County approves plat amendment
Rock Ridge Country Estates — A9

Cross-country teams to host regionals
Girls' 10 a.m., boys 10:40 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 — A13



The Pagosa Springs SUN

$1

PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 | www.PagosaSUN.com | VOLUME 119 — NO. 4, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

San Juan River projected to hit flood stage, 2-4 inches of rain possible

By Randi Pierce and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

The National Weather Service (NWS) is warning that the current hazardous weather that moved into the area Wednesday, Oct. 21, will cause flooding, flash flooding and strong to severe storms in western Utah and southwestern Colorado, including Archuleta County.

A flood watch is in effect through noon on Friday, Oct. 23.

On Wednesday afternoon, the NWS released additional forecast data, stating the southwest San Juan Mountains could see 2 to 4 inches or more of rainfall, with the highest potential for impactful weather being from Wednesday afternoon through Friday morning.

An expected liquid precipitation forecast shows 2.8 inches for Pagosa Springs, with the northwest portion

■ See Flood A9

Town council passes first reading of ordinance approving Ponderosa Mountain subdivision

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Oct. 20, the Pagosa Springs Town Council passed the first reading of an ordinance approving a planned development agreement (PD) with a developer proposing to build the Ponderosa Mountain subdivision.

The subdivision would have its main access point off of U.S. 160 and Great West Avenue, west of downtown.

This decision came after the council voted to continue the matter at its Oct. 6 meeting, with council members suggesting denying the application, but that they needed more clarity on the criteria for which the denial decision would be based upon.

Two of the council members who ended up supporting the ordinance, Madeline Bergon and Gary Williams, were absent from the Oct. 6 meeting.

The developer, listed as Modern Community Builders LLC, a California- and Nevada-based company, came before the council seeking approval of the PD and a zoning map

■ See Subdivision A7

On to state



Photo courtesy Janine Emmets

Ten DUST2 athletes are headed to state championships in Glenwood Springs Oct. 24-25. Pictured in the front row, from left, are Adelyn Hittle, Gianna Shaeffer and Quinn Howard. In the back row, from left, are Drake Anderson, Aaron Sowle, Ward Halterman, Amon Phillips, Justin Sewell and Jackson Chaney. Not pictured is Elias Gorman.

Head-on crash kills one, injures four

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

A fatal crash took place on U.S. 160 near milepost 131 on Thursday night, Oct. 15.

According to an Oct. 16 email from Trooper Gabriel Moltrer with the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), the CSP received a call at about 8:22 p.m. for a report of a two-vehicle head-on crash.

According to the email, a Nissan Xterra was traveling westbound on U.S. 160 near milepost 131. A Subaru Forester was traveling eastbound on U.S. 160 at the same location.

"The Xterra traveled across a painted center median and into the westbound lane, and struck the Forester in a head-on crash. The Xterra rotated and came to rest in the center median. The Forester was pushed westbound off the eastbound side of the road, coming to rest," the email states.

The driver of the Xterra, a 21-year-old female from Del Norte, Colo., was transported to an area hospital for serious injuries, according to Moltrer.

The driver of the Forester, a

■ See Crash A7



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Manager Andy Connor is joined by district board members, staff and facility engineers as he cuts a ceremonial ribbon for the district's newly completed Snowball water treatment plant on Saturday, Oct. 17.

PAWSD argues 2027 budget, past and future actions

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Oct. 15 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors engaged in an often-heated debate of the district's 2027 budget, its previous financial policies and its future direction.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh opened the discussion of publicly disseminating the draft 2027 budget by asking if the board planned to discuss it in detail now or to publish it and then discuss it in more detail in November, as it has in previous years.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges stated that he felt that the board would largely move forward with publishing the budget, but that the board owed staff "a little bit of direction" since it is "crunch time for everybody."

"My big picture is that big revenues have to be raised. I think we should not hit our full-service customers hard again. Our wastewater customers, who are essentially our full-service customers, have gotten a 53 percent increase over the last three years," Walsh said. "The water because of a really poor rate study has gotten only 9.27 over three years. ... When I look at the big picture, the water district is in trouble, especially over the next two years, because of the double payment and the wastewater district is not in trouble, and ... I think to some extent is carrying the water district right now, and that shouldn't happen ... because the folks, our full-service people, carry the whole community."

The double payment Walsh referenced is an approximately doubled payment on the final two years of payments of the district's loans for the Lake Hatcher water treatment plant, which will occur in 2027 and 2028.

Walsh continued that PAWSD's approximately 3,000 water-only customers also send their wastewater to PAWSD through PAWSD's agreements with the Pagosa Springs Sani-

■ See PAWSD A8

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County tables decision on resolution to close Country Center Drive access

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted unanimously to table its decision on approving a resolution to temporarily close the public access to Country Center Drive from North Pagosa Boulevard.

On Sept. 1, the BoCC unanimously approved posting a 30-day notice of intent to close access to Country Center Drive from North Pagosa Boulevard due to its condition.

The matter was originally listed under the new business portion of the Oct. 20 meeting agenda; however, the BoCC voted to approve an amended agenda removing the item and tabling its decision for a future meeting.

Commissioner Veronica Medina motioned to amend the agenda, removing the item tabling the board's decision until its meeting scheduled for Nov. 10.

Commissioner John Ranson explained that the county was contacted by property owner representatives of businesses in the Country Center Drive shopping center, "and they very kindly asked for an extra few weeks, so it'll be on our next meeting."

He noted that it will "give them some time to get organized and accomplish some things that they're hoping to be able to do."

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini explained that with the BoCC tabling the matter and continuing its decision set for a later meeting date, there are no new noticing requirements the county needs to do.

The amended agenda with the item removed was unanimously approved by the BoCC.

On Sept. 1, County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that the suggestion of closing the access due to it being unsafe for public use had been discussed in previous BoCC meetings.

That meeting agenda notes that the county would close the access after the 30-day period, "unless the property or business owners initiate maintenance and repair efforts to address the condition of the private road."

Commissioner Warren Brown explained at that Sept. 1 meeting that he does not want to close the access, but feels there is nothing else the county can do after years of attempting to coordinate with the property owners to have the access road repaired and properly maintained.

clayton@pagosasun.com



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Pagosa Springs High School homecoming queen, Makaela Denton, and king, Devin Gonzalez, are crowned at halftime of the homecoming football game on Friday, Oct. 16.

Opinion

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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HOT MINERAL SPRINGS"

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation Moisture	Type	Depth
10/13	54	43	0.27	NA	NA
10/14	49	35	0.83	NA	NA
10/15	60	30	0.35	NA	NA
10/16	61	27	0.00	NA	NA
10/17	63	26	0.00	NA	NA
10/18	63	28	0.02	NA	NA
10/19	65	40	0.00	NA	NA

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Our View

Court livestreams offer information, transparency

On Sept. 15, Monica M. Márquez, the chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, put out a directive temporarily pausing required livestreams of criminal court proceedings in state trial courts — a move in contradiction with state law, as well as previous court directives.

In her order, Marquez outlines several issues that have surfaced since the directive and law were put into place, writing, "Unfortunately, in the years since these two authorities took effect, the livestreaming technology that was intended to promote access to the courts has been subverted as a tool of disruption, disparagement, harassment, and private economic gain that is rapidly eroding the proper functioning of our system of justice."

Marquez states that, despite the warnings to not record the proceedings in any way, the technology is being abused, with videos, sometimes altered, making their way to platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Facebook and Instagram, with the social media platforms unwilling to remove the content.

She also discusses bad actors who log directly into court proceedings using false names and credentials.

Those bad actors then disrupt the proceedings with any number of disgusting and inappropriate content.

Quickly after the Sept. 15 directive came out, most judicial districts dropped off the livestreaming platform, including our own 6th Judicial District.

It's been a disappointing change.

We absolutely agree that fair and respectful court proceedings must occur — for the sakes of the accused, the victims, witnesses, court officers, jurors and others.

We absolutely agree that courts must maintain order and decorum, and and we know bad actors have disrupted that, drawing hearings to a halt for a period of time and, in some cases, traumatizing those subject to the inappropriately content displayed.

However, the jump to removing the livestream requirement altogether until something better can be found seems excessive.

Especially when it's based on the actions of so few.

The Denver Post dug into the state's records and determined that the people who misuse Colorado court livestreams make up less than 1 percent of all viewers.

But going against state law (a big concern) and taking drastic action based on so few isn't where our concerns end.

We also have significant concerns over the drop in transparency and public information we've grown accustomed to and have learned to expect.

While courtrooms absolutely remain open to the public and anyone can go observe the proceedings, the addition of livestreaming during and following the COVID-19 pandemic undeniably made the proceedings much easier to access, and potentially less intimidating for many.

Livestreams are a way to learn more about how our judicial processes function, how our judges are performing and how attorneys — especially ones who go on to be considered for judgeships — practice their craft.

Livestreams offer newsrooms easier and better access to follow, observe and report on the cases that are meaningful to those communities, and to track trends. They also help small newsrooms that cover large areas that include multiple courthouses have better coverage, especially when last-minute changes may mean a hearing is moved an hour away with little to no notice to the public. To cover a hearing via livestream, media outlets have to file for extended media coverage, which involves multiple attorneys and the judge, among others and, understandably, takes time that last-minute changes make difficult.

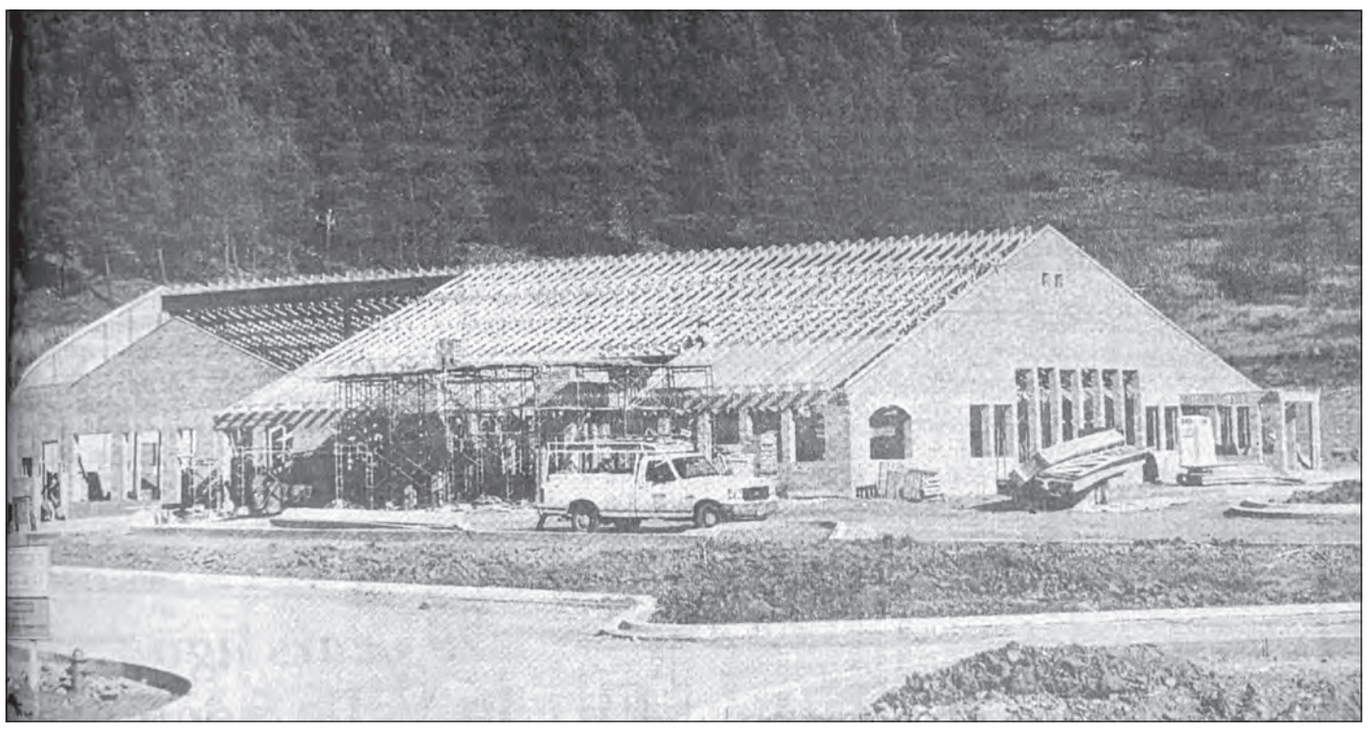
Livestreams also allow media and other watchdogs better access to monitor and understand how both the judicial branch and law enforcement are functioning. For example, we recently learned of multiple cases being dismissed due to concerns with an officer via regularly watching court livestreams.

