy votes and is using our money to campaign. Nixon must be rolling in his grave: if only he knew what he could have gotten away with. Lying, cheating, bribes, rape, murder: all of that is OK with the GOP. Please, let us all stop using the word "conservative" to describe these proud autocrats and plutocrats. There is nothing "conservative" about ICE murdering U.S. citizens, nor about a president starting unauthorized wars with former allies and trade partners, and funneling taxpayer dollars into his own pockets and those of his family members.

Plenty of information is available about candidates and the ballot initiatives. Don't just vote party lines. Don't just vote the way your friends or others tell you to. Do the research. You are smart enough to discern facts from lies. If you value democracy, health care, education; if you live in Colorado because you love our public lands and healthy lifestyles; if you are a patriot who loves America, vote to re-elect Katie Stewart for Colorado State House. Vote Phil Weiser for Governor of Colorado. Vote Dwayne Romero for U.S. House. Not because I'm saying so: because these are the candidates who will protect our democracy.

Lisa Jensen

Support for Romero, Stewart, Clementi

Dear Editor:

Congressional candidate Dwayne Romero is an Army veteran and father of soldiers. He lives the military value "Leave no one behind."

Romero is challenging Jeff Hurd. Hurd has abandoned Coloradans to support DC Republicans and their wealthy patrons. If we send Romero to Congress, he will not leave the people of rural Colorado behind.

Hurd supported tax cuts for the wealthy funded by healthcare cuts for us. Don't be fooled. Hurd voted for Medicare changes to hit after this election. Romero will work to secure Medicare and rural hospitals.

Hurd won't change course. He voted five times against resolutions to end the Iran war, standing by while fuel prices climb on top of tariffs (which are taxes on consumers). Romero will push back on senseless policies that push up our cost of living.

Hurd had his chance. He fell in line on votes that sacrifice the well-being of his constituents. Romero will go to Congress focusing on SW Colorado priorities: healthcare, water, public lands, veterans, and constituent service. He will not leave us behind.

Katie Stewart has been watching out for SW Colorado in Denver. She's not a strict party-line vote in the Statehouse. She focuses on the needs and rural culture of her district.

When the rules for affordable housing grants didn't work for Archuleta County, Stewart authored a successful bill to fix the problem.

From her position on the Health & Human Services Committee, Stewart sponsored a bill to make prescriptions for durable medical equipment less burdensome. She fought big pharma to protect compounding pharmacies.

We benefit from legislators who don't just go along to get along. Vote for Dwayne Romero and Katie Stewart to be strong voices for our priorities in DC and Denver.

Barb Clementi is an educator. She believes every student deserves access to a solid education.

Clementi taught in Pueblo for 30 years. She served two terms on the Pueblo District 60 Board of Education and led the Colorado Association of School Boards as president. She understands how school financing works in Colorado.

Clementi also values her fellow educators. She represented Colorado educators on the National Education Association Board of Directors.

In this challenging time for public education, we need a representative on the State Board of Education who has a broad understanding of education from the classroom to the boardroom. That's Barb Clementi.

Election day is November 3. Please take time to vote.

Candace Jones

Reflect on your experiences

Dear Editor:

Pagosa Springs isn't Anytown, USA. We have something extraordinary: the San Juan Mountains, the San Juan River, the world's deepest geothermal hot spring, and an incredible collection of public spaces, recreational opportunities, and community resources woven together in the heart of our town. Our schools are part of that connection.

Generations haven't simply attended school here; they've grown up within a community.

When I first visited with my now-husband in 2008, I fell in love. Although he grew up here, he was hesitant to return to small-town life. Years in larger cities and the arrival of our children changed his perspective. He wanted them to have the childhood he had, and the lifelong friendships that came with it. We wanted less time in the car, living within our community rather than driving through it.

And right now, I get to watch that childhood unfold.

My middle schooler is living his best life right now. He has the freedom to walk from school, grab an ice cream, skate to the skate park, or head to the community center for basketball. His younger brother can meet him after school, and together they can explore.

These aren't insignificant conveniences. They're experiences that foster independence, responsibility, competence, friendships, and a sense of belonging. They're part of learning how to navigate the world, make decisions, and become capable, contributing members of a community.

Isn't that part of what we're hoping to accomplish in raising and educating our children?

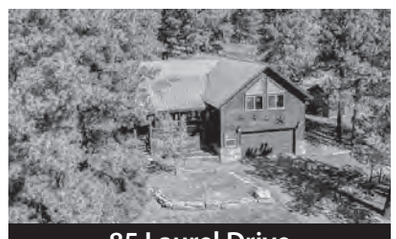
I struggle to accept that my two youngest might not have those same

■ See Letters A5

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VOTE NO ON 5A
Our schools need investment.
This isn't the right plan.
KEEP KIDS CONNECTED | CHOOSE A SMARTER PATH
This decision is about more than a new building. It will shape where our kids learn — and how they connect to their schools and community — for generations.
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REDEVELOP | PHASE
THE NUMBERS NEED CONTEXT
$79.9M AND $88M ARE NOT APPLES-TO-APPLES
COMPARE EVERY VIABLE PATH ON EQUAL TERMS
LOCATION MATTERS
THE PROPOSED SITE IS NOT NAMED ON THE BALLOT (HWY 160/VISTA BLVD)
COMMUNITY VALUES
PRESERVE WHAT MAKES PAGOSA UNIQUE
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
BUILD ON WHAT WE'VE ALREADY BUILT
EXTENSIVE WALKABLE DOWNTOWN RESOURCES;
INCLUDING COLLABORATIVE & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES
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WALKING BECOMES BUSING
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Letters

■ Continued from A4

opportunities.

The relocation proposed under Ballot Measure 5A doesn't simply change an address. It removes students from this interconnected environment to the outer reaches of our community.

Instead of walking, they'll depend on buses, schedules, and someone available to drive them. Independence becomes transportation logistics. Spontaneous opportunities become planned activities. Time that could be spent participating in their community becomes time spent getting to it.

And we should ask ourselves what that costs, because not every cost can be measured in construction estimates or tax dollars.

A recent LTE suggested concerns about leaving downtown would soon be forgotten. But we'll know the difference. Our children will know where the river, parks, and activities are and whether they can reach them on their own.

Our children deserve excellent schools, our teachers deserve modern facilities, and our community should invest in education. But that investment should reflect what we value, not sacrifice something irreplaceable because another option appears easier.

Before voting, I hope you'll reflect on your own experiences. If you grew up here, imagine your childhood without that downtown connection. If your children grew up here, think about what they enjoyed. If you moved here in search of something different, something beyond the congestion and separation of larger communities, consider what drew you here in the first place.

What kind of childhood do we want future generations to experience? What are those opportunities worth? Once we give them up, we never truly get them back.

Abigail Karas

Hurd gets an 'F'

Dear Editor:

Hi,

There is a new site where you can see how congress voted.

https://morethanjustparks.com/congressional-public-lands-score/

https://morethanjustparks.com/congressional-public-lands-score/#member=Hurd

Hurd gets an "F". Hurd voted against public lands on 18 of 18 scored votes. Feel he should be called out on his dismal support of lands. He is a horrible representative for Colorado.

Thank you for sharing this with your readership so people will think twice about voting for him.

Debby Kruzic

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

As a member of the Archuleta School District 50 JT Board of Education, I want to address concerns regarding the proposed new K–8 school. These are my personal views, not those of the Board.

The need for a new school is not based on future growth. Our schools are already overcrowded and inadequate for today's students.

Several years ago, overcrowding forced the district to move fifth- and sixth-grade students from the elementary school into a building now 102 years old. The overcrowding remains.

Our elementary school is 58 years old, the seventh- and eighth-grade building is 72 years old, and the fifth- and sixth-grade building is 102 years old. Additions provided classrooms but no corresponding expansion of cafeterias, kitchens, libraries, restrooms, or other essential facilities. Many older classrooms lost their windows during renovations.

The consequences are evident every day.

Middle school students must cross Highway 160 to use athletic fields generously provided by the Town of Pagosa Springs. When those fields are needed for community events, the school must make other arrangements.

At the middle school, cafeteria space is so limited that most students eat outside, even during winter weather. The elementary school requires four lunch periods because its cafeteria accommodates only one grade at a time.

These are today's problems, not predictions about tomorrow.

Some argue that our buildings are "good enough." But at what point should we expect our schools to meet modern educational, building, and safety standards?

Modern schools provide better ventilation, natural lighting, improved safety, and flexible learning spaces. Our buildings have received no meaningful modernization this century. Our teachers do remarkable work despite these limitations. Imagine what they could accomplish in facilities designed for today's educational needs.

Others suggest abandoning construction and using the money for teacher salaries. However, school construction funding and operating funds are different. Voters approved making the Mill Levy Override permanent to support staff compensation and School Resource Officers. Not building a school would not create additional operating funds for salaries.

In fact, a new school is projected to save approximately $600,000 annually in maintenance and utility costs, potentially freeing resources for staff compensation.

Taxpayers deserve answers about costs, enrollment, and funding. These questions have been addressed at numerous public meetings and presentations. Information, including projected tax impacts, the district's BEST Grant application, and ownership of the proposed Vista site, is available at www.citizensforasd.org.

I encourage residents to review the information and ask questions. Responsible decisions require accurate facts.

For generations, Archuleta County residents have benefited from schools built by those who came before us. Those buildings have served our community for decades. Now we must consider what we will provide for future generations.

Our children should not have to wait for future growth to justify better schools. The need exists today.

The question is not whether our aging buildings are "good enough." It is whether we are willing to provide the safe, healthy, modern learning environment our students and teachers deserve.

Respectfully,
Butch Mackey

Russian diesel

Dear Editor:

"Rozliuchenyi" is a word in the Ukrainian language meaning "very irritated" or "seething with rage or anger."

'Rozliuchenyi' describes how Ukrainians are feeling since the Trump administration announced a decision to allow Russia to sell millions of tons of diesel fuel to American and global markets, and to issue a sanctions waiver license to make it happen.

Every ton of diesel Russia sells funds the war machine that bombs Ukrainian cities, homes, schools, and hospitals every night.

Polls consistently show that an overwhelming majority of Americans support strengthening sanctions against Moscow. Enabling Russia to export oil makes a mockery of American values, American interests, and the clearly expressed will of the American public.

Sanctions relief given without any Russian concession on a ceasefire sends the wrong signal to Moscow and to every ally watching how America keeps its commitments.

The diesel deal is also illegal. The Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act (Public Law 117-109) bans Russian energy imports until Russia withdraws its invasion force and ceases hostilities on terms acceptable to Ukraine, followed by a 90-day congressional review. The accompanying sanctions waiver defies the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, passed only weeks ago.

Congress cannot stand by while its laws are disregarded and Putin is rewarded for aggression. Contact your senators and representative and demand that they publicly oppose this deal, insist on the withdrawal of the sanctions waiver, enforce the Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act, and reject any pressure on Ukraine to accept a unilateral halt to refinery strikes. America must stand with those defending freedom, not those destroying it.

Neonila Martyniuk
Montrose, Colo.

Opposition to ballot measures

Dear Editor:

Greg Heid (letter, Pagosa Sun 10/18/26) expresses my views completely. I would just like to add one other fact to his. According to PEW research the ACT scores have been in steady decline since 1995. The average ACT score in 1995 was 20.8 out of 36, in 2023 the score was 19.5 out of 36. Public education is broken and needs to be fixed and more money is not the answer. Why keep handing out money for poorer results? Studies show non-public schools give the kids a better education for less money. If public schools did their job, private schools would not exist. Proposition N N would also circumvent "TABOR" and that law is the best thing to happen to Colo. One other election thought: if you believe all the negative ads put forth by the candidates, none of them are worthy of the public trust.

John Meyer

Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

An election should help us evaluate competing ideas. The misleading attacks on Naomi Riess make that harder.

Selective quotes and remarks stripped of context leave voters with an incomplete picture. Naomi deserves the opportunity to respond. And we deserve the truth.

I'm tired of attacks coming from outside our district while the issues affecting our daily lives receive too little attention.

Katie Stewart says she supports affordability. Yet she voted to keep overtime taxable in Colorado and to tax software downloads. Those decisions are real and add costs for everyday people.

To me, Katie's record looks too much like rubber-stamping the agenda of her colleagues in Denver. Southwest Colorado needs someone willing to stand up and challenge those policies on our behalf.

Naomi brings decades of land-use experience and community involvement. She understands that housing policy must account for water, infrastructure, essential services and working families' ability to buy a home. She recognizes that rural health care involves distances and challenges easily overlooked at the Capitol.

I support Naomi because I believe she will bring practical judgment and an independent local voice to the Legislature.

Voters deserve an honest debate. Examine Stewart's actual voting record. Hear directly from Naomi about her positions and statements. Compare their approaches to our needs.

Our representative should answer to Southwest Colorado. I believe Naomi Riess will.

Jason Mietchen
Durango, Colo.

Donations

Dear Editor:

I was truly saddened by watching the number of items going into the local donation bin that should have

■ See Letters A6

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PSMC Neurology Presentation

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Arturo Montaño, MD

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Letters

■ Continued from A5

been been sent to a trash dumpster instead of our locals in need!!!!!!!!!!

These local folks helping were there ready to help...not sort through your personal trash!!!

We ...as a family...have personally...gone through many items...and truly want to make sure these items will be utilized by many locals!

I so appreciate these locals who have been here to help our locals find personal supplies...not those who are looking for personal trash removal!!!

Pam Miller

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

I have never had children of my own, but I am voting "Yes" on Ballot Issue 5A.

The children growing up in Pagosa Springs today are our future. They, along with our teachers and staff, deserve a safe, healthy environment where everyone can thrive.

Right now, our school facilities face over $88 million in documented deficiencies. Beyond urgent structural repairs, our aging buildings carry serious environmental risks like confirmed asbestos and legacy lead plumbing—contaminants proven to cause developmental delays, respiratory damage, and cancer. At the middle school, carpet cannot be replaced without full asbestos mitigation.

Ballot Issue 5A gives our community a sensible path forward. It builds a combined PK–8 campus on district-owned land, modernizes safety systems, and puts athletic fields on-site. These are standard features schools across the country take for granted. Just because we are a rural town doesn't mean our kids and staff should settle for less.

Most importantly, 5A unlocks an estimated $50 million state BEST grant—covering roughly 40% of the project with funds that would otherwise go elsewhere. If the grant isn't awarded, no bonds are issued, and our taxes do not increase. For homeowners, the estimated cost is just $5.15 a month per $100,000 of actual home value. This is a small price to pay for safety, health, and education.

Please invest in our kids, our educators, and our future. Vote "Yes" on 5A.

Sincerely,
Paula Jo Miller

Support for 7B, 5A

Dear Editor:

Our gorgeous mountains readily draw people to Pagosa, but two buildings decide whether families stay: the one that keeps us healthy and the one that helps our kids thrive. This November, we can secure both.

As a physician at Pagosa Springs Medical Center, I write as a private citizen, these views are my own.

Healthy communities depend on care close to home: emergency response in minutes, appointments that fit into a workday, and clinicians who know our community. Ballot Issue 7B protects this without raising taxes. It simply lets our hospital district keep the revenue it already collects, including grants.

Independent and locally run, we rely on those grants and donations for ambulances, equipment, and services. Without them, we would step back from today's care and lose the chance to build tomorrow's. A "no" vote would not return a dollar to taxpayers. It would only put grants, and the care they pay for, at risk.

Ballot Issue 5A is the other half of a healthy community. Children learn best in spaces that are bright, safe, and built for learning, and too many of ours are old, short on natural light, poorly ventilated, and stressful at drop-off and pick-up. A new PK-8 school on district-owned land, with a possible $50 million state grant, would give children a modern, healthy place to learn. 5A also funds much needed upgrades at Pagosa Peak Open School, our fabulous public charter.

The return on this investment begins the moment we commit, and it benefits everyone. I have seen qualified professionals choose other communities in part because of what our schools offer their children. Every person we recruit and keep becomes a neighbor working with the rest of us. This is both a community well-being issue and an economic one.

The mountains bring visitors. Strong healthcare and schools build a resilient hometown. We all deserve that.

Election Day, November 3, is also my birthday, and my wish is a healthy, thriving Pagosa. Please make it come true with a yes on both 7B and 5A! Ballots must be received by 7p.m.

Sincerely,
Dr. Corinne Reed

Support for ballot measures

Dear Editor:

As another election approaches, I find myself revisiting the past, pondering the present, and praying for the future. As I discern which box to check, I turn my mind and heart towards my Christian upbringing. In putting politics on the back burner and putting God in the forefront, the Devil's strategy to take hold of Colorado becomes crystal clear.

Unlike God who does not make mistakes and has no reason to lie, the Devil's objective against families is threefold: Deceive. Distract. Destroy. A perfect example of the Devil's handiwork is Amendment 79, which enshrined abortion into our State Constitution in 2024. As a result, women can legally abort their baby through all nine months of pregnancy, void of restrictions or term limits, with the option of using public funding to cover expenses. But the Devil's manipulation doesn't stop there, as Colorado also allows children under the age of 18 to undergo surgeries to change their biological characteristics.

No matter how it is dissected, the Devil is orchestrating a lethal game where the lives and innocence of children are at stake. Who else could convince many Coloradans to approve the killing of unborn children, to eliminate the differences between male and female, and to minimize the role of those trafficking children for sexual servitude? The consequences of misleading and harming children, as Jesus warns in Matthew 18:6, are severe and must be taken seriously.

In the upcoming 2026 election we have three opportunities to get back on track to protecting children. As Colorado voters, regardless of political or religious affiliations, we need to stop the chaos and reset history to allow the next generation a chance to flourish. As we decern which box to check, let's not forget that we have free will to choose good over evil. In the future we can join forces to ultimately overturn Amendment 79, but meanwhile let's start by voting yes on Propositions 133, 134, and 135.

Shanna Robb

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

Strong public school systems have long been the backbone of our country. Joni and I are both the product of public school educations, from K through 16. Our mothers were both educators in public school systems who devoted their careers to nurturing future generations through public education. Pagosa Springs has prospered because our children received great public educations.

For the last 15 years, Joni and I have been privileged to watch many of our community's children grow up in our restaurant. We have experienced their well-rounded personalities, amazing emerging skills, and enthusiasm for learning as they took part-time jobs in our restaurant and in so many other businesses in town. We have all been enriched by knowing them; watching them graduate from high school, go to college, a trade school, or learn a valuable career skill right here. Whether those wonderful young adults stay in Pagosa to start a family or not- each of us is richer having shared their formative years with them.

It is time for our community to reach forward and meet a critical moment in our everyday lives: updating the facilities for this and coming generations of K-8 students. Our present two campuses are old, worn out, and in locations that no longer work for our community. It doesn't take but a moment's reflection to know that our middle school is in the wrong location, horribly outdated and unsafe for our children. Wasting taxpayer dollars trying to solve insoluble problems with that facility isn't the answer; responsible citizenship is.

Nancy Ray's excellent letter to the editor (September 17) supporting 5A clearly states the problem, the opportunity presented now and our choice. Lets make the decision that will make us proud- on election day and for generations to come. Please join us and vote YES on 5A.

Joni and Marty Rose

Support for Naomi Riess

Dear Editor:

Wake up, Colorado. How much more are we willing to take?

Our small towns are feeling the squeeze. Families are struggling to keep up. Small businesses are trying to survive. And too often, the answer from Denver is more government, more taxes, fees, and less say for the people who actually live here.

I'm tired of it. I oppose the socialist direction I see in Colorado politics, and I'm tired of watching rural communities get pulled along by an agenda that doesn't fit our lives.

Now we have outside groups trying to influence our local elections with attack ads. Why are they so interested in Montezuma's county commissioner races?

And our Southwest Colorado House seat? What do they want, and why should we let their advertising drown out our own neighbors?

We need to pay attention. Follow the money. Question the ads. Look at the candidates' records.

I'm voting for Naomi Riess because she knows this community. She has spent decades raising her family here, volunteering and helping people navigate land-use and development projects. She understands that decisions made in Denver have real consequences for families, farmers and small businesses back home.

We need someone who will stand up for Southwest Colorado and challenge policies that make our lives harder.

And Democrats who are frustrated with their own party: you don't have to keep voting for a direction you disagree with. Nobody owes a political party their vote.

Enough is enough. I want less government overreach, responsible spending and our local voice back.

Vote for common sense. Vote for Naomi Riess.

Dale Ruggles
Bayfield, Colo.

Support for 5A

Dear Editor:

I offer a response to two Letters to the Editor last week, opposing Ballot 5A.

We absolutely need a school as an "integrated part of our community" and want our students (and others) to have "pride in their schools and in the community they call home." The Pagosa Springs community is the entire community, not just the Town limits, but all of Archuleta County. Educational, outdoor, and civic resources and kid-friendly businesses exist uptown and downtown alike, and more students will be able to walk and bike to school at the uptown location, since 67% of the current student population lives west of Piedra Road.

Kudos to Mrs. Vilhauer and her career as a passionate and dedicated teacher in challenging school settings. Parents desire teachers with this level of commitment and ability. Imperfect buildings can hinder learning, like some of the features in our elementary and middle schools: windowless classrooms, improper ventilation and temperatures, the smell of sewage, spaces that disabled students cannot access, and roof leaks. Modern buildings invite kids to want to be at school and inspire the love of learning as spaces are multifunctional and adaptive for a variety of uses like allowing student gatherings, collaborative learning, creative exploration, enhanced physical activities, and provide green play areas and outdoor fields.

Additionally, the two schools are situated on Highway 160 which poses an extreme safety concern, and while front door access has been improved in recent years, it does not meet modern standards.

Bill Hudson calls the $88 million figure "disinformation." The professional assessment of ASD facilitates from RTA Architects has every deficiency documented, prioritized, and priced. This information can be found on the ASD and RTA websites. What Hudson disputes is a different RTA figure, the $29 million Urgent Tier, which is a separate argument he's entitled to make. Calling a correctly cited, fully sourced total dollar amount "disinformation", because it isn't the number he prefers, is the kind of claim that doesn't survive five minutes with the source document. I'd encourage every voter to spend those five minutes.

Voters, please be informed. Visit www.CitizensForASD.org and support our community that values education for this and future generations.

Lisa Scott

Support for 7B

Dear Editor:

I believe in making responsible financial decisions for our community, which is why I support Upper San Juan Health Service District

■ See Letters A7

Coffee & Brunch
Ride Pairing



Saturday, Oct 24 starting at 9:30am
Horse-Drawn Ride to 4 unique coffee & brunch stations crafted by Pagosa Roasters & Pagosa Pasty Co
Live music with Ron Lowe
$95 adults, $65 children 3-16, free under 3
Advanced Reservations at:
BuckarooRides.com or (720) 231-5424
700 Honey Bee Place • Pagosa Springs
Buckaroos HORSE-DRAWN RIDES

Medicare Open Enrollment
— October 15 - December 7 —
SHIP can help.
Free, unbiased, one-on-one guidance.
Understand costs and coverage
Compare your options
Complete the enrollment process
Call to Schedule Individual Counseling:
La Plata County: 970-382-6444
Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, San Juan: 970-403-6759
SHIP State Health Insurance Assistance Program
SAN JUAN BASIN AREA AGENCY ON AGING
Find You Local SHIP:
shiphelp.org
877-839-2675
SHIP is a national program of the Administration for Community Living, an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Vote YES on 5A
to build a new PK-8 School
Why Now?
WE BUILD. THEY GROW. A NEW PK-8 SCHOOL ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Waiting Costs More
- 2011 voters considered a **$49M bond** to build a new school.
- Today, **estimated project cost is $129M**
- BEST grant is **opportunity for $50M grant** to put toward the project cost
- Waiting has never made it cheaper. **Building costs have risen every year** since, and the district's **documented repair list grows about 8 percent a year.**
- ASD will **reapply for BEST grant** in spring 2027 and will require a local match which is bond funding from taxpayers.
- **Taxes will not increase until the BEST grant is received.**

Ballots are arriving in the mail
Ballots due back by Nov. 3

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.

Go to: CitizensforASD.org
for **FACTS** and **INFO** about this ballot measure and be an **INFORMED** and **EDUCATED VOTER**

Paid for by Citizens for ASD, Lisa Scott, Campaign Manager

VOTE YES FOR 7B
PSMC EMS and Hospital

Where does PSMC's money come from to buy new ambulances and equipment come from?

More than 90% of PSMC's annual revenues come from payments for medical services, while less than 10% comes from taxes and governmental grants.

Why your YES vote is important



Pagosa Springs Medical Center is operated by the Upper San Juan Health Service District. The ballot question asks voters to let the District continue keeping and using its revenues for EMS, hospital, and outpatient care without raising taxes. We're asking people to vote YES on 7B on November 3 to keep our healthcare local and strong.

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

Septic

■ Continued from front

ing that most of the increase is likely contributed to a lack of documentation with previous cases.

Green mentioned that there was "just not a lot of documentation for them in the software that we use prior to when I started."

She explained that the Water Quality Department transitioned to using the state's checklist for wastewater treatment system designs, and that previously the department was using a "jimmy-rigged" list.

She noted that the state's checklist has allowed the department to be "a lot more clear."

Green also noted that the county is currently working on defining its enforcement process concerning violations related to septic systems.

BoH member and Commissioner Warren Brown asked if the increase in code enforcement cases were specifically water quality code cases, with Green indicating yes, but reiterating that the documentation prior to her arrival "was less than stellar."

Green then began discussing the transfer-of-title inspection requirement, noting that it's "one of the most effective tools to protect public health and groundwater. Septic systems have a finite lifespan. Even without obvious failures, declining soil treatment from biomass accumulation causes slower percolation and can allow inadequately treated water to reach groundwater."

Green explained that the inspection ensures the condition of the system is evaluated at the point of a property title being transferred, "which prevents failing systems from being sold without disclosure of risk."

She also explained that it provides oversight with higher-risk properties through existing exemptions, adding that the state does not define what exemptions are possible and that the county can adjust those exemptions to meet its needs.

"There's a lot of flexibility with what we can do," she said.

Green "strongly" recommended that the BoH keep the transfer-of-title program, noting that there is a $115 permit cost associated with the program.

She added that if the BoH chooses not to keep the program, there would be a risk that failing systems could be transferred to new property owners without knowing there is an issue.

Public Health Executive Director Ashley Wilson asked if a system is identified as failing during the inspection and the purchaser still wishes to buy the property, if they would be able to do so.

Green indicated that it is still a possibility.

Wilson clarified that the transfer-of-title program simply states whether the septic system is functioning or failing, and does not inhibit the sale of the property.

Green noted that constituents can also apply for an "agreement to repair" that lets the new property owner sign a document stating they're aware that no inspection has taken place, and that any repair costs would be the buyer's responsibility.

"And it still does have to get inspected," Green said, explaining the repair agreement would be used in cases when it is not possible to inspect the system at the time of purchase.

In response to another question from Wilson, Green explained that if a property sale goes through and the owner has not applied for a repair permit on a failing system, the county would then reach out to the property owners, "and if they refuse to do it, then we start a code case, and so then we start the enforcement process."

Brown then commented that he had received a letter from an inspector in the community that indicated that that individual had performed 26 inspections in the county and 13 of those came back as failing, asking what the "benefit" is of having the transfer-of-title inspection program.

"Because I don't think we should worry about employing local folks at the cost of keeping, or introducing, a governmental requirement," he said.

Brown noted that the county does not require an inspection for heating and cooling systems or foundations when properties are transferred, suggesting that the condition of a septic system is something the buyer and seller should negotiate.

"I don't know if we're preventing anything," he added.

Green acknowledged Brown's comments about the county not inspecting foundations or heating and cooling systems, "but the problem is, this is a public health concern. It's not just your property that it affects, or your water quality. It's our entire community; it's your neighbors as well."

Green also commented that 13 of 26 inspections indicating failing systems "shows the need for this" program.

Brown mentioned that radon testing is also a health concern, but noted the county does not require radon inspections for property title transfers.

"My concern is that ... the government is putting their nose in every facet of our lives and, really, should we do that? Or, should people be responsible for their own lives?" Brown said, sug-

■ See Septic A8

Letters

■ Continued from A6

(Pagosa Springs Medical Center) Ballot Issue 7B.

A yes vote does not raise taxes. It continues Pagosa Springs Medical Center's existing authorization to keep and use the revenue it collects to support PSMC. Voters approved this authority in 2006 and again in 2016.

One financial benefit is preserving flexibility to accept grants. Grants can help pay for facility improvements and equipment that would otherwise require more local resources. They bring outside dollars into our community and help stretch the funding available for local healthcare.

PSMC currently operates as a governmental enterprise and is exempt from TABOR limits. Without the continued authorization provided by 7B, PSMC could have to decline orlimit future grant awards which would impact EMS and hospital improvements.

A no vote would not generate a tax refund. A yes vote keeps the existing authorization in place without increasing tax rateswhich makes better use of available resources to keep our healthcare local.

To me, this is a practical financial decision: preserve access to outside funding, support responsible planning, and keep existing healthcare dollars working in our community.

Please vote YES on 7B.

Steve Wagoner

Public execution

Dear Editor:

The prospect of televising an execution by firing squad as prime-time entertainment raises an unsettling question: Have we become so accustomed to violence that another person's death can be packaged as a family spectacle?

Gather the children around the television. Bring out the popcorn and soft drinks. Invite Grandma. Settle into the recliners to watch government employees prepare to shoot a restrained human being.

Imagine the educational opportunities. Parents could explain the importance of compassion and human dignity while the government demonstrates how easily those principles can be set aside. Perhaps the adults could even show the children where the household firearms are stored. Naturally, everything should remain locked away. We wouldn't want the youngsters developing an unhealthy fascination with violence while watching a state-sponsored killing.

Networks could provide expert commentary, celebrity interviews, corporate sponsors, perhaps even a halftime show. Then comes the cliffhanger:

"Don't touch that dial! We'll be right back after a brief message from our sponsor—the United States Government. Coming up next: an exclusive interview with our condemned guest, featuring his final words. You won't want to miss a moment!"

Nothing celebrates family values quite like commercializing death.

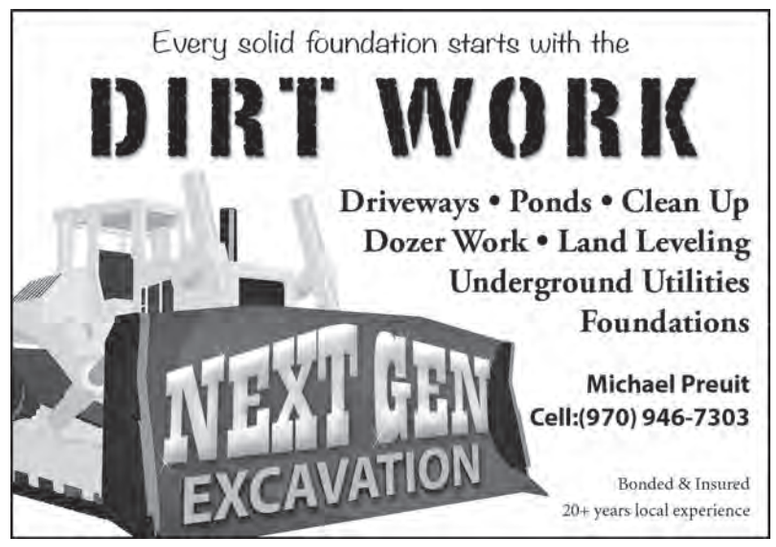
Beneath the absurdity is something profoundly disturbing. Turning an execution into public entertainment is grotesque and degrading. I am not suggesting that convicted criminals should escape punishment, nor am I dismissing the suffering of victims and their families. But when punishment becomes entertainment, justice risks becoming a spectacle of cruelty.

What does it teach children when the deliberate taking of a human life is presented with popcorn and commercial breaks? A civilized society should be able to administer justice without turning an execution into a spectator sport.

Perhaps the most frightening part is not the firing squad itself, but the possibility that millions of Americans might tune in. That prospect is more stomach-turning than anything we might see on the screen.

Enjoy the popcorn, children. Apparently, civilization has left the building.

Russ Widener







Snow

■ Continued from front

the trade winds weaken, causing less surface water to be pushed west across the Pacific and leading to warmer surface water temperatures in the eastern Pacific near the U.S. and South America.

These warmer temperatures and the changes in atmospheric circulation that they cause contribute to several meteorological patterns in the U.S., Aleska indicated, including a southward shift in the Pacific jet stream and increased activity on this southern storm track.

This pattern tends to benefit the southwestern and southern U.S., he stated, since the more southerly jet stream and increased storm activity along this track tends to bring more precipitation to these areas.

In Colorado, this tends to have the highest benefit for the southern portion of the state, commented Aleska, with the San Juan Mountains and areas nearby often receiving increased precipitation.

The impacts are more mixed in the center and north of the state, he added, with it being a coin flip whether El Niño will lead to significant precipitation increases.

The strength of an El Niño event is determined by how far the Pacific Ocean surface temperatures are above average, he stated, with stronger El Niño events being associated with warmer temperatures.

This year may be one of the strongest El Niño events on record, Aleska stated, with temperatures in the Niño 3.4 region in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific currently already surpassing the 2 degrees above average threshold that defines a very strong or super El Niño and projected to continue rising.

However, Aleska commented that a super El Niño event is not a surefire path to a heavy winter.

El Niño events like the one projected for this winter are rare, he stated, with only three — in the winters of 1982-1983, 1997-1998 and 2015-2016 — in modern records.

Of these winters, Aleska explained that only 1982-1983 resulted in a winter with significantly more snow than average, while 1997-1998 and 2015-2016 both had average amounts of snow.

This makes projecting an outcome from the current El Niño event very difficult, Aleska commented.

"The one thing we can hang our head on is a more active storm track to the south," he said. "So, there's potential that we could see more snowy storms that go down that way and more snow for the southern mountains, in the San Juans. But whether overall, the course of the whole winter, whether that's going to be above normal or near normal, that's, um, flip a coin; it could go either way in that regard."

Shawn and Arleen Prochazka, retired Air Force meteorologists who run weather information nonprofit Pagosa Weather and serve as NWS Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors for Archuleta County, added that a stronger El Niño event might be less likely to bring a heavy winter than a weaker event.

They explained that stronger El Niño events tend to shift the jet stream and storm track farther south than weaker El Niño events, potentially directing storms that would have hit southwestern Colorado in a weaker El Niño year south into New Mexico instead.

They added that the strength of the El Niño event may be reduced later in the winter and spring by a cooling pattern in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).

They indicated that this is another pattern of current turnover in the Pacific that will, in its cooling pattern, mitigate the ocean surface warming caused by El Niño, thus weakening it.

Since a weaker El Niño is frequently tied to greater precipitation in Colorado, the cooling caused by the PDO later in the winter will likely lead to increasing precipitation, they indicated.

However, they added that there are no cases of a cooling PDO occurring at the same time as a strong El Niño event in the available weather records, making the outcome more difficult to predict.

Aleska stated that, with the southern storm track, south-facing mountain slopes will likely have higher snow accumulations than north-facing ones due to the typical storm flow patterns.

He added that the impacts of these flow patterns are harder to predict at lower elevations and in valleys, although valleys with nearby southern mountains like the Gunnison valley may be shadowed from some storms.

In Pagosa, Shawn and Arleen Prochazka predict that the El Niño event will likely cause the polar front jet stream to move southward, leading to colder-than-average temperatures.