Marquez's directive is for 90 days, but we hope to see the courts find a better path forward sooner than that — or opt to livestream in the interim despite the directive like some are doing — and to renew access to this critical part of our society.

Removing transparency is hardly a way to maintain or strengthen public confidence in the judicial process.

Randi Pierce

Looking Back



From the Oct. 22, 1992, Pagosa SUN — The new Pagosa Springs Post Office is beginning to take shape on Hot Springs Boulevard (formerly Lightplant Road). Raising of roof trusses, pouring of concrete curbing and drainage for parking areas, and masonry work on the exterior walls give an indication of the size of the new postal facility located immediately south of the Oak Ridge Motor Inn.

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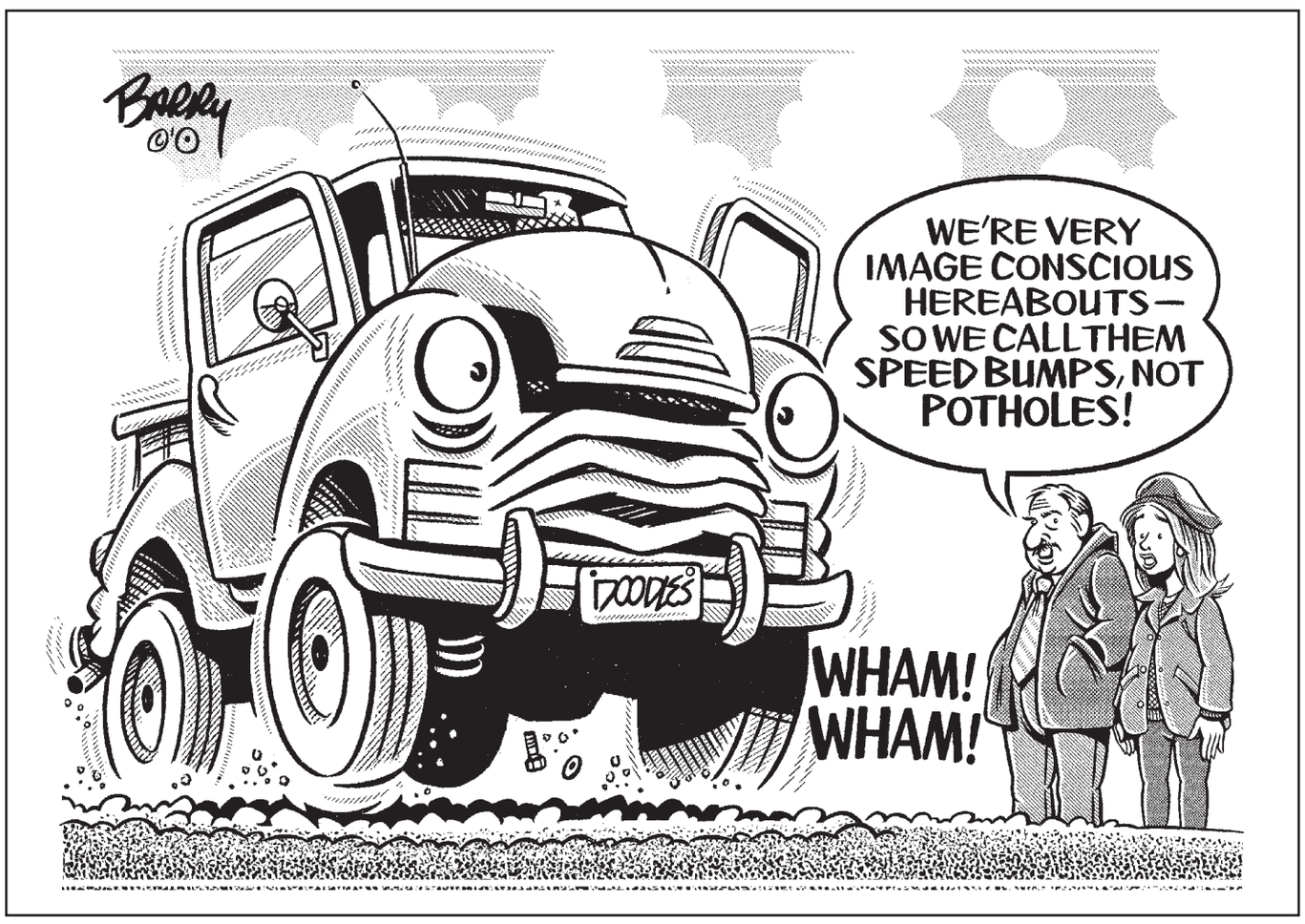
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Legacies

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 22, 1926

When Senator Billy Adams takes over the job of governor he can be relied up on to cut down the expense of state government, but his task will be easier if the people elect a senate and house that will back him up in his retrenchment policies. Voters in this section can to their part by electing Edw. E. Wheeler to the senate and J.B. Patterson to the lower house.

Miss Lillie May Toner of Pagosa Springs, a sophomore at Aggies, is one of the fourteen co-eds who have finished their requirements necessary to the awarding of their American Red Cross Life-saving certificates.

Before the American Red Cross Association grants the life-saving certificate, each candidate must pass both a written and a practical examination. The latter includes swimming, diving, carrying, methods of breaking holds and of administering artificial respiration.

The young women who received their final points this fall completed their examinations last spring when Captain Law, National Red Cross examiner, was on the campus.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 19, 1951

A light plane, piloted by George Holtcrew, of Lubbock, Texas suffered heavy damage Sunday as it flipped over in a landing attempt, just east of the Pine Grove Hall. None of the plane's occupants suffered any injuries, other than light bruises. The pilot was bringing three women from Lubbock to Pagosa to join their husbands when the accident took place.

According to Mr. Holtcrew, his air map showed the Sunetha strip but didn't give its exact location. He circled looking for it and then decided to land in the pasture to the east of the Pine Grove hall. He made the landing all right but hit a stump as he was stopping. This caved in the nose wheel and flipped the plane over on its back. A jeep and trailer came up and hauled the wrecked plane back to Texas.

Air travel is rapidly becoming one of the main means of transportation and a town the size of Pagosa Springs certainly needs a large, well marked landing field.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 21, 1976

No fatalities have been reported in this area as the 1976 big game season nears the end of its first week. The number of hunters is down quite a bit from a year ago, hunting is hard, but many hunters have been successful. There have been some cases of trespass, one hunter had to be airlifted out of the Upper Blanco Basin after being injured in a fall from a horse, but no real major accidents have been reported.

Seven automobile accidents in this area were reported by the Colorado State Patrol this past week. There were no serious injuries to drivers or passengers. One horse and one cow were killed. The cow was struck twice within a matter of minutes.

The thermometer really popped down Tuesday morning of this week with a ten degree above zero reading at the U.S. Weather Station. Night time lows were in the low 20s the rest of the week, but the Tuesday morning chill froze hard ice on small ponds and puddles.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of October 18, 2001

Reconstruction of a Stevens Field taxiway serving 30 hangers has been completed, even as crews launch work on Phase I of a $3 million project calculated to upgrade the county airport over the next few years.

In a project originally estimated by County Commissioner Alden Ecker to cost $200,000 plus the use of county crews and equipment, the old runway at Stevens Field has been rebuilt from the ground up as a taxiway.

The final cost of the project with under $5,000 yet to be counted is about $288,000, according to Kevin Walters, the county road superintendent. Costs include $129,000 for Strohecker's paving; $65,000 to purchase, lease, rent equipment and other hard costs; and $94,000 for county labor and equipment.

County commissioners decided to rebuild the taxiway after receiving complaints from hangar owners that potholes and loose debris threatened damage to their aircraft. Because the county owns the taxiway and leases space for the privately owned hangars, the commissioners decided county liability could be mitigated only by rebuilding. Much of the work was done by county road and bridge crews and equipment.

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.

Editor's note: As was stated in the Sept. 24 issue of The SUN, as well as other issues, no letters regarding specific candidates or issues on the upcoming Nov. 3 ballot will be printed from Oct. 15 until after Election Day, Nov. 3. Those looking to read opinions and points made on the issues and candidates are invited to peruse past issues of The SUN or visit www.pagosasun.com/letters-to-the-editor/.

SpaceX stock shares

Dear Editor:

On the surface, the declaration by Elon Musk that he intends to gift a single share of his public SpaceX company to every child in America appears to be a historic act of generational philanthropy. Yet beneath the surface of this multi-billion-dollar gesture lies a calculated scheme that prioritizes corporate dominance and personal benefit over the true welfare of American youth. Donating over ten billion dollars in stock allows a billionaire to unlock staggering tax write-offs, effectively shielding immense personal fortunes from federal liabilities while building a lifelong marketing army of approximately seventy-three million children.

The pipeline for this giveaway is the federal government's newly established Trump Accounts program under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Designed to operate like a traditional retirement account for minors, the program used existing federal databases to automatically enroll American children. A recent regulatory expansion allows corporate entities to inject direct shares of private equity into these government-managed accounts. It is through this pipeline that Musk is routing his SpaceX stock, tethering a private commercial experiment to state infrastructure.

The financial complications penalize lower-income households by threatening their access to federal higher education grants and essential safety-net benefits. Public assistance regulations require the reporting of all household resources, including child-owned equity. Under federal guidelines, stocks are classified as active liquid assets based on their current market price even if they remain untouched and unliquidated. This means a practically inaccessible share artificially inflates a household's total resources on paper. For parents surviving on the margins and sitting only a few hundred dollars away from qualification thresholds for SNAP food stamps, Medicaid, TANF, or other income-based financial aid programs, this phantom wealth pushes them over the edge into disqualification.

This same structural penalty targets a child's higher education within the FAFSA framework. Because Trump Accounts are registered under the minor's Social Security number, these holdings are classified as student-owned assets rather than family savings. The federal financial aid formula treats student assets severely compared to parent-owned resources, reducing need-based aid eligibility by up to $20 for every $100 held in the child's name. By packing student portfolios with private equity, the program artificially inflates the child's personal wealth, forcing vulnerable families to absorb a reduction in federal college grants and driving them toward expensive student loans to compensate for the lost aid.

Furthermore, if a family inadvertently overlooks the necessary reporting paperwork, the federal government enforces aggressive monthly failure-to-file and negligence penalties that can easily eclipse $500.

Additionally, the automatic enrollment infrastructure functions as data harvesting, taking highly sensitive information previously isolated for strict government use and linking it to the private financial sector. This creates a digital footprint for children that leaves them vulnerable to corporate exploitation and targeted financial fraud.

Ultimately, this act compromises the innocence of childhood, turning a generation of American kids into data points on a corporate ledger and financial pawns in a billionaire's game of economic influence.

Gena Mathews

Proposed subdivision

Dear Editor:

Say NO Please.!!

I remember one of Pagosa's Old Timer Milo Smith (R.I.P.) saying yrs ago.. " Robin, I remember when there was only One swinging light in Downtown Pagosa Springs..."

Maybe there's a couple Old Timers left that remember that also but that's not the case these days as we all know ! A lot of us understand and are okay with growth.. there are serious Life & Death Concerns!

(My opinion is valid I believe) Like..

1. Putting a light at Put Hills steep grade w/winter conditions. Scary!

2. Big Developments = more vehicles & traffic = Evacuation Concerns onto Hwy 160 could be a disaster for Many of Us that live North with our BIG Fire Concerns from Long, Hot & Dry'r Summers,

Again..I really take this Seriously !

3. Lack of water during the years of droughts already restricted so another Big Concern!! (no crystal ball to read our future unfortunately)

4. Noise & Light Pollution For many that live close by & drive by.. it'll take a long time for the infrastructure & to complete that huge development the noise.. well there goes the neighborhood & visually I think it's going to stick out like a sore thumb!

Last . Those that will use the back road to get to Walmart will destroy that road & I understand they will not be responsible for maintaining it... Again, There goes the neighborhood!

(I know from first-hand watching the traffic come the back road to Cemetery Road to avoid putt Hill traffic huge difference on our roads and for our neighbors)

So those that can Vote ..vote No Plz, Enough is Enough! ALOT of Us are not going anywhere... We will Not Sell, We Love Our Town be it the

Old Timers, Newbies & the future generations,,

I'm begging you please say No & Keep it Safe & Affordable for many of Us that consider Pagosa Springs 2-B Our Heaven Here on Earth ! Thank you, Robin

(let's hope for the best one & all)

Robin Nay

Vote

Dear Editor:

The voting season is here. I encourage all legal registered citizens to vote. I emphasize legal!