Depending on the storm patterns, they stated that these could be ideal conditions for high snow accumulations, since snow in cold conditions tends to be drier but more abundant, especially in the mountains.

However, they noted that snow volumes are also unpredictable and dependent on a number of factors.

The impacts of El Niño also extend beyond the winter, Aleska commented, with southwestern Colorado already experiencing some of them now and likely to continue experiencing them early next spring.

Aleska stated that the wet fall conditions the area is currently experiencing are a product of the El Niño event and that similar wet conditions are likely to continue into March 2027, after which forecasting suggests that the El Niño conditions will recede back toward neutral.

He indicated that these wet fall and spring conditions are typically easier to predict than the winter impacts of strong El Niño events.

Aleska stated that these predictions are panning out this fall, with September seeing significantly above-average precipitation across the region and the trend appearing likely to continue into October.

For example, he explained that the Automated Surface Observing System at the airport in Durango recorded 6.2 inches of rainfall in September, above the average rainfall of 2 inches.

"We are going into a period where we're staying active, still gonna get more moisture, and that could be the result of the strong El Niño because they tend to see more of a wetter fall and wetter spring during those strong El Niño events," Aleska said.

However, Aleska and Shawn and Arleen Prochazka cautioned that the current wet conditions and the historically strong El Niño are not a guarantee of future winter weather.

"When you hear the term super El Niño, you think like, 'Oh, we're gonna have a really good winter, really well above normal snow,'" said Aleska. "But, you can't with great certainty say that just because we only have three examples and only one of those three was a major snow year, whereas the other two were average.

"Just because it says super or it's strong doesn't mean that it's gonna be more intense. It just basically means that you're gonna have warmer temperatures in the ocean and a favored storm track down south. So, it could lead to more snow, but it's not 100 percent certain that it would end up happening."

Forecasting and further information from the NWS Grand Junction office can be accessed at www.weather.gov/gjt/.

Pagosa Weather posts information on its website, https://pagosaweather.org/, and on the organization's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PagosaWeather.

josh@pagosasun.com



Septic

■ Continued from A7

gesting again that if he was buying a property he would personally want the septic system inspected to be a part of negotiations.

He added that he is unsure if it is the government's job to say, "Oh, by the way, we're going to save you from yourself," especially if the program is not a requirement by the state for the county to have.

Green commented that the program is not a state requirement, but is a "highly recommended program."

"We're pretty regulated in Archuleta County," Brown said, indicating that he understands some of those regulations, but at some point it's time to "draw a line in the sand."

He added, "I'm just not sure that we should be the vessel requiring this."

BoH member Stacey Foss commented that the issue doesn't feel "black and white," and that requiring septic system inspections is not the same as having a foundation inspected.

"It's not a black and white conversation," she said.

BoH member and Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that there are various reasons for a septic system to fail an inspection, commenting that as a real estate agent she's been on "plenty of inspections," and not every failure is "catastrophic."

In response to a question from Medina, Green indicated the county has had the transfer-of-title inspection program since 2018.

Medina indicated that she would tend to agree with Brown on the matter, stating, "I just don't think that this is something that we need to regulate."

BoH member Jessica Cox agreed with Foss' comments in regard to having septic systems inspected being different from having a foundation inspected.

Green expressed concern that people wouldn't know they're required to repair failing septic systems, leading to more code enforcement cases.

Medina offered more comments on the matter, expressing concern about the program generating more work for the county when it is not required by the state to do so.

"I just think that we are creating more work for ourselves that's not required," she said.

Medina also acknowledged the public health concern, "but we have a lot of people in our community that know the process."

She added, "It's not like this process isn't already embedded in our community."

Brown commented that the BoH was not voting on the matter that day, with Wilson explaining that staff will summarize the board's discussion and bring back chances for the BoH to vote on at a future meeting.

Property line setbacks less than 10 feet

Green explained that the BoH also needs to decide if the Archuleta County Public Health Department should determine whether or not reductions in property line setbacks will be allowed, or if that decision should stay with the BoH.

Green mentioned that not a lot of property line setback reductions are received, mostly due to the average lot size in the county.

Following brief discussion on the matter, Brown indicated the "general consensus" form the board was to leave that determination with the BoH.

Effluent filter requirements

Green then explained that, under Colorado's Regulation 43, local public health agencies may require filters to be installed in all new septic system installs or replacements.

"Currently, we have elected to require them in all new septic tanks, or a repair where the septic tank is replaced," she said.

She noted that the filters typically cost around $100 and are readily available though multiple vendors for constituents to purchase.

She also explained that the filters are made to filter out particles from getting into the soil treatment area, "So your entire system will last longer."

Green recommended the county keep this requirement, and the board agreed.

Length of distribution laterals

The last requirement Green presented dealt with the length of distribution laterals allowed in septic system designs.

She explained that, under the regulation, the county could restrict lateral distribution lengths to 100 feet or less or, if the system is pressurized, up to 150 feet.

The BoH agreed on leaving the requirement that would allow pressurized systems to have laterals up to 150 feet in length, and up to 100 feet in non-pressurized systems.

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Renovation

■ Continued from front

with the river corridor."

He noted he thinks that this is "a great opportunity to orient it towards the river" and the Riverwalk trail along it.

Later in the meeting, O'Dell asked for clarification on if the board would like to see more orientation toward the Riverwalk.

Pitcher responded, "I'd like to see more orientation towards the river, if you could negotiate that."

During public comment, Jake Garcia, who stated that he works for the owner, added that "everything proposed sounds great" and that he "takes pride in helping to improve the community."

He added, "Hopefully, we will have your blessing."

When a motion was made to approve the sketch design for the building and the final design for the parking lot, it was seconded and approved unanimously by the board.

However, the approval did come with certain conditions that will need to be met when the applicant gets to the next stages of the approval process of the application.

Some of those conditions include:

• Providing a survey depicting the floodplain and providing a cost estimate for the building renovations.

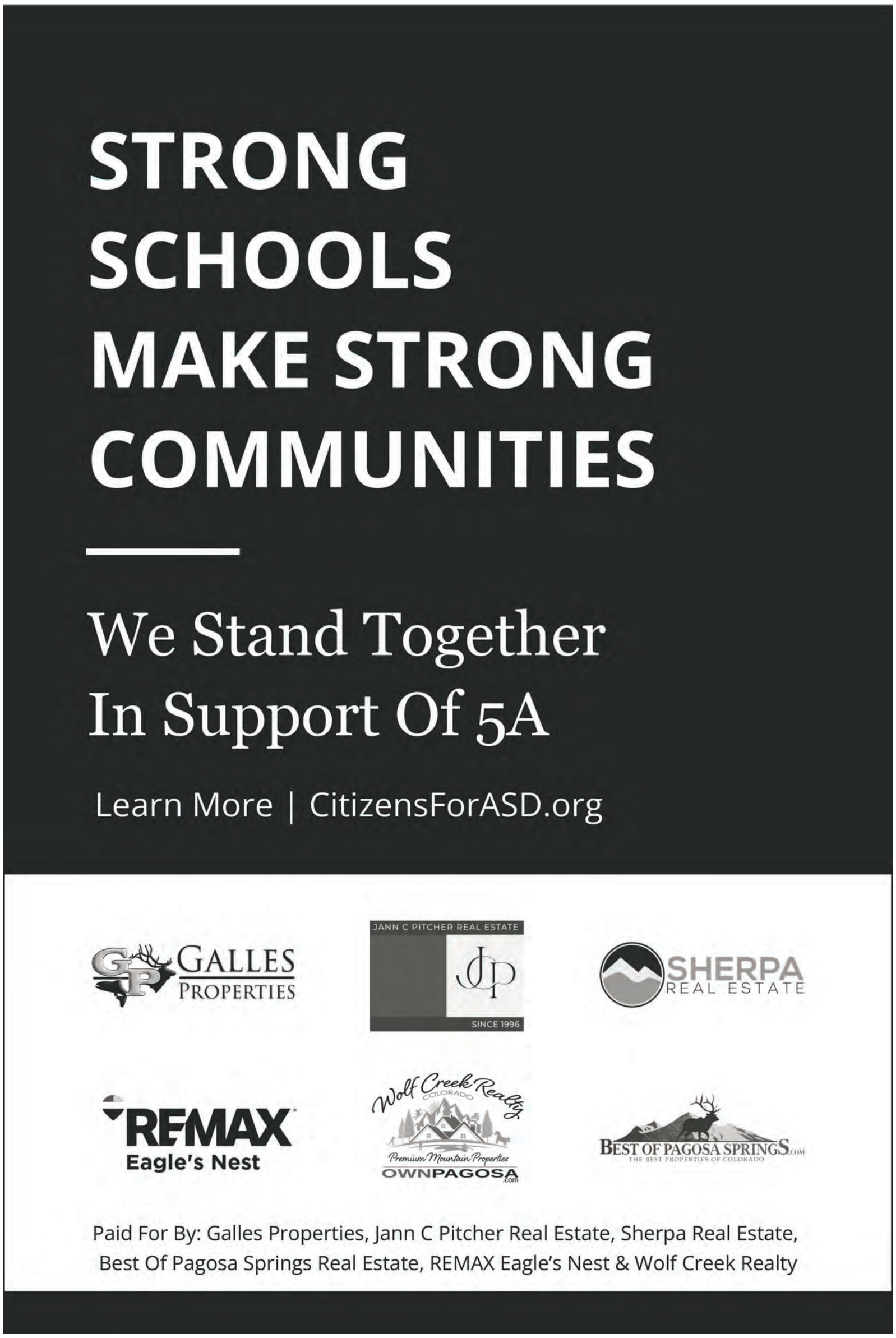
• Submittal of an erosion-control plan, as well as a grading and drainage plan.

• Providing landscaping and light management plans.

Board member Mike Torres said, "I'm glad that this building is getting a facelift. It really needed a facelift."

Ash added, "It's a pretty unique space."

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2026 Statewide Ballot Issues

The Colorado Constitution (Article V, Section 1(7.3)) requires the Colorado Legislative Council to publish the ballot title and legal text of each statewide ballot measure. A "YES/FOR" vote on any ballot issue is a vote in favor of changing current law or existing circumstances, and a "NO/AGAINST" vote on any ballot issue is a vote against changing current law or existing circumstances.

Amendment 81

Law Enforcement Communication with Federal Immigration Authorities

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring law enforcement to notify the department of homeland security when a person is charged with either a violent crime or any crime if the person has a prior felony conviction if law enforcement cannot determine that the person is lawfully present in the United States?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add section 17 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 17. Notification requirements for felons and violent offenders unlawfully present in the United States

(1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "Law enforcement" means:

(a) A certified peace officer described in law, who is employed by a law enforcement agency;

(b) A correctional officer; or

(c) An attorney or investigator who is employed by a district attorney.

(2) **Requirement to notify upon charging.** Notwithstanding any other provision of Colorado law, law enforcement shall notify the federal department of homeland security within seventy-two hours after charging the person with a crime if:

(a) The person is not lawfully present in the United States or the status of the person's lawful presence is unknown after a reasonable attempt to determine it has been made by law enforcement; and

(b) Either:

(I) The person is charged with a crime of violence as defined by Colorado statute; or

(II) The person has been convicted of a prior felony.

(3) Reasonable effort required. Law enforcement has a duty to make a reasonable effort to determine whether a person charged who would be the subject of a notification under this section is lawfully present in the United States.

Amendment 82

Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating new law granting the right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses and for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas to consumers?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** section 17 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 17. Right to natural gas.

(1) Consumers have the right to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses throughout the state.

(2) Distributors and utilities have the right to sell natural gas for homes or businesses.

Amendment 83

Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution creating a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest fish and wildlife by traditional methods, including all species of fish and wildlife managed by the state except non-game species, endangered species, or any species that is illegal to hunt under federal law, and, in connection therewith, establishing hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing fish and wildlife populations; and preserving the right of the state to regulate hunting, fishing, and wildlife management if necessary for sound scientific wildlife conservation and management, public safety, or to preserve the future of hunting and fishing opportunities for all species?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** Section 13 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 13. Right to fish and hunt.

(1) There is established a right of the people of Colorado to hunt, fish, and take fish and wildlife. The right includes hunting, fishing, and harvesting fish and wildlife by the use of traditional methods. The right applies to all species of fish and wildlife managed by the state except nongame species, endangered species, or any species that is illegal to hunt under federal law.

(2) The policy of the state of Colorado is that hunting and fishing are the preferred means of responsibly managing fish and wildlife populations.

(3) This section is not intended to authorize trespass upon private property or to modify any provision of statutes relating to trespass or property rights.

(4) This section does not limit the authority of an agency of the state of Colorado or the general assembly to regulate hunting, fishing, and wildlife management if the law is necessary for sound scientific wildlife conservation and management, public safety, or to preserve the future of hunting and fishing opportunities for all species statewide.

Amendment 84

Mail Ballot Voter Identification

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution requiring a voter to sign and include the last four digits of their social security number or their Colorado driver's license or identification card number on the outside of their mail ballot for any federal or state election, and, in connection therewith, allowing the voter to correct missing or incorrect information, including with alternative forms of identification; and prohibiting a county clerk and recorder from counting the mail ballot unless the problem is fixed?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** Section 13 to article VII as follows:

Section 13. Voter Authentication

(1) For any federal or statewide election, a voter is required to affix their signature and include either the last four digits of their social security number or Colorado real identification number or Colorado real identification driver's license number, as codified in 49 U.S.C. sec. 30301 note or its successor section and sections 42-2-101, 42-2-301, and 42-2-402 or their successor sections, on the self-affirmation of a returned mail ballot. A voter may alternatively include the last four digits of another form of Colorado identification that meets the requirements of the Federal Real ID Act of 2005 or successor legislation. If the voter fails to fill out all or part of the required affirmation, or if an election judge is unable to confirm that the information provided matches the voter's information contained in the statewide voter registration database, the county clerk and recorder or other designated election official must send notice to the voter informing them of the process to correct the discrepancy. The county clerk and recorder shall not count the ballot until the discrepancy is corrected.

(2) A discrepancy may be corrected by providing a copy of the voter's identification in subsection (1) of this section, US passport, US Military Identification card, or tribal photo identification, in person or digitally, to the county clerk and recorder or other designated election official.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, a voter who is provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under section (b)(2)(B)(ii) of the federal "Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act", 52 U.S.C. sec. 20102 et seq., may provide any form of identification deemed acceptable under section 1-1-104 (19.5) or its successor to correct a discrepancy.

Amendment 85

Plain Language Ballot Titles

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning ballot question language, and, in connection therewith, requiring all state and local ballot questions to be written in plain language and at no more than an 8th grade reading level and prohibiting a state statute from requiring language that conflicts with these requirements in ballot questions for citizen-initiated measures?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the state of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Constitution Article V, Section 1, **add** (5.6) as follows:

(5.6) Ballot questions shall be in plain language at no more than an eighth-grade reading level. No statute may interfere with this provision by mandating language preceding, following, or in a ballot title of an initiative.

Amendment 86

Requirements for Off-Cycle Congressional Redistricting

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado Constitution concerning congressional redistricting, and, in connection therewith, reenacting the current process for congressional redistricting in the Colorado Constitution and prohibiting modifications to a final map unless at least three public meetings are held, the modifications do not have the effect of dividing communities of interest or purposefully favoring one political party, and are approved by the congressional redistricting commission and the Colorado Supreme Court?

Text of Measure:

Be it enacted by the People of the state of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44 as follows:

Section 44. Representatives in congress - congressional districts – commission created.

(1) Declaration of the people. The people of the state of Colorado find and declare that:

(a) The practice of political gerrymandering, whereby congressional districts are purposefully drawn to favor one political party or incumbent politician over another, must end;

(b) The public's interest in prohibiting political gerrymandering is best achieved by creating a new and independent commission that is politically balanced, provides representation to voters not affiliated with either of the state's two largest parties, and utilizes nonpartisan legislative staff to draw maps;

(c) The redistricting commission should set district lines by ensuring constitutionally guaranteed voting rights, including the protection of minority group voting, as well as fair and effective representation of constituents using politically neutral criteria;

(d) Competitive elections for members of the united states house of representatives provide voters with a meaningful choice among candidates, promote a healthy democracy, help ensure that constituents receive fair and effective representation, and contribute to the political well-being of key communities of interest and political subdivisions;

(e) For years certain political interests opposed competitive districts in Colorado because they are primarily concerned about maintaining their own political power at the expense of fair and effective representation; and

(f) Citizens want and deserve an inclusive and meaningful congressional redistricting process that provides the public with the ability to be heard as redistricting maps are drawn, to be able to watch the witnesses who deliver testimony and the redistricting commission's deliberations, and to have their written comments considered before any proposed map is voted upon by the commission as the final map.

(2) Congressional districts - commission created. There is hereby created the independent congressional redistricting commission. The commission shall divide the state into as many congressional districts as there are representatives in congress apportioned to this state by the congress of the united states for the election of one representative to congress from each district. When a new apportionment is made by congress, the commission shall divide the state into congressional districts accordingly.

(3) Definitions. As used in this section and in sections 44.1 through 44.6 of this article v, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Commission" means the independent congressional redistricting commission created in subsection (2) of this section.

(b) (I) "Community of interest" means any group in Colorado that shares one or more substantial interests that may be the subject of federal legislative action, is composed of a reasonably proximate population, and thus should be considered for inclusion within a single district for purposes of ensuring its fair and effective representation.

(II) Such interests include but are not limited to matters reflecting:

(A) Shared public policy concerns of urban, rural, agricultural, industrial, or trade areas; and

(B) Shared public policy concerns such as education, employment, environment, public health, transportation, water needs and supplies, and issues of demonstrable regional significance.

(III) Groups that may comprise a community of interest include racial, ethnic, and language Minority groups, subject to compliance with subsections (1)(b) and (4)(b) of section 44.3 of this article V, which subsections protect against the denial or abridgement of the right to vote due to a person's race or language minority group.

(IV) "Community of interest" does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(c) "Race" or "racial" means a category of race or ethnic origin documented in the federal decennial census.

(d) "Redistricting year" means the year following the year in which the federal decennial census is taken.

(e) "Staff" or "nonpartisan staff" means the staff of the general assembly's legislative council and office of legislative legal services, or their successor offices, who are assigned to assist the commission by the directors of those offices in accordance with section 44.2 of this article v.

(4) Adjustment of dates. If any date prescribed in sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article v falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Section 2. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.1 as follows:

Section 44.1. Commission composition and appointment - vacancies. (1) After each federal decennial census of the United States, the members of the commission shall be appointed and convened as prescribed in this section.

(2) The commission consists of twelve members who have the following qualifications:

(a) Commissioners must be registered electors who voted in both of the previous two general elections in Colorado;

(b) Commissioners must either have been unaffiliated with any political party or have been affiliated with the same political party for a consecutive period of no less than five years at the time of the application; and

(c) No person may be appointed to or serve on the commission if he or she:

(I) Is or has been a candidate for federal elective office within the last five years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section;

(II) Is or has been, within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section, compensated by a member of, or a campaign committee advocating the election of a candidate to, the united states house of representatives or the United States senate;

(III) Is or has been, within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section, an elected public official at the federal, state, county, or municipal level in Colorado;

(IV) Is or has been, within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section, an elected political party official above the precinct level in Colorado or an employee of a political party;

(V) Is a member of the commission responsible for dividing the state into senatorial and representative districts of the general assembly; or

(VI) Is or has been a professional lobbyist registered to lobby with the state of Colorado, with any municipality in Colorado, or at the federal level within the last three years preceding the date on which applications for appointment to the commission are due under subsection (4) of this section.

(3) (a) By August 10 of the year prior to the redistricting year, nonpartisan staff shall, after holding one or more public hearings, prepare an application form that will allow appointing authorities to evaluate a person's experience and qualifications and make such application available on the general assembly's website or comparable means of communicating with the public.

(b) The application form must clearly state the legal obligations and expectations of potential appointees. Information required of applicants must include, but is not necessarily limited to, professional background, party affiliation, a description of past political activity, a list of all political and civic organizations to which the applicant has belonged within the previous five years, and whether the applicant meets the qualifications stated in subsection (2) of this section. In addition, the application form must require the applicant to explain why they want to serve on the commission and afford the applicant an opportunity to make a statement about how they will promote consensus among commissioners if appointed to the commission. Applicants may also choose to include up to four letters of recommendation with their application.

(4) By November 10 of the year prior to the redistricting year, any person who seeks to serve on the commission must submit a completed application to nonpartisan staff. All applications are public records and must be posted promptly after receipt on the general assembly's website or comparable means of communicating with the public.

(5) (a) No later than January 5 of the redistricting year, the chief justice of the Colorado supreme court shall designate a panel to review the applications. The panel must consist of the three justices or judges who most recently retired from the Colorado supreme court or the Colorado court of appeals, appointed sequentially starting with the most recent justice or judge to retire who has been affiliated with the same political party or unaffiliated with any political party for the two years prior to appointment; except that no appointee, within two years prior to appointment, shall have been affiliated with the same political party as a justice or judge already appointed to the panel. If any of the three justices or judges who most recently retired from the Colorado supreme court or the Colorado court of appeals is unable or unwilling to serve on the panel or has been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with a political party already represented on the panel, then the chief justice shall appoint the next justice or judge who most recently retired from the Colorado supreme court or the Colorado court of appeals and who has not been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with the same political party as any justice or judge already appointed to the panel. If, after considering all justices and judges who have retired from the Colorado supreme court and the Colorado court of appeals, fewer than three eligible participants for the panel have been identified who are able and willing to serve, the chief justice shall appoint the most recently retired district court judge who has not been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with the same political party as any previous appointee to the panel and who accepts such appointment. No justice or judge shall serve both on this panel and the panel assisting in the process of choosing members of the commission responsible for dividing the state into state senate and state house of representatives districts.

(b) All decisions of the panel regarding the selection of applicants pursuant to this section require the affirmative approval of all three members of the panel.

(c) the general assembly shall prescribe by law the compensation of members of the panel. Nonpartisan staff shall assist the panel in carrying out its duties.

(6) After applications are submitted, nonpartisan staff, with the cooperation and assistance of the secretary of state, shall make an objective and factual finding based on, to the extent possible, publicly available information, including information contained in the application and information contained within the records maintained by the secretary of state, whether each applicant meets the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section. No later than January 11 of the redistricting year, nonpartisan staff shall make its findings publicly available and notify the applicants of the staff's finding. If the staff finds that an applicant is not eligible, then the staff shall include the reasons in its finding.

(7) By January 18 of the redistricting year, the panel, in a public meeting, shall randomly select by lot from all of the applicants who were found to meet the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section the names of three hundred applicants who are affiliated with the state's largest political party, three hundred applicants who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party, and four hundred fifty applicants who are not affiliated with any political party, or such lesser number as there are total applicants who meet the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section for each of those groups.

(8) (a) In one or more public hearings conducted on or before February 1 of the redistricting

year, after reviewing the applications of the applicants selected in accordance with subsection (7) of this section, the panel shall identify fifty applicants who are affiliated with the state's largest political party, fifty applicants who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party, and fifty applicants who are unaffiliated with any political party and who best demonstrate:
(I) Experience in organizing, representing, advocating for, adjudicating the interests of, or actively participating in groups, organizations, or associations in Colorado; and
(II) Relevant analytical skills, the ability to be impartial, and the ability to promote consensus on the commission.
(b) No later than February 1 of the redistricting year, from the applicants identified in subsection (8)(a) of this section, the panel shall choose by lot six applicants to serve on the commission as follows:
(I) Two commissioners who are not affiliated with any political party;
(II) Two commissioners who are affiliated with the state's largest political party; and
(III) two commissioners who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party.
(c) In the process of choosing applicants by lot for appointment to the commission, no applicant whose name is chosen may be appointed if he or she is registered to vote in a congressional district that is already represented on the commission; except that, when all then-existing congressional districts in Colorado are represented on the commission, a congressional district may be represented by a second commissioner. No congressional district may be represented by more than two commissioners. Any persons whose names are chosen but duplicate a congressional district's representation on the commission and are not appointed to the commission shall be eligible for appointment pursuant to subsections (9) and (10) of this section.
(9) (a) by February 16 of the redistricting year, the majority leader of the state senate, the minority leader of the state senate, the majority leader of the state house of representatives, and the minority leader of the state house of representatives shall each select a pool of ten applicants who are affiliated with one of the state's two largest political parties from all applications submitted to nonpartisan staff and notify the panel of their selections.
(b) as determined by the legislative leaders in selecting their respective pools, the applicants selected for each pool must meet the qualifications set forth in subsection (2) of this section and demonstrate the qualities listed in subsection (8)(a) of this section.
(c) For each congressional district not represented by a commissioner appointed pursuant to subsections (8)(b) and (8)(c) of this section, each pool must consist of at least one applicant who is registered to vote in that congressional district.
(d) If there is an insufficient number of available applicants that meet the requirements of subsection (9)(b) of this section to select any complete pool, then the pool must consist of only those applicants who meet those requirements.
(10) By March 1 of the redistricting year, the panel of judges shall select, in such order as the panel determines, one commissioner from each legislative leader's pool of applicants and two commissioners from those applicants who are not affiliated with any political party and whose names were randomly selected by lot pursuant to subsection (7) of this section. The panel of judges must ensure that the commission includes four commissioners who are not affiliated with any political party, four commissioners who are affiliated with the state's largest political party, and four Commissioners who are affiliated with the state's second largest political party. The panel of judges may interview applicants before making the appointments. In selecting applicants, the panel shall, in addition to considering applicants' other qualifications:
(a) To the extent possible, ensure that the commission reflects Colorado's racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity;
(b) Ensure that at least one commissioner is registered to vote in each congressional district but no more than two commissioners are registered to vote in any single congressional district;
(c) Ensure that at least one commissioner resides west of the continental divide; and
(d) Ensure that all commissioners meet the qualifications set forth in subsection (2) of this section and demonstrate the qualities listed in subsection (8)(a) of this section.
(11) (a) A commissioner's position on the commission will be deemed vacant if he or she, having been appointed as a registered elector who is not affiliated with a political party, affiliates with a political party before the supreme court has approved a plan pursuant to section 44.5 of this article V. A commissioner's position on the commission will also be deemed vacant if he or she, having been affiliated with one of the state's two largest political parties at the time of appointment, affiliates with a different political party or becomes unaffiliated with any political party before the supreme court has approved a plan pursuant to section 44.5 of this article V.
(b) Any vacancy on the commission, including one that occurs due to death, resignation, removal, failure to meet the qualifications of appointment, refusal or inability to accept an appointment, or otherwise, must be filled as soon as possible by the designated appointing authority from the designated pool of eligible applicants for that commissioner's position and in the same manner as the originally chosen commissioner; except that no commissioner chosen to fill a vacancy will be bypassed for appointment if all congressional districts are already represented on the commission.
(12) For purposes of this section, the state's two largest political parties shall be determined by the number of registered electors affiliated with each political party in the state according to voter registration data published by the secretary of state for the earliest day in January of the redistricting year for which such data is published.

SECTION 3. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 44 of article V, **add** (1.5), as follows:
(1.5) Upon adoption and approval of the final plan, no plan may be modified for the 2028 congressional election or thereafter except with the approval of the congressional commission and adoption by the Colorado Supreme Court. In reviewing the plan, the Commission must hold at least three public meetings and must not adopt any plan that has the effect of dividing communities of interest or purposefully favoring one political party.

Section 4. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.2 as follows:
44.2 Commission organization - procedures - transparency - voting requirements.
(1) Initial organization, officers, procedures, rules, and transparency. (a) The governor shall convene the commission no later than march 15 of the redistricting year and appoint a temporary chairperson from the commission's members. Upon convening, the commission shall elect a chair and a vice-chair, who are not members of the same political party, and other such officers as it determines.
(b) The director of research of the legislative council and the director of the office of legislative legal services, or the directors of successor nonpartisan offices of the general assembly, shall appoint nonpartisan staff from their respective offices as needed to assist the commission and the panel of judges as described in section 44.1 of this article v. Nonpartisan staff shall acquire and prepare all necessary resources, including computer hardware, software, and demographic, geographic, and political databases, as far in advance as necessary to enable the commission to begin its work immediately upon convening.
(c) The commission may retain legal counsel in all actions and proceedings in connection with the performance of its powers, duties, and functions, including representation of the commission before any court.
(d) The general assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds for the payment of the expenses of the commission, the compensation and expenses of nonpartisan staff, and the compensation and expenses of the panel of judges as described in section 44.1 of this article v. Members of the commission shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses and may also receive such per diem allowance as may be established by the general assembly. Subject to available appropriations, hardware and software necessary for the development of plans may, at the request of any commissioner, be provided to the commissioner. The commission and its staff must have access to statistical information compiled by the state and its political subdivisions as necessary for its duties. State agencies and political subdivisions shall comply with requests from the commission and its staff for such statistical information.
(e) The commission shall adopt rules to govern its administration and operation. The commission must provide at least seventy-two hours of advance public notice of all proposed rules prior to consideration for adoption; except that proposed rules may be amended during commission deliberations without such advance notice of specific, related amendments. Neither the commission's procedural rules nor its mapping decisions are subject to the "state administrative procedure act", article 4 of title 24, C.R.S., or any successor statute. Rules must include but need not be limited to the following:
(I) The hearing process and review of maps submitted for its consideration;
(II) Maintenance of a record of the commission's activities and proceedings, including a record of written and oral testimony received, and of the commission's directions to nonpartisan staff on proposed changes to any plan and the commission's rationale for such changes;
(III) The process for removing commissioners for participating in communications prohibited under this section;
(IV) The process for recommending changes to plans submitted to the commission by nonpartisan staff; and
(V) The adoption of a statewide meeting and hearing schedule, including the necessary elements of electronic attendance at a commission hearing.
(2) Voting requirements. A simple majority of the appointed commissioners may approve rules and procedural decisions. The election of the commission's chair and vice-chair requires the affirmative vote of at least eight commissioners, including the affirmative vote of at least one commissioner who is unaffiliated with any political party. Removal of any commissioner as provided in this section requires the affirmative vote of at least eight commissioners, including the affirmative vote of at least two commissioners who are unaffiliated with any political party. Adoption of the final plan for submission to the supreme court and the adoption of a revised plan after a plan is returned to the commission from the supreme court requires the affirmative vote of at least eight commissioners, including the affirmative vote of at least two commissioners who are unaffiliated with any political party. The commission shall not vote upon a final plan until at least seventy-two hours after it has been proposed to the commission in a public meeting or at least seventy-two hours after it has been amended by the commission in a public meeting, whichever occurs later; except that commissioners may unanimously waive the seventy-two hour requirement.
(3) Public involvement - hearing process. (a) all Colorado residents, including individual commissioners, may present proposed redistricting maps or written comments, or both, for the commission's consideration.
(b) The commission must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide opportunities for Colorado residents to present testimony at hearings held throughout the state. The commission shall not approve a redistricting map until at least three hearings have been held in each congressional district, including at least one hearing that is held in a location west of the continental divide and at least one hearing that is held in a location east of the continental divide and either south of El Paso county's southern boundary or east of Arapahoe county's eastern boundary. No gathering of commissioners can be considered a hearing for this purpose unless it is attended, in person or electronically, by at least ten commissioners. The commission shall establish by rule the necessary elements of electronic attendance at a commission hearing.
(c) The commission shall maintain a website or comparable means of communicating with the public through which any Colorado resident may submit proposed maps or written comments, or both, without attending a hearing of the commission.
(d) The commission shall publish all written comments pertaining to redistricting on its website or comparable means of communicating with the public as well as the name of the Colorado resident submitting such comments. If the commission or nonpartisan staff have a substantial basis to believe that the person submitting such comments has not truthfully or accurately identified himself or herself, the commission need not consider and need not publish such comments but must notify the commenter in writing of this fact. The commission may withhold comments, in whole or in part, from the website or comparable means of communicating with the public that do not relate to redistricting maps, policies, or communities of interest.
(e) The commission shall provide simultaneous access to the regional hearings by broadcasting them via its website or comparable means of communicating with the public and maintain an archive of such hearings for online public review.
(4) Ethical obligations - transparency - lobbyist reporting. (a) commissioners are guardians of the public trust and are subject to antibribery and abuse of public office requirements as provided in parts 3 and 4 of article 8 of title 18, C.R.S., as amended, or any successor statute.
(b) To ensure transparency in the redistricting process:
(I) (a) the commission and the commissioners are subject to open meetings requirements as provided in part 4 of article 6 of title 24, C.R.S., as amended, or any successor statute.
(b) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b)(I)(D) of this section, a commissioner shall not communicate with nonpartisan staff on the mapping of congressional districts unless the communication is during a public meeting or hearing of the commission.
(c) Except for public input and comment, nonpartisan staff shall not have any communications about the content or development of any plan outside of public hearings with anyone except other staff members. Nonpartisan staff shall report to the commission any attempt by anyone to exert influence over the staff's role in the drafting of plans.
(d) One or more nonpartisan staff may be designated to communicate with commissioners regarding administrative matters, the definition and scope of which shall be determined by the commission.
(e) Any commissioner who participates in a communication prohibited in this section must be removed from the commission, and such vacancy must be filled within seven days.
(II) The commission, each commissioner, and nonpartisan staff are subject to open records requirements as provided in part 2 of article 72 of title 24, C.R.S., as amended, or any successor statute; except that maps in draft form and not submitted to the commission are not public records subject to disclosure. Work product and communications among nonpartisan staff are subject to disclosure once a plan is submitted to the supreme court.
(III) Persons who contract for or receive compensation for advocating to the commission, to one or more commissioners, or to the nonpartisan staff for the adoption or rejection of any map, amendment to a map, mapping approach, or manner of compliance with any of the mapping criteria specified in section 44.3 of this article v are lobbyists who must disclose to the secretary of state any compensation contracted for, compensation received, and the person or entity contracting or paying for their lobbying services. Such disclosure must be made no later than seventy-two hours after the earlier of each instance of such lobbying or any payment of such compensation. The secretary of state shall publish on the secretary of state's website or comparable means of communicating with the public the names of such lobbyists as well as the compensation received and the persons or entities for whom they work within twenty-four hours of receiving such information. The secretary of state shall adopt rules to facilitate the complete and prompt reporting required by this subsection (4)(b)(III) as well as a complaint process to address any lobbyist's failure to report a full and accurate disclosure, which complaint must be heard by an administrative law judge, whose decision may be appealed to the court of appeals.

SECTION 5. In the constitution of the state of Colorado article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.3 as follows:
Section 44.3. Criteria for determinations of congressional districts - definition. (1) in adopting a congressional redistricting plan, the commission shall:
(a) Make a good-faith effort to achieve precise mathematical population equality between districts, justifying each variance, no matter how small, as required by the constitution of the united states. Districts must be composed of contiguous geographic areas;
(b) Comply with the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965", 52 U.S.C. sec. 10301, as amended.
(2) (a) as much as is reasonably possible, the commission's plan must preserve whole communities of interest and whole political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, and towns.
(b) Districts must be as compact as is reasonably possible.
(3) (a) Thereafter, the commission shall, to the extent possible, maximize the number of politically competitive districts.
(b) In its hearings in various locations in the state, the commission shall solicit evidence relevant to competitiveness of elections in Colorado and shall assess such evidence in evaluating proposed maps.
(c) When the commission approves a plan, or when nonpartisan staff submits a plan in the absence of the commission's approval of a plan as provided in section 44.4 of this article v, the nonpartisan staff shall, within seventy-two hours of such action, make publicly available, and include in the commission's record, a report to demonstrate how the plan reflects the evidence presented to, and the findings concerning, the extent to which competitiveness in district elections is fostered consistent with the other criteria set forth in this section.
(d) For purposes of this subsection (3), "competitive" means having a reasonable potential for the party affiliation of the district's representative to change at least once between federal decennial censuses. Competitiveness may be measured by factors such as a proposed district's past election results, a proposed district's political party registration data, and evidence-based analyses of proposed districts.
(4) No map may be approved by the commission or given effect by the supreme court if:
(a) It has been drawn for the purpose of protecting one or more incumbent members, or one or more declared candidates, of the united states house of representatives or any political party; or
(b) It has been drawn for the purpose of or results in the denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen to vote on account of that person's race or membership in a language minority group, including diluting the impact of that racial or language minority group's electoral influence.