Let me describe our New Mexico/Colorado registration/voting experience.

My wife and I were registered residents of Archuleta County 22 years. We sold our home in 2018 and returned to New Mexico. Soon thereafter, we registered to vote in New Mexico. We had voted continuously in all Colorado elections for 20+ years and discontinued after our move. Likewise, we have subsequently voted in all New Mexico elections since 2018 by absentee ballot.

Unlike Colorado, to vote absentee in New Mexico, one needs to request a ballot from the county clerk's office. Unlike most states, Colorado arbitrarily mails a ballot to all registered voters, whether they wished to vote or not?

In the mail we recently received 2 Colorado ballots for the upcoming November 2026 election from Kristy Archuleta. This ritual has a repeated history. We have received Colorado ballots for the last 8 years.

In the past, I have written both Colorado Senators, the representative for Archuleta district and Archuleta County Clerk. We've received no reply nor any action to purge our registration.

The National Voter Registration Act 1993: "a state may remove a voter from the rolls"

1. At the voter's request
2. Felony conviction per state law
3. Adjudication of mental incapacity per state law
4. Death
5. The voter moved to an address outside the jurisdiction

My wife and I qualify, 1 and 5.

Virgil Tinklenberg

Vote

Dear Editor:

We are a nation that began in rebellion against an aristocratic governing class that suppressed the colonists not just by race, but by class. Class determined by wealth, not merit. Wealth bestowed power that allowed suppression and exploitation of the un-wealthy. Our democratic institutions were created to protect "we the people" from the abuses of power derived from wealth.

Capitalism works well when the rule of law and common-sense controls its tendencies to reward greed rather than the common good. The power of our institutional protections and the rule of law have eroded in the face of a political class driven by fundraising, pursuit of personal wealth and power instead of principle.

I'm a veteran who served to protect our common rights and freedoms. So did the veterans who served before me and the ones to follow. Thank us for our service by protecting our right to vote and the local volunteers that process the votes.

And vote.

Jerome Smith

Informative.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

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.



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Work on the roadway has been completed at the U.S. 160 and 1st Street intersection for the time being, and traffic has been reopened to two lanes.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Oct. Oct. 26-31

Work activity

Note: The forecast continues to call for inclement weather; all project work is weather dependent. Crews will work weekends (including Sundays) as needed, especially when work cannot be completed during the weekdays, due to inclement weather.

• 6th Street intersection: This intersection is closed until U.S. 160 lanes are paved west of McCabe Creek.

• 5th Street intersection: Starting Oct. 26, 5th Street will be closed for the Town of Pagosa Springs to continue geothermal utility work and intersection paving for the coming week(s). Alternative delivery access for businesses on 5th Street will be through the liquor store 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. 8th Street will remain open until the south side of 7th is reopened, at which point 8th Street will be closed.

• 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

Terry's COLORADO HOME SUPPLY
Pagosa Springs, CO

Blow-Away Deals you don't want to miss!

Blundstone

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tried, tested and approved
✔ durable quality





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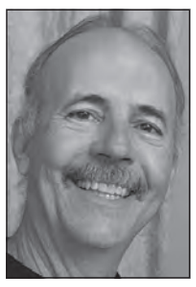
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Obituaries

William 'Bill' R. McElhinney



William (Bill) R. McElhinney passed away on Oct. 14, 2026, in Dewey, Ariz., after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Tara McElhinney; sons Tim McElhinney and Tyler McElhinney; his mother, Sue Dashiell; sisters Katy Garza and Angela Wisenbaker; brother Chuck McElhinney; four grandchildren; and various nieces and nephews.

Bill was born on March 9, 1960, in Houston, Texas. He left Texas and traveled extensively across the U.S. in the construction industry, where he was well-known as one of the best piping and mechanical supervisors in the business. After retiring, he made his home base in Pagosa Springs and was active in the Back Country Horsemen, Pagosa Trail Riders, Grey Wolves Ski Club, and Wolf Creek Gun and Bow Association and Archery. He loved to shoot, hunt, fish and ski. He was known to have a quick wit, with his humor providing many fun memories for his friends, family and co-workers.

There will a celebration of life in Houston, Texas, with his family during the holidays.

Ronald Baker 'Bud' Forman



Ronald Baker "Bud" Forman, lovingly known as "Buddaddy," age 86, of Aledo, Texas, passed away on Oct. 9, 2026. He was born on Sept. 10, 1940, in Denison, Texas, to Walter Inskip "Skip" Forman and Etta Lavene Forman. Bud lived a life marked by determination, creativity and love for his family.

Bud grew up alongside his brother, Gary, and moved often throughout his childhood. He excelled in athletics, earning first-team all-state honors in basketball and also participating in baseball and track. The drive he showed in sports would later define his work as a coach, homebuilder and land developer. He graduated from Birdville High School in 1958 and attended Tyler Junior College from 1958 to 1960 before continuing his education and basketball career at North Texas University. There he earned a Bachelor of Science and formed lasting friendships with the Geezle Athletic Fraternity. He later earned a master's degree in education from Texas Christian University.

Bud began his career in education as a teacher and basketball coach. Bud coached at various schools in the Fort Worth area before becoming the head basketball coach at O. D. Wyatt High School. His years in coaching reflected the qualities that stayed with him throughout his life: a competitive spirit, a strong work ethic and a refusal to give up.

A natural storyteller who never met a stranger, Bud loved connecting with people and sharing stories from his life. His stories, lucky buckeyes and his legendary number 20 are among the things his family will always associate with him.

Bud's entrepreneurial spirit also led him to places that became part of the family's story: Pagosa Springs, Colo.; the Double Draw Farm in Gower, Mo.; Forman Mizpah Cattle Ranch in Miles City, Mont.; Possum Kingdom Lakehouse; and ranches near Dalhart and Seminole, Texas. Each place reflected his interest in land, his love of the outdoors and the time with family and friends.

Bud accomplished much in his life, but his family will remember him most fondly as a husband, father and Buddad. They will carry forward his stories, determination and generosity, including his habits of keeping buckeyes, always with a buckeye on hand to give to the people he met. Bud adored his nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Inskip "Skip" Forman and Etta Lavene Forman, and his brother, Gary Forman, who passed away in 2011.

He is survived by his wife of more than 62 years, Mary Elizabeth; his daughter, Barbara King, and her husband, Ben King; his son, Brett Forman, and his wife, Reagan Forman; and his son, Jeffrey Forman, and his wife, Kelly Forman.

He is also survived by his grandchildren: Samuel Brooks Forman, Jackson Alexander King, Ava Marie Forman, Jeffrey Talan Forman, Kate Elizabeth Forman, Mary Grace King, Grant Owen Forman, and Max Thomas Forman, Natalie Ann Freeman and Grayson Freeman.

Dave Richardson



On Sept. 11, Dave Richardson, devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, went to be with his Heavenly Father. After struggling with dementia for three years, his mind and body are at peace.

Born James David Richardson on July 30, 1943, his friends simply knew him as Dave. He enjoyed life fully, but his true love was his childhood sweetheart, Janet. Completely devoted to one another, they celebrated an inspiring 61 years of marriage, and the glow of the love they shared was obvious to all who knew them.

Dave and Janet left behind a legacy with their two sons, John Richardson (Coos Bay, Ore.) and Jeff Richardson (Austin, Texas). John and his wife, Debbie, gave them two grandsons, David (wife Jessie) and Christopher. Dave's brother, John Richardson, and his wife, Helen, reside in Pagosa Springs.

Dave was an active participant in the Pagosa community. Many remember him as an active Rotary member, mounted search and rescue member and a consultant to the school's science department. He loved challenging youth to think and grow and was an excellent teacher. (Being a lifelong learner himself, he earned a postdoctorate degree in chemistry.) Every Christmas he and Janet were seen "ringing the bell" outside City Market for the Salvation Army. Dave made lifelong friends with the LASSO horse rescue folks and some of his favorite memories involved riding his horse, Cinder.

Dave had weekly tee times on the golf course with Janet. Watching sports and westerns together was a rainy-day pastime. On sunny days, you would find him riding his tractor or shagging golf balls on his three acres while admiring his views of Square Top. The binoculars were always handy for deer and fox sightings.

After retiring from a wholly successful career managing worldwide plastics engineering teams, Dave found himself involved full-time in a joint venture in Pagosa with JR Ford, developing bio-char processes.

Dave and Janet especially loved their early days in Pagosa filled with hikes, ATV riding and picnicking in the mountains. Riverwalk walks and almost daily lunch dates by the river were part of their daily routine. They knew how to laugh with one another and never doubted the love they shared, which was witnessed by all who met them. It was a rare and beautiful love and life — and they thanked God for it daily.

Prior to moving permanently to Pagosa, the Richardsons lived in Akron, Ohio, and Houston, Texas, where their active and involved lives produced lifelong friendships and fond memories. Dave traveled the world for work and his Italian friends still check in from time to time.

He was a devout Christian and taught Bible studies and loved working with children. Dave's faith was lived out by his actions — and occasionally, if necessary, he would "use words."

In his younger days, Dave's athletic build made him a star basketball player, and he won many golf tournaments. He coached basketball for his boys and the family still participates in March Madness together.

Dave lived life to the fullest and brought joy to all those who were blessed to know him. He made people think, and he treated everyone with respect. Heaven has welcomed him home, and we remember him with love and fondness.

(Janet will continue her life's journey with a new chapter as she relocates closer to her family in Oregon.)

Colorado Department of Revenue opens application for scholarship granting organizations to join Colorado's eligibility list for new federal tax credit

State of Colorado

On Monday, Oct. 19, Gov. Jared Polis announced the application is open for qualifying nonprofit scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) to join Colorado's eligibility list under the new Federal Scholarship Tax Credit.

The Federal Scholarship Tax Credit is a nonrefundable tax credit that allows Americans to donate up to $1,700 of their federal tax liability to eligible nonprofit SGOs in participating states that help students access educational opportunities and support learning through efforts like after-school learning, tutoring, transportation and more.

"Colorado donors value our future, and I'm excited that donors will now be able to give more to support the best education possible for kids in our state. As the top state in education, we know that investing in our students sets them up for success, prepares our future workforce for success and is an investment into our economy. I encourage all eligible nonprofit Scholarship Granting Organizations to apply so we can build on our success and keep Colorado as No. 1 in education," said Polis.

The Colorado Department of Revenue has updated its form for compiling Colorado's list of eligible SGOs, which is now open and available at: tax.colorado.gov/scholarship-granting-organizations.

SGOs that would like to join Colorado's eligibility list have until Nov. 30 to apply. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Colorado Department of Revenue on a rolling basis.

In January, Colorado submitted its Advance Election to Participate form to the IRS to officially signal Colorado's intent to participate. Colorado plans to submit its list of approved qualifying SGOs to the Treasury by Dec. 31, ahead of the credit going into effect on Jan. 1, 2027.

In October, Polis celebrated the U.S. Treasury's rules that public school students were confirmed to qualify. Colorado is leading the way nationally to ensure all students, including those at public schools, will be able to benefit from the opportunities from this tax credit.

New SGOs like the Colorado Public Schools Foundation, Denver Public Schools Foundation Opportunity Fund and Learn Everywhere Fund will provide ample opportunity for taxpayers to donate funds that will benefit public school students across the state.

If your organization's 501(c)(3) status is pending certification from the IRS, you are still eligible to apply to Colorado's SGOs eligibility list.

More information is available at https://tax.colorado.gov/scholarship-granting-organizations.

Colorado courts announce free resources for tenants facing eviction

Colorado Judicial Branch

Thanks to a groundbreaking eviction recovery program in the 4th Judicial District, online resources are now available statewide to assist tenants facing eviction.

Launched as a pilot program with grant funding from the National Center for State Courts in November 2023, the 4th Judicial District's Division CARE (Court-Assisted Recovery from Eviction) program has developed robust community partnerships as well as streamlined, easy-to-access tools to reduce docket congestion, increase clarity in eviction pleadings and strengthen public confidence in the judicial process.

Andrea Paprzycki, a magistrate in the 4th Judicial District, said she created Division CARE to help the courts partner with all the El Paso County agencies that support residents facing housing instability. Through this program, the court developed a coordinated model with more than 60 community agencies, tools to support those facing eviction, and a manual for other Colorado judicial districts interested in replicating the program.

"There is no other program like this in the country," said Paprzycki. "Prior to the program, El Paso County residents facing eviction had to sort through dozens of community resources on their own. Division CARE emerged as a way for tenants to avoid eviction and create housing stability in El Paso County."

The program provides support before eviction through direct connection with vetted, targeted, stabilizing resources. While funding ended in August, Division CARE will continue in El Paso County through community partnerships and new online tools, some that can be used by anyone in Colorado. These tools simplify filings, connect tenants to financial and legal assistance, reduce time in court, and provide targeted recovery resources, streamlining the experience for all parties involved in eviction cases.

These free resources are available online:

• A bilingual eviction advisement video provides tenants facing eviction with important information in English and Spanish. An eviction summons now includes a link and QR code to the video on the Colorado Judicial Department website.

• A free automated tenant answer tool streamlines eviction claims for tenants. The online tool was developed with Staci Pratt, a professor at the University of Colorado School of Law.

From November 2023 to August 2026, the program assisted 5,550 people in housing crisis, connected 20 percent to emergency rent assistance, and resolved 15 percent of filed evictions before trial was set.

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Communities Supporting New School Construction in the past 15 years in Southwest Colorado.

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Dolores - 2023
Dove Creek - 2022
Del Norte - 2017
Mancos - 2017
Bayfield - 2016
Cortez - 2012
Ignacio - 2011

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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

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
PSMC Board Room • 95 S. Pagosa Boulevard

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Business

County's unemployment rate drops to 4 percent in September

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

According to an Oct. 16 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Archuleta County's unemployment rate dropped to 4 percent in September, which is down from August's figure of 4.3 percent and up from September 2025's rate of 3.4 percent.

Archuleta County's labor force totaled at 6,432 with 256 unemployed in September, according to the report. That compares to a labor force of 6,445 in August, with 278 unemployed.

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage to 4.1 in September, the report notes.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals increased by 3,800 to 131,900 from August to September.

The report also notes, "Colorado's labor force decreased by 3,100 in September to 3,179,300. The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 65.2 percent in September, one-tenth of a percentage point lower than in August. The September rate of 65.2 percent marks the lowest participation rate on record, going back to 1976. The U.S. labor force participation rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 61.8 percent in September."

The national unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percent to 4.2 percent for September.

Seven counties had unemployment rates higher than 5 percent for September, including Costilla County with the highest rate of 7.3 percent, followed by Huerfano County at 7 percent, Las Animas County at 6.4 percent, Delta County at 5.9 percent, Fremont County at 5.8 percent, and Alamosa and Montezuma counties both at 5.1 percent.

Regionally, the report shows La Plata County with a 3.9 percent unemployment rate in September, San Juan County at 3.3 percent, Mineral County at 4.3 percent, Hinsdale County at 3.9 percent, Rio Grande County at 4.7 percent and Conejos County at 4.2 percent.

Job loss, growth

"Employers in Colorado gained 2,400 nonfarm payroll jobs from August to September for a total of 2,973,800 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs increased by 3,000, while government decreased by 600," the report notes.

The report also states, "August estimates were revised up to 2,971,400, and the over the month change from July to August was a decrease of 300 jobs rather than the originally estimated decrease of 1,400 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates)."

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job gains in August were:

- Construction at about 1,900 jobs.
- Professional and business services at about 1,400.
- Information at about 1,100.

The only private-industry sector with significant over-the-month job losses in September was trade, transportation and utilities at about 1,900.

Since September 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased by 11,200, with the private sector increasing by 17,000 and government decreasing by 5,800 jobs.

The largest private-sector gains were:

- Education and health services at about 13,100.
- Leisure and hospitality at about 8,300.
- Construction at about 5,900.
- Professional and business services at about 5,000.

During that same period, payroll jobs declined in:

- Financial activities at about 4,500.
- Information at about 3,500.
- Trade, transportation, and utilities at about 3,000.
- Other services at about 2,200.
- Manufacturing at about 1,800.

"Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is .4 percent, above the U.S. rate of 0.3 percent," the report notes.

The report further notes that, over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased to 33.4 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from $39.40 to $40.19, "two dollars and thirty-eight cents more than the national average hourly earnings of $37.81."

clayton@pagosasun.com

CDLE awarded $6.74 million grant to upskill Colorado workforce in critical industries

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) announced on Wednesday, Oct. 21, that it has been awarded $6,740,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) through the second round of the Industry-Driven Skills Training Fund.

This funding will launch the Colorado Industry-Driven Skills Training Initiative, an outcomes-based public-private partnership designed to upskill current employees and train new hires in high-priority sectors across the state.

"Colorado's leadership in aerospace, advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies depends on Coloradans having access to the skills needed in these industries. This $6.74 million investment builds on Colorado's workforce training efforts, helping residents start new careers and advance in existing jobs while lowering training cost for employers. Connecting training directly to business needs helps Coloradans earn more, help businesses grow and strengthens the state's economic competitiveness," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"Colorado is a leader in innovation and is committed to continuing to develop the workforce necessary to support critical industries across the state, including aerospace. This $6.74 million investment will allow our state to continue and expand our skilled workforce and ultimately create more opportunities for Coloradans to thrive," said Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera.

Colorado is one of seven states to receive a total of $43 million in funding from this USDOL grant, which provides outcome-based reimbursements to employers for training that responds to rapidly evolving skill requirements and local workforce needs. The initiative targets critical industries, including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, AI infrastructure, information technology, nuclear energy and domestic mineral production.

"This $6.74 million grant is an important investment that will make a direct impact on Colorado's economic resilience and the competitiveness of our local businesses," said CDLE Executive Director Joe Barela. "Because of this, CDLE will be able to enhance its mission by empowering employers to build a highly skilled workforce, while providing Colorado workers with the training they need to thrive in high-growth, emerging industries."

"Colorado has doubled down on workforce development because we know that our economic strength begins and ends with our people. By ensuring Coloradans have access to the training and skills needed to fill in-demand jobs, we are helping residents build lasting careers while giving our businesses the competitive edge they need to grow. This announcement furthers that commitment, building on our state's momentum to connect talent directly to opportunity," said Eve Lieberman, executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

Operating via a state-managed digital portal, the CDLE will oversee a two-milestone employer reimbursement architecture. Colorado's local workforce areas will act as key partners in this initiative, supporting regional intake, employer outreach and recruitment. They will also facilitate co-enrollment in WIOA Title I programs to provide support services for participants.

Employers interested in participating in the Colorado Industry Driven Skills Training Initiative are encouraged to connect with their business service representative at their local workforce center to learn more about eligibility and other services they may be eligible for.

Additional program information, including eligibility requirements and application details, will be published on the CDLE grants and programs webpage as they become available.

Chamber's 2027 Business Happy Hour lottery open

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

A welcoming space, a few refreshments and an opportunity to connect can help turn introductions into lasting business relationships.

As local businesses look ahead to 2027, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce encourages members to consider hosting a Business Happy Hour through its annual host-selection lottery.

The Business Happy Hour lottery opened Oct. 12, and the 2027 businesses will be announced Nov. 3.

Business Happy Hour brings Chamber members together to network, learn about local businesses and strengthen community connections.

Hosting provides an opportunity to introduce a new business, highlight expanded services or give fellow members a fresh look at an established operation. The focus is on connections. A reception gives hosts an opportunity to share what they do while welcoming other members into their business. Whether showcasing a new feature or drawing attention to existing services, the event offers a setting for conversation and greater visibility within the local business community.

Businesses do not have to host alone. The Chamber encourages members to partner, particularly when a home-based business would benefit from collaborating with a member that has space to welcome guests. A shared reception can introduce attendees to several businesses for one evening.

Under the Chamber's hosting arrangement, participating businesses provide light appetizers or other food, while the Chamber supplies beverages. Hosts will also have opportunities to market their chosen Business Happy Hour and add activities, discounts or giveaways to make their evening distinctive.

Businesses interested in the 2027 schedule should confirm current hosting responsibilities with the Chamber as they plan.

For a new business ready to introduce itself, an established business with something new to share or neighboring businesses interested in a joint event, Business Happy Hour offers a way to bring members together and highlight the variety of services available locally.

Members interested should submit their business name, contact information and their top three preferred hosting months.

Those preferences help guide the selection process for the coming year's events.

Members interested in hosting in 2027 should contact the Chamber for the current application instructions, available dates and entry deadline at (970) 264-2360, ext. 113 or email info@pagosachamber.com.

Obituaries

Obituaries up to 500 words are printed free in The Pagosa Springs SUN and can be submitted to:

e-mail: **editor@pagosasun.com**

Deadline is noon Tuesday for the following Thursday's edition. The SUN reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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TRUNK or Treat

Pagosa Bible Church would like to invite you to join us for our annual Trunk or Treat!

Saturday, Oct. 31st
5-7 pm

There will be no on-site parking due to construction. There is a FREE SHUTTLE from Ponderosa Lumber and the Antique Mall parking lots. Parking also available at the courthouse, Trinity Anglican Church and Wells Fargo Bank.

Join us for a safe and fun evening with decorated trunks, candy, free food and more!

Pagosa Bible Church
209 Harman Park Dr.(behind Wells Fargo)

VOTE YES FOR 7B
PSMC EMS and Hospital

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Education

School board hears update on strategic initiatives

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) heard an update from Superintendent Rick Holt on the district's strategic initiatives during its regular meeting on Oct. 7.

Holt explained that the district has been sticking to its key principles of having research-based curriculum, strong collaborative culture, intentional culture building, social-emotional supports, common assessments, observation/feedback coaching cycles, and common instructional practices and language.

"We haven't strayed from those; we're still staying focused on those," Holt said.

Holt then explained "summative" and "formative" data to show what areas the district is showing growth or progress.

"For the first time in the last five years, all of our schools, this includes San Juan Mountain School, are all on a performance plan," Holt said.

Colorado schools receive performance ratings from district and school performance framework reports form the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

Holt noted that a "performance plan" is the highest rating a school can receive.

"My desire is to become a district of distinction," he added, explaining the district needs about 10 more points in its state reports to achieve that.

According to Holt's presentation, ASD received 64.6 points from CDE's report, making ASD an "accredited district."

Holt's report also shows that ASD has increased its score from the CDE over the past five school years, beginning in 2021-2022 with 52 points.

"We're very fortunate that we have such dedicated building principals and staff who continue to be focused on teaching and learning," Holt said.

He also explained that part of the high school building's rating is based on matriculation data.

"This is what our students are doing once they leave us," he said, noting that data is two years behind.

"What you'll see is that consistently at the high school over time, our students who graduate are going on to do other things," Holt said, explaining that the data tracks students that go on to attend two-year and four-year institutes, career and technical education programs, and military enlistments.

Holt indicated that the number of total students successful at one of those endeavors has reached 61 percent with the graduating class of 2025.

"That is higher than the state average," he said.

Holt mentioned that the high school has been "slowly progressing" in its rating over the past few years, but it "goes a long way to say that this system is producing students who are able to go on and be successful, and that number of students is growing."

Teaching and Learning Conditions Colorado survey

Part of Holt's strategic initiative update included information on the Teaching and Learning Conditions Colorado (TLCC) survey that the district takes part in every other year.

He noted that the district has now taken part in the survey three times since his tenure as superintendent began.

The TLCC was initiated in 2008 by House Bill 08-1384 and "is a statewide, anonymous survey intended to support school, district, and state improvement planning, as well as research and policy," according to the CDE.

"We've shown strong trends in areas that are important to us to improve," Holt said, explaining that the survey has shown increasing trends in five specific categories.

According to Holt's presentation, 2025-2026 survey results indicate that 92 percent of respondents say ASD is a good place to work and 94 percent of respondents say ASD is a good place to learn.

"It's a place that they want to teach and work," he said.

That compares to 2021-2022 survey results that showed 75 percent and 81 percent for those two categories, respectively.

Other categories highlighted in Holt's report that show consistent growth from 2021-2022 include the professional development category, time, staff leadership and professional climate.

"All of these indicators really stack up together to say it feels ... teachers feel like things are improving," Holt said.

He added, "So, that feels like we're making progress on the front of creating a collaborative working environment for staff to continue to contribute to the learning of students in our community."

Student outcomes

Holt also reviewed charts demonstrating the district's student outcomes in the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) test in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Holt's presentation provides CMAS results for the past five school years.

Holt mentioned that it's important for the district to continuously expand the "met" category for CMAS tests.

"This year did not live up to that expectation," he said, explaining the "met" category percentage for ELA dropped slightly, going from 35 percent for 2024-2025 to 32 percent for 2025-2026.

Holt noted that the percentage also dropped in the "met" category for the mathematics CMAS exam, going from 26 percent in 2024-2025 to 25 percent in 2025-2026.

"While performance has slid slightly, our growth measures have been good," he said.

Holt explained that growth data measures how students are doing when compared to their peers.

He mentioned that ELA proficiency is "hovering around 40 percent," while noting the state average is at 44 or 45 percent.