SECTION 6. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.4, as follows:
Section 44.4. Preparation, amendment, and approval of plans - public hearings and Participation. (1) the commission shall begin by considering a plan, created by nonpartisan staff alone, to be known as the "preliminary plan". The preliminary plan must be presented and published no earlier than thirty days and no later than forty-five days after the commission has convened or the necessary census data are available, whichever is later. Within the first twenty days after the commission has convened, any member of the public and any member of the commission may submit written comments to nonpartisan staff on the creation of the preliminary plan and on communities of interest that require representation in one or more specific areas of the state. Nonpartisan staff shall consider such comments in creating the preliminary plan and such comments must be part of the record of the commission's activities and proceedings. At the first public hearing at which the preliminary plan is presented, nonpartisan staff shall explain how the plan was created, how the plan addresses the categories of public comments received, and how the plan complies with the criteria prescribed in section 44.3 of this article V.
(2) By July 7 of the redistricting year, the commission shall complete public hearings on the preliminary plan in several places throughout the state in accordance with section 44.2 of this article V.
(3) Subsequent to hearings on the preliminary plan, nonpartisan staff shall prepare, publish online, and present to the commission no fewer than three plans, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section. These plans will be known as the "staff plans" and must be named and numbered sequentially for purposes of subsection (6) of this section. Staff plans must be prepared, published online, and presented in accordance with a timetable established by the commission; except that each staff plan must be presented to the commission no fewer than ten days after the presentation of any previous staff plan and no fewer than twenty-four hours after it has been published online. If the commission fails to establish a timetable for the presentation of staff plans within ten days after the completion of hearings on the preliminary plan, nonpartisan staff shall establish such timetable. Nonpartisan staff shall keep each plan confidential until it is published online or by a comparable means of communicating with the public using generally available technologies. The commission may provide direction, if approved by at least eight commissioners including at least one commissioner unaffiliated with any political party, for the development of staff plans through the adoption of standards, guidelines, or methodologies to which nonpartisan staff shall adhere, including standards, guidelines, or methodologies to be used to evaluate a plan's competitiveness, consistent with section 44.3 (3)(d) of this article v. In preparing all staff plans, nonpartisan staff shall also consider public testimony and public comments received by the commission that are consistent with the criteria specified in section 44.3 of this article V.
(4) Any commissioner or group of commissioners may request nonpartisan staff to prepare additional plans or amendments to plans. Any such request must be made in a public hearing of the commission but does not require commission approval. Plans or amendments developed in response to such requests are separate from staff plans for purposes of subsection (6) of this section.
(5) (a) The commission may adopt a final plan at any time after presentation of the first staff plan, in which case nonpartisan staff does not need to prepare or present additional staff plans.
(b) No later than September 1 of the redistricting year, the commission shall adopt a final plan, which must then be submitted to the supreme court for its review and determination in accordance with section 44.5 of this article V.
(c) The commission may adjust the deadlines specified in this section if conditions outside of the commission's control require such an adjustment to ensure adopting a final plan as required by this subsection (5).
(d) The commission may grant nonpartisan staff the authority to make technical de minimis adjustments to the adopted plan prior to its submission to the supreme court.
(6) If for any reason the commission does not adopt a final plan by the date specified in subsection (5) of this section, then nonpartisan staff shall submit the unamended third staff plan to the supreme court.

SECTION 7. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, article V, **repeal and reenact** section 44.5, as follows:
Section 44.5. Supreme court review. (1) the supreme court shall review the submitted plan and determine whether the plan complies with the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this article v. The court's review and determination shall take precedence over other matters before the court. The supreme court shall adopt rules for such proceedings and for the production and presentation of supportive evidence for such plan. Any legal arguments concerning such plan must be submitted to the supreme court pursuant to the schedule established by the court.
(2) The supreme court shall approve the plan submitted unless it finds that the commission or nonpartisan staff, in the case of a staff plan submitted in the absence of a commission-approved plan, abused its discretion in applying or failing to apply the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this article V, in light of the record before the commission. The supreme court may consider any maps submitted to the commission in assessing whether the commission or nonpartisan staff, in the case of a staff plan submitted in the absence of a commission-approved plan, abused its discretion.
(3) if the supreme court determines that the submitted plan constitutes an abuse of discretion in applying or failing to apply the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this article v, in light of the record before the commission, the supreme court shall return the plan to the commission with the court's reasons for disapproval.
(4) (a) By November 1 of the redistricting year, the supreme court shall approve the plan submitted or return the plan to the commission.
(b) If the court returns the plan to the commission, the commission shall have twelve days to

hold a commission hearing that includes public testimony and to return an adopted plan that resolves the court's reasons for disapproval.
(c) if the commission fails to adopt and return a plan to the court within twelve days, nonpartisan staff shall have an additional three days to prepare a plan that resolves the court's reasons for disapproval and return it to the court for approval.
(d) The supreme court shall review the revised plan in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.
(5) The supreme court shall approve a plan for the redrawing of congressional districts no later than December 15 of the redistricting year. The court shall order that such plan be filed with the secretary of state no later than such date.
SECTION 8. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, article v, **repeal and reenact** section 44.6, as follows:
Section 44.6. Severability. If any provision of sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article v is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, or if any application of these sections is found by such a court to be unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the remaining provisions of these sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. The provisions of sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article V are deemed and declared severable.

Amendment 87
Graduated Income Tax

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado constitution or Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado constitution and Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.
Ballot Title:
SHALL STATE TAXES BE INCREASED $2.7 BILLION ANNUALLY, IN ORDER TO INCREASE OR IMPROVE LEVELS OF PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND A CHANGE TO THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES REPEALING EXISTING LAW AND CREATING NEW LAW TO REPLACE THE UNIFORM STATE INCOME TAX RATE WITH A GRADUATED INCOME TAX STRUCTURE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AMENDING THE TAXPAYER'S BILL OF RIGHTS TO ELIMINATE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ALL TAXABLE NET INCOME TO BE TAXED AT ONE RATE WITH NO ADDED TAX ON INCOME; ESTABLISHING VARIOUS INCOME TAX RATES BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF TAXABLE INCOME EARNED BY INDIVIDUALS, ESTATES, TRUSTS, AND CORPORATIONS, WHILE MAINTAINING THE CURRENT 4.4% TAX ON INCOME FROM THE SALE OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE, WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE ESTIMATED CHANGE IN INCOME TAXES OWED BY INDIVIDUALS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE; AND AUTHORIZING THE STATE TO RETAIN AND SPEND ANY INCREASED REVENUE FROM THE NEW TAX STRUCTURE, AS A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE, TO SUPPLEMENT CURRENT LEVELS OF FUNDING FOR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS?

Amendment 87
Change in Income Taxes Owed by Income Category

Income Categories	Current Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Average Income Tax Owed	Proposed Change in Average Income Tax Owed if Passed + or -
$25,000 or less	$59	$50	-$9
$25,001 - $50,000	$751	$632	-$119
$50,001 - $100,000	$1,877	$1,666	-$210
$100,001 - $200,000	$4,126	$3,828	-$298
$200,001 - $500,000	$9,344	$9,019	-$325
$500,001 - $1,000,000	$19,288	$18,963	-$325
$1,000,001 - $2,000,000	$29,432	$34,196	+$4,764
$2,000,001 - $5,000,000	$41,196	$55,110	+$13,914

Income categories use adjusted gross income reported to the federal Internal Revenue Service.
Text of Measure:
Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration
(1) The people of the state of Colorado find, determine, and declare that:
(a) Colorado taxpayers are entitled to a fair and equitable tax system that recognizes the affordability challenges facing working families, promotes a vibrant statewide economy, and adequately supports our public education, health care, and child care systems and other essential public services available to all Coloradans;
(b) Colorado's current flat income tax system, unlike the graduated income tax system at the federal level and in 27 other states, taxes millionaires and corporations at the same rate as regular working people;
(c) Combining state income, sales, and property taxes, the wealthiest 1% of Coloradans–those making over $850,000 per year–pay only 7% of their income in state and local taxes every year, whereas the 60% of Coloradans making between $25,000 and $150,000 per year pay between 9-10%.
(d) The 97% of Colorado taxpayers making less than $500,000 would benefit from a tax cut to help them afford the high cost of living;
(e) The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or the TABOR amendment, has significantly limited the ability of state and local governments to invest in supporting teachers and care workers, building infrastructure, and keeping up with a changing economy;
(f) TABOR can be amended to allow a graduated income tax without impacting TABOR refunds or the voters' right to approve any future tax increases;
(g) As demonstrated by recent state-commissioned adequacy studies, Colorado's public schools have been underfunded for decades, and despite the elimination of the Budget Stabilization Factor in 2024, teacher wage competitiveness is still 50th in the country.
(h) Health care in Colorado is too expensive, and the cuts in the federal budget bill are expected to exceed $2 billion per year by 2032, with rural hospitals and clinics facing the greatest risks for closing or limiting services; and
(i) Child care in Colorado is too expensive, making it harder for parents to work while raising their families, and yet wages are so low that 46 percent of early childhood workers in the state rely on social welfare programs like Medicaid and SNAP;
(2) The people of the state of Colorado find, therefore, that:
(a) A graduated income tax system will:
(I) Better support Colorado's children and families, working people, and older adults by cutting taxes for individuals and small businesses making less than $500,000 per year while only increasing taxes on individuals and corporations making more than $500,000 per year;
(II) Increase Colorado's ability to adequately invest in our public schools, health care, and child care systems and programs to improve the affordability of health care and child care;
(b) A graduated income tax system will not:
(I) Change the Constitutional requirement that the state government cannot raise any tax rates without another vote of the people;
(II) Reduce or otherwise impact TABOR refunds, because any revenue raised from Colorado's current 4.4% flat income tax, 2.9% sales tax, and various other taxes and fees that exceeds the TABOR spending limit will be required to be refunded to taxpayers;
(c) All new revenue from graduated income tax that exceeds what would have otherwise been collected under Colorado's current tax rates will be transferred into the Colorado's Future Fund, with spending limited to the following purposes:
(I) Improving our public education system, increasing pay to attract and retain great teachers, reducing class sizes, supporting rural schools, and supporting affordable pathways to higher education and workforce training;
(II) Improving our health care system, making health care more affordable, replacing federal Medicaid funds that were cut by the federal budget bill, implementing new requirements in the federal budget bill, increasing access to mental and behavioral health care and primary care, supporting services for older adults and people with disabilities, increasing access to nutritious food, supporting our health care workforce, and supporting rural hospitals and clinics;
(III) Improving our early child care and education systems, helping families afford child care, and increasing pay to attract and retain great child care providers;
(d) New revenues are intended to supplement rather than supplant existing funding;
(e) Taxpayers will be able to monitor and assure responsible and effective usage of all new revenue based on the following requirements:
(I) The nonpartisan office of legislative council will produce an annual report on all spending of new revenue that will be accessible to the public in various formats including the general assembly's website with plain language descriptions and understandable data visualizations;
(II) The nonpartisan and independent office of the state auditor will annually audit this report and present findings to the Joint Budget Committee and the public;
SECTION 2 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 20 of article X, **amend** (8)(a) as follows:
(8) Revenue limits. (a) New or increased transfer tax rates on real property are prohibited. No new state real property tax or local district income tax shall be imposed. Neither an income tax rate increase nor a new state definition of taxable income shall apply before the next tax year. Any income tax law change after July 1, 1992 shall also require all taxable net income to be taxed ~~at one rate, excluding refund tax credits or voter-approved tax credits,~~ with no added ~~tax or~~ surcharge.
SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-104, **amend** (1.7)(c) and (2); and **add** (1.8) as follows:
39-22-104. Income tax imposed on individuals, estates, and trusts - report - tax preference performance statement - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (1.7)(c) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, subject to subsection (2) of this section, with respect to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2022, but before January 1, 2027, a tax of four and forty one-hundredths percent is imposed on the federal taxable income, as determined pursuant to section 63 of the internal revenue code, of every individual, estate, and trust.
(1.8)(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, subject to subsection (2) of this section, with respect to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2027, a graduated tax is imposed on federal taxable income, as determined by section 63 of the internal revenue code, of every individual, estate, and trust, as follows:
(I) For federal taxable income less than or equal to twenty five thousand dollars, the tax is three and seventy one-hundredths percent;
(II) For federal taxable income greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars and (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars;
(III) For federal taxable income greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, and (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars;
(IV) For federal taxable income greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, and (D) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars;
(V) For federal taxable income greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (D) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount over five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, and (E) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount over seven hundred fifty thousand dollars; and
(VI) For federal taxable income greater than one million dollars, the tax is (A) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (B) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (C) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (D) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, (E) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars; and (F) eight and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one million dollars.
(b) For purposes of subsection (1.8)(a) of this section, taxable net income from the sale or exchange of a principal residence exceeding the amount excluded from federal taxable income under Section 121 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be subject to tax under this section at the rate of four and forty one-hundredths percent.
(2) Prior to the application of the rate of tax prescribed in subsection (1), (1.5), ~~or~~ (1.7), or (1.8) of this section, the federal taxable income shall be modified as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section.
SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-301, **amend** (1)(d)(I)(K) and **add** (1)(d)(I)(L) as follows:
39-22-301. Corporate tax imposed – repeal. (1)(d)(I)(K). Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2022, but before January 1, 2027, four and forty one-hundredths percent of the Colorado net income.
(1)(d)(I)(L) Except as otherwise provided in section 39-22-627, for income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2027, a graduated tax is imposed on Colorado net income, as determined under this section, of every domestic C corporation, foreign C corporation, and combined group, as defined in section 39-22-303(12)(a.3), doing business in Colorado annually in an amount of the net income of such C corporation during the year derived from sources within Colorado as set forth in the following schedule of rates, as follows:
(i) for Colorado net income less than or equal to twenty five thousand dollars, the tax is three and seventy one-hundredths percent;
(ii) For Colorado net income greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars and (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars;
(iii) For Colorado net income greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, and (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars;
(iv) For Colorado net income greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, and (IV) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars;
(v) For Colorado net income greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (IV) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount over five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, and (V) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount over seven hundred fifty thousand dollars; and
(vi) For Colorado net income greater than one million dollars, the tax is (I) three and seventy one-hundredths percent on the amount up to and including twenty five thousand dollars, (II) four and twenty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than twenty five thousand dollars but less than or equal to one hundred thousand dollars, (III) four and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to five hundred thousand dollars, (IV) seven and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars but less than or equal to seven hundred fifty thousand dollars, (V) seven and ninety one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars but less than or equal to one million dollars; and (VI) eight and forty one-hundredths percent on the amount greater than one million dollars.
SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-77-103.3 as follows:
24-77-103.3. Voter approved revenue change – retention and use of revenue – accountability. (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for each state fiscal year commencing on or after January 1, 2026, all revenue collected under the income tax rates established by section 39-22-104(1.8) and section 39-22-301(1)(d)(I)(L) in excess of the revenue that would be generated in any such state fiscal year by applying the income tax rate that existed as of December 31, 2026 ("excess revenue"), shall constitute a voter approved revenue change under section 20(7)(d) of article X of the Colorado constitution, and may be collected, kept, and spent notwithstanding any other limits in subsection (20)(7)(d).
(2) For purposes of administering the dedication of the excess revenue specified in subsection (1) of this section, there is hereby created in the general fund the Colorado Future's account, which shall consist of an amount of moneys equal to the amount of the excess revenue specified in subsection (1) of this section. The moneys in the account shall be appropriated or transferred by the general assembly for the following programs and purposes and must supplement and not supplant current levels of appropriations thereto:
(a) K-12 Public school education, including:
(I) Improving kindergarten through 12th grade;
(II) Increasing access to career and technical education programs;
(III) Increasing teacher pay;
(b) Health care, including:
(I) Programs to help families afford health care;
(II) Replacing medicaid funding lost due to recent federal legislation, and paying for implementation of new federal requirements;
(III) Increasing funding for primary care, behavioral health and rural health care;
(IV) Supporting health care, long-term care, and other supports for older adults and people with disabilities;
(V) Programs that increase access to nutritious food; and
(c) Early child care and education, including:
(I) Programs to help families afford child care;
(II) Increasing pay and support for the child care workforce;
(III) Improving access to high-quality early childhood education programs;
(3)(a) For each fiscal year commencing on or after January 1, 2026, that the state receives excess revenue as defined in subsection (1) of this section, the director of research of the nonpartisan staff of the legislative council shall prepare a report, to be transmitted to the general assembly and made publicly available and easily accessible on or via a link from the general assembly's website, specifying the uses to which such revenue has been appropriated or transferred and to ensure that such revenue is appropriated, transferred, and spent, as directed by the people of Colorado, in accordance with this section. the office of the state auditor shall annually audit the report, which must at a minimum contain the following information:
(I)the amount of such excess revenue; and
(II)a specification and description of the amounts, programs and purposes to which such revenue has been allocated and appropriated or transferred.
(b) the report shall include a plain language summary and, where possible, easily understandable visualizations of this information, and shall be made reasonably available in other formats when requested.

Proposition NN
Keep and Spend Money for Education and Other Purposes

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was referred to the voters because it passed by a majority vote of the state senate and the state house of representatives.
Ballot Title:
Shall state investment in K-12 public education increase two percent each year for the next ten years, with investments used to increase teacher pay, improve teacher retention, lower class sizes, and increase access to career and technical courses, without raising taxes but instead funded by raising the annual limit on state fiscal year spending only by the amount spent on public K-12 education as a voter-approved revenue change, and requiring an annual publicly released, independent audit to show how the new investments are spent?
Text of Measure:
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:
(a) Public education is the bedrock of Colorado's democracy, fundamental to individual opportunity, the underpinning of thriving communities, and the key to Colorado's economic prosperity and future;
(b) Wise and adequate investment in Colorado's schools is essential to maintaining and improving the competitiveness of Colorado and its students;
(c) The money invested in Colorado's public schools has a return on investment that has long been recognized as among the nation's highest;
(d) An increase in the rates of K-12 graduation, the earning of industry certifications, and the earning of associates degrees demonstrate the effectiveness of Colorado's investment in public schools;
(e) Research demonstrates that increasing school funding results in long-term increases in graduation rates and lifetime wages, prevents crime, and lowers incarceration rates;

(f) Educators and support staff in every school district and charter school across Colorado make invaluable contributions to their schools, districts, and communities by dedicating their time, talents, and out-of-pocket money to their students, despite Colorado ranking near the bottom of starting teacher pay and having the largest teacher pay penalty in the nation;
(g) Teachers, counselors, para professionals, bus drivers, and essential support staff are leaving their professions because salaries have not kept up with housing, healthcare, and cost of living;
(h) Students are learning in overcrowded classrooms and in schools with fewer mental health counselors, opportunities for special education support, and programs that support their ability to develop into healthy, productive adults;
(i) Working class, multilingual, and rural communities are hit hardest by chronic school underfunding;
(j) In January 2025, the legislature received the reports and recommendation of the two commissioned adequacy studies: "Equity and Adequacy of Colorado School Funding - A Cost-Modeling Approach", by the American institutes for research, and "Colorado Input-Based Financial Adequacy Study Report", by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, Inc;
(k) The adequacy studies found that, were Colorado schools funded fully and fairly, every student would have the individual attention they need from teachers, counselors, health professionals, tutors, and support staff to succeed and thrive; every teacher would have a reasonable workload, professional development and coaching, and a salary that would allow them to live where they work; and every community would enjoy the benefit of vibrant public schools, a high-quality workforce, and an engaged citizenry;
(l) Colorado's fiscal constraints and potential of federal funding cuts to education, medicaid, nutrition, human services, and other critical programs threaten the sustainability and adequacy of school funding in Colorado and to deplete the state education fund;
(m) Research demonstrates that high-quality early childhood education, including child care and preschool, produces significant long-term benefits, including improved school readiness, higher graduation rates, and greater lifetime earnings, and that every dollar invested in high-quality childhood education yields substantial returns to the state and its communities;
(n) Children who participate in high-quality preschool and child care programs arrive in kindergarten better prepared to learn across language, math, and social-emotional domains, with the greatest benefits accruing to children from working families, rural communities, and multilingual households; and
(o) Therefore, it is in the best interest of educators, students, and their families to allow voters to invest further in public education by modernizing the state's ability to retain and spend revenue to meet the needs of Colorado communities and to ensure that state investment in K-12 public education is increased by two percent for at least ten years through the funding of a positive factor.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-54-103.7 as follows:

22-54-103.7. Positive factor - definitions.

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) "New formula district total program calculation" means a district's total program for the applicable budget year as calculated pursuant to the district total program formula in section 22-54-103.5. The term does not include any adjustments required pursuant to section 22-54-103.3 when determining a district's total program for the 2027-28 budget year through the 2030-31 budget year.
(b) "New formula statewide total program calculation" means the district total program for all districts for the applicable budget year as calculated pursuant to the district total program formula in section 22-54-103.5. The term does not include any adjustments required pursuant to section 22-54-103.3 when determining a district's total program for the 2027-28 budget year through the 2030-31 budget year.
(c) "Positive factor" means:
(I) For the 2026-27 budget year, two percent of program foundation calculated for the 2025-26 budget year;
(II) For the 2027-28 budget year through the 2034-35 budget year, the sum of:
(A) Two percent of program foundation for the immediately preceding budget year; and
(B) The positive factor for the immediately preceding budget year; and
(III) For the 2035-36 budget year and each budget year thereafter:
(A) Two percent of program foundation for the 2034-35 budget year; and
(B) The positive factor for the 2034-35 budget year.
(d) "Program foundation" means:
(I) For budget years before total program is determined pursuant to section 22-54-103.5, an amount equal to state share of total program; and
(II) For budget years when total program is determined pursuant to section 22-54-103.5, an amount equal to new formula statewide total program calculation.
(e) "State share of total program" means an amount equal to the total of the state's share of each school district's total program, as defined in section 22-55-102 (18).
(f) "Two percent K-12 public education increase" means an amount equal to the lesser of:
(I) The positive factor for the current budget year; or
(II) The amount that the state is authorized to retain and spend pursuant to section 24-77-302 (1) for the budget year minus, for the 2027-28 budget year and each budget year thereafter, an amount equal to the total dollar amounts of warrants issued by the state treasurer pursuant to section 39-3-207 (4) in the current budget year.
(2) For the 2026-27 budget year and each budget year thereafter, a district's share of positive factor is equal to:
(New formula district total program calculation / New formula statewide total program calculation) x (Two percent K-12 public education increase).
(3) For the 2026-27 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education shall annually calculate each district's new formula district total program calculation and the new formula statewide total program calculation.
(4) For the 2026-27 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall annually determine each district's positive factor based on budget projections; except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures to determine any necessary changes in the amount to maintain the positive factor for the applicable budget year.
(5) A district's positive factor is in addition to, but is not included in, the district's total program determined pursuant to this article 54. The positive factor must be distributed in the same form and manner in which payments of total program are distributed under law to all public schools.
(6) A district shall only expend its positive factor to:
(a) Increase teacher pay;
(b) Improve teacher retention;
(c) Lower class sizes; and
(d) Increase access to career and technical courses.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article 77 of title 24 as follows:

PART 3
SUBMISSION OF BALLOT ISSUE
VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE

24-77-301. Definitions.

As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:
(1) "Children's account" or "account" means the children's account created in section 24-77-302 (2).
(2) "State public education funding" means the amount determined by legislative council staff pursuant to section 24-77-303 (1).
(3) "State revenues" means state fiscal year spending, as defined in section 24-77-102 (17).
(4) "Two percent K-12 public education increase" has the meaning set forth in section 22-54-103.7 (1)(f).

24-77-302. Retention of excess state revenues - children's account - definitions.

(1) For state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, the state may retain and spend state revenues that the state otherwise would have been required to refund under section 20 (7)(d) of article X of the state constitution in an amount equal to the state public education funding for the state fiscal year.
(2) (a) There is hereby created in the general fund the children's account, which consists of:
(I) For state fiscal year 2026-27, an amount of money equal to the amount that the state retains for state fiscal year 2026-27 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section; and
(II) For state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2027, an amount of money equal to the amount that the state retains for the state fiscal year pursuant to subsection (1) of this section minus an amount equal to the total dollar amount of warrants issued by the state treasurer pursuant to section 39-3-207 (4) in the same state fiscal year.
(b) For each state fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2026, but before July 1, 2036, the general assembly:
(I) Shall transfer or appropriate to the department of education an amount equal to the two percent K-12 public education increase for the state fiscal year and the department of education shall distribute that amount in accordance with section 22-54-103.7;
(II) Shall appropriate or transfer an amount for investment in K-12 public education, to be used for school services, disability services to students with disabilities, and increasing annual contact hours, equal to the amount, if any, by which one half of the amount credited to the account for the state fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated or transferred pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section for the state fiscal year; and
(III) After making the appropriations or transfers required by subsections (2)(b)(I) and (2)(b)(II) of this section for the state fiscal year, shall appropriate or transfer the remaining money in the account to programs that support Colorado's children, prioritizing child care, full-day preschool, and other programs that prepare children to be successful in school.
(3) The approval of the ballot measure including this section by a majority of the electors voting on the ballot measure constitutes a voter-approved revenue change to allow the retention and expenditure of the additional state revenues that the state is authorized to retain and spend pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
(4) This section does not affect the amount that the state is permitted to retain and spend under the excess state revenues cap, as defined in section 24-77-103.6 (6)(b)(I).
(5) The money that the general assembly appropriates or transfers pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(I) of this section shall supplement and not supplant total program, as defined in section 22-55-102 (18).

24-77-303. Determination of state public education funding.

(1) On or before January 15, 2027, on or after July 1, 2027, but before August 1, 2027, and on or after each July 1 and before each August 1 thereafter, legislative council staff shall determine and report to the state controller, the office of state planning and budgeting, and the joint budget committee, the greatest total amount in a preceding state fiscal year that has been counted as state fiscal year spending and appropriated by the general assembly for a preceding state fiscal year for categorical programs and the state share of total program and the amount of the two percent K-12 public education increase for the same preceding state fiscal year. The amount determined and reported by legislative council staff pursuant to this subsection (1) is the state public education funding for that state fiscal year.
(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) "Categorical programs" has the meaning set forth in section 22-55-102 (4).
(b) "State share of total program" means an amount equal to the total of the state's share of each school district's total program, as defined in section 22-55-102 (18).

24-77-304. Excess state revenues expenditure independent audit.

(1) For each state fiscal year that the state retains and spends state revenues in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3, the state auditor shall report on excess state revenues, including the following information:
(a) The amount of state revenues that the state retained and spent in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3; and
(b) A description of how the state expended from the account the state revenues that the state retained and spent in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3.
(2) The state auditor shall complete the reporting required by subsection (1) of this section at the same time that the state auditor completes the report required pursuant to section 2-3-103 (2) following a fiscal year in which the state retains and spends state revenues in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending pursuant to this part 3 and may amend the report thereafter as necessary.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-44-304, **add** (1)(g) as follows:

22-44-304. Financial reporting - online access to information - definitions.

(1) (g) (I) Additionally, commencing on August 1, 2027, each local education provider, as defined in section 22-54-202, shall post in a format that can be downloaded and sorted, for free public access, the local education provider's actual expenditures of any positive factor received pursuant to section 22-54-103.7.
(II) As used in this subsection (1)(g), unless the context otherwise requires, "positive factor" has the meaning set forth in section 22-54-103.7 (1)(c).

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-77-106.5, **amend** (1)(b) as follows:

24-77-106.5. Annual financial report - certification of excess state revenues.

(1) (b) Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), based upon the financial report prepared in accordance with subsection (1)(a) of this section for any given fiscal year, the controller shall certify to the governor, the general assembly, and the executive director of the department of revenue no later than September 1 following the end of a fiscal year the amount of state revenues in excess of the limitation on state fiscal year spending imposed by section 20 (7)(a) of article X of the state constitution, if any, for such fiscal year and the state revenues in excess of such limitation that the state is authorized to retain and spend pursuant to voter approval of section 24-77-103.6 and part 3 of this article 77.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-32-104, **amend** (5) as follows:

29-32-104. Permissible expenditures - affordable housing programs - report - definitions.

(5) If the Legislative Council Staff's March Economic and Revenue Forecast in any given year projects revenue for the next state fiscal year will fall below the revenue limit imposed under section 20 of article X of the state constitution by an amount greater than the amount of state public education funding as defined in section 24-77-301 (2), the general assembly may reduce the funding allocated to the office required by this section for the next state fiscal year in order to balance the state budget for said state fiscal year.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-123.5, **amend** (3.5)(a)(VIII) as follows:

39-22-123.5. Earned income tax credit - legislative declaration - repeal.

(3.5) (a) As used in this subsection (3.5), unless the context otherwise requires:
(VIII) "Nonexempt revenue" means, for the applicable state fiscal year, the revenues that are identified as nonexempt revenues in the annual comprehensive financial report published by the office of the state controller; except that, for state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, nonexempt revenue includes state public education funding as defined in section 24-77-301 (2).

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-22-130, **amend** (2)(b)(II)(G) as follows:

39-22-130. Family affordability tax credit - tax preference performance statement - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.

(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(b) (II) As used in this subsection (2)(b):
(G) "Nonexempt revenue" means, for the applicable state fiscal year, the revenue that is identified as nonexempt TABOR revenues in the annual comprehensive financial report published by the office of the state controller; except that, for state fiscal years commencing on or after July 1, 2026, nonexempt revenue includes state public education funding as defined in section 24-77-301 (2).

SECTION 9. Refer to people under referendum. At the election held on November 3, 2026, the secretary of state shall submit this act by its ballot title to the registered electors of the state for their approval or rejection. Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall state investment in K-12 public education increase two percent each year for the next ten years, with investments used to increase teacher pay, improve teacher retention, lower class sizes, and increase access to career and technical courses, without raising taxes but instead funded by raising the annual limit on state fiscal year spending only by the amount spent on public K-12 education as a voter-approved revenue change, and requiring an annual publicly released, independent audit to show how the new investments are spent?" Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123, Colorado Revised Statutes, if a majority of the electors voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the act will become part of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Proposition 132
Increase Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning criminal penalties for fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids, and, in connection therewith, increasing the felony classifications of drug-related crimes for distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, sale, or possession of fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids; creating mandated treatment for certain drug felony violations based on possession amount; and changing sentencing provisions to narrow or eliminate exemptions for crimes related to fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids and drug-related deaths?

Text of Measure:

Be it Enacted by the People of the state of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-18-102, **add** (35.5) as follows:

18-18-102. Definitions.

As used in this article 18:
(35.5) "Level 4 treatment-mandated drug felony" means a level 4 drug felony that is eligible to be vacated following successful completion of court-ordered treatment for drug rehabilitation according to the provisions of section 18-1.3-103.5.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact, with amendments,** 18-18-405 as follows:

18-18-405. Unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, or sale.