"So, I feel like we got room to grow there for sure," he said, adding, "and we still continue to be about 10 percent behind the state in mathematics."

According to the presentation, the state's math proficiency rate is 37.7 percent.

Holt explained that the district's middle school is doing "an enormous amount of work" this year around students' needs and intervention programs for math.

Holt also reviewed PSAT and SAT score scales, mentioning that "we are meeting the mean now in reading and writing in both the ninth grade and the 11th grade."

He explained that the high school initiated a practice SAT exam as part of its curriculum last year.

"That made a difference for our students," he said, noting the same results were seen in mathematics, as well.

Student engagement

Another part of Holt's update included data on how the district has been minimizing student distractions and tracking student behaviors over the past few years.

Holt noted that cellphone-related incidents were excluded from a chart showing the number of student incidents over the past three school years.

According to Holt's presentation there were a total of 593 incidents, excluding cellphone incidents, for the 2025-2026 school year. That is down from a total of 887 incidents in 2024-2025, and a total of 1,119 in 2023-2022.

Holt's report notes there was a 33 percent decrease in incidents in the 2025-2026 school year compared to the 2024-2025 school year.

Holt also pointed out that there was a 15 percent increase in tobacco related incidents when comparing the 2025-2026 school year to the year before.

Holt explained that vaping is "still a prevalent problem."

He then explained that, following the district's implementation of its new cellphone policy adopted in 2025, there were a total 304 cellphone related incidents at the high school involving 184 students.

Holt highlighted that there were 65 incidents in September 2025, compared to just 15 reported incidents this September.

"That's a successful implementation," he said.

Holt also commented on chronic absenteeism and the district's attendance rate, noting that the attendance rate went up 1.1 percent, describing that as "not insignificant."

He mentioned the district's chronic absenteeism rate dropped to 4.7 percent.

Holt credited the work and progress done toward the ASD's strategic initiatives to a "concerted effort by a large group of individuals."

BoE president Bob Lynch commented, "It's come a long way from the beginning, from when we first started the idea of strategic initiatives" during Holt's five years as superintendent.

He added, "Certainly the team that makes that happen is really impressive."

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Safe2Tell reports prompt threat assessments, welfare checks as Colorado students speak up

Colorado Attorney General's Office

Reports to Safe2Tell helped Colorado schools and law enforcement respond to a potential school shooting threat and check on the well-being of a student who expressed thoughts of self-harm on social media in September.

The program received 3,065 reports during the month, with school safety, mental health and bullying among the most frequently reported concerns.

"Whether it's a potential threat of violence or a student struggling with their mental health, getting information to the right people early can make all the difference," said Attorney General Phil Weiser. "Safe2Tell helps prevent dangerous situations from escalating and connects young people with the support they need. Every student deserves to feel safe at school, and I'm grateful to the students and community members who are doing their part to protect one another."

Key findings from the September report

• The most frequently reported concerns were school safety (19.2 percent), mental health (17.3 percent), bullying (15.1 percent), substance use (11.5 percent), and abuse and exploitation (8.1 percent).

• Duplicate reports accounted for 9.5 percent of reports received. These occur when multiple people report the same concern and can reflect a healthy reporting culture, with students and community members taking potential threats seriously rather than assuming someone else has reported them.

• Since the 2026-2027 school year began Aug. 1, 97.9 percent of reports have been valid, with false reports accounting for 1.4 percent and misuse reports (outside the scope of Safe2Tell) accounting for 0.6 percent.

In one September report, a person shared concerns after overhearing students discuss a peer who allegedly threatened a school shooting. The person making the report expressed fear because of the student's past aggressive behavior. School officials and local law enforcement met with the student, completed a threat assessment, contacted the student's parents, provided counseling services and took disciplinary action.

In another report, a person shared concerns about a student who posted on social media about feeling alone and wanting to harm themself. Local law enforcement conducted a welfare check and spoke with the student and their parents. The student acknowledged making the statements but said they were not suicidal and did not want to harm themself. The parents scheduled an appointment with the student's counselor.

"When someone submits a report

■ See Safe2Tell A7

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Subdivision

■ Continued from front

amendment.

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

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

At the Oct. 6 council meeting, Development Director James Dickhoff urged the council members that if it wanted to deny the application, it should cite a reasoning that is based on the town's development guidelines, the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) and comprehensive plan.

This came after council members Leonard Martinez and Mat deGraaf expressed opposition to the development based more on dislike of the development than specific criteria based on codes and guidelines.

DeGraaf had expressed that he opposed it based on "a feeling" that this "was not the right fit for our community."

Martinez expressed that his opposition was based on the timing of the development, and that the council could reconsider it later, when it gets all of its infrastructure priorities in order.

Both Dickhoff and Planning Manager Owen O'Dell explained that modeling for utilities comes in a future approval phase of the process, not during the sketch phase of the application.

Phil Williams, the civil engineer for the project, also explained that the modeling for utilities comes "only after the approval of the sketch plan."

The sketch approval is "a critical step that has to happen first," before the developer spends all that money on utilities modeling, he explained.

However, he added that the developer has "spent a lot of time with" La Plata Electric Association and the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District and received "will-serve letters" from both of them.

But members of the public expressed broad opposition to the development, citing stressed infrastructure, too much density for that area, traffic congestion, increased tourism and a general lack of trust for the developers, who one commenter called "outsiders from Beverly Hills."

Some commenters expressed that the comprehensive plan, approved in 2018, is "outdated" and needed to be revised.

Martinez also expressed that he would be in favor of revising the comprehensive plan.

"We got work to do to reflect what we've learned and where we are now and who we want to be," he said.

Dickhoff and O'Dell reminded everyone that the town's staff can only go off of what is currently in its codes and guidelines.

Revising the code or the comprehensive plan would have to take place in a different public process, they explained.

At the previous meeting, developer Jonathan Fink explained that he planned to fully develop the 70-acre site in phases, with a mix of residential and commercial lodging units.

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

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

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

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

This balance of adding for-sale workforce housing to the housing supply, versus more commercial lodging and the increase of potential second homes in the area, was at the center of the council's weighing of its decision on Tuesday.

Describing himself as a sixth generation resident of the area, Martinez suggested that the decisions the council makes now will impact "six generations from now, and if we make this decision in the affirmative now, I feel it would be a wrong decision …This is not the right time."

He also stressed that the town should diversify its economy beyond tourism, which he called "a single point of failure," and expressed concern that this development would weigh too heavily on increased tourism.

But council member Vahid Shabro saw it differently, saying that the project "has real community benefits that the town has been seeking."

He pointed to the significant increase in for-sale workforce housing, which could attract and retain younger families in the community.

He also suggested the development is consistent with the town's LUDC and comprehensive plan "for this type of development on that parcel."

"Even though the affordable housing will not be at the lowest level of price range, it will still provide affordable housing that will, in the end, help bring the cost of living down," he said.

He added, "Any extra supply of workforce housing on the market is going to help, on that front, in my opinion."

Ultimately, he noted, there were some real concerns expressed by the public, but that the council's role is "narrower, to approve what's legal and based on the town's documents."

Emily Lashbrooke, the executive director of the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC), explained to the council that there are currently 1,276 vacant jobs in the community.

She explained that her conversations with local business owners revealed that the top reason for this shortage is "the lack of housing" for employees.

"We are moving more into a crisis than we've already been in," she added, saying that 17 percent of "our peak time jobs are going unfilled."

Public commenter Shane Jones pointed out that he knows professionals, such as school teachers, who have left the community because of the housing situation.

"They've been stuck in the rental market," he said, and since "we don't have a lot of product" in their price range, they are leaving to find a place they can afford to buy and own a home in, he added.

Council member Bergon suggested she wants to make sure that the balance between the workforce housing and the commercial and second-home aspects of the development leaned more toward the workforce housing.

She asked a question about the "fractional ownership" model being proposed by the developer for some of the homes.

Council member Brooks Lindner also wanted clarification on this point, saying "I'm confused now, are the 18 fractional ownership units part of the 82 lodging units or part of the 82 residential units?"

Fink explained that "we are building 30 workforce houses out of 54 houses that will be permanent residential homes."

Some of the homes, 18 of them, will be deed restricted for fractional ownership, which means they will be shared in ownership "by three families," Fisk explained.

Bergon likened this to a "timeshare," saying that she "took issue with that" and "it was not made clear in the documents."

Dickhoff explained that "the developer is here to negotiate," and that if the council wished to add "some other changes to the PD agreement, maybe there is a medium that can be reached for the developer."

Bergon stated, "I've already said that the ratio of commercial to residential units, I'm uncomfortable with that, and now with these fractional units in the mix too, I'm even more uncomfortable."

Lindner replied to Martinez's concern about the utilities, particularly the town's sewer capacity.

"This could actually help us as far as the sewer," he said, "by the revenue that comes from a development like this."

He added, "And we have to remember, if the utility says that it can't be built, then they're not going to be able to build it."

A motion was made by Martinez to deny the PD agreement, and it was seconded by deGraaf, but did not receive a majority vote.

When a later motion was made to approve the first reading of the ordinance, approving the PD, it passed in a roll call vote 5-2, with Martinez and deGraaf voting "nay."

"I feel like, for this town, the model being proposed, I don't like it. The demographic that it's being catered to? I don't like it. The scale of the development? I don't like it," DeGraaf said, adding, "As leaders, we should step outside the bounds to make decisions, because that's what leaders have to do."

Mayor Shari Pierce expressed concern that denying a development that meets all the code and guideline requirements would set a precedent that says, "Well, they have rules, but they're not following them."

"How is that gonna hurt our community down the road?" she asked, adding, "Honestly, this isn't my favorite development, but I feel like we have rules in place for a reason, and what are the implications if we don't follow those rules?"

Lindner added, "This is why we do have the rules."

Bergon suggested it would cause confusion to "deny things without citing specific references to criteria."

The motion was to approve the first reading of the ordinance with conditions.

Those conditions include that the applicant must depict and provide a transit stop for the MET public transit on the submission of their preliminary plan review, that the applicant must own the property before the PD agreement is executed, to add maximum square footage cap of 2,800 square feet on housing, and to formalize that lodging units cannot be sold individually unless subdivided, which would then mean more units would be allocated to workforce housing.

As of press time Wednesday, a second reading of the ordinance had not yet been scheduled.

derek@pagosasun.com

Crash

■ Continued from front

55-year-old female from Albuquerque, N.M., was transported to an area hospital and was pronounced deceased at the hospital, the email states.

A passenger in the Forester, a 17-year-old female from Albuquerque, N.M., was transported to an area hospital for serious injuries, it adds.

A second passenger in the Forester, a 17-year-old female from Albuquerque, N.M., was transported to an area hospital for serious injuries, it further adds.

"The road was reopened at about 11:16 p.m. last night. The investigation is ongoing," the Oct. 16 email states.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, the CSP reported the incident remains under investigation, with no updates available.

randi@pagosasun.com

LPEA opens applications for Local Energy Action Fund grants

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is now accepting applications for its Local Energy Action Fund (LEAF), a grant program supporting local projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide community benefit.

Tax-exempt organizations located within LPEA's service territory are eligible to apply for funding for projects focused on energy efficiency and local renewable energy. Eligible projects may include heat pumps or heat pump water heaters, EV charging infrastructure, induction cooking equipment, energy efficiency improvements, solar installations and more.

The LEAF grant program is supported by LPEA members who choose to make a monthly contribution on their electric bill.

Grants of up to $15,000 are available, with no matching funds required. Organizations seeking additional support can apply for up to $25,000 with a 50 percent co-investment. Up to four grants will be awarded each year.

Applications are open Nov. 30. Interested organizations are encouraged to learn more and apply at LPEA.coop/LEAF.

Safe2Tell

■ Continued from A6

to Safe2Tell, that information reaches local school officials and law enforcement who can determine the appropriate response," said Safe2Tell Director Stacey Scardino. "As this month's examples show, a report can lead to a threat assessment, a welfare check, or connecting a student with support. We encourage students to trust their instincts and share concerns so those who can help have the information they need to act."

September's 3,065 reports were lower than the previous two Septembers, when extraordinary circumstances contributed to higher-than-usual reporting.

In September 2025, Safe2Tell received 3,846 reports following elevated reporting in the aftermath of the Evergreen High School tragedy. In September 2024, the program received 4,729 reports amid widespread social media misinformation about school threats that led to a surge in duplicate reports.

A full breakdown of all categorical data is available in the Safe2Tell September 2026 Monthly Report at https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/10/Safe2Tell-September-2026-Monthly-Report_English.pdf. Definitions for each category can be found in the Safe2Tell Report Categorization Guide.