(1)(a) Except as authorized by part 1 of article 280 of title 12, part 2 of article 80 of title 27, part 2 or 3 of this article 18, section 18-18-434, article 170 of title 12, or article 50 of title 44, it is unlawful for any person knowingly to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute, or to possess with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute, a controlled substance; or induce, attempt to induce, or conspire with one or more other persons, to manufacture, dispense, sell, distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute, a controlled substance; or possess one or more chemicals or supplies or equipment with intent to manufacture a controlled substance.
(b) As used in this subsection (1), "dispense" does not include labeling, as defined in section 12-280-103 (23).
(2) Except as otherwise provided for an offense concerning marijuana and marijuana concentrate in section 18-18-406 and for special offenders as provided in section 18-18-407, a person who violates any of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section:
(a) Commits a level 1 drug felony and is subject to the mandatory sentencing provisions in section 18-1.3-401.5 (7) if:
(I) The violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs:
(A) More than two hundred twenty-five grams and contains a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance; or
(B) More than one hundred twelve grams and contains methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones; or
(C) More than fifty milligrams and contains flunitrazepam; or
(D) Any amount and contains fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g); or
(II) An adult sells, dispenses, distributes, or otherwise transfers any quantity of a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance or any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any amount of a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance, other than marijuana or marijuana concentrate, to a minor and the adult is at least two years older than the minor;
(III) Except as provided in section 18-1-711 (3)(i), the defendant committed a violation of subsection (2)(a)(I)(D) of this section, and the actions in violation of subsection (2)(a)(I)(D) of this section are the proximate cause of the death of another person who used or consumed the material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contained fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g).
(b) Commits a level 2 drug felony if:
(I) The violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs:
(A) More than fourteen grams, but not more than two hundred twenty-five grams, and contains a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance;
(B) More than seven grams, but not more than one hundred twelve grams, and contains methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones; or
(C) More than ten milligrams, but not more than fifty milligrams, and contains flunitrazepam;
(II) An adult sells, dispenses, distributes, or otherwise transfers any quantity of a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance or any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance to a minor and the adult is at least two years older than the minor;
(c) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, commits a level 3 drug felony if the violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs:
(I) Not more than fourteen grams and contains a schedule I or schedule II controlled substance;
(II) Not more than seven grams and contains methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones;
(III) Not more than ten milligrams and contains flunitrazepam; or
(IV) More than four grams and contains a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance.
(d) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section or section 18-1-711 (3)(j), commits a level 4 drug felony if:
(I) The violation involves any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs not more than four grams and contains a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance; or
(II) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(c) of this section, the violation involves distribution or transfer of the controlled substance for the purpose of consuming all of the controlled substance with another person or persons at a time substantially contemporaneous with the transfer; except that this subparagraph (II) applies only if the distribution or transfer involves not more than four grams of a schedule I or II controlled substance or not more than two grams of methamphetamine, heroin, ketamine, or cathinones;
(e) Commits a level 1 drug misdemeanor if the violation involves:
(I) A schedule V controlled substance; or
(II) A transfer with no remuneration of not more than four grams of a schedule III or schedule IV controlled substance.
(3) When a person commits unlawful distribution, manufacture, dispensing, sale, or possession with intent to manufacture, dispense, sell, or distribute any schedule I or schedule II controlled substance, as listed in section 18-18-203 or 18-18-204, flunitrazepam, ketamine, or cathinones, or conspires with one or more persons to commit the offense, pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, twice or more within a period of six months, without having been placed in jeopardy for the prior offense or offenses, the aggregate amount of the schedule I or schedule II controlled substance, flunitrazepam, ketamine, or cathinones involved may be used to determine the level of drug offense.
(4) Except for a prosecution for manufacturing, a person commits a level 1 drug misdemeanor

for a violation of subsection (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), or (2)(d) of this section if:
(a) The distribution, dispensing, transfer, or sale involves a material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs not more than four grams and contains any amount of a controlled substance identified in subsection (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), or (2)(d) of this section;
(b) The defendant reports in good faith an emergency drug overdose event to a law enforcement officer, to the 911 system, or to a medical provider, or the defendant aids or seeks aid for the person who suffered the emergency drug overdose;
(c) The defendant remains at the scene of the event until a law enforcement officer or an emergency medical responder arrives or the defendant remains at the facilities of the medical provider until a law enforcement officer arrives;
(d) The defendant identifies himself or herself and cooperates with the law enforcement officer, emergency medical responder, or medical provider; and
(e) The offense arises from the same course of events from which the emergency overdose event arose.
SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-401.5, **amend** (7) and (10)(a)(III.5) as follows:
18-1.3-401.5. Drug felonies classified - presumptive and aggravated penalties - legislative intent.
(7) ~~Except as provided in section 18-18-405 (2)(a)(III)(B), notwithstanding~~ Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, if the defendant is convicted of a level 1 drug felony, the court shall sentence the defendant to a term of incarceration in the department of corrections of at least eight years but not more than thirty-two years. The presence of one or more of the aggravating circumstances provided in subsection (10)(a) of this section or in section 18-18-407
(1) requires the court to sentence a defendant convicted of a level 1 drug felony to a term of incarceration in the department of corrections of at least twelve years but no more than thirty-two years. The court may impose a fine in addition to imprisonment.
(10)(a) Except for a level 1 drug felony, the presence of one or more of the following aggravating circumstances at the time of the commission of a drug felony offense requires the court, if it sentences the defendant to incarceration, to sentence the defendant to a term of at least the midpoint in the presumptive range but not more than the maximum term of the aggravated range:
(III.5) The defendant was on appeal bond following ~~his or her~~ the defendant's conviction for a previous felony;
SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-18-407, **amend** (1)(h) as follows:
18-18-407. Special offender - definitions.
(1) A person who commits a felony offense pursuant to this part 4 under any one or more of the following aggravating circumstances commits a level 1 drug felony and is a special offender:
(h) The defendant committed a violation of section 18-18-405 (2)(a)(I)(D)~~, (2)(b)(I)(D), or (2)(c)(V),~~ and the defendant possessed pill or tablet manufacturing equipment with the intent to use the equipment in the manufacture of a controlled substance.
SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact** 18-18-403.5 as follows:
18-18-403.5. Unlawful possession of a controlled substance - notice to revisor of statutes - repeal.
(1) Except as authorized by part 1 or 3 of article 280 of title 12, part 2 of article 80 of title 27, section 18-1-711, section 18-18-428 (1)(b), part 2 or 3 of this article 18, section 18-18-434, article 170 of title 12, or article 50 of title 44, it is unlawful for a person knowingly to possess a controlled substance.
(2) On or after March 1, 2020, a person who violates subsection (1) of this section by possessing:
(a) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of flunitrazepam; ketamine; gamma hydroxybutyrate, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; cathinones; or more than four grams of a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II of part 2 of this article 18 commits a level 4 drug felony.
(b) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains not more than four grams of a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II of part 2 of this article 18 or any quantity of a controlled substance listed in schedule III, IV, or V of part 2 of this article 18 except flunitrazepam, gamma hydroxybutyrate, or ketamine commits a level 1 drug misdemeanor; except that a fourth or subsequent offense for a violation of this subsection (2)(b) is a level 4 drug felony.
(3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, on or after January 1, 2027, a person who violates subsection (1) of this section by knowingly possessing:
(I) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs more than one gram and not more than four grams and contains any quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), commits a level 3 drug felony;
(II) Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that weighs not more than one gram and contains any quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), commits a level 4 treatment-mandated drug felony and such defendant is eligible for court-ordered treatment for drug rehabilitation.
(4)(a) A person who violates subsection (1) of this section by possessing any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains a quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), that is more than sixty percent of the total composition of the material, compound, mixture, or preparation, commits a level 2 drug felony.
(b)(I) This subsection (4) takes effect at 12:01 a.m. thirty days after the date identified in the notice provided to the revisor of statutes by the director of the Colorado bureau of investigation that the Colorado bureau of investigation has the resources to determine the quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), compared to the total composition of the material, compound, mixture, or preparation, or on the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes if the notice does not specify a different date.
(II) The director of the Colorado bureau of investigation shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing when the condition specified in subsection (4)(b)(I) of this section has occurred by e-mailing the notice to revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov.
(III) Concurrent with the notice required in subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section, the director of the Colorado bureau of investigation shall notify the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chief justice of the supreme court, the governor, the attorney general, the state public defender, and each district attorney in the state, that the Colorado bureau of investigation has the resources to determine the quantity of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), compared to the total composition of the material, compound, mixture, or preparation.
(IV) This subsection (4)(b) is repealed, effective one year after notice to the revisor of statutes pursuant to subsection (4)(b)(II) of this section.
(5) If the circumstances described in section 18-18-428 (1)(b) occur, the peace officer shall not arrest the person pursuant to this section for any minuscule, residual controlled substance that may be present in the used hypodermic needle or syringe, and the district attorney shall not charge or prosecute the person pursuant to this section for any minuscule, residual controlled substance that may be present in a used hypodermic needle or syringe. The circumstances described in section 18-18-428 (1)(b) may be used as a factor in a probable cause or reasonable suspicion determination of any criminal offense if the original stop or search was lawful.
(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, on or after March 1, 2020, a district attorney shall not charge or prosecute a person pursuant to this section for any minuscule, residual, or unusable amount of a controlled substance that may be present in a used hypodermic needle or syringe, or other drug paraphernalia, as defined in section 18-18-426. The circumstances described in this subsection (4) may be used as a factor in a probable cause or reasonable suspicion determination of any criminal offense if the original stop or search was lawful.
(7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person may be charged with any other offense in this article 18, including unlawful distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, or sale of a controlled substance, or possession with intent to do the same, pursuant to section 18-18-405, when there is evidence for the person to be so charged. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, the amount of the controlled substance that the person possesses.
(8) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section to the contrary, a peace officer shall not arrest and a district attorney shall not charge or prosecute an employee, agent, or volunteer of an entity described in section 12-30-110 (1)(a) who, in the performance of the person's duties, is in possession of a controlled substance, including fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), for the purpose of safe disposal of the controlled substance, including fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), in accordance with applicable law. As used in this subsection (6), "safe disposal" means the procedure and process for depositing the controlled substance, including fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof as described in section 18-18-204 (2)(g), in a secure container for law enforcement to subsequently access and dispose of.
SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-103.5, **amend** (3)(e) as follows:
18-1.3-103.5. **Felony convictions - vacate and enter conviction on misdemeanor after successful completion.**
(3) This section applies to convictions for the following offenses:
(e) A violation of section ~~18-18-403.5 (2.5)(a)~~ 18-18-403.5(2.5)(a)(II).
SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-801, **amend** (2)(a)(I); and **repeal** (2)(c) as follows:
18-1.3-801. Punishment for habitual criminals.
(2)(a)(I) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2)(b)~~, (2)(c),~~ and (5) of this section, every person convicted in this state of any felony, who has been three times previously convicted, upon charges separately brought and tried, and arising out of separate and distinct criminal episodes, either in this state or elsewhere, of a felony or, under the laws of any other state, the United States, or any territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, of a crime which, if committed within this state, would be a felony, shall be adjudged an habitual criminal and shall be punished:
(2)(c) ~~The provisions of subsection (2)(a) of this section do not apply to a conviction for a level 4 drug felony committed on or after July 1, 2022, pursuant to section 18-18-403.5 (2.5), or a conviction for a level 4 drug felony committed on or after July 1, 2022, for attempt or conspiracy to commit unlawful possession of fentanyl, carfentanil, benzimidazole opiate, or an analog thereof, as described in section 18-18-403.5 (2.5), even if the person has been previously convicted of three or more qualifying felony convictions.~~
SECTION 8. Effective Date.
This measure is effective January 1, 2027.

Proposition 133
Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.
Ballot Title:
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes modifying existing law concerning human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude, and, in connection therewith, creating new law expanding human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude to include knowingly trading anything of monetary value to buy or sell sexual activity with a minor and increasing the penalty to be life in prison without parole or release?
Text of Measure:
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado
SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration. (1) The people of the State of Colorado hereby find and declare:
(a) Residents of Colorado and other states and territories throughout the United States have seen an alarming increase in human trafficking, especially human trafficking involving minor children;
(b) Current penalties in Colorado law with parole possible in as little as eight years have failed to adequately deter the human trafficking of minor children; and
(c) It is the measure of a fair and compassionate society to ensure that children are not for sale.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-3-504, **amend** (2)(a) and (2)(b); and **add** (5) and (6) as follows:
18-3-504. Human trafficking for sexual servitude - human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude.
(2) (a) A person commits human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude if the person:
(I) Knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives, obtains by any means, maintains, or makes available a minor for the purpose of commercial sexual activity; ~~or~~
(II) Knowingly advertises, offers to sell, or sells travel services that facilitate an activity prohibited pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section; or
(III) Knowingly trades anything of monetary value to buy or sell sexual activity with a minor.
(b) Human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude is a class ~~2~~ 1 felony. The court shall sentence a person convicted of such a class ~~2~~ 1 felony to the department of corrections for a term of ~~at least the minimum of the presumptive range for a class 2 felony,~~ life in prison without parole or release, as set forth in section 18-1.3-401.
(5) Nothing in this section shall limit a governor's standing authority of pardon, commutation, or clemency.
(6) The short title of this section is the "Children Are Not For Sale Act."
SECTION 3. Effective date -- applicability. This act takes effect on January 1, 2027, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Proposition 134
Male and Female Participation in School and Collegiate Sports

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.
Ballot Title:
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new law restricting participation in all K-12 and collegiate school sports based on the participant's sex as determined by certain aspects of their biological reproductive system, and, in connection therewith, requiring a school, institution of higher education, or athletic association to designate each school or intramural athletic team or sport as male, female, or coeducational; only allowing participants to compete on the team or sport of their designated sex or to compete on a coeducational team; creating an exception to allow a female to participate on a male-designated team or sport if there is no female team available; prohibiting a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation, or taking other adverse action against a school for maintaining separate teams or sports for females; and providing the commissioner of education with the authority to enforce the proposed initiative for K-12 school districts?
Text of Measure:
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado,
SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration. The people of the State of Colorado hereby find and declare;
(1) Males and females possess unique and immutable biological differences that manifest prior to birth and increase as they age and experience puberty;
(2) Biological differences between the sexes are enduring and may, in some circumstances, warrant the creation of separate social, educational, athletic, or other arrangements in order to ensure safety and to allow members of each sex to succeed and thrive;
(3) Physical differences between males and females have long made separate and sex-specific sports teams important so that female athletes can have equal opportunities to compete in sports while reducing the risk of physical injury; and
(4) Because of the physical differences between males and females, having separate athletic teams based on the biological sex of the athlete reduces the chance of injury to female athletes, promotes equality between the sexes, provides opportunities for female athletes to compete against their female peers rather than against male athletes, and allows female athletes to compete on a fair playing field for athletic accomplishments, including educational scholarships.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 60 to title 25 as follows:
25-60-101. Short Title. Article 60 of this title shall be known and may be cited as the "Protect Women and Girls Sports Act."
25-60-102. Definitions: As used in this article 60, unless the context otherwise requires:
(1) "Athletic association" means a corporation, association, or organization which has as one of its primary purposes the sponsoring or administration of extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests or competitions.
(2) "Boy" means an adolescent human male.
(3) "Female" means a person whose biological reproductive system is organized around the production of ova. Female includes a woman and a girl.
(4) "Girl" means an adolescent human female.
(5) "Male" means a person whose biological reproductive system is organized around the production of sperm. Male includes a man and a boy.
(6) "Man" means an adult human male.
(7) "Postsecondary educational institution" means a public or private university, college, or community college located in Colorado that is a member institution of an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.
(8) "School" means any
(a) public, charter, private, or denominational school offering instruction in elementary or secondary grades or
(b) postsecondary educational institution.
(9) "State agency" means any state board, bureau, commission, department, institution, division, section, or officer of the state, except those in the legislative branch or judicial branch.
(10) "Woman" means an adult human female.
25-60-103. Men's and women's sports teams.
(1) An interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport that is sponsored by a school or athletic association shall be expressly designated as one of the following based on biological sex:
(a) Males, men, or boys;
(b) Females, women, or girls; or
(c) Coeducational or mixed.
(2)(a) An interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport sponsored by a school or athletic association that is designated for females, women, or girls shall not be open to a male student or participant.
(b) An interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport sponsored by a school or athletic association and designated for males, men, or boys shall not be open to a female student or participant unless there is no female team offered or available for such sport for such female student or participant.
(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the eligibility of any student or participant to participate in any interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or sports designated as coeducational or mixed.
(4) A government entity, licensing or accrediting organization, or athletic association may not entertain a complaint, open an investigation, or take any other adverse action against a school for maintaining a separate interscholastic or intramural athletic team or sport for female students or participants.
25-60-104. Enforcement by the Commissioner of Education.
(1) The governing body of each school must adopt a policy implementing the provisions of this article.
(2) If the commissioner of education determines that any school district as defined in section 22-30-103(13) has intentionally refused to comply with this article, the commissioner shall notify the school district of the noncompliance and allow the school district a reasonable time to comply. If the commissioner determines, after such time has elapsed, that the school district is not in compliance and has not made a good-faith attempt to comply, the commissioner shall take appropriate remedial action within the commissioner's authority.
25-60-105. Protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Notwithstanding any other provision within this article, an individual born with a diagnosis of a disorder or difference in sex development must receive all legal protections and accommodations afforded under federal law.
25-60-106. Severability. If any section in this act or any part of any section is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.
SECTION 3. Effective Date. This measure shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

Proposition 135
Prohibit Surgery on Minors in Response to Perception of Sex or Gender

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.
Ballot Title:
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes modifying existing law by prohibiting surgery on a minor for the purpose of altering the minor's biological sex characteristics, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting any health-care professional or other person from knowingly performing, prescribing, administering, or providing any surgery to a minor for the purpose of altering the minor's biological sex characteristics and prohibiting the use of state or federal funds, Medicaid reimbursement, or insurance coverage to pay for this type of surgery?
Text of Measure:
Be it enacted by the people of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. Legislative Declaration. (1) The people of Colorado do hereby find and declare that:
(a) Children lack the maturity to make permanent, life-altering medical decisions;
(b) Medical treatments or interventions that attempt to surgically alter a minor child's biological sex often result in serious, irreversible consequences, including sterility;
(c) European nations, including Sweden, Finland, and the United Kingdom, have halted surgery due to the serious and widespread harm resulting from that intervention; and
(d) Colorado law already protects children from other, permanent and potentially life-altering decisions, such as consuming alcohol and smoking. The same protections should apply to irreversible medical interventions related to biological sex.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-30-125 as follows:
12-30-125. Prohibition on surgery for minors – prohibition on state funding for surgery - short title – definitions.
(1) **Short title.** The short title of this section is the "Protect Children From Irreversible Sex Change Surgery Act".
(2) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) "Altering biological sex characteristics" means treatment in response to a minor's perception of sex or gender. It does not include treatment for persons born with a medically verifiable disorder of sex development or treatment for acquired physical or chemical abnormalities. "Altering biological sex characteristics" does not include male circumcision.
(b) "health-care professional" means any person licensed in this state or any other state to practice medicine, chiropractic, nursing, physical therapy, podiatry, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, psychiatry, psychology, mental health therapy, or other healing arts. The term includes any professional corporation or other professional entity comprised of such health-care providers as permitted by the laws of this state.

(c) "Minor" means an individual who is under eighteen years of age.
(3) **Prohibition on medical interventions on minors.** A health-care professional or other person shall not knowingly perform, prescribe, administer, or provide any surgery to a minor for the purpose of altering biological sex characteristics.
(4) No state or federal funds, medicaid reimbursements, or insurance coverage may be used to pay for any prohibited medical interventions described in subsection (3) of this section.
(5) **Severability.** If any section of this section is found unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections shall remain in effect.
SECTION 3. Effective date - applicability. This measure shall become effective on January 1, 2027, and apply to violations occurring on or after the effective date.

Proposition 136
Income Tax Rate Limit

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.
Ballot Title:
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes capping the state income tax rate at 4.4% of federal taxable income for individuals and corporations?
Text of Measure:
Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 39-22-102.5 as follows:
39-22-102.5. Maximum Tax Rate.
Starting January 1, 2027, neither the individual income tax rate nor the corporate income tax rate may exceed 4.4% of a taxpayer's federal taxable income.
SECTION 2. Effective date.
This measure is effective upon proclamation of the Governor and applicable to the tax year beginning January 1, 2027 and all future tax years thereafter.

Proposition 137
Direct Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.
Ballot Title:
Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes creating new law to increase water and land conservation funding without raising taxes, and, in connection therewith, through a voter-approved revenue change, allowing the state to keep and spend a portion of revenue from the state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment to conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests, prevent wildfires, support outdoor recreation training and activities, and reduce revenue spent on these conservation purposes if necessary to preserve funding for certain tax credits?
Text of Measure:
Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:
SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-77-110 as follows:
24-77-110. Declaration of the people of Colorado - retention of exempt sales tax revenue - conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund - determination and distribution of wildfire and conservation revenue. (1) The voters of the state of Colorado find and declare that:
(a) Without raising taxes, more conservation funding is needed to reduce the risk of wildfire and conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, parks, and wildlife;
(b) Recent wildfires have been the deadliest and most destructive on record, with four of the state's largest wildfires in history occurring in the last five years, which resulted in the destruction of 1.5 million acres and more than 1,900 homes and hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and losses;
(c) Colorado's rivers, streams, and lakes are the lifeblood of the state, and it is essential to preserve water quality and quantity in rivers, streams, and underground water supplies;
(d) Reducing the risk of wildfire can protect Colorado's water, communities, land, wildlife, and outdoors way of life;
(e) The Colorado state forest service and the Colorado department of natural resources work in partnership to protect Colorado communities and water by reducing the risk of wildfire;
(f) The Colorado state forest service delivers significant benefits to Colorado by ensuring the long-term health and vitality of Colorado's forests and watersheds, including through funding that empowers communities to reduce the risk of wildfire to people, property, and infrastructure; promotes forest health and forest restoration projects; and encourages the use of wood for traditional forest products and biomass energy;
(g) The Colorado department of natural resources and the Colorado water conservation board provide critical funding for wildfire risk reduction, including by funding large-scale projects to reduce the amount of potential wildfire fuel; investing in workforce development with hands-on experience and training opportunities in wildfire mitigation and forestry; and assisting communities in planning for and lessening the long-term effects that wildfires have on Colorado's water, wetlands, communities, and infrastructure;
(h) Despite these existing investments, Colorado's forests need additional funding and urgent attention to address wildfire risk and protect watersheds and forest health;
(i) Colorado's great outdoors, water, and wildlife are among the state's most treasured resources, enhancing Coloradans' quality of life, contributing to the state's economy, providing diverse opportunities to experience nature, and supporting jobs in the state;
(j) Despite the state's renowned beauty and vast opportunities for year-round outdoor activities, many communities in Colorado face obstacles to accessing the outdoors and the significant benefits spending time in nature delivers;
(k) Colorado has a legacy of land conservation, including through partnerships with private landowners to protect working farms and ranches and to maintain the natural and agricultural heritage of the state, and also has world-class state parks and other public lands, all of which provide significant benefits to Colorado's waters, wildlife, and people;
(l) Colorado parks and wildlife works to ensure Colorado's outdoors and wildlife are sustained for future generations, including to conserve vulnerable wildlife species and habitats and to maintain a high-quality state parks system;
(m) The great outdoors Colorado program (GOCO), established by a vote of the people of Colorado and enshrined in article XXVII of the state constitution, is dedicated to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and management of the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage;
(n) GOCO delivers exceptional benefits to the state by investing Colorado lottery revenue in the state's wildlife resources and outdoors through Colorado parks and wildlife and competitive grants to protect unique natural landscapes and to match local investments for open space, parks, and environmental education facilities;
(o) Created by executive order B-2020-08 in 2020, the Colorado outdoor regional partnerships initiative, which receives funding from GOCO and Colorado parks and wildlife, advances regional and statewide collaboration to ensure that Colorado's water, land, and wildlife thrive while also enhancing equitable access to quality outdoor experiences;
(p) Following the creation of the regional partnerships initiative, the Colorado outdoors strategy emerged from a multi-year, collaborative effort with local, regional, and state participation and serves as a vision for future investments in Colorado's outdoors with three north-star goals: climate resilient conservation and restoration; exceptional and sustainable outdoor recreation; and coordinated planning and funding;
(q) The outdoor equity grant program, within Colorado parks and wildlife, increases access and opportunities for youth and their families to experience Colorado's outdoors and invests, through grants to organizations that provide transformational conservation, outdoor education, and experiential learning programs, in the next generation of Coloradans learning about the importance of our land and water;
(r) The outdoor recreation industry office in the office of economic development works to support the economic value of Colorado's outdoors and to protect and conserve our water, land, air, and climate by, among other efforts, promoting conservation, economic development, education, workforce training, and public health and wellness and addressing the chronic and systemic inequities that prevent youth and communities from engaging in meaningful experiences in the outdoors; and
(s) Without raising taxes or changing the cost of sporting goods and equipment, Colorado voters direct the investment of more conservation funding by allowing the state to retain the revenue generated from the existing state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment and directing that amount of money to the Colorado wildfire protection and water fund to help the Colorado state forest service and the Colorado department of natural resources protect communities and water by reducing the risk of wildfire; to GOCO to preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the state's wildlife, park, river, trail, and open space heritage; to the outdoor equity grant program to improve access to the outdoors for youth and families; and to the outdoor recreation industry office to invest in workforce development and other opportunities to participate in and contribute to Colorado's outdoors economy.
(2)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, commencing on July 1, 2027, all state sales tax revenues collected from certain sporting goods and equipment shall constitute a voter-approved revenue change under section 20(7)(d) of article X of the state constitution, as an exception to the limits that would otherwise apply without limiting or affecting the collection or spending of other revenues.
(b) The revenue resulting from the voter-approved revenue change created by this section shall be exempt revenue known as "wildfire and conservation revenue". For the purposes of this section, "exempt revenue" means, for the applicable state fiscal year, revenue exempt from the limitation on state fiscal year spending.
(3) The conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund is hereby created in the state treasury.
(a) The fund consists of money transferred to the fund pursuant to subsection (3)(c) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund.
(b) All interest and income earned on the deposit and investment of money in the conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund is credited to the fund and is not transferred to the general fund or any other fund at the end of any fiscal year.
(c) On July 1, 2027 for the 2027-28 state fiscal year, and on July 1 for each state fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer shall transfer from the general fund to the conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund an amount equal to the wildfire and conservation revenue determined pursuant to the calculations in subsection (4) of this section.
(d) Money in the conserve and protect Colorado's water, land, and forests fund shall supplement, not supplant, existing funding for the funds in subsections (3)(d)(I), (3)(d)(II), (3)(d)(III), and (3)(d)(IV) of this section and be credited as follows:
(I) Forty-seven and five-tenths percent to the great outdoors Colorado trust fund created and established by section 2 of article XXVII of the state constitution for the purposes of such article and to be maintained and expended pursuant to such article;
(II) Forty-seven and five-tenths percent to the Colorado wildfire prevention and water fund created in section 24-33-119 to protect communities and water sources from wildfire;
(III) Two and five-tenths percent to the outdoor equity fund created in section 33-9-206(1)(a); and
(IV) Two and five-tenths percent to the outdoor recreation economic development cash fund created in section 24-48.5-129(4)(a) for the purpose of providing grants in furtherance of the purposes listed in section 24-48.5-129 (3)(c) and (3)(d).
(4) The amount of wildfire and conservation revenue generated and available for distribution pursuant to this section shall be determined as follows:
(a) No later than March 15, 2027, for the 2027-28 state fiscal year, legislative council staff shall determine the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue based on the United States census bureau 2022 economic census data contained in table number EC2200NAPCSINDPRD and pursuant to the following methodology:
(I) Collect the Colorado and national total sales, value of shipments, or revenues from the North American industry classification system (NAICS) code 44-45 for retail trade;
(II) Collect the total sales, value of shipments, or revenues in NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade for each North American product classification system (NAPCS) product in Colorado and the nation for the NAPCS sporting goods and equipment products with the following codes used in the 2022 economic census table: 5001025000, 5001050000, 5001075000, 5001105000, 5001150000, 5001175000, 5001300000, 5001700000, and 7001800000;
(III) Divide:
(A) The total dollar amount for each NAPCS product code in Colorado in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section by the total dollar amount for the entire NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade in Colorado in subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section in order to determine the percent of total retail trade sales that are sporting goods and equipment sales for Colorado; and
(B) The total dollar amount for each NAPCS product code in the nation in subsection (4)(a)(II) of this section by the total dollar amount for the entire NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade in the nation in subsection (4)(a)(I) of this section in order to determine the percent of total retail trade sales that are sporting goods and equipment sales for the nation;
(IV) Multiply:
(A) Each Colorado NAPCS product code percentage in subsection (4)(a)(III)(A) of this section by the Colorado department of revenue gross annual sales from the most recently available tax year for the NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade to determine the estimate of taxable sporting goods and equipment sales in Colorado; and
(B) As a substitute for any Colorado NAPCS product code in NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade with a data nondisclosure flag for the total sales, value of shipments, or revenues in table number EC2200NAPCSINDPRD, the national NAPCS product code percentage in percentage in subsection (4)(a)(III)(B) of this section by the Colorado department of revenue gross annual sales from the most recently available tax year for the NAICS code 44-45 for retail trade; and
(V) Multiply the total taxable sales from sporting goods and equipment determined in subsection (4)(a)(IV) of this section by the state sales tax rate to determine the amount of wildlife and conservation revenue.
(b) For the 2027-28 state fiscal year, the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue determined pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section shall be considered exempt revenue available for distribution pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.
(c) For fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 2028, the quarterly December revenue forecast prepared by legislative council staff shall determine the adjustment to the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue generated pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section for the upcoming fiscal year. In determining the adjusted annual amount, legislative council staff shall consider, at a minimum, whether:
(I) Data used in subsection (4)(a) of this section has been updated;
(II) Actual receipts of sales tax revenue for the NAPCS codes in subsection (4)(a) of this section or successor codes are available; or
(III) Legislative council staff has prepared an alternative reliable estimate of statewide sales tax revenue received from the sporting goods and equipment reflected in the NAPCS codes in subsection (4)(a) of this section or successor codes.
(d) For fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 2028, the wildfire and conservation revenue is subject to reduction if it is determined that exemption of the full amount of wildfire and conservation revenue, as determined in subsection (4)(c) of this section, would cause a reduction in the credit amount available for either the family affordability tax credit, pursuant to section 39-22-130(6), or the earned income tax credit, pursuant to 39-22-123.5(3.5)(c). Such determination shall be made in either the quarterly December revenue forecast prepared by legislative council staff or the quarterly December revenue forecast prepared by the office of state planning and budgeting in the December immediately preceding the applicable state fiscal year, as determined by which immediately preceding March forecast the joint budget committee used in the preparation of the state budget. If such a reduction is necessary, legislative council staff or the office of state planning and budgeting shall calculate the maximum amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that can be considered exempt revenue without resulting in a reduction of the credit amount available for the family affordability tax credit, pursuant to section 39-22-130(6), or the earned income tax credit, pursuant to 39-22-123.5(3.5)(c).
(e) Legislative council staff or the office of state planning and budgeting shall submit to the state treasurer the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that shall be transferred and available for distribution pursuant to subsection (3) of this section as follows:
(I) For the 2027-28 state fiscal year, the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that results from the determination made in subsection (4)(a) of this section; and
(II) For the 2028-29 state fiscal year and for all subsequent state fiscal years, the amount of wildfire and conservation revenue that results from the determinations made in subsections (4)(c) and (4)(d) of this section.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33-119 as follows:
24-33-119. Colorado wildfire prevention and water fund - disposition of money. (1) The Colorado wildfire prevention and water fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund pursuant to section 24-77-110 and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. All money in the fund at the end of each fiscal year remains in the fund and does not revert to the general fund or any other fund. The state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the fund to the fund.
(2) After the state treasurer transfers and credits the wildfire and conservation revenue pursuant to section 24-77-110 (3)(c) and (3)(d), on July 1, 2027, for the 2027-28 state fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer money in the fund as follows:
(a) Ten million dollars to the prescribed fire claims cash fund created in section 24-33.5-1240(2)(a);
(b) Fifty percent of the money remaining after the transfer pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section to the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund created in section 23-31-310(8.5) and the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund created in section 23-31-313(10), with the state forester to determine the amount to be transferred to each fund; and
(c) The other fifty percent of the money remaining after the transfer pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund created in section 24-33-117(1) and the Colorado water conservation board construction fund created in section 37-60-121 for the purposes specified in section 37-60-121(11)(b)(II), with the executive director of the department of natural resources to determine the amount to be transferred to each fund.
(3) After the state treasurer transfers and credits the wildfire and conservation revenue pursuant to section 24-77-110 (3)(c) and (3)(d), on July 1, 2028, for the 2028-29 state fiscal year, and on July 1 for each state fiscal year thereafter, the state treasurer shall credit money in the fund as follows:
(a) Fifty percent of the money to the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund created in section 23-31-310(8.5) and the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund created in section 23-31-313(10), with the state forester to determine the amount to be credited to each fund; and
(b) Fifty percent of the money to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund created in section 24-33-117(1) and the Colorado water conservation board construction fund created in section 37-60-121 for the purposes specified in section 37-60-121(11)(b)(II), with the executive director of the department of natural resources to determine the amount to be credited to each fund.

Sports

Soccer



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Ryder King battles to move the ball forward in the team's final home game against Bayfield on Thursday, Oct. 8. King scored one of the Pirates' three goals in the win.

Pirates move to 5-5-1 on season

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate soccer team fell to 5-5-1 with one regular-season game left after back-to-back losses to Crested Butte and Alamosa.

The Pirates defeated Bayfield at home on Oct. 8 to end a two-game slide, then lost two in a row.

On Thursday, Oct. 8, the Pirates hosted Bayfield for their final home game of the season.

The Pirates entered the game having just been on the losing end of two matches with Montezuma-Cortez, but were able to beat the Wolverines 3-2 and get back to their winning ways.

The Pirates went up 2-0 in the first half and then closed out the Wolverines with another goal in the second half.

Hudson Davis, Ryder King and Ryan Rich all netted goals for the Pirates in the match, and Samson Dennis and Edgar Castillo each notched an assist.

The win gave the seniors a chance to celebrate one last home win with their friends and family.

Two days later, the Pirates loaded up the bus and headed to Crested Butte for a matchup with the reigning 2A state champions. The Titans bested the Pirates 6-2 behind a four-goal second half on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 10.

"We knew going into it, they're a well-run program," said coach Trevor Gian. "They're gonna have a good team. They're gonna be well-coached and ready to play. And that's exactly what we ran into at the beginning. I felt like our boys played well. Wet weather is a factor in both of these games, to be honest, up there."

Due to injuries, Gian had to ask a couple younger players to step into larger roles in the game. Most notably, freshman Finn Renner played keeper for the Pirates with the injury to Ethan Bracken.

The Pirates fell behind 1-0 early, but the combination play of Davis and King netted a goal and it was tied 1-1. Right before half, though, the Titans found the back of the net on a free kick and made it 2-1.

When the second half started, the Titans started to score. With time winding down, the Titans held a 6-1 lead after scoring four goals in the second half, but the Pirates continued to fight, Gian noted.

King found the back of the net for the second time in the game and the score was 6-2 as the final whistle blew.

"[If] we played full strength, I think that would put us on par with that Crested Butte team," said Gian. "I know the score really doesn't show that, but, yeah. It was disappointing, but a good effort from the boys."

After the loss the Pirates had a couple days to rest, but they were back on the road on Tuesday, Oct. 13, for a match with the Alamosa Mean Moose.

The Pirates had defeated the Mean Moose 4-1 earlier this season, but on Tuesday they fell 3-2.

Going into the game, the Mean Moose held a 1-8 record, but Gian emphasized that a record like that means nothing when it comes to league games.

"[We] were hoping to go out and dictate early, kind of put them on their heels, get a good lead early so that we're not letting them live in the game," Gian said. "Really, they have nothing to lose. And it's a division rival or a league rival. And we knew it would be tough."

Halfway through the first half, Davis put the Pirates up 1-0, and Gian explained he felt like his team was starting to control the game.

But, just before the end of the first half, the Mean Moose scored from 40 yards out to tie the game.

The second half started and the game turned into a dogfight, emphasized Gian. Still, the Pirates found a way to retake the lead. Castillo drew a penalty kick and buried it in the back of the net for the 2-1 lead.

With 10 minutes left, Renner was injured on a breakaway and Erick Alvarez had to come in off the bench to serve as keeper.

Shortly after, Alamosa tied it up, putting away the rebound from a free kick.

"At that point there's 10 minutes left," said Gian. "It's a free-for-all, just back and forth. We're trying to push. We need to win. They've got nothing to lose. So we're pushing back and forth. It's getting crazy hectic."

The Pirates thought they had the winning goal, but it was called back for offsides and Alamosa capitalized on an opportunity with a minute left to make it 3-2, and that's the way the game ended.

"The result's disappointing," Gian said. "But, there's going to be days like that. We feel like we probably should win that game, but Alamosa came out and fought, and that's why you play these games, for a battle."

Now, the Pirates have one game remaining on their schedule. The boys will travel to Fruita to take on the Fruita Monument Wildcats on Friday, Oct. 16. The Wildcats are 5-6-1 and ranked 44th in 4A.

The Wildcats took the teams' most recent matchup last year 2-0, but the Pirates won 3-2 two seasons ago.

"At this point, we're going to try to go have a little fun and see what our response is," Gian said. "And at the end of the day, just make sure we're leaving that game proud of who we are and what we bring."

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Volleyball

Lady Pirates set to return to action after rest period

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

After three straight losses, the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team has had eight days to recover ahead of matchups with Centauri and Monte Vista.

The Lady Pirates last played on Oct. 6 against Bayfield. After some time to rest and recharge, the team will be heading to La Jara to face Centauri on Thursday, Oct. 15, and then to Monte Vista on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Centauri is 12-5 and ranked fourth in 2A, while Monte Vista is 7-8 and ranked 43rd in 3A.

The Lady Pirates sit at 4-11 and are ranked 46th in 3A.

Coach Chelsea Caler emphasized that the keys to winning their upcoming games are communication, limiting unforced errors and trusting each other as a team.

"We've spent a lot of time on serve receive and offense, especially helping our hitters expand their shot selection," wrote Caler in an email to The SUN. "We're also putting a big emphasis on communication and creating more trust on the court."

Caler noted that the team has shown that it can compete with tough teams this season, the girls just need to translate that confidence into their upcoming games.

"Honestly, I think it comes down to the whole team buying in and communicating," wrote Caler. "When we're talking, supporting each other and playing together, we're a much tougher team to play against."