How to submit a report

Reports can be submitted 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling (877) 542-SAFE (7233), visiting Safe2Tell.org, texting "S2TCO" to 738477 or using the Safe2Tell mobile app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

About Safe2Tell

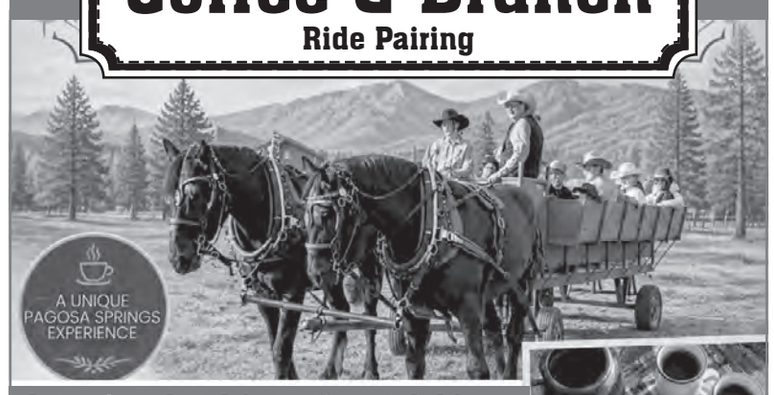
Safe2Tell is Colorado's anonymous reporting system for concerns about the safety and well-being of students.

Safe2Tell is not an emergency response unit or a mental health counseling provider. Instead, it serves as an information pathway for distributing anonymous reports to local law enforcement and school officials, as required by state law.

Safe2Tell Colorado
(877) 542-7233
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New School Location: Myths vs. Facts
Understanding Ballot Issue 5A
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MYTH #1
If I vote "No" because I don't like Vista Boulevard, the district will choose a different site.

MYTH #2
If 5A doesn't pass, the district can revise the plan.

MYTH #3
Voting "No" only sends a message that I don't like the location.

FACT #1
The School Board selected Vista Boulevard after reviewing extensive professional site analysis, comprehensive costs, community feedback, and long-term needs. **No alternative site is currently under consideration.**

FACT #2
The district must reapply for a BEST grant in spring 2027. Changing the location will weaken our application. The greenfield build on property owned debt-free, which adds needed amenities like gymnasium, field, and track is a strength of the current application.

FACT #3
A "No" vote means this proposed new school won't move forward, leaving elementary and middle school students in aging facilities with existing health, safety, security, and learning limitations.

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Paid for by Citizens for ASD, Lisa Scott, Campaign Manager
Vote YES on 5A for a new PK-8 School

PAWSD

■ Continued from front

tation General Improvement District (PSSGID), where PAWSD treats it at a reduced rate compared to other customers.

He commented that PAWSD needs to "share the pain" and spread increases across customers and fee types, including capital investment fees (CIFs) and short-term rentals (STRs).

He added that one of PAWSD's principles is that "growth pays for growth" and that, where existing customers would have to pay for growth-related items in the future, he would like to break out these costs into a surcharge so customers know what they're paying for.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson stated that he largely agreed with Walsh's points and that he wanted to have a full board discussion to have staff to answer questions from the board.

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones pointed out that PAWSD's wastewater operations have been operating at yearly losses between $400,000 and $700,000 for the last three years while the district has undershot the overall rate increases suggested by its 2024 rate study.

He noted that the district's water operations have been operating at lesser losses or with gains over the same period, although the losses increased significantly in 2026.

"To say that the cost of operation that's operating in the most negative is somehow carrying the side that's operating in less of a negative, I would love to discuss that math," he said.

He commented that District Manager Andrew Connor's initial budget proposal was "very reasonable" and was "at bare bones bottom" and that the board then requested further cuts, leading to the current budget, which Jones stated he did not support releasing to the public.

He added that the district has been dipping into reserves for the last several years and that the 15 percent rate increases included in the current budget would lead to the district only having 3.5 months of operating expenses in reserves left in 2027, significantly below the 12 months most governments aim for.

Jones commented that the budget is also at the floor to meet the district's debt-service obligations and has no contingency funding for unexpected events, like freezing events.

He added that the district also has no cash to begin addressing costs from Regulation 31, an upcoming regulatory change to wastewater treatment rules that will incur large costs for the district.

The district would struggle to obtain financing on desirable terms in its financial situation, Jones commented.

"It's my opinion that we scrap this one, go back to the original one and we raise fees 20 percent on both wastewater and water," Jones said. "I think that that's a little bit more than what they asked for, but obviously we're in a position where we have depleted reserves, so we need to re-up those reserves. Then, when Hatcher gets paid off, that will give us a little more flexibility, hopefully being able to keep our rates with a Reg. 31 coming through at like a 3 to 5 percent for the next five to 10 years."

He added that the current path would lead to large increases in future years, a situation which would be amplified by the combination of costs for work increasing and PAWSD's lack of reserves.

"I just feel like we're trying to bleed a radish here and we've done a really good job of it, but right now I think it's time to be financially responsible and actually prepare for the future we know is ahead," he said. "Fifteen percent is not that."

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer commented that, despite being a fiscal conservative, he largely agreed with Jones that the district is "kicking the can down the road" and that costs will only increase in the future.

He also stated that he researched CIFs for comparable districts and that their CIFs were uniformly lower than what PAWSD is charging and that any substantial increases in these would "make the growth problem even worse."

He added that the district has a variety of large projects that it needs to do in the next decade and that the increased funding from not making payments for the Lake Hatcher plant would likely need to be dedicated to these projects, meaning that the district's overall budget would not be less tight after 2028.

Jones commented that he is opposed to adding additional costs as a surcharge since it is more unpredictable and large increases could "break" many members of the community.

Walsh commented that the district's previous rate study did "kick the can down the road" in terms of water funding and argued that looking at the budget in front of the board supported his conclusions about which fund is supporting which fund in terms of debt-service coverage.

The board then debated how much PAWSD followed the rate study and how accurate it was, and discussed how the board arrived at the idea that costs would be evenly split between growth and existing customers, which Walsh stated came from the district's capital investment plan and how it apportions costs.

> *"We do have 30 days' worth of public input and staff input, but on day 29 I'm afraid we're going to still be sitting here and staff's going to be going 'OK, we discussed it. We had five different ideas, now we've narrowed that down to three, board what do you want us to do?'"*
>
> **Gene Tautges**
> **PAWSD board chairman**

Following further debates about the division of costs between growth and existing customers and the financial status of the water and wastewater — where Walsh repeatedly expressed strong opposition to focus increases on existing full-service customers — Tautges asked how Walsh proposed to address Regulation 31 costs.

Walsh stated that Regulation 31 could cost $100 million in upgrades and that it would not be possible to accumulate enough funding to meaningfully save for the costs through rates.

"It's going to be the mother of all debt," Walsh said. "We can't save our way for that."

Jones commented that the board was not discussing saving for the costs, but improving its position to obtain more favorable debt-service terms on future debt.

"We still have to acknowledge that where we're at right now is terrible and what we've asked our staff to put together here with the 15 percent on both sides of the minimum is a joke because it's just going to increase our rate payers for the next 10 years substantially because we're not willing to rip the Band-Aid …" he said.

Walsh objected to this assessment, commenting that he wants to increase fees more broadly across fee types, which led to a debate between him and Jones about the reasoning for PAWSD's increases to CIFs, how to fairly distribute costs and what the economic conditions were in recent years.

PAWSD Comptroller Jack Dossett commented that he needed collaborative guidance from the board to "point me in the right direction."

He also raised the issue that additional legal analysis and guidance would be needed before increasing rates for STRs to reduce legal exposure.

This led to a lengthy debate about how the district calculates the impact of STRs and what legal risks increasing rates for STRs would create, followed by more arguments about the division of costs between growth and existing customers.

"We owe staff some direction," said Tautges, adding, "We need to leave this meeting getting some direction to staff."

Walsh proposed that the board publish the current budget and that the board continue debating the budget over the upcoming months, as well as getting public input.

"We do have 30 days' worth of public input and staff input, but on day 29 I'm afraid we're going to still be sitting here and staff's going to be going 'OK, we discussed it. We had five different ideas, now we've narrowed that down to three, board what do you want us to do?'" Tautges said.

Walsh proposed that the board could consider the issue further and present ideas over the next 30 days and then vote on a direction to take in November.

Tautges commented that he was concerned that the staff could make very little progress on preparing the budget during those 30 days since they would lack clear direction from the board on what approach to take.

Connor commented that he brought the board the cuts and recommended rate increase it requested, "but right now there's no path forward. I just have five different fingers going five different ways. So, what do I do with the budget?"

He added that he has been getting input from the board on the budget for the last 45 days and is on version five of the budget, but still lacked direction from the board on how to proceed.

Connor asked if the board was content with the proposed cuts included in the budget, adding that it would be helpful to have guidance on this in the meeting.

In the discussion of a proposal from Walsh to meet in a week to look at the cuts, Hudson stated that he had not looked at the cuts.

"You've been looking at this for 45 days, Bill," said Connor.

"I haven't looked at this. I don't know what this is," Hudson replied.

Connor stated that he had only made minor changes since the last version in September.

Hudson explained that he had not looked at the cuts since he was focused on "other things."

Connor requested that the group go through the revisions now, which included only minor changes, adding that he only made minor changes because he received no clear direction from the board on what changes to make.

He commented that he introduced the budget early this year because he knew that it would be a difficult budget season and that he had met with or discussed the budget with all the board members, but had not received any direction from the overall board.

Walsh stated he was "impressed" with the cuts and with the "pain in the capital budget."

Tautges added that he was also "very pleased" with the cuts.

Connor stated that the changes cut about $2 million in capital projects.

Connor then enumerated the changes, with Jones highlighting the poor condition of the infrastructure and equipment not being replaced for most of the cuts and the potential issues with not replacing them.

"These cuts were things that I can deal with moving down until another year, but they get more expensive every single year, so I'm just coming back in 2028 telling you now instead of seven breaks on this we're up to 12 breaks and it went from $100,000 to $125,000," Connor said. "I just want everyone to be aware of that."

Walsh commented that he would potentially be interested in moving some of these capital projects if CIF revenues are higher than expected.

Connor stated that the projects could be left in the budget with the understanding that they should not be addressed unless the district has excess revenue.

Dossett raised concerns about this approach, given it would create a budget that outpaces the district's actual capital funds, and that doing a budget amendment later in the year would not be extremely difficult.

Walsh commented that keeping the projects in mind and doing a budget amendment to add them if more funding is available would be a "great approach, too."

Boehmer commented that he opposed cutting the water line repairs at North Pagosa Boulevard and Capriccio Circle and that he believed that the district needed to raise the approximately $1 million that these improvements would cost and keep it in the budget.

Tautges commented that he trusted Connor's judgment on what projects to remove.

Connor added that he removed these projects to attempt to move the fund balance of the general fund in a positive direction and that, while he would not recommend removing these projects and having additional revenue to do them would be helpful, he could "live with" removing them.

Boehmer commented that his opinion was unchanged on the issue.

Jones stated that he also did not approve of the cuts.

"Andy has made all the cuts he's made because … the board requested him to do it. He came to us the first time. He said this is the floor. Just because we didn't listen to him when he said, 'This is the floor,' and we said 'Hey, make some more cuts and more vulnerable-ize us,' which is kicking the can down the road," he said. "Then, so, if I am wanting to post the budget, I'm wanting him to post the budget that he gave us at the first meeting and if we wanna work from there, I'm fine with it."

Jones added that he respected Walsh's comments about the water and wastewater funds and that he would potentially support a variety of ways to get to a 20 percent increase in rates, but that he believed that the district needed to be at this level of rate increase.

"I am not a proponent of posting a budget that keeps us kicking the can down the road that's going to put us in a massively vulnerable spot," he said.

Connor asked if the board was content with the budget for the operating enterprise funds, which Boehmer and Jones indicated that they were not and would prefer the initial, larger budget.

Walsh stated that he was content with these budgets and with the operating accounts at present, with the possibility of adding projects back if additional revenue is collected.

Dossett commented that the budget needed to be posted for the public that night and that, in terms of changes, staff were "kind of paralyzed at this stage" without a collective direction from the board.

Tautges polled the board and highlighted that three board members, himself, Hudson and Walsh, supported a 15 percent rate increase.

He added, "You've got your direction now."

Connor thanked the board for giving direction and for giving staff a starting point.

Jones commented that publishing a budget with a smaller increase now and increasing it later would create public perception issues and decrease the board's credibility.