Thursday's game against Centauri is set to begin at 6:30 p.m., while Tuesday's game against Monte Vista is slated for 6 p.m.

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Photo courtesy Janine Emmets

Five Pagosa Springs seniors were part of the senior send-off at the Chalk Creek Stampede in Nathrop, Colo., on Oct. 11. From left are Justin Sewell, Van Halterman, Adelyn Hittle, Aaron Sowle and Jackson Chaney.

Mountain bike team closes regular season at Chalk Creek Stampede

By Justin Sewell
DUST2

The Pagosa Springs Mountain Bike Team (DUST2) had its fourth and final regular-season race in Nathrop, Colo., on Oct. 11.

The Chalk Creek Stampede having lots of sandy sections makes it one of the harder courses. The course has a 6.7-mile loop and 443 feet of climbing. Sandy descents and steep climbs distinguish Nathrop from other races.

Most athletes completed two laps, totaling 13.4 miles, while varsity riders completed three laps, totaling 20.1 miles.

At Nathrop most families camp near the race venue, making it even more fun. Sitting around the campfire with your team telling stories is a great way to start off the weekend. The theme for the race was cowboy. The team captains, Adelyn Hittle and Justin Sewell, got the team together to practice swing dancing before the race to build team spirit.

The first category was the freshmen boys. In the cool morning air, the freshmen boys started. Our only racer for this category was Elias Gorman. Gorman finished 25th with a time of 1 hour, 10:59 minutes.

After the freshmen boys was the senior sendoff, where all of the senior athletes rode through the pit zone area and all of the spectators took pictures and cheered for the graduating athletes.

This year, DUST2 had five riders participating in the send-off: Sewell, Hittle, Van Halterman, Jackson Chaney and Aaron Sowle. This send-off was a bittersweet moment for the riders as their time on the bike team will soon come to a close.

Up next after the senior send-off was the sophomore boys. Participating were Ward Halterman, Drake Anderson and Amon Phillips. Ward Halterman finished 27th with a time of 1:06:13, Anderson finished 29th with a time of 1:06:19 and Phillips finished 30th with a time of 1:07:23.

Next were the JV and sophomore girls. Gianna Shaeffer was the only girl to race in the JV category. Shaeffer got sixth with a time of 1:07:13. Quinn Howard was also the only girl in her category of sophomore girls. Howard got 10th with a time of 1:13:28.

The JV boys were the next division to race. Racers Chaney, Sowle, and Henley Pickering made up the category for Pagosa. In the windy afternoon the boys started their race. Sowle finished 29th with a time of 1:03:00, Chaney finished 45th with a time of 1:06:39 and Pickering finished 58th with a time of 1:10:42.

To finish off the day was the varsity division. Sewell and Hittle raced in their respective categories on varsity. Sewell finished 17th with a time of 1:26:44 in the varsity boys' category. Adelyn finished seventh with a time of 1:35:46 in the varsity girls' category.

In terms of points, Hittle led the team with 523 points, followed closely by Shaeffer with 504. Sewell scored 460 points. Howard added 427 points, with Sowle close behind at 372. Gorman scored 348, and Ward Halterman finished with 340. Chaney scored 340, with Anderson netting 332. Lastly, Phillips scored 329 points. The team got seventh in our division with 3,959 points overall.

Even with the windy and dusty conditions, DUST2 had a great time at the Chalk Creek Stampede. Most riders met and exceeded their goals for the race and are excited to race at state in two weeks.



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Football

Pirates lose close game against Aspen, prepare for homecoming match against Gunnison

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team came up just short against the Aspen Skiers last Friday, Oct. 9, losing by one point, with a final score of 29-28.

"I felt we played well enough to win and we didn't win. So, that's a problem," coach Nathan Morales said, adding, "That falls on me."

Morales noted that he needs to make sure the Pirates are prepared to finish out the second half of games when starting out strong in the first half.

The Pirates jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter with rushing touchdowns by Hudson Mazur.

Aspen came close to tying it up before the end of the first quarter, but trailed 14-13 due to a missed extra-point attempt.

Early in the second quarter, Aspen converted a field goal try to take a 16-14 lead.

The Pirates hit back, finding the end zone two more times before halftime with another rushing touchdown by Mazur and throwing touchdown completed by Kasen Limebrook to Alex Pacheco.

The Pirates converted two out of four two-point attempts on the night.

They were held scoreless in the second half.

Morales commented on the Pirates not being able to come up with any points in the second half, saying, "I gotta do a better job making sure we continue to get points and have a chance to win."

He also mentioned that turnovers were a factor during the game.

"We gotta take care of the football; that's huge," he said, "but I still felt we should've got out of there with a win regardless."

The Pirates turned the ball over three times on the night, including one interception and two lost fumbles.

"We get into adverse situations like that; we gotta be able to get through them and find a way to be able to win still," Morales added.

The Pirates put up a total of 387 yards on offense, including 35 passing yards and 352 rushing yards.

Gage Sams ran for a total of 55 yards on nine attempts, and Mazur racked up 179 rushing yards and three touchdowns on 10 attempts.

Colby Ross led the Pirates on the defensive side with eight total solo tackles, followed by Jimmy Elledge, who recorded six solo tackles.

"I thought we played well enough to win," Morales reiterated, explaining that the Pirates ended up throwing the ball more against Aspen than any other team so far this season "just due to circumstance."

He also noted that he thought the Pirates "ran the ball well."

Morales also spoke about how the Pirates gave up some big plays on defense, despite being in position to shut those plays down.

He noted the Pirates need to tackle well, "and that falls on me."

This week is homecoming week for the Pirates, who will host another league opponent in the Gunnison Cowboys.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 at Golden Peaks Stadium.

The Pirates enter the matchup as the No. 18th-ranked team in the state's 2A division, with an overall record of 3-4, including a Western Slope League mark of 2-2.

The Cowboys enter the matchup with an overall record of 2-6 and are ranked 30th in the state.

Morales commented that the Pirates intend to have "a good outing this week for homecoming" and look forward to playing in front of their fans again.

Stormy weather has affected the Pirates' ability to get outside for practices this week, but Morales commented, "We just gotta work through it, make sure we're focused and get going."

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Bowling



Photo courtesy Brigette Hinger

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate Unified bowling team takes first at a meet in Ignacio last week.



Photo courtesy Brigette Hinger

The Four Corners Rolling Stones Special Olympics bowling teams poses for a photo at regionals in Ignacio last week. The team consists of athletes from Pagosa Springs, Bayfield and Durango.

Cross-country



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Pirates Wells Witting and Liam McKnight run together at the at the Intermountain League XC Meet in Durango on Thursday, Oct. 8, as Stetson Osborn follows close behind. The Pirates placed second out of four teams.



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

From left to right, Lady Pirates Lily DeClark, Madi Stretton and Lucy Rivera run at the Intermountain League XC Meet in Durango on Thursday, Oct. 8. The team took second, with Stretton taking sixth overall.

Pirate teams take second at league meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate cross-country teams competed in Durango on Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Intermountain League XC Meet, and both the boys' and girls' teams placed second.

The race was held at Hillcrest Golf Course and, while golf courses typically produce fast race courses, coach Josh Kurz noted that the course ran a little slower than expected, likely due to soggy grass.

Teams such as Alamosa, Del Norte and Bayfield competed against the Pirates, but Centauri, one of the top teams in the league, didn't race, which lowered the level of competition, noted Kurz.

Rylan Ash led the way for the Pirates at the meet, finishing second overall with a time of 17 minutes, 5.00 seconds. Weston Sweet followed Ash with a fourth-placed finish and a time of 17:46.00. Miles Dempster placed seventh with a time of 17:59.00. Jacen Easling placed 10th with a time of 18:48.00, and Hawkin Kofke placed 19th with a time of 19:58.00 to round out the top five scoring Pirates in Durango.

Kieran Kurz placed 21st with a time of 20:13.00, Liam McKnight placed 22nd with a time of 20:24.00, Wells Witting placed 25th with a time of 20:39.00, Stetson Osborn placed 26th with a time of 20:49.00, Isaac Hanto placed 30th with a time of 21:58.00, Jacob Freeman placed 31st with a time of 22:32.00, Davyn Leiker placed 34th with a time of 23:51.00, and Matthew Mars placed 35th with a time of 25:15.00.

The Pirates placed second out of the four scoring teams with 40 points, just five points behind first-place Alamosa.

Ash and Sweet both received first team all-conference honors with their top-five finishes, and Dempster and Easling each received second team all-conference honors with their top-10 finishes.

"Rylan's been super consistent all year," said Josh Kurz. "You know, that's sometimes a lot of pressure to put together a top-three, top-five finish all year round, and so I'm really proud of him for just racing so consistently. And same with Weston and Myles."

Dempster ran a personal best race in Durango, breaking the 18-minute barrier for the first time. Easling and Kofke also had personal records at the meet, according to the coach.

Kofke came back from an ankle injury in Durango, competing in just his second race of the year, according to the coach, and immediately slotted in a top-five scoring position.

Madi Stretton was the top Lady Pirate finisher at the meet, placing sixth overall with a time of 22:09.00. Right behind her was Lucy Rivera, who placed ninth with a time of 23:08.00. Bella Jackson placed 13th with a time of 23:45.00. Lily DeClark placed 15th with a time of 24:07.00, and Elsy Wood placed 18th with a time of 24:40.00 to round out the top five scoring Lady Pirates in Durango.

Adelaide Oelking placed 25th with a time of 26:50.00, Isabelle Ratcliff placed 26th with a time of 27:00.00, and Skylar Leiker placed 31st with a time of 31:09.00.

The Lady Pirates placed second out of the four scoring teams at the meet with 53 points, just three points behind first-place Alamosa.

Stretton earned first team all-conference honors and Rivera and Jackson each earned second team all-conference honors.

"Maddie's been running really consistent as our top runner, and that's very impressive, and I'm really proud of her," said Josh Kurz. "And Bella's been coming along. She's been dropping time, and Lucy's been consistently dropping time throughout the year, too."

The Lady Pirates were not yet at full strength in Durango and still are just three points behind Alamosa. Kurz emphasized that there is still ground to be made up, but suggested the girls are on an upward trend.

Unfortunately, according to the coach, DeClark suffered an injury and is unlikely to race next week. In her absence, the Lady Pirates will get Vivy DavRem and Olivia Diffey back ahead of Monte Vista this coming week.

The team will head to Monte Vista on Friday, Oct. 16, for their final race of the regular season, the Eric Wolff Invitational.

"I'm gonna tell them, definitely save something for regionals, but the way I train them is each race is a hard workout, so it's basically the last hard workout before the regionals," said Josh Kurz.

The Colorado 3A Region 2 meet is being hosted by the Pirates this year. It will take place in Pagosa Springs on Thursday, Oct. 22. The top four teams in the region will earn themselves a chance to compete at the state meet.

It is a big honor to be able to host the regional meet, according to the coach, who emphasized that he wants the event to go as smoothly as possible.

He added he would appreciate fan support and volunteers to make sure the race goes off without any hiccups.

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Fire district board hears 2027 draft budget

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors reviewed its 2027 draft budget during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Chief Robert Bertam indicated that the district's total valuation is down $142,000 from last year due to a decrease in the valuation of houses in the district.

Bertram also noted that the district is "keeping a decent balance in our reserves."

According to the 2027 draft budget, the district has $350,000 in capital reserves.

According to the draft budget, PFPD's 2027 anticipated revenues are listed at $6,526,231, and projected revenues for 2027 is listed at $5,265,001

Bertram noted that he did not include billing for wildland services in the 2027 budget, "since we never know really what's going to happen."

He indicated that, so far this year in 2026, the district has billed out a total of $1.1 million for wildland services.

In response to a question from the board, Bertram explained that the fee the district charges for services at Stevens Field Airport is a yearly fee based on a service agreement from "a long time ago."

He mentioned that he recently received a copy of the agreement and is looking into what the district could change, "because it does need to be adjusted for inflation."

It was noted by the board that the yearly fee is $1,020.

"Interesting thing is, the airport itself is owned by the county; we do not receive any tax revenue from there," Bertram said, explaining the PFPD receives other revenue from the hangars at the airport.

The 2027 draft budget also indicates the district is projecting $250,000 in revenue from impact fees, which is up from the anticipated total of $225,000 for 2026.

During his presentation, Bertam also noted that the district is anticipating $2,000 in revenue from community classes.

He explained that PFPD conducted CPR classes for multiple schools in the community this past year.

Total expenses for the district are projected at $5,265,001, which is down from the 2026 anticipated total of $6,214,791.

Bertam explained that payroll expense for 2027 includes a proposed 5 percent cost-of-living increase for staff.

Total expenses for payroll for the district for 2027 is listed at $2,678,549, which is down from the anticipated total of $3,156,108 for 2026.

During the presentation, the board also asked questions in regard to responding to calls outside of the district's service area boundaries.

Bertram explained that is something the district needs to review and decide how it wants to approach, potentially conducting an election in 2027 for voters to decide on joining the district or not.

He indicated that there are some funds set aside in the 2027 budget for an election "if we choose to go that route."

According to the draft budget, the district has $20,000 budgeted for election expenses in 2027.

Bertram noted that the district has no legal obligation to respond to calls for service outside of the district's boundaries.

Board member James Martin commented that the district could use that as a "motivator" to get people to join the district.

He added that the district could convey the message to constituents that it is no longer cost-effective for the district to continue to respond to out-of-district calls, suggesting that people join the PFPD service district, "or we're gonna discontinue services to these areas."

Bertram commented that the board needs to discuss the matter and align itself on what the district should do, adding that it is "something we do need to address."

Bertram also noted that not being in a fire protection district also makes it hard for homeowners to get insurance.

The PFPD will vote on approving its 2027 budget at its next regular board of directors' meeting, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 10.

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Tourism

■ Continued from front

from our visitors," she said.

Green's presentation also shows that $107,000 is set aside for events, with $32,000 for fireworks, $40,000 for outside organizer event funding and $35,000 for town events (Comfest, Old Fashion Christmas, Big Spring Clean and the holiday lighting contest).

She noted that the cost of fireworks over the last 10 years had been split evenly between the town sales tax and lodging tax, but is now coming completely out of lodging tax.

She explained that the tourism board is also being asked to cover the cost of the town's Comfest events.

Green noted that the $40,000 set aside for outside event organizers is a reduced amount from what was set aside in 2026.

"And in the next tourism board meeting, the board is going to discuss … 2027 goals and criteria for events and future meetings," she said.

Green explained that in the fall of last year, the board opted to get rid of all funding criteria for the event funding process.

"And I believe, from what I've heard, the majority now feel that that was the wrong move," she said.

She indicated the board is looking to bring back event criteria, "which will help, perhaps, a level of scrutiny on the event applications that are being brought forward."

Ranson asked who made the decision on "cutting the events," to which Green responded, "I guess I did."

She explained that she did that when drafting the budget, "and we discussed it during the tourism board meeting, and the rest of the board didn't have any pushback on that."

Ranson is the BoCC member that sits on the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board.

She further explained that she was "just trying to make all the numbers work," and specifically make sure that there was $500,000 set aside for advertising, "so that you guys can clearly see what the county lodging tax was going to be used for."

She added, "And since I've heard that you guys don't want to support event funding out of county lodging tax," Green said.

She explained other costs for fireworks and Comfest would've been given to third-party event organizers.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked what the amount was for third-party event organizers in 2026, with Green indicating it was $150,000.

Green noted that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board's annual budget for event planning was $40,000 to $60,000.

"Only since COVID has the number increased significantly," she said, adding, "It gets us back to where we were in the past."

Medina expressed that it is a "significant decrease" in event funding for 2027, adding that when previously discussing advertising and marketing funds, she suggested those funds could cover costs for fireworks "and other things."

She added, "I think we could talk a little bit more about the budget and how that works."

Medina also asked when the town council would be approving the budget, to which Green indicated it already has.

"They were on a very accelerated schedule this year," Green said.

She also explained that if there is a significant amount in reserves, if the board wants to allocate more funding for events, "there is an opportunity to use money from reserves with, again, approval from the town and the county."

Green later noted that the tourism board has about $1.4 million in reserves, but needs to retain approximately one-third of that for personnel expenses in the event that there is no revenue coming in.

"So, there's roughly about $1 million that would be accessible," she said.

Green also noted that most of the events that applied for funds have received funds for "years and years."

Medina commented that the BoCC needs to figure out its expectation for tourism and where the funds could go, or need to go.

"My biggest concern with the whole conversation was to separate the money from tourism, and was about the funding for events in the community," she said, adding that "for us to drop to $40,000 is very concerning."

Medina then asked for confirmation that the funding amount was dropped because of the county's request that $500,000 "strictly go to marketing and advertising," which Green confirmed.

"Even though a lot of these activities … would be considered advertising or marketing," Medina said.

"Honestly, I think everything we do is considered promoting the destination," Green said.

Medina noted, "besides paying staff wages," adding that could even be "disputed."

Green's presentation indicates that $500,000 is budgeted for marketing in 2027, and that the 2027 marketing plan will be presented at the tourism board's meeting in December.

Current projected expenditures for the tourism board's 2027 budget are listed at $1,558,889, according to Green's presentation.

At the end of the presentation, Medina asked if there was still an opportunity for the BoCC to direct the tourism board to use "say $100,000 from the advertising and marketing" to go toward event funding.

"Absolutely," Green commented.

Medina also noted that the tourism board is a volunteer board that provides recommendations.

"I was really disappointed when I found out that the [event] criteria was just erased," she said, asking if Green could give direction to the board or bring similar matters to elected boards for consideration in the future. "Because I think if it's something that major, that definitely affects the funding to the community. I think that deserves a bigger conversation."

Green indicated that she "urged" the tourism board to not drop criteria for event funding.

"It also helps event organizers understand what they're being graded on," she added.

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Board

■ Continued from front

mittee consists of parents, booster club members and coaches.

BoE member Amanda Schick commented, "I just think some clarity is needed."

She mentioned that the topic of athletics continues to come up within "inner circles" from middle school though high school.

"So, I think that that community could have leverage," she said, adding that it would be valuable to have some "clarification of expectation of the program" from the number of participants to "what is the philosophy of these teams?"

Schick also noted that she has asked for the district's athletic director to come before the BoE.

BoE member Tim Taylor asked about the initiative to potentially get more referees in the area, with Holt explaining that many referees are "aging out."

He also explained that "people are not excited to be a referee; they're taking a lot of flack from the stands."

He noted that has been a point of focus for the athletic director in trying to address fans that harass officials.

Schick offered more comments on the importance of developing a district-wide athletics philosophy.

"I think the more cohesive the message could be, it will allow some really good structure to come into place, to ensure everybody can kind of understand what the mission is, and I think that that is greatly needed," Schick said.

Mackey also noted that having a cohesive philosophy would be beneficial for students beginning in seventh grade, "so that, by the time they're in high school, they understand the program."

Schick commented that it's necessary to keep good coaches wanting to coach in order for that to happen.

Holt mentioned that one thing currently delaying the hiring of a head track coaching position is being specific about what are the qualities that the program needs "that we want to articulate."

"There's some assumptions out there that are based on what other coaches have done in the past, but those things haven't been clearly articulated anywhere," he said.

BoE president Bob Lynch expressed that the basic idea is to have a handbook that "cuts across all athletics" that expresses how athletic programs are intended to aid in student education and growth.

Holt commented that in having conversations with various coaches, it's been expressed that philosophy would be great to have articulated, "and they just haven't existed here."

Lynch also provided an ancedotal story of his experience coaching in the district, explaining that he initially believed he would be evaluated at the end of the year.

"It turned out, you don't get evaluated. You get asked, 'Are you coming back?'" he said, suggesting that creates a culture of "the coach decides."

Holt indicated that he expects some things to come before the BoE in regard to developing an athletic philosophy.

"I was surprised at how informal things were as far as expectations," Mackey added.

Holt also explained that last year the district dealt with the topic of deciding on how far a team could drive before it needed to book a hotel stay.

"We didn't have anything to base that on," Holt said, explaining that those decisions were based on memories of previous coaches and staff rather than being defined in a policy derived from an athletics philosophy.

Holt also noted that the district's coaches are being represented in the athletics advisory committee.

"We'll stay after it," Mackey added.



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PAWSD considers Knolls requests

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Sept. 24 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted on a series of requests for information and billing changes made by the Knolls Property Owner's Association (KPOA).

Discussions with the KPOA began at the Aug. 13 PAWSD board meeting, where KPOA representatives outlined the subdivision's situation and requests for information.

According to KPOA representative Suzanne Dimeff, the KPOA is connected into the PAWSD wastewater treatment system, but maintains its own wastewater collection lines within the subdivision.

Several hangars in the area are tied into this collection system and run sewage through it into the PAWSD system, she indicated, adding that the act of connecting the hangars to the KPOA system was done without the KPOA's permission and was later ruled to be civil theft by the contractor who made the connection in litigation over the matter.

These hangars still pay PAWSD wastewater service fees.

According to Dimeff, the KPOA is attempting to create an extra-territorial service agreement with the hangar owners connected to the KPOA collection system, which would allow the association to bill them for upkeep of the collection system that their wastewater passes through on its way to PAWSD.

The KPOA requested several pieces of information to help establish what fees would be reasonable to charge the hangar owners, as well as potentially seeking to change its agreement with PAWSD to be closer to the district's agreement for sewage treatment with the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID).

As PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis summarized at the Sept. 24 meeting, the KPOA requested that it be charged at the same rate as the PSSGID, which is charged the cost required to treat the sewage flowing to PAWSD with no contributions to capital or other infrastructure expenses, instead of the significantly higher normal wastewater rate that KPOA members currently pay.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges noted that the PSSGID maintains a large amount of its own infrastructure and its wastewater flows through only a very limited amount of the PAWSD collection system, while wastewater from the KPOA flows through miles of the PAWSD collection system before reaching the district's Vista wastewater treatment plant.

Dimeff explained that she did not want an identical agreement to the PSSGID, but did want an "equitable apportionment" of costs.

She added that having such an agreement would also allow PAWSD to use its powers to certify delinquent accounts to the county treasurer to enforce the fees that the KPOA is trying to charge the hangar owners, which they are currently refusing to pay.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh noted that the inclusion of the KPOA into the PAWSD system was the result of "generosity" on the part of PAWSD in finding an arrangement to allow a wastewater system which does not meet standards into the system.

Following further discussion of the topic, the board voted 3-1 to deny the KPOA request to alter the KPOA's

■ See PAWSD B2



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Fall colors show north of Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Oct. 10, in between bouts of rain. According to the U.S. Forest Service, fall colors at higher elevations in the area were peaking as of Wednesday, Oct. 14, with the area around town being at partial peak.

Commissioners approve letter of support for Pagosa Lakes trail project grant program

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Oct. 6, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved its consent agenda, which included a letter of support for the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA).

According to the meeting's agenda, "This letter is in support of the sponsorship of the Colorado State Trails new construction grant application in partnership with the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA)."

The attached letter explains that it is supporting the North Pagosa Trail extension project.

It also explains that the PLPOA "will be providing the cash match and the county will be in ultimate oversight of the project, has approved the project and can attest that the public right-of-way where the trail will be located shall remain open to the public for a minimum of at least the next 25 years."

Additionally, the letter notes that PLPOA will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the proposed trail project.

"This proposed North Pagosa Trail Extension Project would provide a highly desired non-motorized trail within our community that would serve many residents and visitors for years to come and is part of long-range plan to develop additional trails within the Pagosa Lakes community," the letter states.

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PAWSD

■ Continued from B2

payment arrangement with PAWSD.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson voted against denying the request and stated that he felt that the unique situation could potentially merit further discussion since the KPOA was not requesting to be treated exactly like the PSSGID.

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones also commented that he did not see why PAWSD should be involved in compelling the hangar owners to pay bills to the KPOA, although he suggested that the KPOA should make efforts to show these owners why they should pay additional fees to the KPOA.

Tautges also noted that the KPOA likely has the right to cut off the hangars from passing wastewater through its collection system, if it chose to do so.

Lewis explained that the KPOA's second request was for hydraulic loading data, which PAWSD does not collect.

Dimeff stated that the KPOA wanted hydraulic loading data for water and understood that PAWSD does not collect wastewater loading data.

She also denied that the KPOA could shut off the valves allowing wastewater from the hangars to enter the KPOA system, commenting that this would create public health issues and "could be a felony."

Jones raised concerns about whether or not PAWSD would be violating client privilege by providing information from the hangars without the hangars' permission.

Tautges asked why the KPOA could not ask the hangars for their data directly and not involve PAWSD.

Jones noted that Dimeff was arguing that the hangars were misrepresenting the amount of water they were using, which would also distort the amount of load the hangars were placing in the KPOA collection system, although he added that he did believe PAWSD could provide this data without the hangar owners' permission.

Walsh noted that planning departments frequently calculate hydraulic load based on occupancy, which he suggested that the KPOA could do.

Following more discussion, the board unanimously voted to deny the request for hydraulic loading data.

Lewis then summarized the final KPOA request, which was for accounting of availability of service fees that were erroneously being charged by PAWSD to KPOA property owners with vacant lots, ending in 2023.

The paperwork documenting this request states, "This request is respectfully made to negotiate a settlement between the parties without need of a subpoena-without filing an action."

The paperwork adds that the aim of this accounting request is to account for and have PAWSD disgorge money paid to the district through erroneous billing both to property owners and to the KPOA sewer fund for sewer maintenance.

KPOA president Carl Dimeff explained that he circulated paperwork to the property owners in the KPOA which would give their permission for the KPOA to acquire this billing information.

He added that one property owner went through the process to get this information, but that PAWSD refused to provide it because the authorization was not notarized.

Lewis commented that she had requested that the KPOA property owners send their permission to PAWSD via email, if possible, using the email addresses associated with their PAWSD accounts.

She added that the person whose request was denied due to it not being notarized had submitted their authorization via a brief note written in pencil which was impossible to validate, especially since PAWSD did not have another copy of his signature to compare the note to.

Suzanne Dimeff requested that the issue be tabled so that the KPOA could collect the appropriate authorizations.

Jones commented that he was open to tabling the request and would be willing to potentially consider an alternative billing structure, although not one the same as the PSSGID.

Carl Dimeff proposed that he draft a letter specifying the data to be released and have this be signed by the KPOA members.

Walsh raised concerns about the amount of time being spent on providing this information to the KPOA and reiterated his comments on the generosity PAWSD has shown to the KPOA.

"I think this whole giving out our data for folks to police their neighbors is a bad road," Walsh said before making a motion to deny the KPOA request.

Tautges questioned why the KPOA could not ask its members for their bills, and Walsh raised further concerns about how fulfilling this request would facilitate further requests and attempts to contest PAWSD billing by the KPOA leadership and its residents.

"This is a request for broad discovery, again, just to triplicate or quadruplicate what we've seen today," said Walsh. "I'm sorry, I think we provide you excellent service at a generous price. Districts all over charge 50, 75, 100 percent premiums for out-of-district service. I think we're doing good work here, and that's why I move to deny."

Following more discussion of whether or not denying this request would set a poor precedent for treatment of the rest of PAWSD customers, Lewis clarified that PAWSD staff would welcome discussing billing with individual owners in the KPOA, but that this issue likely did not need to go through the KPOA.

The board then voted on Walsh's motion, with Walsh and Tautges voting for it and Hudson and Jones voting against.

Tautges explained that this meant that the motion failed and that the issue would be left in the hands of staff.

Walsh commented that the failure of the motion did not mean that existing PAWSD policy, which he argued the motion aligned with, changed.

He added that individual customers could request information on their billing.

Tautges closed the discussion by encouraging the KPOA to "use the tools that you have right now, without us, and move forward."

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Colorado State Patrol to hold sobriety checkpoint event in Archuleta County

Colorado State Patrol

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) will join forces with the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office to conduct a sobriety checkpoint on Saturday, Oct. 17, through the early morning hours on Sunday, Oct. 18.

Checkpoint locations are chosen based on DUI crash and arrest history. One in three fatal vehicle crashes in Colorado involves an impaired driver.

The primary purpose of checkpoints is not to make arrests, but to promote public safety by discouraging motorists from driving impaired. Through high-visibility, responsible-driving enforcement events, troopers will also address those who make the poor decision to drive while intoxicated. During the checkpoint, troopers and officers will look for signs that drivers are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Archuleta County checkpoint: U.S. 160 near Trinity Lane.

The CSP reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or operating "heavy machinery," which includes driving a vehicle. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is also illegal. If you plan on drinking, taking medications or using impairing substances that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying at home or making a plan for a rideshare, public transportation or a designated driver.

If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact the CSP at *CSP (*277).

Drivers who are caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes and other expenses that can exceed $13,000, not to mention the social consequences when friends, family, colleagues and employers find out.

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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.

Missing something?

By Eric Smith, DDS
San Juan Dental

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We also believe in being fair and transparent with pricing. Good dentistry should feel like a sound investment, not a mystery.

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San Juan Dental offices may be reached at (970)264-9436 or www.pagosa.dentist.

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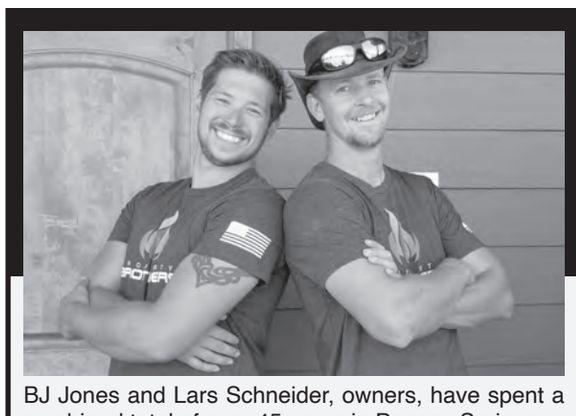


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New young driver education law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2027

Colorado Department of Transportation

On Jan. 1, 2027, new minor driver education standards will go into effect across Colorado.

These new standards aim to increase the preparedness and knowledge of Colorado's youngest drivers.

The new standards require:

• A 30-hour driver education course for 15- through 17-year-olds (which may include an online course).

• Either a 30-hour course or a four-hour prequalification driver awareness program (which may include an online course) for ages 18 through 20 years old.

• A successfully completed motorcycle safety training program approved by Colorado State Patrol for those under 21 years old before being issued a motorcycle instruction permit or endorsement.

Prior to the new law, HB24-1021, teens who earned their permits at the age of 16 or older did not have to take an educational course before passing their written permit exam, a requirement that is now extended to all teens under the age of 18.

Additionally, the new law will not affect behind-the-wheel training requirements, which will remain mandatory for all teens earning their licenses before 16.5 years of age.

"Teens are Colorado's next generation of motorists, and we want to prepare them to be safe drivers," said Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "By increasing knowledge and preparedness of safe driving practices, we can reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities in the years ahead."

Permit holders under 18 years of age must still complete a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving before they are eligible to receive a driver's license.

Driving hours may be supervised by:

• The minor's parent or stepparent.

• The minor's grandparent with power of attorney.

• An individual who is 21 years of age or older and who signed the affidavit of liability.

• The minor's foster parent who signed the affidavit of liability.

• An approved driver education instructor.

• An alternate permit supervisor who is 21 years of age or older and is appointed by the person who signed the affidavit of liability.

• If the minor is a foster child, an individual authorized to supervise the foster child.

"These new regulations will help better prepare young drivers for the roads around them," said Department of Motor Vehicles Director of Driver Services Benjamin Mitchell. "Unfortunately, teen traffic fatalities in Colorado have steadily risen over the past 10 years. It's time we improve our systems to better protect the newest drivers on our roadways."

The law also requires behind-the-wheel training instructors to submit a fingerprint-based criminal history check in place of a Colorado Bureau of Investigation background check before instructing. Background checks for instructors have always existed, but they'll now be completed through fingerprinting.

To learn more about the new teen driver education standards and find other teen driving resources, visit codot.gov/teeneducation.

The Blotter

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

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Sept. 8 — Domestic violence, invasion of privacy for sexual gratification, Aspen Road.

Sept. 8 — Information only, no location listed.

Sept. 9 — Information only, Gun Barrel Road.

Sept. 10 — Warrant arrest, Hersch Avenue.

Sept. 10 — Warrant arrest, Davis Cup Drive.

Sept. 10— First-degree motor vehicle theft, first-degree criminal trespass motor vehicle, U.S. 84.

Sept. 10 — Information only, Hawk Place.

Sept. 11 — Information only, Marina Court.

Sept. 11 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Sept. 12 — Dog at large, Bonanza Avenue.

Sept. 12 — Criminal possession of a financial device, identity theft-use financial device to obtain thing of value, unauthorized use of financial transaction device $2,000 to $5,000, County Road 988.

Sept. 12 — Information only, Mansions Circle.

Sept. 13 — Agency assist, County Road 600.

Sept. 14 —warrant arrest, County Road 600.

Sept. 14 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Sept. 15 — Information only, Navajo Trail Drive.

Sept. 15 — Rabies vaccination required, vicious dog with injury to person, Bastille Drive.

Sept. 15 — Information only, Starlight Place.

Sept. 16 — Agency assist, County Road 600.

Sept. 16 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Sept. 16 — Theft-$750 to $2,000 other (includes gas), Talisman Drive.

Sept. 16 — Second-degree criminal trespass, second-degree forgery, Country Meadows Place.

Sept. 16 — Trespass warning, no location listed.

Sept. 16 — Information only North Dawning Court.

Sept. 17 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

Sept. 17 — Information only, Peninsula Place.

Sept. 18 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Sept. 18 — Vicious dog with injury to person, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Sept. 18 — Death investigation, Sleeping Bear Place.

Sept. 18 — Dog at large, no location listed.

Sept. 19 — Trespass warning, U.S. 160.

Sept. 19— Information only, Ace Court.

Sept. 19 — Child abuse-negligence, Pinon Causeway.

Sept. 20 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

Sept. 21 — Criminal mischief $1,000 to $5,000 private, Pines Club Place.

Sept. 21 — Information only, lost/found property, Pineview Road.

Sept. 22 — Crimes against at-risk adult/elderly >70-theft under $500, criminal mischief $300 to $1,000 private, stalking-emotional distress-second offense, theft-$50 to $300 other (includes gas).

Sept. 22 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

Sept. 22 — Abandon vehicle on public property, no location listed.

Sept. 23 — Sexual assault-no consent, Navajo State Park.

Sept. 23 — Information only, Colo. 151.

Sept. 23 — Agency assist, no location listed.

Sept. 23 — Agency assist, no location listed.

Sept. 24 — Dog at large, Bonanza Avenue.

Sept. 24 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Meadows Drive.

Sept. 26 — Agency assist, no location listed.

Sept. 27 — Agency assist, Talisman Drive.

Sept. 27 — Information only, West Golf Place.

Sept. 27 — Agency assist, County Road 600.

Sept. 28 — Information only, Eagles Crest Place.

Sept. 28 — Criminal mischief under $300 private, Park Avenue.

Sept. 29 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Sept. 30 — Information only, Scratch Court.

Sept. 30 — Criminal mischief M, Pines Club Place.

Sept. 30 — Second-degree introducing contraband, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, Harman Park Drive.

Sept. 30 — Information only, no location listed.

Sept. 30 — Third-degree criminal trespass, theft-$50 to $300 from yard, Monument Avenue.

Sept. 30 — Criminal mischief under $300 private, Handicap Avenue.

Oct. 1 — Agency assist, County Road 500.

Oct. 2 — Vicious dog with injury, East Arbol Park Drive.

Oct. 3 — Reckless driving, U.S. 160.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Oct. 4 — Theft M, South 9th Street.

Oct. 4 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, U.S. 160.

Oct. 4 — Abandonment of motor vehicle, no location listed.

Oct. 4 — Criminal mischief, North 5th Street.

Oct. 4 — Criminal trespass, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Oct. 5 — Information only, South 9th Street.

Oct. 5 — Agency assist, Pinon Causeway.

Oct. 5 — Agency assist, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Oct. 5 — Failure to display proof of insurance, operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, tail lamp violation, no location listed.

Oct. 6 — Agency assist, Eagle Drive.

Oct. 6 — Information only, San Juan Street.

Oct. 6 — Careless driving, U.S. 160.

Oct. 7 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Aspen Village Drive.

Oct. 7 — Theft/knowingly uses, conceals, abandons which deprives, Trinity Lane/U.S. 160.

Oct. 7 — Information only, South 9th Street.

Oct. 8 — Lost/found property, Pagosa Street/Hot Springs Boulevard.

Oct. 9 — Criminal mischief, Centennial Park.

Oct. 9 — Information only, no location listed.

Oct. 9 — Criminal possession of a financial device, identity theft-use information to obtain thing of value, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Oct. 9 — Harassment/communicate by telephone or computer, Talisman Drive.

Oct. 10 — Assault in the third degree, disorderly conduct-fighting in public, menacing-felony-aggravated-nonfamily-weapon, resisting arrest/physical force against officer, Pagosa Street.

Oct. 10 — Owner or operator failed to present evidence of insurance upon request, U.S. 160/1st Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Sept. 21 — Maria Nevarez-Quezada, failed to yield to oncoming traffic when making left turn, three points off, fine, surcharge, costs — $116.

Sept. 21 — Deborah Ortiz, owner operated vehicle without insurance, four points off, fine and costs — $285.

Sept. 21 — Teresa Haile, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — $72.

Sept. 21 — Mary Ledenican, speeding 10-19 miles per hour over prima facie limit, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — $207.

Sept. 21 — Jonathan Ashley, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — $72.

Sept. 21 — Phillip Hulst, speeding 5-9 miles per hour over prima facie limit, one point off, fine, surcharge and costs — $136.

Sept. 29 — Kyle Sells, speeding 10-19 miles per hour over prima facie limit, four points off, fine and surcharge — $172.

Sept. 29 — Natasha Pina, owner operated vehicle without insurance, four points off, fine — $250.

Sept. 29 — Roger Zubia, disorderly conduct/fighting in public, fine and costs — $185.

Oct. 5 — Sarah Kozlowski, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — $72.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Sept. 2 — Zachary R. Johnson, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 18 months probation, fines and costs — $1,206.50.

Sept. 2 — Valeria R. Robinson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $198.50.

Sept. 2 — Trevor R. Helsel, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $210.50.

Sept. 2 — Bernando R. Becenti, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $210.50.

Sept. 2 — Brian Garcia, trespass 3, four days jail, fines and costs — $36.

Sept. 2 — Austin Willis, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $210.50.

Sept. 10 — Joseph Harold Bergman, license plates-expired, fines and costs — $83.

Sept. 10 — Xane D. Hill, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — $139.50.

Sept. 11 — Sergia Vasquez Calderon, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — $127.50.

Sept. 11 — Isaac Earl Thomas, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — $190.

Sept. 11 — Denise E. Coffee, driving under the influence-with prior, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 24 months probation, fines and costs — $2,643.80.

Sept. 16 — Alex Quick Selph, reckless endangerment, 12 months probation updated sentence, fines and costs — $1,776.11.

Sept. 16 — Phillip B. Walter, careless driving resulting in serious bodily injury/death, 24 months unsupervised probation, fines and costs — $27,645.61.

Sept. 21 — Kennedy Lynn Brunton, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — $125.

Sept. 22 — Tennessee Charles Mize, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — $190.

Sept. 23 — Joshua C. Hamill, parks/rec violate park rule, fines and costs — $138.50.

Sept. 23 — James Mars, parks/rec violate park rule, fines and costs — $138.50.

Sept. 23 — Christopher S. Cameron, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $210.50.

Sept. 23 — Joshua Soniat du Fossat, violation p/o-criminal-att, 55 days jail, fines and costs — $199.50.

Sept. 24 — Thomas S. Cachucha, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — $139.50.

Sept. 24 — Shaianne K. Lambson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $210.50.

Sept. 24 — Christian Rick Cornish, license plates-expired, fines and costs — $120.50.

Sept. 25 — Monica M. Miera-Artis, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $233.50.

Sept. 25 — Mary Lois Ledenican, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — $161.50.

Sept. 25 — Joshua R. Haskings, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — $314.50.

Sept. 25 — Tanner Charles Coulson, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — $290.

Sept. 25 — Justin Apodaca, burning during Stage 1, 2, fines and costs — $1,010.

Sept. 25 — Lawrence L. Martinez, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — $126.50.

Sept. 25 — Scott Gene Hembel, burning during stage 1, 2, fines and costs — $510.

Sept. 25 — Luke Jason Hanson, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — $126.50.

Sept. 25 — Stetson Ruthardt, driving under restraint, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — $277.50.

Sept. 25 — Jesus E. Orona Lares, speeding 10-19 over limit, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — $279.50.

■ See Blotter B6





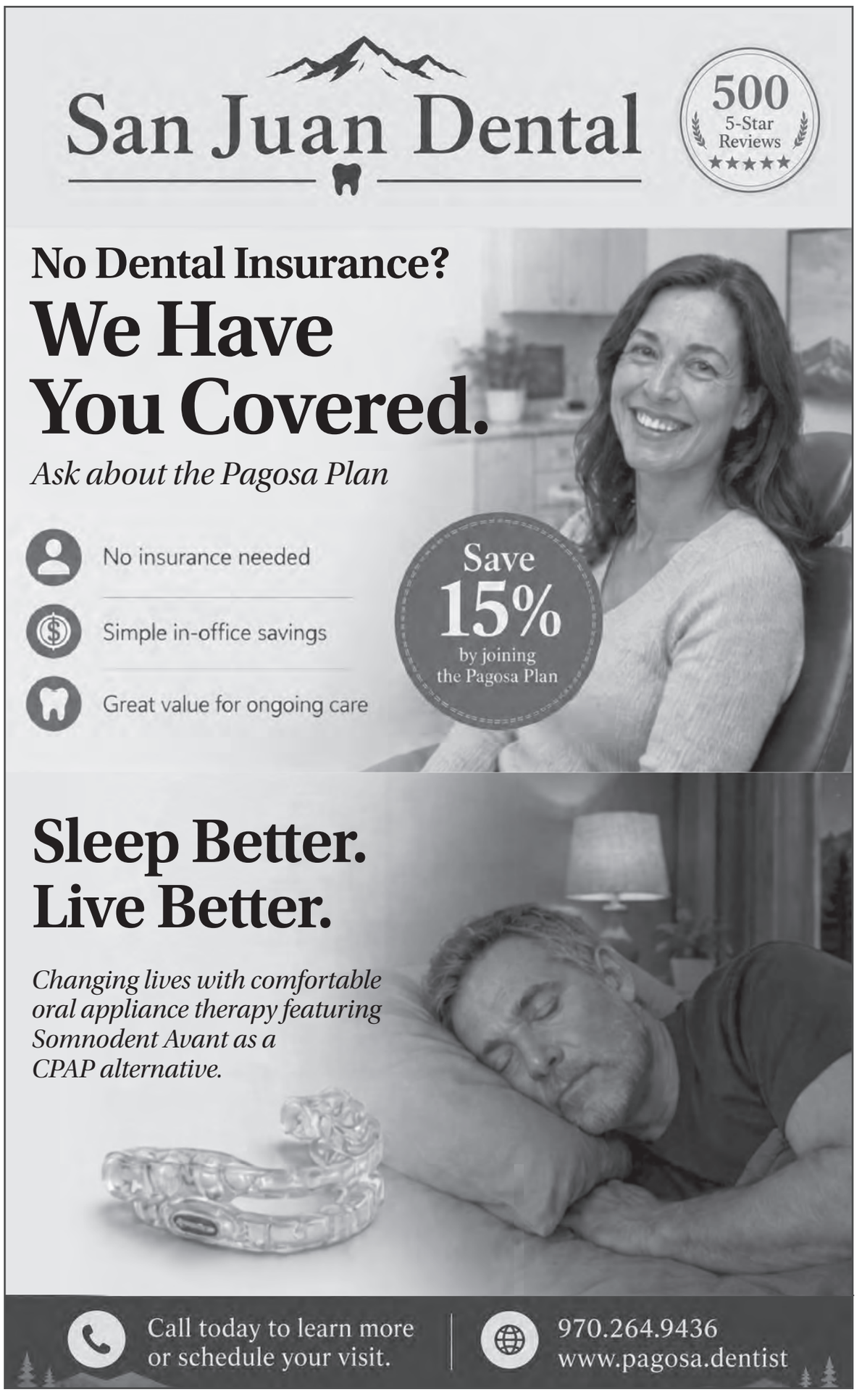


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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Outdoors

Inaugural Headwaters Happy Hour to be held Friday

By Monica Nigon
San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership



Photo courtesy San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership

A field tour in June 2026 led by partners at the San Juan National Forest-Pagosa Ranger District describes proposed forest health treatments. The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership will host its inaugural Headwaters Happy Hour Friday, offering a time to discuss regional forest and watershed health.

The San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership (SJHFHP) will host its inaugural Headwaters Happy Hour this Friday, Oct. 16, at 4 p.m. at Motel SOCO.

The event, to be held monthly, is a casual gathering to discuss all things related to forest and watershed health in our region. An informal presentation from a topic expert will be followed by a Q-and-A.

This month's theme is "What is 'good fire'?" Local experts in forest and fire will join us to discuss. All are welcome.

The SJHFHP was founded in response to concerns about forest health, wildfire risk and differing opinions over forest management in Southwest Colorado. Following discussions about mixed-conifer forest management on the Pagosa Ranger District in 2008, a 2009 workshop convened by the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute encouraged a collaborative approach that included forest managers, scientists, land users and community members.

The resulting Upper San Juan Mixed-Conifer Working Group expanded its focus to encompass multiple forest types and nearby private lands, recognizing the connections between forest health, watershed resilience, water quality and critical community infrastructure. In 2013, the group formally became the SJHFHP.

The SJHFHP mission is to strengthen the long-term resilience of communities by improving forest and watershed health through collaboration, shared knowledge, adaptive management and high-priority restoration projects.

Its goals include advancing landscape-scale forest and watershed management, establishing shared principles and priorities, supporting regional economic viability through forest health products, and implementing treatments in high-risk areas.

The SJHFHP brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including federal and state agencies, local governments, private landowners, businesses, conservation organizations, and community members. Its informal, inclusive structure encourages open discussion, allowing participants to contribute to decisions and build trust around complex forest management issues.

Since its launch, the SJHFHP has helped secure more than $1 million for forest thinning, contributed more than 3,000 volunteer hours, provided more than 20 community education opportunities, developed a citizen-science monitoring program and assessed wildfire risks to local water resources. Its wildfire risk assessments identified the Fourmile and Turkey Springs areas as priorities for forest treatments to protect critical water infrastructure, reservoirs and residential communities.

These efforts helped secure nearly $1.3 million in federal funding for treatments around water resources, with more than 700 acres treated across public and private lands.

The work demonstrates how collaborative planning can align restoration priorities, leverage funding and reduce the potential impacts of severe wildfire and subsequent erosion and runoff.

Ultimately, the SJHFHP's experience illustrates how a locally driven, inclusive collaborative can advance landscape-scale forest restoration, protect essential community resources and strengthen resilience.

BLM announces December sale of oil and gas leases in Colorado

Bureau of Land Management

On Oct. 9, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced an oil and gas lease sale scheduled for Dec. 8, offering 113 oil and gas parcels totaling 126,440 acres in Colorado, including some in Archuleta County.

The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in July and held a public comment period that closed in September on the parcels and the related environmental analysis.

■ See Leases B5

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Public Notices

2027 BUDGET NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Upper San Juan Library District has received a 2027 Library Budget for consideration. A copy for public inspection is available online at www.pagosalibrary.org or in person at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, Colorado.
A public hearing on the 2027 budget is set for Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 4pm in person at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, 811 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, Colorado and simultaneously via Zoom.
Interested parties may file objections any time prior to final adoption as defined in §29-1-106(1), C.R.S.
Published October 15, 22, and 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (319800)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION
CRS §38 38 103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2026 009
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, 11/19/2026, 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
/s/ Elsa P. White
By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
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)

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
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint to Quiet Title Pursuant to Rule 105 filed with the Archuleta County District 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 service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the last day of 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 with 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be entered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situate in Archuleta County, Colorado more particular described as follows:
Subdivision: LAKEWOOD VILLAGE: Lot: 39 LWV Sec: 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@ecrlegal.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)

Notice is hereby given that: a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of Los Pinos Fire Protection District for the ensuing year of 2027; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the office of Los Pinos Fire Protection District, where the same is open for public inspection; such proposed budget will be considered at the regular meeting of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District to be held at 275 Browning Ave., Ignacio, CO 81137 on December 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Any interested elector of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.
Published October 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (319612)

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.archuletacounty.gov/county-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 00009
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 St/ 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)

PUBLIC NOTICE
ARCHULETA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Notice is hereby given that the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners will consider adopting the 2026 Housing Action Plan during a public hearing at its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. The public hearing will be held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, located at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, CO, and will also be available virtually. The meeting agenda and virtual access link will be posted by Friday, November 13, on the County website at www.archuletacounty.gov under the "Agendas & Minutes" tab and on the November 17 calendar entry. The draft Housing Action Plan is available for public review on the Planning Department page of the County website under "Archuleta County Housing Needs Assessment." Questions may be directed to adminp@archuletacounty.gov or 970-264-8300.
Published October 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320199)

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners will consider a Resolution to vacate and close public access to Country Center Drive from North Pagosa Blvd., Pagosa Springs, County of Archuleta, Colorado due to public health, welfare and safety concerns.
The matter will be considered at the October 20, 2026, Regular Board of County Commissioners' meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting room, located at 398 Lewis St., Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Members of the public are invited to attend and provide comment or any objections regarding the proposed closure.
Published October 8 and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (319492)

Public Notice
The Town Council will consider adopting the 2026 Housing Action Plan during a public hearing at its regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 5pm. The public hearing will be conducted at Town Hall, located at 551 Hot Springs Blvd, and is also available to attend virtually. The meeting agenda and virtual meeting link will be posted 5 days prior to the meeting date on the Towns's website, www.pagosasprings.co.gov, under the "meetings and agendas tab" located at bottom of the home page. The Housing Action Plan is posted on the Town's website, under "What's Happening" on the home page, and on MyPagosa.org. Questions can be directed to Jsams@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-4984. Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs have worked with our consultants for the last 14 months to create the Action Plan, which includes strategies for advancing local affordable housing identified in the 2025 Housing Needs Assessment.
Published October 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320201)

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for Annexation for property located along Mill Creek Road (C.R. 302) also known as Archuleta County Parcel #570118401002 and known as the Strohecker Minor Subdivision Lot 2B.
The applicant, Mountain Crossing, LLC, is requesting annexation of this 0.33-acre parcel into Town boundaries and for the property to be zoned Mixed-Use Corridor (MU-C).
The stated purpose of this annexation is to meet the requirement for Mountain Crossing Subdivision to have secondary access from Mill Creek.
The Town Council will conduct a public hearing on the Resolution of Intent to Annex: **Tuesday, November 17, 2026 @ 5 pm and Planning Commission on November 24, 2026 @ 5:30 pm,** to consider the annexation petition and determine if it is in substantial compliance with the Annexation Act, C.R.S 31-12-108.
The Public Hearings will be conducted in Town Hall Located at 551 Hot Springs Blvd.
For more information and anyone wishing to provide comments, please contact the Town Planning Department at 970-585-8610 or at oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov or attend the public hearing. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing.
Published October 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320268)

Request for Qualifications/Proposal: The Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District is soliciting a request for qualifications and proposals from qualified firms to provide an Owner's Advisor during the design & engineering, construction, and transition to operation of a new Wastewater Treatment Facility that is planned to be built on the Town owned Yamaguchi South property. Details on the Request for Qualifications/Proposal advertisement can be found at the Town's website at pagosasprings.co.gov under the Bids & RFPs section for details and instructions. Responses are due Monday, October 19, 2026, at 5 pm.
Published October 1, 8, and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (318436)

The Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd to take public comment on the proposed 2027 budget for the Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority. Copies of the proposed budget are available for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.
Published October 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (319037)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for a Density Bonus at Town Terrace, located at 262 Pagosa Street.
The proposed Density Bonus relates to a conversion of office space to a residential unit that will be offered, and deed restricted, at the Affordable Workforce Housing Rate based on the State's AMI categories. The Density Bonus is being requested because the current property is capped at their allowable density for the Mixed-Use Town Center District (MU-TC).
The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, November 27, 2026, at 5:30 pm to consider the Density Bonus application and make a recommendation to Town Council. Town Council will hear this proposal on November 3, 2026, at 5:00 pm.
Public Hearings and Meetings will be conducted at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote
attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round **Minutes and Agendas** tab located at the bottom of the photo on the Town's website home page at pagosasprings.co.gov. You may also view the application at mypagosa.org/proposed-development-projects.
We encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Division prior to the public hearing dates, with any questions via phone at 970-585-8610 or email at oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov. Written comments received 7 days prior to the meeting or public hearing will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and/or Town Council for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing.
Please note that your public comments submitted on MyPagosa.org or via email will be forwarded to
the Planning Commission for their consideration.
Published October 15 and 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320273)

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.*

CRIA Lecture Series to focus on 'The Dating Game: Archaeological Dating Methods'

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is pleased to present a free public lecture, "The Dating Game: Archaeological Dating Methods," an engaging talk by Dr. John Kappelman, on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

The lecture will take place in the Community United Methodist Church fellowship hall located at 434 Lewis St. The lecture will begin at 6 p.m. and will run until 7:30 p.m. The doors will open at 5:45 p.m.

How do we know how old an ancient pueblo, a piece of pottery or a roof beam really is? This fascinating lecture explores how archaeologists and scientists determine the age of ancient objects, structures and events, helping us understand what happened, when and why.

Kappelman will introduce the geological foundations of dating techniques and examine a range of scientific methods, including radiometric dating, paleomagnetism, archaeomagnetism, dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) and cultural seriation.

With special emphasis on Southwestern Ancestral Puebloan sites such as Chimney Rock National Monument, Kappelman will discuss the strengths, limitations and accuracy of each approach.

He will highlight key methods like carbon dating and dendrochronology that are essential to understanding the region's past.

This one-hour presentation will conclude with a brief Q-and-A session, offering attendees a deeper understanding of the science behind uncovering history.

This event is free and open to the public. Don't miss this opportunity to discover how scientists piece together the timeline of the Southwest's ancient past.

The lecture will be offered both in person and via Zoom. Community members who wish to attend virtually may do so using the following Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5210476574?omn=82575462462.

The lecture is free to attend. Donations are accepted in lieu of an admission fee. Food goods or monetary donations for the church's food pantry are greatly appreciated.

CRIA's free lecture series offers the opportunity each year for the public and CRIA volunteers to enjoy a speaker whose topic typically relates to southwest archaeology, archaeoastronomy and/or Chacoan culture.

CRIA and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument.

CRIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer association and receives no funding from the U.S. government.

October Audubon meeting to focus on bird migration

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

Birds are on the move.

Summer birds are heading south for winter homes, and waterfowl that have spent the summer in northern tundras will be showing up in our lakes. Birds like the junco that raise young in forested areas are moving into our yards. They are all a part of the remarkable journeys that migratory birds take twice a year.

We're planning a meeting about the "Wonders of Bird Migration," which will include some short films and information on resources available for you to explore.

Find out how to view information from the amazing tools that track birds in flight after the sun goes down.

How does the summer Bird Monitoring Project that Weminuche Audubon conducts in local forests align with studies of migratory birds? What can you do to help birds that travel long distances between summer breeding areas and winter homes? We'd love to hear what differences you have seen this summer in our local birds.

The public is invited to join us at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

We are a welcoming group and always look forward to meeting new people, both those who live here and those passing through. We will meet at 6 p.m. to socialize with appetizers and snacks before the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Please enter through the side door off the parking lot or let us know to open the main door for handicap entrance. In appreciation for our meeting space, we welcome donations of nonperishable food or cash for the church food bank.

For those unable to attend in person, a link to join the meeting on Zoom will be posted on our website, weminucheaudubon.org, prior to the meeting.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife accepting statewide applications for Sportsperson's Roundtable

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is seeking volunteers for the Sportsperson's Roundtable to share insights on important wildlife management and recreation issues.

CPW depends on feedback from hunters and anglers to make the best decisions about managing fish, wildlife and habitat. To discuss issues and gather ideas, CPW convenes a statewide Sportsperson's Roundtable and holds regional sportsperson meetings.

The Sportsperson's Roundtable provides a forum for the hunting, angling and trapping communities to share information on issues related to wildlife recreation and management in Colorado.

The Sportsperson's Roundtable is currently accepting applications from sportspeople in the northwest, northeast and southwest regions. CPW aims to maintain a geographically diverse membership on the Roundtable, with representation from around the state.

Roundtable members serve two-year terms. Responsibilities of members include:

- Participating in a half- to full-day in-person meeting twice a year and occasional virtual meetings. Travel to in-person meetings is at the member's expense.
- Attending regional CPW Sportsperson's meetings and other meetings with hunters, anglers and trappers in your area.
- Maintaining strong relationships with fellow sportspeople and staying informed about current events and emerging issues.
- Identifying topics for discussion at Roundtable meetings, and actively sharing information and ideas with Roundtable members and CPW staff during and between meetings.
- Providing your contact information on the CPW Roundtable webpage and being available to sportspersons around the state to discuss information pertinent to the Roundtable.

To apply, fill out the application available online by the deadline of 5 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Learn more about the Sportsperson's Roundtable and open seats on EngageCPW: https://engagecpw.org/sportspersons-roundtable.

Card of Thanks

Longer Table Pagosa

On behalf of CSU Extension and our partners, we wish to thank everyone in our community who joined neighbors, friends and family for our first Longer Table Pagosa community meal. Over 200 people shared a meal and shared conversations, cultivating a deeper connection in our incredible community. What a joy.

Leases

■ Continued from B4

A 30-day public protest period to receive additional public input will close Nov. 9.

Leasing is the first step in the process to develop federal oil and gas resources.

Before development operations can begin, an operator must submit an application for permit to drill detailing development plans. The BLM reviews applications for permits to drill, posts them for public review, conducts an environmental analysis, and coordinates with state partners and stakeholders.

All parcels that are included in a federal oil and gas lease sale include appropriate stipulations to protect important natural resources. Information on current and upcoming BLM leases is available through the National Fluid Lease Sale System. BLM lease sales are held online through Efficient Markets.

The parcels BLM analyzed, as well as maps and instructions on how to submit a protest, are available on BLM's ePlanning website at https://bit.ly/4yMPO1V.





WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS!

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

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

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

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 30.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

The Pagosa Springs SUN

(970) 264-2100 • pagosasun.com
457 LEWIS STREET • P.O. BOX 9
PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO 81147

Rise Above Violence gratefully acknowledges the guests, voters, sponsors, teams, committee, volunteers and businesses who made Runway for Rise a success.



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PCI: Wild & Styled
Courtney Weiters, Randye Taylor, Rebecca Tenpenny, Chrissy Hancey

Top Model
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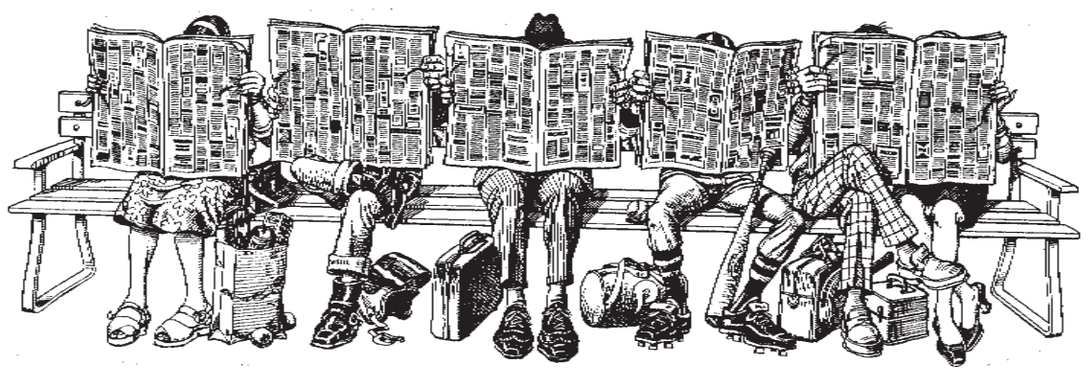
Sparkle Society
Natalie Ortega, Stephanie Pham, Falisha Plake, Amy Johnson, Allison Trujillo

Mountain School Stars
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SUN photo/Randi Pierce

A year later: The San Juan River flows through Pagosa Springs at a rate of about 2,090 cubic feet per second (cfs) the morning of Oct. 14. A year prior, on Oct. 14, 2025, the river crested at 8,560 cfs to become the third-highest on record.

Hospital district sees rough draft of 2027 budget

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The board of the Upper San Juan Health Service District, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), heard the first draft of the district's 2027 budget on Thursday, Oct. 8, with Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese offering a caveat — "We think it will change greatly."

Bruzzese explained that the district has to present a draft budget, but that multiple factors will lead the district's second draft of its budget to look very different.

Bruzzese then explained some of the main factors leading to that assessment.

Bruzzese first indicated that, last June, the state provided an opportunity to receive funds through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

The RHTP, the state's website explains, "was authorized by H.R. 1 Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21, to provide grants totaling $50 billion in federal funds from Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 through FFY 2030 ($10 billion per year) to States (territories and Washington D.C. are excluded). The RHTP is a five-year nationwide initiative administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and designed to strengthen access, improve outcomes, expand the workforce, accelerate innovative care models, and modernize technology-enabled services for rural and frontier residents."

On Sept. 28, the state announced $4,201,527 from that funding would be directed to PSMC.

That, Bruzzese explained, is not in the budget right now and would be paid to the district on a reimbursement basis.

She noted that the district had signed the contract and, once the state signed, it would be included in the budget.

Later in the meeting, Bruzzese noted the RHTP is a "daunting" amount of work.

The second issue Bruzzese outlined is a software mapping issue that resulted in unreliable service-level volume and revenue data in the district's general ledger software.

The district is rebuilding 2026 volumes to base 2027 budget estimates off of, she indicated.

She added the staff is also working with Cerner, one of the software companies, to correct the mapping errors, with the presentation noting, "This is not a quick fix."

In response to a question from board member Matt Mees, Bruzzese indicated the district believes the mapping issue is not impacting claims.

PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb reiterated there's no reason to think anything has been overbilled.

Bruzzese's budget presentation states that, for more than a year, operating room recovery has been mapping to cardiology, with some other areas also seeing mapping errors.

"Since July/August 2026 there are substantial mapping errors," it states.

Bruzzese then explained the first draft of the budget is based off the gross charges that were formulated for the 2026 budget, with some other changes, such as changes to provider fees, factored in.

She noted the second draft of the budget would be completed using accurate volumes by service, updated targets and budgeted gross charges based on those targets.

"It will change a lot by the second draft," Bruzzese reiterated.

Bruzzese then explained some factors that are anticipated to drive gross charge growth in 2027, including adding telemetry to inpatient to retain more patients; having a full-time general surgeon with colonoscopy capability; more primary care providers and a full-time neurologist; and more referrals to lab, radiology and specialists from having additional primary care providers.

She noted that the provider fee payment was reduced in the first draft budget by a net $248,000.

She noted operating income will also include operational grants and other income.

In terms of expenses, Bruzzese explained that, on Oct. 1, PSMC did market increases for all registered nurses and radiology technologists to remain competitive, explaining the goal is to cut travel nurse expenses in half by next year.

She noted the move is already seeing benefits.

"We made a substantial investment in those people," she added.

In 2027, she added, certain staff will see a 3 percent increase in compensation, with the presentation noting that excludes employees with an employment agreement, staff who received the market increase and staff hired after Oct. 1.

Bruzzese explained there will be a net increase of four full-time equivalents over the 2026 budget.

In terms of nonoperating income, Bruzzese noted no new state or federal grant opportunities are currently anticipated, lower interest income is expected as cash revenues are used and no increases in property tax revenue are assumed.

She added the PSMC Foundation raised $800,000 for the San Juan Street EMS Station renovation in 2026 that will be transferred to PSMC in 2027, with the Foundation's fundraising goal for 2027 sitting at $300,000 for the remainder of the project's cost.

The initial draft budget also anticipates $553,000 coming from fund balance reserves to balance the budget, with Bruzzese noting the hope is to reduce that figure when better counts are known.

The board's next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Nov. 17 in the board room at PSMC.

randi@pagosasun.com

Commissioners approve grant award for new bus, hears additional grant opportunities

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Oct. 6, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted unanimously to accept a subaward agreement with the state for funds to purchase a new gasoline-powered bus for the county's Transportation Department.

Transportation Coordinator Andrew Mylroie previously presented the matter to the BoCC during a work session held on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

See the article "Commissioners Discuss possible bus grant, service to Durango" from the Oct. 1 issue of The SUN for more information.

According to the Oct. 6 meeting agenda, the county will be awarded $204,528 with a local match of $51,132, for a total project amount of $255,660.

Other grants

During a work session held by the BoCC on Oct. 6, Mylroie spoke to the board about two more grants from the Colorado Department of Transportation "that have been in the works for quite a while."

He noted that both grants were originally applied for in 2023, "and kind of got stuck in the backlog."

Mylroie first explained a grant that would provide the county with two replacement propane-powered buses.

He explained that the two buses the county would be replacing are 2017 models, one with 255,000 miles and one with 95,000 miles.

He indicated that one of those buses is currently used as a backup bus by the department and the other bus model is no longer in production.

"So, parts are very hard to find," he said.

Mylroie then explained the second grant is for facilities maintenance equipment. This grant would be for the purchase and installation of one 40,000-pound drive-through four-post lift, and one mechanical workstation for servicing vehicles, he explained.

Mylroie also clarified that the BoCC has already approved one other propane-powered bus, which he has yet to order.

He added that having two more propane-powered buses would "make our fleet a little more uniform."

clayton@pagosasun.com

The Blotter

■ Continued from B3

Sept. 25 — Steven Jeffrey Ashburn II, careless driving on state land, vehicle/vessel speeding, fines and costs — $268.50.

Sept. 25 — Ariayana Jule Saltwater, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — $170.

Sept. 25 — Kayle Dawn Wegher, license plates-expired, fines and costs — $155.50.

Sept. 25 — Anita M. Victorino, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $233.50.

Sept. 25 — Denise Anne Telek, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — $290.

Sept. 25 — Dustin Speraw, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — $233.50.

Sept. 25 — Mike Corey Slaybaugh II, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — $290.

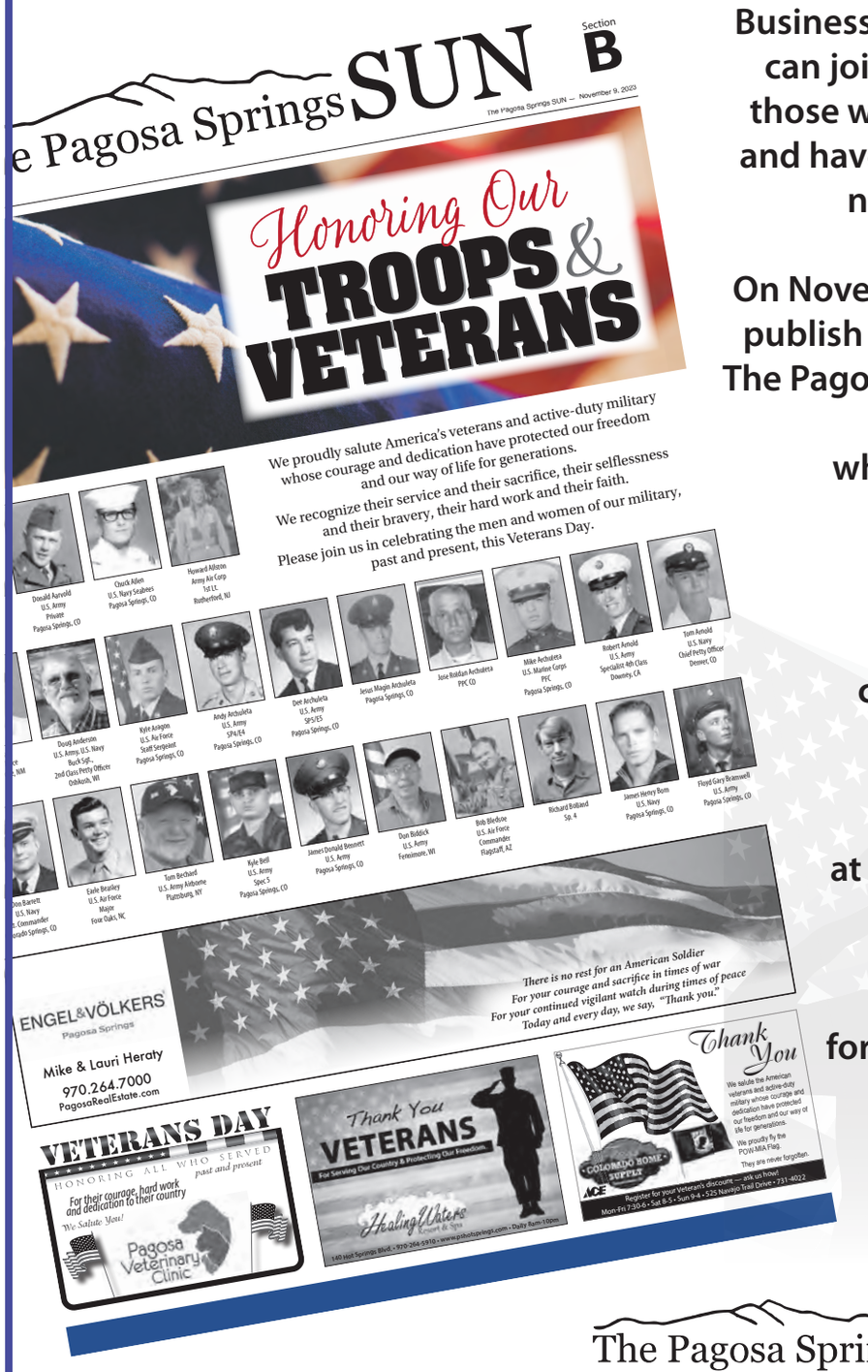
Sept. 29 — Joshua E. Wingfield, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — $127.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Sept. 25 — Kristen Andrew Bilazzo, criminal mischief-under $300, domestic violence-habitual offender, two years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — $1,660.52.

Oct. 1 — Justin Levi McCelvey, vehicular homicide-DUI, vehicular assault-DUI, 12 years Department of Corrections, six years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — $9,065.06.