"We've gotta have a start," Tautges said, adding that he was focused on being "totally transparent" and not on being credible.

"We've accomplished what we came here for, which is a starting point, and that's gonna change, there's no question," Tautges said. "What direction it changes to, I'm not sure, but we owe these folks. For the next month, we can't have sitting around doing this. They've gotta have direction now. We've given them food for thought and they can move forward, so that's my two cents."

Walsh commented that staff were actually "ahead of the game" compared to previous years of PAWSD budgeting processes, although he added that he knew staff did not believe him.

Connor commented that he wanted to remain ahead of the game.

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Colorado domestic violence report highlights persistent fatalities, opportunities for prevention

Colorado Attorney General's Office

Domestic violence fatalities in Colorado have remained relatively steady over the past five years, even as homicides statewide declined, according to the Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board's annual report released Wednesday, Oct. 21, by the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

The board identified 78 deaths across 57 cases in 2025, up from 72 deaths across 54 cases in 2024.

The deaths included 32 domestic violence victims, eight collateral victims, and 38 perpetrators. Domestic violence victims and collateral victims accounted for 17 percent of Colorado's 235 homicides in 2025, consistent with the previous year's share of 17.4 percent.

"Every life lost to domestic violence is a tragedy, and we owe it to victims and their families to learn from these deaths and prevent future tragedies," said Attorney General Phil Weiser. "Over the past eight years, this board has helped Colorado identify warning signs, strengthen our response to domestic violence and connect more people with the support they need. We have made important progress, and this report reminds us that we must continue working together to save lives."

One of the report's most notable findings was that, for the first time since the board began reporting statewide data, more domestic violence perpetrators died than primary victims.

Of the 38 perpetrators who died, 28 died by suicide, and 18 cases involved murder-suicide. The findings highlight the importance of recognizing suicidal behavior by perpetrators as a potential warning sign of violence toward others.

Firearms remained the leading cause of domestic violence fatalities, accounting for 82.1 percent of deaths in 2025, up from 75 percent in 2024.

Other key findings include:

• Domestic violence disproportionately affected women. In 52 of the 57 cases, the domestic violence victim was female and the perpetrator was male.

• Prior warning signs were present in many cases. At least 20 cases involved a documented history of domestic violence between the victim and perpetrator. Twelve cases involved active protection orders, and 12 involved active domestic relations proceedings at the time of the fatality.

• Children continued to experience the devastating effects of domestic violence. Although no children were killed in domestic violence-related incidents in 2025, children were present in the home in at least 15 cases and directly witnessed a fatality in at least seven.

• Additional domestic violence homicides were identified. The board identified three previously unrecognized homicides from prior years that were initially classified as suicides, accidents or natural causes.

Board calls for continued investment in prevention and victim services

The board's findings have helped shape Colorado's approach to preventing domestic violence fatalities, including legislation passed earlier this year.

House Bill 26-1009 requires law enforcement agencies to use an evidence-based lethality assessment protocol when responding to domestic violence incidents beginning July 1, 2027. The protocol helps officers identify victims at heightened risk of being killed and immediately connect them with community-based advocates who can provide support and safety planning.

Building on this progress, the board's 2026 recommendations emphasize the need for sustained funding to implement the new law, including resources for community-based advocates who will support high-risk victims.

The board also recommends continued funding for its work, strengthening how family courts address domestic violence allegations and stabilizing funding for victim services.

The Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board examines domestic violence-related deaths to identify trends, understand contributing factors and recommend strategies to prevent future fatalities.

Read the full 2026 Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report at https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/10/CDVFRB-Full-Report-2026-FINAL.pdf.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you are in a crisis or need immediate support, dial 911 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-SAFE (7233).

For a comprehensive list of resources available throughout Colorado, please visit www.violence-freecolorado.org.



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County approves plat amendment for Rock Ridge Estates

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved a final plat amendment for Rock Ridge Estates on Great West Avenue.

This property borders other properties that are part of a separate proposed development within the town of Pagosa Springs town limits — Ponderosa Mountain.

According to the information attached to the meeting's agenda, "The purpose of this action is to amend the original plat by subdividing the existing lot to delineate the different land uses."

The packet explains that "Lot 1Z-1 Block D will be approximately 7.641 acres and accommodates mobile homes, while Lot 1Z-2 Block D will be approximately 2.904 acres and accommodates multiple RV sites."

It adds, "The Mobile Home Park zoning district allows both uses as a use by right."

The Archuleta County Planning Commission voted 3-0 during its regular meeting on Sept. 24 to recommend approval of this project with multiple conditions attached.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez noted that no written public comment has been received regarding this project.

There were no public comments in favor or against this project during the BoCC meeting.

The four conditions attached to the project include that the plat title must read "Rock Ridge Country Estates Amendment," that a 12-foot-wide easement for the jointly adopted Town-to-Lakes Trail be included on the northeastern boundary of the plat, that the right of way widths of Great West Avenue and Baldwin's Court be dedicated on the plat, and that each lot would need to meet current codes for its primary use, including development standards for RV park and mobile homes.

Commissioner Veronica Medina offered comments related to housing needs in the community, explaining that housing has been a priority for both the town and the county.

"We can't do this on our own," she said, mentioning that people come to Pagosa Country and then end up having to leave "because they can't find housing."

She also expressed that it's not the responsibility of local governments to spend tax dollars on housing.

"I don't feel like it's the responsibility of county government to spend tax dollars on housing for the public," Medina said, adding, "We absolutely need to encourage developers to come to our community and develop reasonably."

Medina mentioned she recently suggested the county "start over" with its land use code and look at what it required by the state.

"Some may think that's ignorant, but what's ignorant is trying to do the same thing that we've been doing, and obviously it's not working, because we still have people that are unhoused," she said.

Medina also mentioned that multiple organizations are working on housing solutions, and employers are even looking at purchasing housing for their employees.

"It's just not enough; we need help," she said, mentioning that the only way to solve housing issues is by the community working together. "And if we have regulations, we need to enforce them, and if we're not enforcing this regulation, let's be serious about what we're doing in our county."

Commissioner John Ranson indicated that the county has started down the path of rewriting its land use code.

He commented that the county's current code is more than 300 pages, whereas the state only has 40 pages of requirements.

"I'm looking forward to adjusting it before we bring somebody on in the Planning Department," he said.

Ranson commented that he'd like to see the land use code cut down to a "reasonable level," mentioning that with 300 pages of code it's difficult to abide by every regulation and still get things done.

"No wonder people come here and then leave. It's too much," he said.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented, "In my opinion, it's not the government's responsibility to house people. It is our responsibility, however, to try to form public and private partnerships."

Brown mentioned that if "planting seed money" for the private community to address and take care of housing needs is for the betterment of the community, "then that's what we should do."

He added, "[The county] shouldn't ever be in charge of housing."

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Flood

■ Continued from front

of the county forecasted to receive higher amounts.

The low-end forecast for Pagosa Springs is 2.0 inches, which the high-end forecast is 5.8 inches, according to the NWS.

The agency further notes, "Isolated strong to severe storms capable of producing damaging winds, large hail, and brief tornadoes," with those periods being on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from late afternoon through sunset and on Thursday afternoon and evening, Oct. 22.

It notes low confidence in the Thursday period.

Flood conditions expected

The NWS forecast packet adds the heavy rainfall may result in flooding or flash flooding of small creeks, arroyos, rivers and streams. Debris flows and rockslides are possible in recent burn scars and steep canyons/mountain corridors.

The San Juan River at Pagosa Springs is projected to crest at about 10.73 feet — in minor flood stage, which begins at 10.5 feet — Friday morning around 6 a.m.

During the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) regular meeting on Tuesday, Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux provided information on how the county is preparing for potential flooding with the area expected beginning late tonight and into the weekend.

Le Roux explained that the county is preparing for "potential flooding coming our way later this week."

Le Roux noted that this time last year, the San Juan River peaked at 12.8 and 12.66 feet during October 2025's historic floods.

He mentioned that forecasts can always go "either way, but we're expecting the worst, and planning for the worst."

Le Roux explained that there is potential for rain at higher altitudes causing snowmelt, "which could potentially increase that flood level."

He also explained that there are two major drainages in the county, and forecasters are unsure if the Piedra or San Juan drainage will be affected more.

Wednesday's NWS forecast data shows the Piedra River at Arboles cresting above 6 feet.

That river peaked at 5.86 and 7.26 feet in the October 2025 floods.

It also remains to be seen how the 2025 floods will affect this week's higher projected flows.

"The river channels have changed significantly," Le Roux said Wednesday, noting that quite a few areas of the San Juan River received restoration work following the October 2025 storms, but that there are still some "significant" debris piles in the Rio Blanco.

He also acknowledged again Wednesday the Piedra draining could be hit worse.

But, Le Roux highlighted both Tuesday with the BoCC and Wednesday in an interview, the county is better prepared this year.

He explained that temporary river gauges have been placed in the San Juan River near mile marker 152 on U.S. 160, "giving us some intel."

He indicated work is ongoing to place more river gauges upstream from Pagosa Springs on the East Fork and West Fork.

Prepping for possible evacuations

Le Roux noted Tuesday that the county has "started mobilizing resources" and working with the Archuleta County Department of Human Services (DHS) to identify a shelter if needed, likely at the Ross Aragon Community Center.

"We're not opening that until we need to," he said.

Le Roux further explained they had begun making contact with those who could be affected.

On Wednesday, Le Roux noted contact has been made with the San Juan River Village Metro District, residents along the Lower Blanco, in the area of mile maker 19 on Colo. 151, Arboles, Estate Circle and in low-lying areas along County Road 500 — all the historic low-lying corridors.

Le Roux noted that some areas start seeing inundation along the San Juan River at 9 feet.

Le Roux also explained Wednesday that, in the event of an evacuation, all evacuees should report to DHS at 550A Hot Springs Blvd. to check in and receive additional information.

Sandbags available

Sandbags are available from both the town and county for residents needing flood protection.

The town is providing sand, 3/8-inch chips, and bags in the parking lot across from the maintenance facility at 550 Pirate Drive.

Residents must fill and lift their own sandbags at the town facility due to limited staff availability. Supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The county is also providing sandbags.

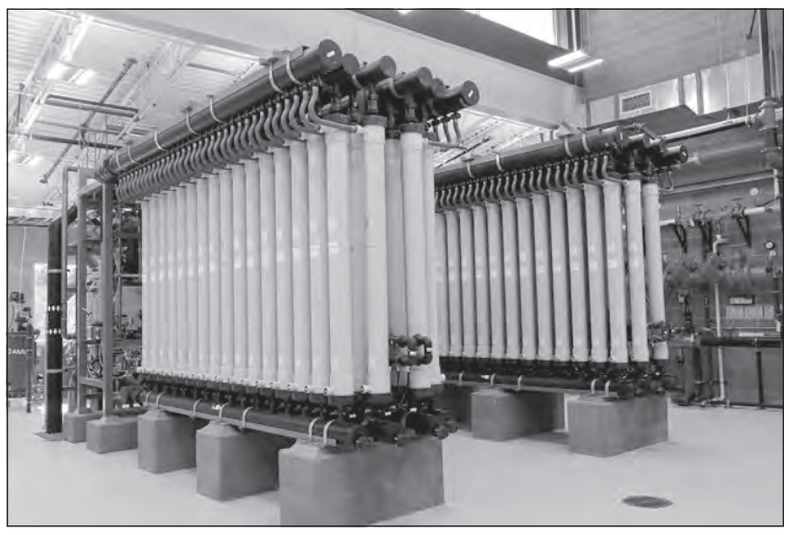
Sandbags can be filled and picked up at the public works building at 1122 U.S 84.

Filled sandbags are available at the TARA Community Center in Arboles.

Le Roux noted Tuesday that the ACSO has procured a sandbag filling machine to help expedite filling bags.









SUN photos/Clayton Chaney

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District offers tours to the public of its newly completed $40 million Snowball water treatment plant, showing the process of how water is treated in the plant and released into the rest of the district's system, during a celebration of its completion on Saturday, Oct. 17.













Sports

Football



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate running back Hudson Mazur escapes multiple Gunnison Cowboy tacklers while running the ball. Mazur finished the game with 222 rushing yards and two rushing touchdowns on 13 attempts. Mazur also ran back a kick return for a 78-yard touchdown.

Pirates take down Gunnison in homecoming victory

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team won its homecoming game Friday night, Oct. 16, defeating the Gunnison Cowboys by a score of 42-13.

It was also senior night as the Pirates honored the seven seniors on this year's roster: Hudson Mazur, Braylon Landry, Jimmy Elledge, Zander Lefthandbull, Emanuel Manjarrez and Jerry Su.