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TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS View
October 2026

Town Council Approves 2027 Budget

The Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the 2027 annual budget on Tuesday, October 6. The budget guides Town operations, establishes service priorities, and aligns resources with Town Council's goals for the coming budget year, which begins January 1, 2027.

Key updates include commercial sewer rates increasing to $81.50 per equivalent unit, while residential rates remain unchanged at $71.25 per month. The annual workforce housing fee for short-term rentals will increase to $1,000 to support local housing initiatives. Vacation rental licensing fees will increase to $700, and geothermal heating rates will also be adjusted. Additional fee changes affect select Town services and permits. Residents can review all approved fee changes, budget items, and the complete 2027 adopted budget at pagosasprings.co.gov under the Finance section.

Trick-or-Treating at Yamaguchi Park!

Join the Town for family-friendly Halloween fun on Saturday, October 24, from noon to 2 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park. Questions? Call 970-264-4152.

New Town Hall Hours Begin November 2

Beginning November 2, Town Hall will be open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Fridays by appointment only.

The updated schedule reflects how residents use Town Hall services, with most in-person visits occurring Monday through Thursday. By adjusting hours to better align with community needs, the Town can continue providing accessible, efficient service while offering greater scheduling flexibility for staff.

Winter Snow Removal & Staying Connected

Winter weather is on its way! The Town of Pagosa Springs reminds residents to keep designated snow routes clear, give snowplows plenty of room, and clear sidewalks by noon the day after a storm. Learn more about Town plowing operations, snow routes, your responsibilities, and more at pagosasprings.co.gov.

For Town road and snow alerts, text PagosaSprings to 38276 or sign up through the Town website. For County emergency alerts, visit local.nixle.com/register.

Follow the Town on Facebook and Instagram for additional community updates

Upcoming Meetings & Holidays

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

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ARTS & LIFE

Oktoberfest Pig Roast

5-9 p.m. • Saturday, Oct. 24 • Our Savior Lutheran School



Photo courtesy Hannah Longmire



Photo courtesy Brian Ritterman

Mountain Alibi will provide live music for Our Savior Lutheran School's inaugural Oktoberfest Fundraiser and Pig Roast on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Karaoke, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Time Travelers, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Time Travelers, 7 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Connie the Soldier, 5 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Chris Cody Meacham, 5 p.m.

Wednesday
Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

The PREVIEW is a publication of

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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O'Rourke Media Group — Pagosa Springs, LLC
ISSN 2835-3994 (Print) • ISSN 2835-4001 (Online)

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Our Savior Lutheran School to hold Oktoberfest Pig Roast

Our Savior Lutheran School

Our Savior Lutheran School (OSLS) is thrilled to announce the inaugural Oktoberfest Fundraiser and Pig Roast that will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 5 to 9 p.m.

The night is sure to be a success, with a full pig roast, live music, open bar, and silent and live auctions. All funds raised will support students at Our Savior Lutheran School.

The full pig roast will be prepared on-site, and will also include several sides, delicious rolls and homemade BBQ sauce. Listen to live music provided by Pagosa's own Mountain Alibi while you bid on silent auction items and enjoy an Oktoberfest beer, among other selections of beer and wine throughout the evening.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. The silent auction and music will start immediately. The pig roast dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and, once dinner is served, the silent auction will close, so be sure to come on time to place your bids on a variety of unique items and experiences.

There will be other games throughout the evening, giving every guest a chance to bring something home while supporting a worthy cause.

To buy tickets and see the items available for both the silent and live auction, go to OSLCpagosa.org. Tickets are $50 for a single entry or $300 for a table of eight.

OSLS is a Classical and Lutheran preschool and school offering classes through eighth grade. OSLS seeks to instill a love for what is true, good and beautiful into every student using holy scriptures and the great books, among other tools, so that they may learn to think rightly, speak well and admire God's beautiful creation. Students at OSLS are treated as human beings with a soul who are created in the image of God rather than cogs in a greater machine.

OSLS does not take or receive federal or state funding and is reliant upon tuition and private donations. Events such as Oktoberfest are essential in helping OSLS keep tuition costs low and also provide scholarship opportunities for families.

So, ladies and gentlemen, put on your lederhosen and dirndls and don't miss out on a wonderful evening of fun supporting a worthy cause.

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Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers to host Saturn-viewing event

By Dena Laterza
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

For the last year and a half, Saturn's rings have been edge-on from our perspective here on Earth. This ring-plane crossing happens every 13 to 15 years when Earth passes through the plane of Saturn's razor-thin rings.

As Saturn continues its 29.4-year orbit around the sun, the tilt shifts and the rings slowly come back into view. They will reach a maximum tilt in 2032.

Saturn's rings are made almost entirely of ice and dust with a bit of rocky material. Pieces range from microscopic grains to boulders and house-sized chunks.

There are seven prominent sections named alphabetically, with the largest gap, the Cassini Division, separating the A and B rings.

Saturn has 293 moons, with the largest being Titan, which is bigger than the planet Mercury. Titan can be seen through a telescope. Will we see it? I don't know. Come to our viewing and find out.

Saturn is 784 million miles away from Earth right now. If you can't make it to view Saturn through our telescopes, look east at dusk for a bright, slightly orange object. Saturn is currently visible all night setting in the west just before dawn. If you are up early, Jupiter also becomes visible after about 3 a.m.

The Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers are hosting a Saturn-viewing event from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Centennial Park near the geothermal domes on Friday, Oct. 16.

If you've never seen our "favorite planet" through a telescope, stop by and have a look. Learn what makes Saturn a special planet in our solar system.

We are also partnering with the Ruby Sisson Library to bring you Planets, Popcorn and P.J.s on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It will be a fun event for all ages. Registration is required as space is limited. Call the library at (970) 264-2209 to register.

What to expect at the 2026 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo

Healthy Archuleta

The 2026 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo is just about here.

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 24, for the fourth annual health fair, offering accessible health care resources, low-cost preventive labs, adult vaccinations, and direct access to local health providers, engaging community organizations and health-focused vendors.

Held at Pagosa Springs High School from 7 a.m. to noon, the event aims to promote access to preventive medicine, giving residents a convenient place to prioritize their long-term health.

Low-cost labs

Blood draws will be administered from 7 to 10 a.m. sharp. To ensure a smooth experience and minimize wait times, community members are strongly encouraged to preregister on Healthy Archuleta's website prior to the event.

Preregistration allows attendees to select their preferred lab options, which include a Wellness Panel ($20) covering CMP, CBC, lipid profile, A1c and TSH; PSA testing for men ($6); and Vitamin D levels ($16). Online preregistration also enables you to complete necessary paperwork in advance and secure your lab draw time slot.

Additionally, participants can connect with local health care providers and schedule follow-up appointments to review results. Follow-up appointments will help participants interpret their numbers, answer questions and discuss personalized steps to maintain or improve their health.

On-site screenings and vaccinations

We are fortunate to have expert local, regional and statewide health care professionals traveling to the fair to provide valuable health checks, including breast exams, blood pressure, eye pressure, hearing and dental assessments, as well as colorectal cancer screening information, among others.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Mobile Adult Vaccine Clinic will be on-site and open from 8 a.m. to noon providing vaccines for adults. Vaccines are offered at no cost to uninsured and underinsured Coloradans, while insured attendees can utilize covered coverage options on-site.

In addition to all of the amazing health benefits offered, there is also much more. Dozens of regional vendors, regional nonprofits, pediatric resources, mental and behavioral health support groups, and financial health advisors will staff interactive booths throughout the health fair.

All are welcome to attend this health-focused community event and take advantage of all these amazing opportunities to improve your health.

Register today on Healthy Archuleta's website, www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org. As a reminder, labs are only available between 7 and 10 a.m. Please register early to confirm your appointment time.

There are still several volunteer opportunities available to support this important community event. To volunteer, sign up on our website: www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html. Click the "Be A Volunteer" button.

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PSMC Neurology Presentation

Meet Dr. Arturo Montaño, PSMC's new full-time neurologist, and join us for his presentation of services he provides. A question and answer session will follow. Light refreshments will be served.



Arturo Montaño, MD

Friday, October 23rd | Noon-1pm
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October 17th | 11a.m. – 1p.m.

3100 Snowball Rd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

We invite you to celebrate with us
the Ribbon Cutting of the new Snowball Plant.

PPE will be provided for Guided Tours (safety glasses and ear plugs)





Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

While the mechanical shark keeps the "Jaws" crew waiting, Roy Scheider (Scott Morehead) holds court on Richard Nixon's unlikely path to the presidency. It's one more way to pass the time between takes aboard the Orca in "The Shark Is Broken," now being performed at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.



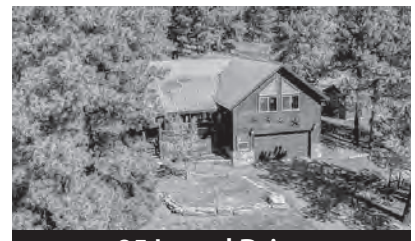
Photo courtesy Samantha Luck

Thingamajig Theatre Company's teen company will open "The Addams Family" Sunday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m., brining to life the musical comedy about Wednesday Addams, played by Olive Fladwood.

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VOTE YES FOR 7B
PSMC EMS and Hospital

Where does PSMC's money come from to buy new ambulances and equipment come from?

More than 90% of PSMC's annual revenues come from payments for medical services, while less than 10% comes from taxes and governmental grants.



Why your YES vote is important

Pagosa Springs Medical Center is operated by the Upper San Juan Health Service District. The ballot question asks voters to let the District continue keeping and using its revenues for EMS, hospital, and outpatient care without raising taxes. We're asking people to vote YES on 7B on November 3 to keep our healthcare local and strong.

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

‘The Shark Is Broken’ to continue this weekend, ‘Addams’ teen musical will open Sunday

By Samantha Luck
Thingamajig Theatre Company

After a sold-out opening night, Thingamajig Theatre Company’s “The Shark Is Broken” continues Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17, at 7 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Audience comments following the performances praised the acting, staging, script and lighting. One commenter called the cast “the spitting image of the original movie cast,” while others praised the talkback and scenery.

The play looks back at the making of “Jaws,” when the mechanical shark, nicknamed Bruce, repeatedly malfunctioned during filming. The delays left Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider and Richard Dreyfuss waiting together aboard the Orca.

Written by Ian Shaw, Robert Shaw’s son, and Joseph Nixon, the comedy imagines the arguments, jokes and moments of connection that might have filled those hours. It is not a retelling of the movie, but a look at the actors behind Quint, Chief Brody and Matt Hooper.

Directed by Laura Moore, Thingamajig’s production features Tim Moore as Robert Shaw, Scott Morehead as Roy Scheider and Cameron Vargas as Richard Dreyfuss. The play began in England in 2019, went on to London’s West End and Broadway, and received an Olivier Award nomination.

Thingamajig’s teen company will open “The Addams Family” Sunday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m.

After the success of last year’s “Beetlejuice Jr.,” the teens will return with a musical comedy about Wednesday Addams, played by Olive Fladwood, who has fallen for an ordinary young man. She asks her father, Gomez, played by Finlay Moore, to keep the romance from Morticia, played by Leela Simpson. The secret becomes harder to keep when the young man and his parents come to dinner.

Tickets for all performances are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

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Photo courtesy Shellie Peterson

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

Rotary to ring bells to end polio

By Terri House
Pagosa Springs Rotary Club

On World Polio Day, Saturday, Oct. 24, members of the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs will be at City Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., ringing bells and collecting donations as part of Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio.

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

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

All donations made to the Rotary Club's polio efforts are matched 2-to-1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, tripling the impact. Community members may donate in person during Saturday's bell-ringing event, online at endpolio.org or by mailing a contribution made out to The Rotary Foundation to the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club, P.O. Box 685, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

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



Photo courtesy Shellie Peterson

On World Polio Day, Saturday, Oct. 24, members of the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs will be at City Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., ringing bells and collecting donations as part of Rotary's global campaign to eradicate polio. Shown are Rotarians Jim Garrett and Larry McClintock taking part at a previous event.

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

Rotary alone has contributed more than $2.9 billion to this effort and remains committed to raising up to $50 million each year through 2029. With the Gates Foundation's continued 2-to-1 match, that support can generate up to $150 million annually for vaccines, immunization campaigns and disease surveillance.

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

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

As Pittmon noted, "Every dollar,

■ See Rotary on next page

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Waiting Costs More
• 2011 voters considered a **$49M bond** to build a new school.
• Today, **estimated project cost is $129M**
• BEST grant is **opportunity for $50M grant** to put toward the project cost
• Waiting has never made it cheaper. **Building costs have risen every year** since, and the district's **documented repair list grows about 8 percent a year.**
• ASD will **reapply for BEST grant** in spring 2027 and will require a local match which is bond funding from taxpayers.
• **Taxes will not increase until the BEST grant is received.**
Ballots are arriving in the mail
Ballots due back by Nov. 3
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.
Go to: CitizensforASD.org
for **FACTS** and **INFO** about this ballot measure and be an **INFORMED** and **EDUCATED VOTER**
Paid for by Citizens for ASD, Lisa Scott, Campaign Manager

Pumpkin parties to offer Bible lessons, music and fall fun for local children

By Kim Lund
Child Evangelism Fellowship

Children in the community are invited to celebrate the fall season with two upcoming pumpkin parties featuring Bible lessons, singing, pumpkin-themed games and snacks.

These events will offer children opportunities to enjoy fellowship, have fun and learn about God's word.

Organizers emphasize all leaders have been trained and screened for children's safety.

The first event sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) will be held Friday, Oct. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at Centerpoint Church in the Fellowship Hall. The party is open to all students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Children will enjoy a lesson and singing centered on "The Gospel Pumpkin," along with pumpkin-themed games and snacks.

With parent permission, a screened CEF volunteer will be available to walk children from PPOS to Centerpoint Church. Parents and families with questions or who want to register their children may contact Leigh at (970) 903-8091.

A second pumpkin party is planned for Sunday, Nov. 1, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. at Pagosa Bible Church. This event is open to children ages 4 through fifth grade and will also feature "The Gospel Pumpkin" lesson, singing, pumpkin-themed games and snacks. Parents are warmly welcome to join their children in the sanctuary for a hope-filled message from God's word, although their participation is not required if they register their children in advance or at drop-off.

Questions may be directed to lindy@pagosabiblechurch.org.

Both events are designed to combine seasonal fun with meaningful opportunities for children to hear a Bible message and enjoy time together in a welcoming environment.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School students are encouraged to attend CEF's regular Good News Club Friday at 1:15 p.m. in the school library. If you have questions or to register, contact Melanie at (405) 639-8053.

Rotary

■ continued from previous page

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

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

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Every1KnowsSome1

By Kaylie Jackson-Hauf
Rise Above Violence

Domestic violence is often thought of as something that happens to other people, in other places or under circumstances far removed from our own lives.

But the reality is much closer to home.

It affects individuals and families of every age, background and circumstance, including people we know, work alongside, care about and interact with every day.

This is the message behind #Every1KnowsSome1, a national awareness campaign reminding us that domestic violence touches every community, including our own.

One of the challenges in understanding domestic violence is recognizing that it does not always look the way we expect it to.

Abuse is not limited to physical violence, and the signs are not always obvious to those on the outside. It can involve emotional manipulation, intimidation, financial control, isolation and other behaviors intended to establish power and control over another person. Someone experiencing abuse may appear happy, successful or surrounded by supportive people. We cannot always know what someone is experiencing simply by looking at their life from the outside.

In smaller communities, where familiar faces and connections are part of everyday life, it can be especially difficult to imagine that someone we know might be experiencing domestic violence. We may have assumptions about what an abusive relationship looks like or believe we would recognize the signs if someone close to us needed help. Yet many survivors carry experiences that remain unseen by even those who know them best. Recognizing this encourages us to approach others with greater understanding and fewer assumptions.

Understanding that domestic violence can affect anyone is not meant to make us question every relationship or assume we know what happens behind closed doors. Rather, it invites us to consider how our everyday words, attitudes and actions contribute to the kind of community we create. The way we speak about domestic violence, respond to someone sharing their experience or challenge misconceptions can influence whether someone feels comfortable reaching out for support.

At Rise Above Violence, we recognize that every survivor's experience is unique, and so are their needs. Some individuals may be ready to seek assistance, while others may still be trying to understand their circumstances or consider their options. Regardless of where someone is in that process, they deserve to be treated with dignity, respect and compassion.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month continues, we hope our community remembers that behind every statistic is a person whose experiences matter. It may be a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend or someone we love.

We may never know everything another person is facing, but we can choose how we respond when someone trusts us enough to share their experience. Sometimes, that response can make all the difference.





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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

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 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.

Pumpkin Party. 1:30-3 p.m., Centerpoint Church. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to enjoy a Bible lesson and singing, along with pumpkin-themed games and snacks. To register, contact Leigh at (970) 903-8091. Sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship.

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.

Headwaters Happy Hour. 4 p.m., Motel SOCO. A casual gathering to discuss all things related to the forest and watershed health in the region. There wil be an informal presentation from a topic expert and Q-and-A.

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).

Saturn Viewing. 8:30-9:30 p.m., Centennial Park. Join the Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers to see Saturn's rings with your own eyes through a telescope and learn what makes Saturn special.

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

■ See Calendar on next page

Dr. Leo Milner, Chiropractic 970-731-9902

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$5 OFF for return patients

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VOTE NO ON 5A

Our schools need investment. This isn't the right plan.

KEEP KIDS CONNECTED | CHOOSE A SMARTER PATH

This decision is about more than a new building. It will shape where our kids learn — and how they connect to their schools and community — **for generations.**

THIS PLAN ISN'T THE ONLY PATH FORWARD.
BUILD NEW | RENOVATE REDEVELOP | PHASE

THE NUMBERS NEED CONTEXT
$79.9M AND $88M ARE NOT APPLES-TO-APPLES

COMPARE EVERY VIABLE PATH ON EQUAL TERMS

LOCATION MATTERS
THE PROPOSED SITE IS NOT NAMED ON THE BALLOT (HWY 160/VISTA BLVD)

COMMUNITY VALUES
PRESERVE WHAT MAKES PAGOSA UNIQUE

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
BUILD ON WHAT WE'VE ALREADY BUILT

EXTENSIVE WALKABLE DOWNTOWN RESOURCES;
INCLUDING COLLABORATIVE & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES

AT THE PROPOSED VISTA SITE WALKING BECOMES BUSING

CLOSER TO "HOME" DOES NOT MEAN BETTER CONNECTED

PAGOSA CITIZENS for RESPONSIBLE SCHOOLS

Our schools need investment. The question isn't whether to invest. It's where, how, and what we preserve in the process.

LEARN MORE
GET INVOLVED

WWW.CONNECTEDCOMMUNITYCAMPUS.ORG

PAID FOR BY PAGOSA CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE SCHOOLS

Preview Calendar

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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).

Monday, Oct. 19

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.

Planned Giving Workshop for Nonprofits. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Registration is $30 per person. Registration is available at https://cfssc.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=3211, and the full series schedule is posted at https://www.swcommunityfoundation.org/year-end-ask-series-august-november-2026/.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join a community of local musicians who play for fun and learning. Jams are the first and third Mondays of each month.

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., Centerpoint 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. 20

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.

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.

Tween and Teen Pinch Pottery Class. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 12 and up. All materials will be provided. Registration is required by calling (970) 264-2209.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

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.

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.

Spy Night. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-10. Learn what it takes to be a spy. Crack the codes, find the clues and discover the mystery that awaits you.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Meet at 6 p.m. to socialize before the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.weminucheaudubon.org for a Zoom link if unable to attend in person.

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).

Thursday, Oct. 22

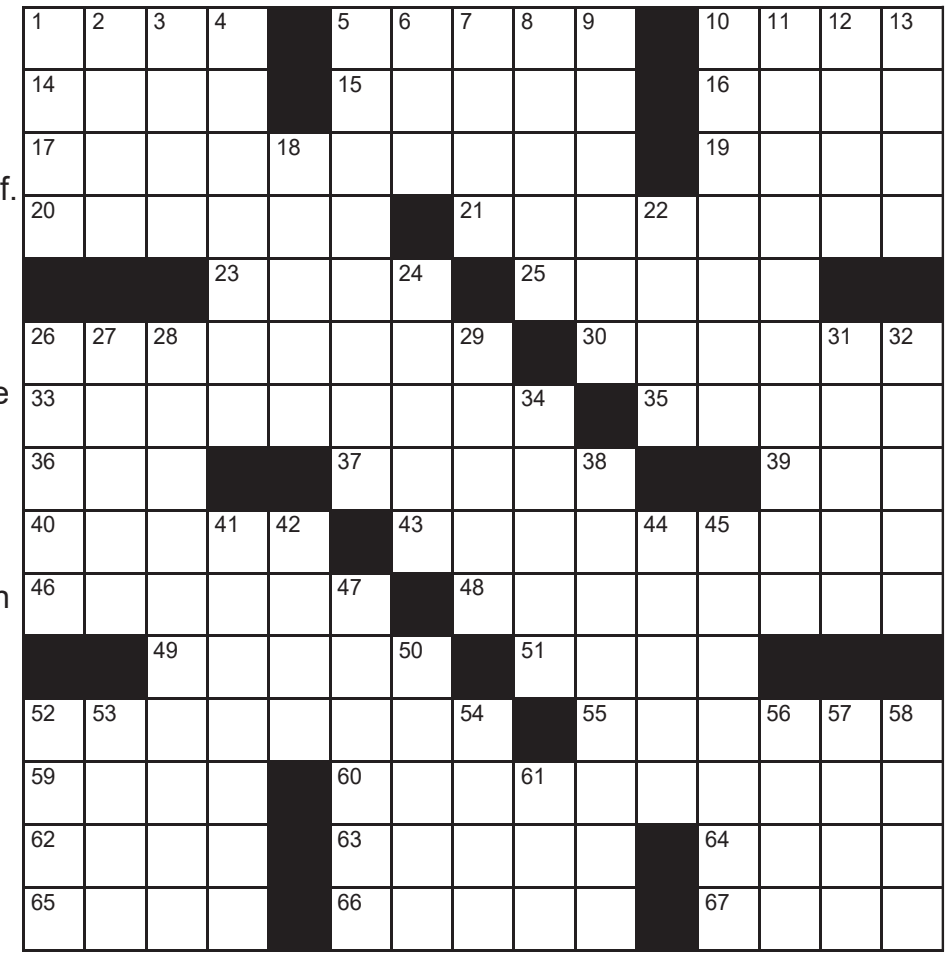
Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

■ See Calendar on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 Whitman of verse
5 Big to-do
10 Santa ___, Calif.
14 Petri dish filler
15 Use, as dinner plates
16 Sweeping
17 Last book of the Bible
19 Polite fellow
20 Future doc's major
21 Breaks between words, on a page
23 Cameo shape
25 Bad-mouths
26 Communion cups
30 Colin Firth film, "The King's _____"
33 1945 bombing target
35 Follow
36 Put on a show
37 Excite joy
39 Homer Simpson's dad
40 Passes over
43 "Be cool"
46 Shun
48 Many have islands
49 Sheik's bevy
51 2023 flick, "Asteroid ___"
52 Like a baboon's eyes
55 Rope for animals
59 Trail activity
60 Covertly
62 Computer brand
63 Use a soapbox
64 Staph bacteria, briefly
65 Famed loch
66 Moved cautiously
67 Spotted

DOWN

1 Lumber defect
2 Ripening agent
3 Take a bath
4 Vocalist's vibration
5 Pain in the brain
6 Stable staple
7 Elevator man
8 Court sport
9 Historical records
10 Course of treatment
11 Ali Baba's cry
12 Spill the beans
13 "Cast" anagram
18 Wrangler rivals
22 Superhero garb
24 Girl rescued by Don Juan
26 Action film staple
27 Some country folk
28 Edible thistlelike plants
29 Kissing sound
31 High-quality cigar
32 Fancy footwear
34 Storage spot
38 Deserving
41 "Star Trek" weapons
42 Dried up
44 Chamber group
45 Percussion patterns
47 Mazola rival
50 Subway system
52 "Rush Hour" actor
53 Scalp misery
54 Herbal brews
56 Employ
57 Otherwise
58 Tatum's father
61 Polished off

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

PagosaSUN.com

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Volleyball. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs High School vs. Alamosa.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Addams Family Musical.' 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).

Friday, Oct. 23

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.

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.

Pagosa Peak Open School Haunted House. 6-8 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School. Designed specifically with kids ages 5-11 in mind, the tour is tailored to be fun, exciting and family-friendly. The event will also offer a variety of autumn activities. Tickets will be available for purchase on-site.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Archuleta Health Fair and Expo. 7 a.m.-noon, Pagosa Springs High School. The event will offer low-cost wellness labs, learning opportunities, a farm-to-table breakfast, a keynote speaker and interactive exhibits. To learn more or register, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html.

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.

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.

Pumpkin Painting Party. Noon-2 p.m., Pagosa Community Initiative. An opportunity for families to get creative, enjoy some fall fun and connect. For more information, visit pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

Trick-or-Treating. Noon-2 p.m., Yamaguchi Park. Hosted by the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Oktoberfest Fundraiser and Pig Roast. 5-9 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran School, 56 Meadows Drive. Tickets are $50 or $300 for a table of eight. There is an early-bird ticket price prior to Oct. 1. Tickets can be purchased at www.oslcpagosa.org.

Pagosa Peak Open School Haunted House. 6-8 p.m., Pagosa Peak Open School. Designed specifically with kids ages 5-11 in mind, the tour is tailored to be fun, exciting and family-friendly. The event will also offer a variety of autumn activities. Tickets will be available for purchase on-site.

Band-O-Rama. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. A concert featuring school bands and the Pagosa Springs Community Band.

Rotary's Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance. 7-10 p.m., CSU Extension building, 344 U.S. 84. The event will feature live music, dancing, food and friendship to benefit Rotary's programs and scholarships. Tickets are $35 in advance or $40 at the door and may be purchased at Tangled or Wednesday Bouquet. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25

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).

Monday, Oct. 26

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.

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.

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County. 5:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Discussion will include an overview of the Election Blue Book.

DivorceCare. 6-7:30 p.m., Centerpoint 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.

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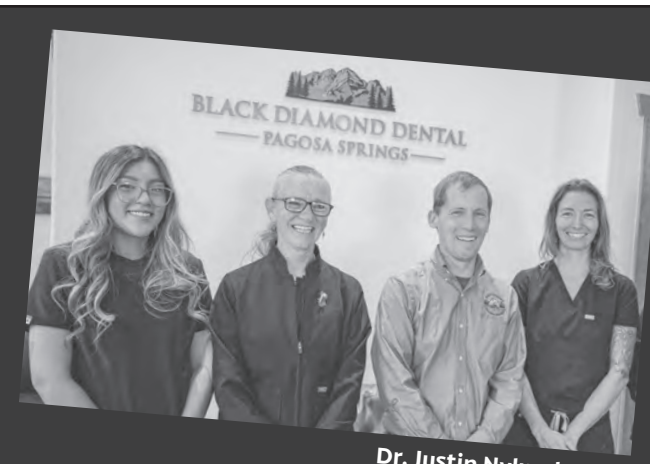
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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to view portions of 'Meet the Moment'

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This Sunday, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will be watching excerpts from "Meet The Moment," a program of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and discussing answers to its questions, as we engage in the theme of "Living the Questions" this month.

"Meet the Moment" is a framework for conversation, discernment and strategizing about how our faith can be its most impactful in the context of new realities for Unitarian Universalism, religious life in North America and the geopolitical landscape.

UU leaders across the nation answered three questions for Unitarian Universalism broadly, and their answers are provocative and inspiring.

What is the moment we are in? "There are some very daunting challenges facing our planet, our nations, our faith. But as the great Black American cultural critic and philosopher James Baldwin said, 'not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. We are in a moment of profound crisis ... it seems like injustice is running rampant ... the democracy that we have known is under attack.'"

What are the most urgent needs and important opportunities of this moment? "What do our shared values call us to do in response to this moment? What are we most compelled, equipped, and/or positioned to do? UU communities are places where we can do this together and not on our own."

What do our shared values call us to do in response to this moment? As a UU congregation, we participate in protests, postcard writing to get out the vote, and coordinate the Pagosa Pride event each year. After service, we will be reviewing the ballot amendments, propositions and ballot issues, including two anti-trans propositions.

"One of our most pressing tasks as UUs is to claim religion loudly, boldly, unapologetically in public, and join together with other liberal religions to tell a different story of faith from the one that white Christian nationalists are telling, they have spent decades twisting and perverting religion, poisoning people with a theology of scarcity and fear, all for the sake of building political power. It is essential for us not to seed religion to the far right." (Reference: "Meet the Moment," UUA.org.)

Our website, PagosaUU.org, holds information about upcoming services and programs. The UU Community Hub offers space for a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth and connection. The Tara Meditation Group is held most Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Email the fellowship to be added to the list and receive information and notices about this meditation practice.

Qigong practice is held at 1 p.m. on Monday afternoons, and all are welcome.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle meets the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located in the Greenbrier Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to "Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good."

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 at 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.

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

■ See Spiritfire on next page







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Circle of Friends seeking sponsors for families for Christmas

By Kimberlee Knapp
Circle of Friends

The Pagosa Springs school systems and Rise Above Violence have identified several families in dire need of help this Christmas.

These families are local and have children enrolled in the local school district.

You can lend a hand by sponsoring a family. This entails providing each child with two gifts — a needed gift and a "fun" gift (toy, etc.), as well as a gift card from City Market so the family can purchase items for Christmas dinner. Each sponsor can request a specific family size and will be provided the gender, age, sizes (shirt, shoes, pants, jacket), needs and interests of each child. Family names will be kept confidential. These families range in size from four to 10 members, and many include small children.

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

A Pagosa Springs women's service group, Circle of Friends, has organized this effort for the last five years and is now partnering with Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI).

PCI is a nonprofit family resource center dedicated to supporting families, children and youth in Archuleta County. This partnership allows Circle of Friends to reach more families in need.

All gifts are due at Centerpoint Church on Dec. 17 between 1 and 6 p.m. Families that have been paired with a sponsor will be notified to pick up their gifts Dec. 18 at the same church.

Sponsors can join with neighbors or co-workers and divide one needy family between them. Monetary donations toward gifts for a specific family are accepted if you are unable to shop. Your donation is tax deductible; email me and I can give you the details. Cash donations can be made directly at the Bank of Colorado. It is the goal of the organization to have all families assigned to a sponsor by Thanksgiving Day at the latest.

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

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

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



Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs to discuss 'Finding a Spiritual Perspective in Today's World'

By Laurah Brock Young
Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

Finding our life's purpose can mean different things to different people.

For me, I've been interested in understanding more about the spiritual side of life and how to live it. I am always looking for ways to maintain a spiritual and loving perspective no matter what goes on around me.

While it may seem like a difficult path to follow, we have found some tools and techniques that help us maintain peace and calm in our world today — tools and techniques that anyone can follow. We'd enjoy sharing some of them with you.

"Spirit is always with us— always guiding, always protecting, always bringing joy and wisdom." — Eckankar website: "Soul Adventure ebooklet: Divine Guidance."

Drop in for a lively discussion on "Finding a Spiritual Perspective in Today's World." Please join us on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 1 p.m. We meet at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

This free event is sponsored by Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

Spiritfire

■ continued from previous page

divinity.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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Photos courtesy CSU Extension

Longer Tables Pagosa Springs, part of the larger 150 Tables Across Colorado effort, is held Saturday, Oct. 10, at the CSU Extension building. The effort, celebrating Colorado's 150th anniversary, aims to bring people from all walks of life together to share a meal and connect.

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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 lesser goldfinch.

In many types of patchy, open habitats this bird is found from South America all the way to Washington State in North America, with much of the population in the United States living west of the Rocky Mountains. While these small birds in North America were historically found primarily in the southwest, they are rapidly expanding their range throughout the Pacific Northwest. Data supplied by birdwatchers who log their observations online in eBird and Project Feeder Watch has been instrumental in documenting this population shift.

Goldfinches are primarily seed eaters, and even nestlings are fed a mix of moistened seeds regurgitated by their parents. They mainly eat seeds of plants in the sunflower family. Their small size allows them to cling to the seed heads, bending the stem and ending upside down in the process. After prying open the outer seed covering with its bill, the goldfinch shakes its head to loosen the husk before swallowing the seed. They also readily come to feeders for Nyjer seeds.

Lesser goldfinches lose water quickly and need to drink frequently. During hot temperature extremes they may risk dehydration in less than two hours. Recent research conducted in partnership between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Washington State University revealed that "rivers emerged as crucial corridors" along with urban areas in the northward range expansion of these birds.

Adult lesser goldfinch males are yellow below and have a glossy black cap and white wing patches. Typically their backs may be solid black in the eastern part of their range or dull green along the coasts. Females and immature birds have olive backs and dull yellow undersides. They are often found feeding in mixed flocks with other finch species, white-crowned sparrows and western bluebirds. Contact calls between flock members are frequent and sad sounding.

While lesser goldfinches are permanent residents in much of their range, inland populations may move south or downslope in winter in search of food. We see them here much more commonly in summer than in winter. At a time when many species are struggling to thrive under a warming climate, lesser goldfinches are seemingly adapting better than others.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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The world reads. Why don't we?

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

I have traveled many places in the world, some exotic, some mainstream. Whenever I leave the U.S. I am gratified by the deep reverence for the written word and my profession.

It begins when the tour group meets for the first time. We take turns saying our name, where we are from and what we do. A melodic sigh floats through the room when I say I'm a librarian. More than one guide has confessed mine is their dream job.

As we visit the archaeological sites, books are everywhere. Over and over, the great leaders in history were the ones who built libraries, says our guide, and it is unexpectedly common to find free libraries stocked with beautiful art and history books at archaeological sites from Peru to Morocco as people share their love for learning with fellow visitors.

The hotel lobbies in Spain hold walls and walls of novels in every language — take one, leave one. There is the occasional John Grisham in Portuguese, or "Harry Potter" in French, but you are more likely to find "Silas Marner" or "Don Quixote" in Spanish. The hotel lobby in Madrid must have held several hundred books. You would have been lucky to find 10 in English.

Why don't we read?

I believe it's a human flaw that we take things for granted when they are ubiquitous and free. But I also know how important it is to read.

Reading alleviates depression, builds empathy and lowers the risk of dementia. Studies show just six minutes of reading can reduce stress levels by up to 68 percent by distracting the mind from rumination. (This must be why I fall asleep every night before I even get to page five.) A 30-minute session lowers heart rate and blood pressure as effectively as yoga or humor.

For those of you who love to read, you already know this. Reading is a therapy that can carry you through the worst times of your life. It provides a window into worlds full of promise and hope for children, and inspires them to dream and become the hero on the page.

As the world gets more complex and life gets more discouraging, turn to your library for inspiration. Our shelves are stocked with tales of bravery and adventure. Just a few hours with a good book can set you right again.

Ubiquitous and free, the public library is a treasure just waiting for you.

Strategic planning to begin next month

We are so thrilled to be working in such a lovely new building. The big question on the table now is, what will we do here?

That's where you come in. This is your library. Our staff has endless ideas on what programs and services we can offer in all our new and expanded spaces. But, are they what you want to see?

Watch for invitations on Facebook, on our website and in your email over the next few weeks as we come together to dream and plan the next three years of library service.

Volunteer to help with 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.

Library News

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.

■ See Library on next page

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.

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Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: 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!

ANSWER:

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

Library

■ continued from previous page

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.

Radon detectors available for checkout

The Colorado State library recently partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to provide a limited number of radon detectors to libraries for circulation.

The Ruby Sisson Library has two units available to check out with a library card for a three-week loan. Instructions are included in the kit. Reserve one through the library catalog or ask at the front desk.

Hoopla e-book collection replaces CloudLibrary

On Aug. 18, our library consortium 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.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten prepares your little one for success

As a new school year begins, you might be thinking ahead to your toddler's first day of kindergarten. Will she be prepared?

The library has a free, fun program to give your child the head start she needs.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is an early childhood initiative that helps inspire a love for reading and literature while also helping our youngest readers get exposure to print and phonetics, and earn prizes along the way.

The goal is not to read 1,000 different books before kindergarten, but to simply read 1,000 times before they begin their journey to expand their knowledge. If your little one has a favorite book that they want you to reread to them immediately after finishing it the first time, then that counts as another book read.

Every 100 books is a milestone where our young patrons can receive a small prize or an experience at the library. At the end of their journey, they will receive a grand prize as well as an invite to a celebration at the library with all of those who have finished their 1,000 books before kindergarten.

Sign-up is free and easy. Enroll today by visiting the library.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

Fall is here. Have you visited a Colorado state park this year? Colorado state parks require a paid pass to enter, but you can borrow one from the library for a few days at no cost to you.

Passes come with a backpack filled with nature guides, binoculars and fun activities. Reserve yours today.

Note: Colorado State Park passes are not valid for Chimney Rock National Monument.

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.

Look what's on our new bookshelves

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

• "Dead Men Don't Play Fetch" by David Rosenfelt. Defense lawyer Andy Carpenter investigates a billionaire's murder when a homeless veteran and his dog are accused, despite overwhelming evidence against them.

• "Cat on a Hot Tin Woof" by Spencer Quinn. Chet and his human partner, PI Bernie Little, have been hired to find a missing person — only the missing person is a cat, Miss Kitty, an internet sensation.

• "The Chase" by Felix Francis. The two hugely competitive and high-stakes worlds of thoroughbred horseracing and fine art come together in this new crime thriller.

New fiction

• "Mazywood" by Tananarive Due. Filmmaker Johnny brings his family to his grandmother's California mountain lodge and uncovers a legacy of rage and secrets from her Hollywood career.

• "Song for Another Home" by Bora Lee Reed. A powerful and expansive story of one family separated by the Korean War.

• "Double Tap." Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp series continues, taking the young CIA operative on his first deep-cover mission in which he infiltrates a jihadi organization bent on unleashing a weapon of mass destruction.

New nonfiction

• "How Russia Won: Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, and the Fight for America," by journalist David Corn, outlines how Russian President Vladimir Putin mounted a decade-long covert war and disinformation campaign aimed at subverting American democracy.

• "Your Turn: How to Create a Midlife You Love," by NPR heath and science correspondent Allison Aubrey, is an "illuminating road map for women to reclaim their reserves of power and improve their physical and emotional health in midlife."

• In "Be More Bird: Life Lessons from a Hawk," Candida Meyrick adopts a Harris's hawk named Sophia and trains her to hunt, discovering lessons about courage, freedom and self-discovery through their bond.



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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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BRAND
CAPITAL
CASHFLOW
COMPLIANCE
DEMOGRAPHICS
EQUITY
FRANCHISE
FUNNEL
INVENTORY
LIABILITY
LOGISTICS
MARGIN
MODEL
NICHE
OVERHEAD
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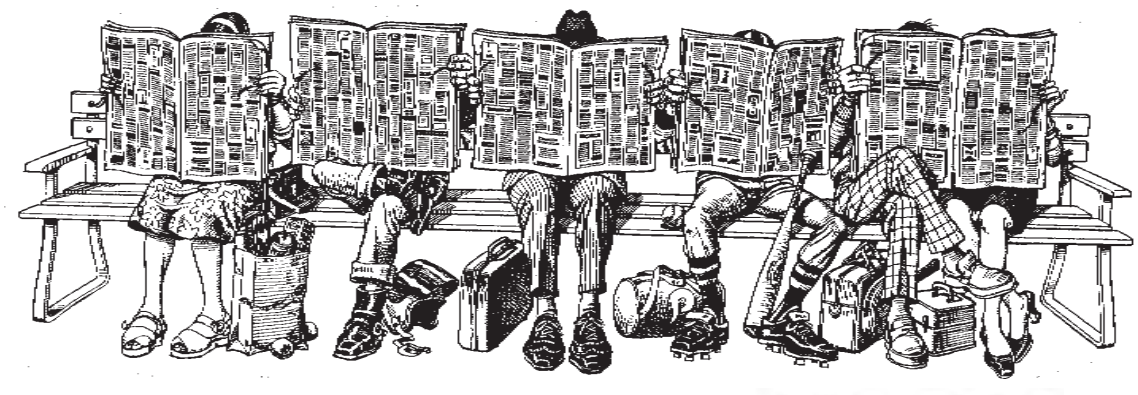
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Protect yourself and others from the flu

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

As flu season approaches, seniors are encouraged to take extra steps to protect themselves from getting sick.

Older adults can lower their risk by getting a flu shot, washing their hands often, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and covering coughs and sneezes.

Flu shots are available at many local pharmacies, doctor's offices, health clinics and public health departments. Seniors should contact their health care provider or local pharmacy to ask about vaccine availability and the best time to get vaccinated.

Staying home when you are sick is another important way to protect family members, friends and neighbors from the flu. If you develop fever, coughing, body aches or other flu-like symptoms, avoid unnecessary trips and close contact with others until you are feeling better. Getting plenty of rest and drinking fluids can also help your body recover.

By getting vaccinated and staying home when sick, seniors can help protect themselves while also helping prevent the spread of flu throughout the community.

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.

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 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.

Senior News

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. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate,

■ See Senior on page 23



A FEW GREAT REASONS HELPING OTHERS BENEFITS YOUR OWN HEALTH



Doing good feels good. And "[doing] the neighborly thing on a regular basis and, studies suggest, you may live longer.

There's only one caveat: "You have to genuinely care," says Stephanie Brown, Ph.D., associate professor of preventive medicine at Stony Brook University in New York." Understand some of the science related to doing good in today's excerpt.

"We consistently find that volunteering and helping behavior is associated with a reduced risk of mortality," says Brown.

"We see this over and over again in prospective studies that control for other variables, such as baseline health and gender." For example, a study in Detroit looked at 423 married couples over age 65. They were asked if they helped anyone other than each other in the previous year with transportation, errands, shopping, housework, childcare or other tasks. Those who did were about half as likely to die over the next five years than those who didn't.

"Now," says Brown, "we need to find out why and how." She and fellow researchers have already uncovered a few clues. To help someone you don't know, you have to overcome the natural impulse to avoid risk. Every time you help a stranger, you are reaching out a little, and that can make you feel vulnerable.

The theory is that to overcome those fears, your body releases a hormone called oxytocin, which helps you buffer stress while increasing social trust and tranquility. This "compassion hormone," it turns out, is very good for your body. "You are limiting exposure to stress hormones like cortisol," says Brown. "That may be one reason why helping behavior is related to longevity."

Source: "19 Healthy Reasons To Help Others." By 19 Healthy Reasons To Help Others. http://www.huffingtonpost.com

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

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38, KJV

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.
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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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. 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.

Monday, Oct. 19 — Pasta primavera with Alfredo sauce, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Tuesday, Oct. 20 — Pork tenderloin with blackberry sauce, potato medley, garden salad, fruit, bread pudding with rum sauce, and milk.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 — Chicken tacos, refried beans, Spanish rice, garden salad, fruit, lemon bar and milk.

Thursday, Oct. 22 — Cod with tartar sauce, broccoli hollandaise, garden salad, fruit, banana bread and milk.

Friday, Oct. 23 — Philly cheesesteak on hoagie roll, cheesy cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, tapioca pudding 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.

Support the Senior Center

Starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to $1,000 for individual tax filing and $2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

You may mail your donation to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, or please visit our website: www.psseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to $100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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WE WANT YOUR PHOTOS

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS!

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

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

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

If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 30.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Wearing something different

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Artist's Lane

The family called hospice. It was the right choice to make. We have always been of the opinion that we would reach out at the very end. Those who have been in the same place that we are in said, "Call and understand your options. We wished we would have made that decision earlier. Yesterday wasn't soon enough."

This week we've had nurses and case workers come in and tell us what they can do along the way to help in the next transition. No hurry; if it's three months or a year, we will be better prepared. No deadlines. They will monitor as we go.

Living 12 miles out of town, the most comforting news is if my Sweet Al fell, we have their number and one of three nurses are on call 24/7. They will be here to take care of the situation. No more taking him to the doctor or hospital, nurses will be by to check on him every week. They will deliver his prescriptions.

As I've told others that they should look into hospice, they weren't sold on the idea. No one wants to think they are hurrying their loved ones away. Talking about it feels like we are hastening the time. We're just trying to be smart.

Al and I have been on this journey and in this relationship for more than 60 years. As the Lord has opened my eyes to the reality of where we are and where we are going, we are OK with the next step.

We didn't chase money or fame. We pursued the Christian life and raised our family in that light. In that, we have riches of great worth, which can't be counted by dollars and cents.

Al and I made certain choices and committed to them when we were young. We are now coming into another life changing situation, and we are seeing the fruition of our choices. Every day there is more sight into the spiritual world around us and in us.

Someone asked me how I was going to handle the change since Al and I have been together all these years. I would hope that my faith is strong enough to give me the substance I need to continue. I've carried a very large megaphone all these years telling others about Jesus. Now the rubber is hitting the road. Al will be taking off what he's worn and putting on new clothes.

This morning I received these words from Natalie Olsen, who has read my writings and reminded me that we change into different clothes along the way. Once in big flowery long skirt, a denim shirt with rolled-up-sleeves, a gigantic floppy hat and an extra-large canvas bag for all my art supplies, I looked like an artist. I was an artist.

I wore oil paint under my fingernails and big costume jewelry around my neck. I roared, "I'm an artist, hear my ideas." I sucked up the room with all my brilliant creations. Art galleries, museums and art supply stores were my haunts.

Later in life, I became a subdued writer, wore comfortable shoes and looked like an old-maid librarian. I dropped the jewelry and wore gray and black. Slung over my shoulder was a slender book bag with my latest released book for book signings, ready for writers' conferences.

Then came the computer age, internet, websites, social media, Amazon. A new world opened to me. Zoom meetings, a writers' group and the "Artist's Lane" column became my best friends. This is where I connected with all of you.

You have reached out and encouraged me, sought me to share time and have a cup of coffee. You supported me, read my articles even when I disclaimed my writing skills. Pagosa grew up with me and, for the past 18 years as I learned to write, I've met you every week in the newspaper.

Natalie continued to write, "I recently spent time on your website and with your latest release, and I have to say, the way you describe your journey stopped me. You spent forty-five years as an artist before starting a column called The Artist's Lane in the Pagosa SUN Newspaper at age sixty-five. Then at seventy, you wrote your first book and published it. You fell in love with writing.

"You shared a beautiful Spanish proverb, 'Cada cabeza es un mundo,' in every head is a world. You and your best friend put your heads together and accomplished more than you thought possible over thirty years. You also said that the risk of keeping the lid on is more painful than to throw off the encumbrances and let the world see the flaws and your heart. That is not just a bio."

Al said this week, "I don't think I'll make it." When the nurse asked him if he knew what year it was, he said, "In the Year of our Lord, it's 4004." I giggled. She said, "Close enough."

He has worked to stay alive. He has lost weight, down to 133 pounds, struggling to keep food down. He turned over the keys to the car.

Final brushstroke: He will be wearing something different, but hopefully not too soon. Through it all, there is a world in each head. We've lived in our world and made choices. We have enjoyed this life and lived it with all the gusto we could muster up. My sweet Al has been faithful. We've traveled these dirt country roads together, hopefully with more faith, insight and wisdom. All we know is to continue on.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Trinity Anglican Church

Jesus says, "The Kingdom of heaven is like.." and goes on to tell about a king who puts on a wedding for his son, sends out invitations. No one comes! What then? To be revealed this Sunday. Come join us!

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TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS View

October 2026

Town Council Approves 2027 Budget

The Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the 2027 annual budget on Tuesday, October 6. The budget guides Town operations, establishes service priorities, and aligns resources with Town Council's goals for the coming budget year, which begins January 1, 2027.

Key updates include commercial sewer rates increasing to $81.50 per equivalent unit, while residential rates remain unchanged at $71.25 per month. The annual workforce housing fee for short-term rentals will increase to $1,000 to support local housing initiatives. Vacation rental licensing fees will increase to $700, and geothermal heating rates will also be adjusted. Additional fee changes affect select Town services and permits. Residents can review all approved fee changes, budget items, and the complete 2027 adopted budget at pagosasprings.co.gov under the Finance section.

Trick-or-Treating at Yamaguchi Park!

Join the Town for family-friendly Halloween fun on Saturday, October 24, from noon to 2 p.m. at Yamaguchi Park. Questions? Call 970-264-4152.

New Town Hall Hours Begin November 2

Beginning November 2, Town Hall will be open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Fridays by appointment only.

The updated schedule reflects how residents use Town Hall services, with most in-person visits occurring Monday through Thursday. By adjusting hours to better align with community needs, the Town can continue providing accessible, efficient service while offering greater scheduling flexibility for staff.

Winter Snow Removal & Staying Connected

Winter weather is on its way! The Town of Pagosa Springs reminds residents to keep designated snow routes clear, give snowplows plenty of room, and clear sidewalks by noon the day after a storm. Learn more about Town plowing operations, snow routes, your responsibilities, and more at pagosasprings.co.gov.

For Town road and snow alerts, text PagosaSprings to 38276 or sign up through the Town website. For County emergency alerts, visit local.nixle.com/register.

Follow the Town on Facebook and Instagram for additional community updates

Upcoming Meetings & Holidays

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

Town Council Regular Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, at 5 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers: 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

pagosasprings.co.gov

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

Extending our growing season

By Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnist

Extension Viewpoints

Here in the southwest, September into October is typically warm and sunny with plenty of T-shirt weather days ahead.

This makes it difficult to know just when to quit managing noxious weeds for the current season and to take a well-deserved rest.

The life cycle of the target species matters, with annuals having already gone to seed, but perennials, biennials are and winter annuals gearing up for winter and herbicide applications from now until the first hard frost are effective.

Herbicides are best used when temperatures are warm and plants are actively metabolizing, this range is usually 40-85 degrees Fahrenheit. If fall temperatures are not expected to exceed 40 degrees, it's best not to waste your time and money. After a hard frost, when temperatures drop below 28 degrees Fahrenheit for four hours, the growing season is over.

Some weeds may be more resistant to cold temperatures, but you may be wasting herbicide on a plant that is entering dormancy. Instead, spade out any rosettes of biennial species and seedlings of winter annuals. For any plant with blooms, you can clip the seed heads off and bag them to prevent seed dispersal.

Prior to season-ending temperatures and weather, some plants may be shutting down for the season already. It may be tempting to get out one more time and get a final treatment, but do a quick evaluation of the target species first. If more than 40 percent of a plant has begun to turn yellow, then the herbicide won't be absorbed effectively. If this is the case, you can survey the area for new germination and seedlings that will likely stay green until the weather shifts in an attempt to build a strong enough root system to survive the winter.

You can also hang the hat up when you have reached your management goals; it doesn't need to be total eradication. Noxious weed control is a marathon, not a sprint. If your goal was to treat half of your property this year or to prevent any plant from flowering and all that's left are rosettes, then call it a day and move onto another project like reseeding and establishing native vegetation — or maybe wax your skis and hope for an early winter.

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

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by CSU Extension, visit https://extension.colostate.edu.

CPR and first aid classes

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

Check out the online option on our website, archuleta.extension.colostate.edu.

How time outdoors can benefit mental health

Special to The PREVIEW

Nature beckons billions of people to get outside every day. Natural settings are not called "the great outdoors" for nothing, and nature enthusiasts may insist there's nothing better than a day in the elements.

Such a sentiment may be more accurate than the most ardent outdoorsman realizes.

In fact, the American Psychological Association notes that extensive research supports the notion that nature provides myriad physical and psychological benefits.

• Nature can help with attention. A 2019 study published in the journal Current Directions in Psychological Science found that exposure to natural environments improves working memory, cognitive flexibility and attentional control. On the flip side, the study found that exposure to urban environments can be linked to attention deficits. Such findings echo conclusions from an experimental study conducted in 2015 by researchers in Australia. That study engaged students in a dull task to compromise their attention. Midway through the task, which involved pressing a computer key when certain numbers flashed on a screen, some students were asked to look out at a flowering green while others were directed to gaze at a concrete rooftop. Students who looked at the green made notably fewer mistakes with the computer screen task than those who looked at the concrete rooftop.

• Nature can increase happiness. Some findings suggest time spent in nature also can lead to increases in happiness. A 2019 study published in the journal Science Advances found that contact with nature is associated with increases in happiness and subjective well-being. The researchers also found that contact with nature is associated with an increased sense of meaning and purpose in life.

• Time outdoors may lower children's risk for mental health disorders later in life. Researchers in Denmark used satellite data to assess more than 900,000 individuals born between 1985 and 2003. The researchers discovered that children who lived in neighborhoods with more green space had a lower risk of various psychiatric disorders later in life. Risk for depression, mood disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and substance use disorder were found to be lower among children who grew up with greater access to green space than children who had the lowest levels of green space exposure.

Few things might be more welcoming than the great outdoors, particularly when the weather is warm. Taking advantage of access to nature can pay some surprising dividends that even the most seasoned outdoorsman might not be aware of.



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Colorado health insurance shoppers get an early look at 2027 plans and prices

Connect for Health Colorado

Colorado's official health insurance marketplace is giving customers an early look at 2027 health insurance plans, offering more time for people to compare coverage and costs before the annual open enrollment period begins.

Connect for Health Colorado's "Estimate & Explore" tool offers personalized recommendations and side-by-side plan comparisons to help customers understand their coverage options. Customers can preview and compare 2027 plans now so they are prepared when open enrollment begins on Nov. 1.

Colorado has taken significant steps to keep coverage costs below what customers might otherwise face. Even so, affordability remains a real concern for many Coloradans, making it especially important to compare plans and understand the financial help that may be available.

The Colorado Division of Insurance announced last month health insurance premiums will rise on average 10 percent for customers on the individual market.

The division's release of final 2027 rates allowed Connect for Health Colorado to load updated plan and cost information into the "Estimate & Explore" tool earlier than usual. Connect for Health Colorado does not set health insurance rates.

"Choosing health insurance is an important financial decision, and we want Coloradans to have as much time as possible to explore their options," said Kevin Patterson, CEO of Connect for Health Colorado. "By making 2027 plan information available now, customers have more time to look closely at their coverage and costs, ask questions and get help from an expert before it's time to enroll."

The extra time may be especially valuable this year. Connect for Health Colorado's data shows that lower-cost 2027 plans are available to many customers who receive financial help. About 60 percent could find a plan for $10 or less per month, and 3 out of 4 could find a plan for $75 or less per month if they shop and compare.

Customers can use the "Estimate & Explore" tool to compare monthly premiums, deductibles, provider networks, prescription drug coverage and other costs, and consider whether or not their current plan still meets their needs and budget.

"Our message to Coloradans is simple: Take advantage of this time," Patterson said. "Compare your options, consider how your health care needs may have changed, and get help from an expert if you need it. You don't have to make a decision today, but you can prepare and be ready on Nov. 1 when it's time to enroll."

Connect for Health Colorado's free network of certified assisters and health insurance brokers can help customers make informed decisions about their health coverage. Experts are located throughout Colorado and speak more than 22 languages. They can help Coloradans apply for free, and there's no obligation to buy a plan when contacting an expert.

Open enrollment for plan year 2027 runs from Nov. 1, 2026, through Jan. 15, 2027. Customers who enroll by Dec. 15 will have coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2027. Customers who enroll between Dec. 16 and Jan. 15, 2027, will have coverage beginning Feb. 1, 2027.

Coloradans can use the "Estimate & Explore" tool now, find free expert help on Connect for Health Colorado's website, or call (855) 752-6749 if they have questions.

About Connect for Health Colorado

Connect for Health Colorado is the state's official health insurance marketplace.

Its mission is to increase access, affordability and choice for individuals, families and small employers purchasing health insurance in Colorado. It is the only place where residents can qualify for and receive financial help for their health insurance.

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free, confidential support to veterans in crisis,
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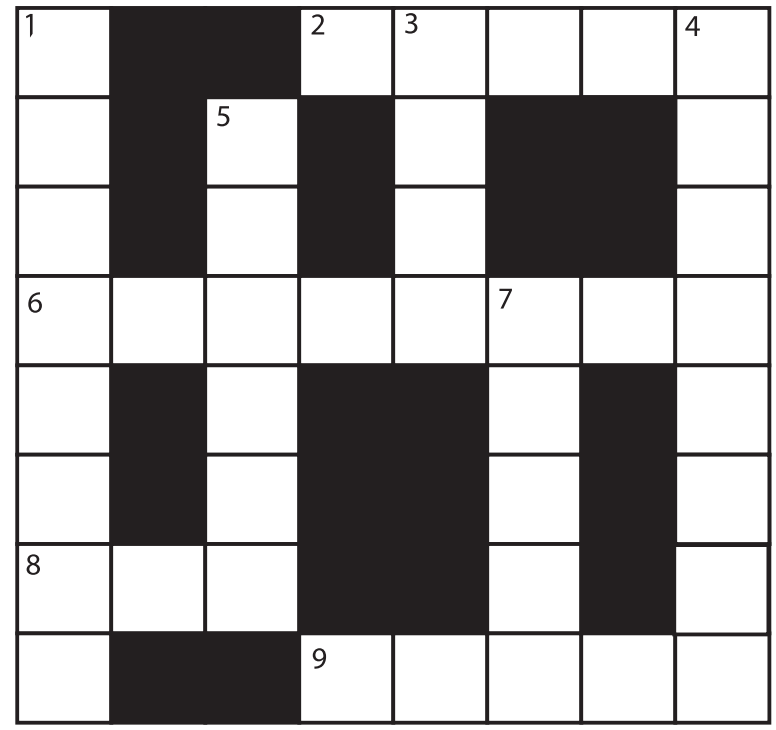
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kids' corner

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. Involves the eye
6. In a line
8. Abbreviation for "hours"
9. Stings or pains

DOWN

1. Vision
3. Foot treatment
4. Corrects vision
5. Bends
7. One who plays

Answers:

Across
2. Optic 6. Straight 8. Hrs 9. Burns

Down
1. Eyesight 3. Pedi 4. Contacts 5. Curves 7. Gamer

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

OCT 13

54: Roman emperor Claudius dies from poisoning under mysterious circumstances.

1843: B'nai B'rith, now the oldest Jewish service organization in the world, is founded in New York.

1976: The first electron micrograph of an Ebola virus is taken at the CDC.

Body FACT:

These devices stay on the eye due to surface tension of tear fluid and the eye's curvature.

Answer: Contact lenses

NEW WORD

SOLUTION

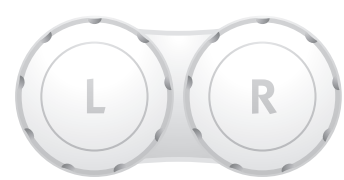
a liquid mixture used for cleaning and storing contact lenses

"How they say that in..."

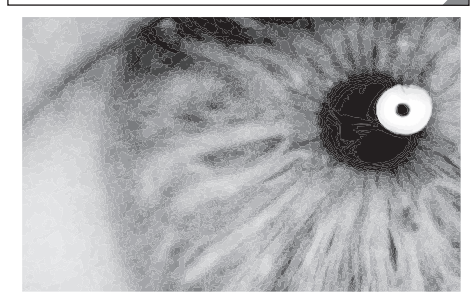
English: Case
Spanish: Caja
Italian: Scatola
French: Boîtier
German: Schatulle

Did You KNOW?

Storing contacts properly in the case helps keep them clean, moistened and ready for use.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Eye

Boo-tiful Halloween craft ideas

Special to The PREVIEW

Halloween is a highlight of fall, as children and even adults anxiously await Oct. 31. Similar to the holiday season, people often decorate their homes for Halloween, and even do so well in advance of late October to maximize the amount of time they get to enjoy the trinkets and other items.

Many people enjoy getting hands-on for Halloween. It's possible to craft decorations, personalized treats and festive costumes. Consider these ideas for Halloween craft projects.

3D Pumpkins

Carving pumpkins is a popular Halloween tradition. But there are many people who feel the job is too messy. Instead, a fun way to add personality to pumpkins comes by way of some hot glue and paint. Use a hot glue gun to create a pattern on the outside of the pumpkin. It can be designs, a jack-o'-lantern face or just about anything. Once dry and hardened, use craft paint to go over the entire pumpkin. The raised design will be evident and add dimension.

Spooktacular wreath

Adorn the front door with something creative. It can be utterly frightening or something more festive.

Start with a premade spring greenery wreath or a wreath frame that you cover with your own greenery. Purchase a round, unfinished wooden sign panel and paint with black chalkboard paint. Add your own message with chalk or chalk paint. "Keep Away" or "Enter at Your Own Risk" are great Halloween phrases to consider. Attach the sign in the middle of the wreath.

You also can add some embellishments to the wreath, including black moss and floral stems and leaves. A glittery black and green ribbon or bow is the finishing touch before hanging.

Boo treasure box

Purchase a wooden treasure chest or box from the hobby store. Paint it all black or your favorite Halloween colors. Then add additional designs like spider webs, bats or pumpkins. Fill the box with treats or small toys. Kids can have fun picking out their treasures.

Halloween gnomes

Gnomes have been popular for years, and they keep turning up in different iterations.

You can craft your own gnomes for Halloween with a few supplies. Start with a 9-inch-tall foam cone. Cut the bottom off the toe part of a solid-colored ankle sock just past the heel, and pull it up so it covers the lower few inches of the cone. Add some hot glue to secure, draw a beard shape on the back of faux fur and cut it out. Attach the beard to the lower part of the cone over the sock. Use a crew-length, patterned sock to create a hat for the gnome, and glue to the top part of the cone. Glue on a large wooden bead for the nose.

Decorate the gnome any way you'd like, such as adding felt patches to the sock hat.

Halloween can be even more fun with some creative crafts the entire family can enjoy.

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VOTE YES ON 5A. Build new PK-8th grade public school for students, staff, families. Renovation won't fix schools' design and unsafe location on Hwy 160. www.CitizensForASD.org - Find out WHY. Paid by CitizensForASD.

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 AA: 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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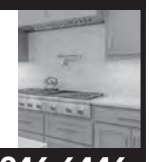
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HELP WANTED

Position Title: Area Operations Manager - Pagosa

ELITE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL

Company Location: Pagosa Springs, CO
Salary Range: $95k-$105K DOE

Position Summary

Bruin Waste Management dba as Elite Recycling and Disposal is seeking a hands-on, results-driven **Area Operations Manager** to oversee daily operations out its Pagosa Springs office. This role ensures the safe, cost-effective, and efficient delivery of refuse and recycling services while leading a diverse team in both field and office settings. This position plays a vital role in connecting field teams, office staff, and customers. Flexibility, integrity, and a proactive mindset are essential, overseeing Drivers, Tippers, Mechanic, Customer Service Representatives. Duties and responsibilities may evolve based on operational needs.

Minimum Qualifications

- High School diploma required; Bachelor's degree preferred.
- 5+ years in a supervisory role, preferably in waste management, logistics, trucking, construction, or related fields.
- Strong leadership, communication, and organizational skills.
- Computer proficiency, including Microsoft Office, Teams, email, and customer information systems.
- Valid Colorado Driver's License (CDL preferable)
- Ability to lead in the field and office environments.
- Lead, supervise, and develop drivers, tippers, mechanics, and customer service representatives.
- Oversee daily routes, transfer station operations, fleet maintenance, and safety programs.
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- Resolve customer concerns, build relationships, and support business growth.
- Maintain regulatory compliance, accurate records, and required reporting.
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To see the full job posting go to www.bruinwaste.com Resumes can also be submitted on the website or to creams@bruinwaste.com

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We are looking for reliable, motivated additions to our team!



DELIVERY - Starting at $18/hr DOE, 40 hr/week
Weekends and holidays required. Benefits include discounts, paid time off, sick pay, profit sharing and more!
Apply in person. Applications available on www.terrysace.com

Terry's COLORADO HOME SUPPLY

Terry's ACE HARDWARE
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to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100 Classifieds (970) 264-2100

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HELP WANTED

PAGOSA PEAK
FAMILY DENTISTRY
Dr. Peter Roukema & Dr. Jaime Astorga

NOW HIRING
REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS

1–2 positions | Full-time & part-time

Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is looking for fun, energetic and personable individuals to join our growing family practice.

- Competitive salary and excellent benefits
- Supportive, team-oriented workplace culture
- Brand-new, state-of-the-art facility
- Established multi-doctor, multi-hygienist practice

STOP BY OR EMAIL US AT
hello@pagosapeakfamilydentistry.com



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to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

HELP WANTED

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA
Hiring for the Ski Season:
November - April
Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski & Snowboard School Instructors
- Lynx & Wolf Pup Building Attendants
- Food & Beverage Staff
  Grill/Fry Cooks - Baker - Barista
- Snow Reporter/Guest Services
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial & Building Maintenance
- Freelance Photographer

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF $20/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience
Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment
Send applications & resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

LANDSCAPE LABORERS WANTED. Must have own transportation. Call or text for an application. Good pay for good help. (970)946-2277.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at $18/ hour, full or part -time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LINE COOK POSITION OPEN The Keyah Grande Guest House is hiring a part-time line cook ($20/ hour) for our new fine dining restaurant. Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is hiring LMTs. $55/hr plus tips. Weekends and evenings. Flexible schedule and supportive team. Bring your healing gifts. racheldevloo@gmail.com.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS WINE AND LIQUOR is looking for a dependable, friendly, part-time and full-time cashier to join our team. **We're looking for someone who:** Is reliable and punctual, Has great customer service skills, Is friendly and outgoing, Can work independently and as part of a team, Is available nights and weekends, Has a positive attitude. If you are interested, please stop by the store to apply. **Come join our team.**

NEED SOMEONE TO WORK OUTSIDE and someone to clean. Sanctuary County Road 551. (970)264-2592.

NEED STUCCO PERSON If you called before please call back. Sanctuary County Road 551. (970)264-2592.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING — CDL DRIVER. $26–$29 per hour, DOE. $500 sign -on bonus, $250 at hire, $250 after 6 months. Full-time, year -round position. Must possess a valid CDL, safe driving record, and strong work ethic. Apply today at Elite Recycling and Disposal, 250 Industrial Circle, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

PAINTER'S HELPER WANTED. Winter indoor work. Part- time or Full- time. Willing to train if willing to learn. Must be detailed oriented, team player, good attitude with good work ethic. Year round work. Company benefits. Call (970)779-3012.

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.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

Thrift Store Donation Pick Up and Receiving Specialist. $18- $21 hour DOE. Join our mission-driven team dedicated to providing a safe haven for animals in need. The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Thrift Store provides critical financial support for our shelter operations.

We are seeking a dependable, hardworking Donation Pickup and Receiving team member to help operate our uptown donation drop- off center, assist with donation pickups, drive the donation box truck, and support operations at both our uptown and downtown thrift store locations. For more information please send a resume to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org or go to our website, pagosahumane.org.

AUTOS

1997 CHEVY BLAZER 4 DOOR 4 wheel drive. $4500. (970)264-5837.

AUTOS

'92 CHEVY, 5 SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION, 4x4, extended cab, new differential, needs motor. Also '89 3/4 ton, good parts, good motor for the '92 Chevy, $2,000. (970)731-1116.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up $255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

Firewood Delivered, Doug Fir/ Pine mix. $250 per cord, $1400 for 6 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.

FORKLIFTLektro 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.

NEED FIREWOOD? Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for $600! Pine mix. Guaranteed full cords. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

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.

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New PK-8th grade public school for students, staff, families. www.CitizensForASD.org - Find out WHY.
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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

GARAGE SALE. 268 Twin Creek Circle. Sat., October 17, 8a.m.- 1p.m.

GARAGE SALE. MARTIAL ARTS GEAR, chairs, too much to list. **ALL FREE**. 181 S. 7th St. Sat. October 17. 9a.m.- 3p.m.

MOVING SALE. Saturday, October 17, 9a.m.- 3p.m. 60 Flintlock Pl, Hatcher. New 84" snow plow, new modern sectional and side board, small kitchen appliances, cookware and cast iron, freezers, artwork, wood/ kindling. Must come by and see.

SIDEWALK FUNDRAISER for Chimney Rock Interpretive Assoc.'s (CRIA) Junior Archaeology Program. Date/ Time: Sat., October 17, from 10a.m.- 3p.m. All CRIA items will be offered by donation. Location: Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St., Pagosa Springs, CO– In the Parking Lot. This fundraiser is held in conjunction with the Community United Methodist Thrift Store. Note: Thrift Store proceeds directly to benefit the Thrift Store.

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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

Office Space for Lease in Pagosa Springs

Newly remodeled space in the First Southwest Bank building, conveniently located off Highway 160. Suites ranging from 160 to 1,585 square feet — perfect for solo professionals or growing teams.

- Flexible suite sizes to fit your business
- Shared conference room access
- Break room and restrooms
- Large on-site parking lot
- Prime, high-visibility Hwy 160 location



Contact Melanie Russek for leasing details and availability.
melanie.russek@fswb.com
866-641-3792

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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 for lease. Enjoy stunning creek, canyon, pasture, and mountain views, including V-Rock and the San Juan Mountains. Situated on a private 35-acre retreat bordering National Forest, this property offers a private lake for paddleboarding, direct access to hiking and outdoor recreation, horse pasture potential, pet -friendly living (with approval), barn and storage use, and a large garage/RV garage with space for up to 5 –6 vehicles, RVs, or trailers. Perfect for an outdoor lifestyle in a quiet, retreat-like setting. $3,500–$6,500/month depending on included amenities and storage needs. Text (970)398-0518.

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.

FRESHLY UPDATED 800 SQ. FT. APARTMENT in four plex in Pagosa Lakes Subdivision. Call for details. Coming available November 1. W/D included, most utilities paid. $1475, $1000 deposit. Call Lee (970)946-3856 or John (303)881-1407.

FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM 2.5 BATH from $2600/ month. Long- term preferred. Rates may vary by stayed length and move-in date. Utilities extra. Negotiable. Garage available. No pets or smoking. (970)239-1675.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

ONE BEDROOM WITH LOFT, short ways out of town, wood stove, efficient ETS heating unit, large deck, private fenced yard. $1500 per month, first month, security deposit and half of last month. (970)731-2010.

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.

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 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.

TRINITY APARTMENTS. Unit available. 2 bedroom, 1-1/4 bath, $1500 per month. Includes washer, dryer, utilities. Please call (970)946-7190 for an application.

TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT AVAILABLE. 7th street behind Natural Grocers. Walking distance to hot springs and and old downtown. (720)470-2653.

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.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying *or* Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672

JANN C PITCHER

MarcieLewis.com

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED 3 BR 2BA HOME 1680 sq. ft., all newer appliances, nice wood and metal accents, close to shopping. $260,000. 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.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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