"They've meant a lot to this program," coach Nathan Morales said of the seniors, noting it was the first year on the team for a couple of them.

Morales mentioned it's always good to win homecoming games and on senior night, adding "[the seniors] mean a lot to this team, and we're all playing for 'em."

Scoring started early in the game, with the Cowboys scoring on the game's initial possession.

The Pirates followed with a touchdown of their own, returning the ensuing kickoff, as Mazur ran it back for 78 yards. A successful two-point attempt converted by Kasen Limebrook put the Pirates up 8-7.

The Pirates got on the scoreboard again later in the first quarter with a 6-yard touchdown run by Alex Pacheco. Another two-point conversion from Limebrook extended the Pirates' lead to 16-7 going into the second quarter.

Pagosa found the end zone two more times before halftime with a 67-yard rushing touchdown from Mazur and a 4-yard rushing touchdown by Pacheco.

The Cowboys had a scoreless second quarter as the Pirates held a 28-7 lead at halftime.

Gunnison was able to score first in the second half with a 9-yard rushing touchdown, bringing the score to 28-13.

Mazur extended the Pirates' lead with another long rush, going for a 70-yard touchdown in the third quarter.

Pacheco added to the Pirates' lead in the fourth quarter with a 60-yard rushing touchdown.

The Pirates converted three out of five two-point attempts on the night, and Mazur was unsuccessful on his only extra-point attempt.

The Pirates put up a total of 435 yards of offense on the night, led by Mazur and Pacheco combining for 397 yards and all six of the Pirates' touchdowns.

Mazur tallied 222 yards and three touchdowns on 13 attempts, while Pacheco racked up 175 yards and two touchdowns on 20 attempts.

Gage Sams ran for 28 yards on eight attempts and Gabe Torres put up 8 yards on one attempt.

Adam Candelaria had one rushing attempt on the night for a 1-yard gain, and Limebrook completed one of two pass attempts for a 1-yard gain.

Morales commented on the offensive line's performance, explaining that he was responsible for blocking mistakes in the Pirates' previous game against Aspen.

"This week they said, 'No, we got you coach,' and they definitely went out and executed this week, so I couldn't be more proud of them," Morales said of the Pirates' offensive line.

The Pirates' defense forced two turnovers on the night, with Ty Garcia recovering a fumble and Colten Ulibarri coming up with an interception.

The Pirates' offense lost one fumble on the night.

Reese Jenkins led the Pirates in solo tackles, coming up with nine, followed by Colby Ross with six.

Coal Ridge

Entering the final week of the regular season, the Pirates are ranked 18th in the state and are set to face off against the No. 17th ranked team, the Coal Ridge Titans, on Friday, Oct. 23, in New Castle at 7 p.m.

Morales mentioned the "job's not done" coming out of the team's homecoming victory.

Coal Ridge and Pagosa each have an overall record of 4-4, including league marks of 3-2, and sit just outside the top 16 teams in the state to earn a playoff berth.

"We gotta be road warriors," Morales said in regard to the Pirates' trip to New Castle. "We've kind of said that; we haven't had it go our way yet."

The Pirates are looking for what would be their first road victory of the season.

Morales mentioned that the Pirates need a good week of practice for their matchup against the Titans, noting that it'll be a fun game between two good teams.

"But, we just gotta take care of ourselves and make sure we execute," he said.

Morales stressed the Pirates need to take care of the football in order to be successful against Coal Ridge, along with "playing disciplined" and picking up crucial first downs on offense.

The Pirates have had multiple players out over the course of the season with injuries, and Morales explained the team has maintained a "next-man-up" mentality.

"There's a lot of guys that have done well for us," he said.

With a potential playoff spot on the line, Morales explained that the topic keeps getting brought up, "but we got Coal Ridge this week, and that's what we're focused on."

Morales noted the Pirates aren't focusing on playoffs, but rather taking care of business against Coal Ridge, and "the rest will take care of itself."

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Soccer

Pirates tie Fruita Monument, continue to watch playoff picture

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs high school boys soccer team played in what could be their final game of the season on Friday afternoon in Fruita, logging a tie.

The Pirates took the bus to Fruita on Friday, Oct. 16, to take on the Fruita Monument Wildcats in their final scheduled game of the regular season.

The 4A Wildcats held a 5-6-1 record heading into the game. The two teams had split their previous two matchups.

Early in the game the Wildcats found the back of the net and took a 1-0 lead.

Despite having some opportunities to even the score in the first half, the score remained 1-0 as the two teams headed into halftime.

Coming out of halftime, the Pirates started to possess the ball more and continued to move it throughout the midfield, coach Trevor Gian explained.

At one point in the second half, he relayed, Johnny Rodriguez intercepted the ball around the top of the box and played a creative pass to space in the top of the box. Oliver Samu gathered the ball on his left foot and buried it on the bottom right corner across his body to tie the game up at one goal apiece.

The Pirates continued to press after their goal and had multiple opportunities to score and take the lead, but couldn't find the back of the net, and the game ended in a 1-1 tie.

"We had a lot on the line, and we went down 1-0, and finding that response again, sort of [the] story of the season, we responded well," Gian said. "We had great opportunities to potentially win that game. [The] team played great, and it was a good game at the end of the day, [a] really positive feeling."

With the tie, the Pirates have a 5-5-2 record and currently sit ranked 34th in 3A. The top 32 teams in 3A will make the playoffs, so the Pirates are on the outside looking in, but the rankings won't be finalized until Sunday, Oct. 25.

In the meantime, Gian is working to try to find and schedule one more game before the regular season officially ends on Saturday, Oct. 24.

If he can't find the Pirates another opponent, the team will have to rely on outside help to move into the playoff picture.

"We're just trying to figure out [how to] keep these boys playing a little longer," Gian said. "I think they deserve that."

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Pirate homecoming 2026





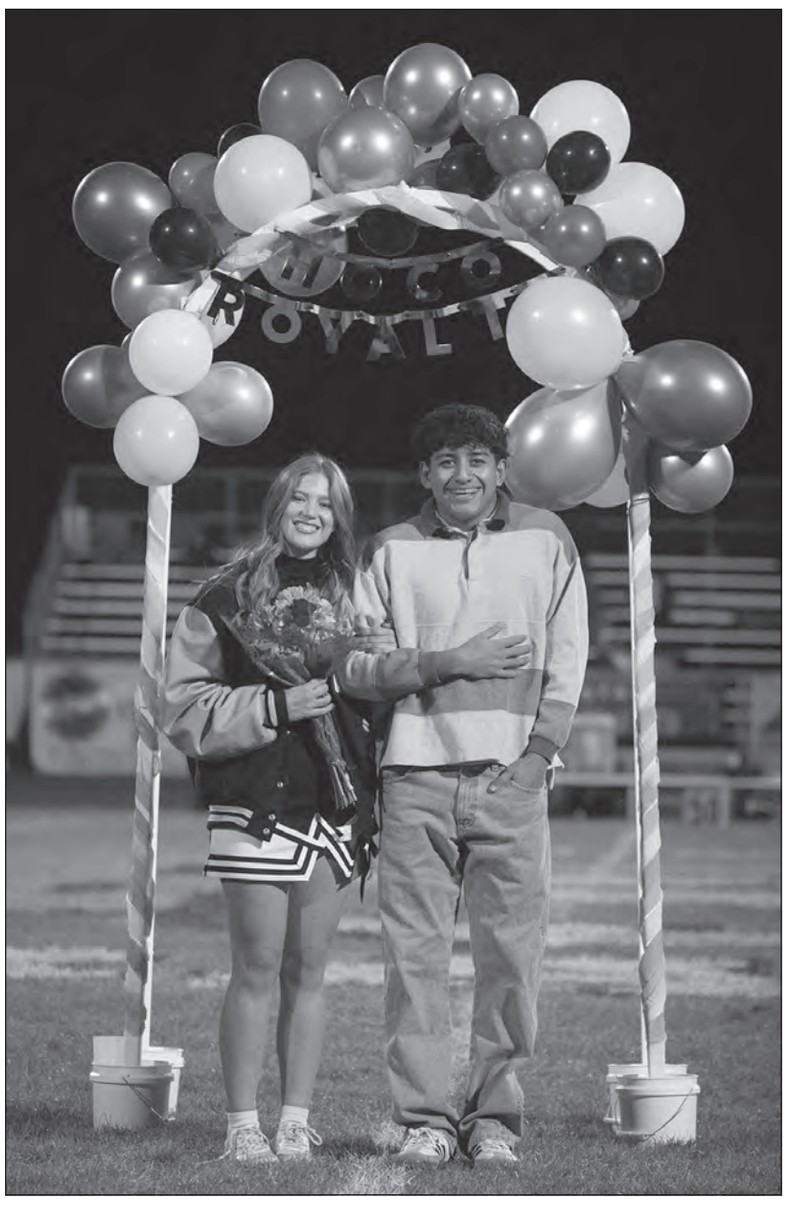
SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Pagosa Springs High School celebrates homecoming at the school's traditional homecoming football game — a victory for the Pirates. Homecoming festivities included introductions of the homecoming court: freshmen Xavier Lyman and Kyleah Coss; sophomores Chatwin Pickering and Ahrianna Martinez; juniors Hawkin Kafke and Darria Fiorenza; and seniors Devin Gonzalez (king) and Makaela Denton (queen), Gustav Fjeldheim and Sophie Martinez, and Braylon Landry and Teyann Quezada.













CROSS-COUNTRY



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Pirate Liam McKnight runs en route to a 42nd-place finish with a time of 20 minutes, 51.00 seconds. The Pirates placed third at the Eric Wolff Invitational in Monte Vista on Oct. 15.



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

Lady Pirate Lucy Rivera heads for a top-20 finish at the Eric Wolff Invitational in Monte Vista on Oct. 15. Rivera placed 18th with a time of 24 minutes, 13.00 seconds.

Pirates to host regional action Thursday, Oct. 22

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

In their last race before this week's regional meet, the Pagosa Springs High School cross-country teams traveled to Monte Vista for the Eric Wolff Invitational.

The meet was held on Friday, Oct. 16, and this year's meet featured a new course.

Coach Josh Kurz noted that, for 25 years, the course at the Eric Wolff Invitational was the fastest course they raced on all season, but this year that was not the case.

The new course was longer than a typical 5k and had sections that had fast runners crossing paths with slower runners, noted Kurz.

Typically, Kurz and his staff use this race as both one last workout before regionals and a chance for many athletes to run personal records (PRs) and boost their confidence.

"We generally end the regular season with kids [running] their PR and feeling confident, and that race was not ideal, but it was just a hard workout," said Kurz. "So, that's how it was treated. I just wanted to get one more hard workout in, and that accomplished that."

Despite the long course and the lack of PRs, Rylan Ash still came in third overall for the boys, leading the way with a time of 17 minutes, 52.00 seconds.

Miles Dempster finished next for the Pirates in ninth place with a time of 18:57.00, Weston Sweet placed 10th with a time of 18:58.00, and Jacen Easling placed 18th with a time of 19:31.00 to round out the top-four scoring Pirates at the meet.

Hawkin Kofke placed 36th with a time of 20:34.00, Liam McKnight placed 42nd with a time of 20:51.00, Kieran Kurz placed 47th with a time of 21:04.00, Wells Witting placed 60th with a time of 21:35.00, Isaac Hanto placed 69th with a time of 22:21.00, Davyn Leiker placed 89th with a time of 24:19.00, Matthew Mars placed 91st with a time of 25:04.00, and Breland Bridges placed 98th with a time of 28:20.00.

The boys placed third overall out of the 12 teams that scored with 40 points. They were just one point behind Gunnison and three points off of first place.

Madi Stretton led the way for the Lady Pirates, placing 12th overall with a time of 23:32.00. Bella Jackson placed 17th with a time of 24:12.00. Lucy Rivera placed 18th with a time of 24:13.00, and Olivia Diffey placed 22nd with a time of 24:44.00 to round out the top four scoring Lady Pirates in Monte Vista.

Elsy Wood placed 33rd with a time of 26:03.00, Vivy DavRem placed 40th with a time of 26:38.00, Isabelle Ratcliff placed 52nd with a time of 28:03.00, and Skylar Leiker placed 63rd with a time of 29:58.00.

The girls placed third at the meet amongst the nine scoring teams with 61 points.

"We're just trying to recover," said Josh Kurz. "I just treated it [as] if you did your best, then that's money in the bank for this weekend. I'm just trying to treat that race more as based on effort. If they were satisfied with how they pushed themselves [physically] and themselves mentally, then that's gonna pay off for this weekend."

The regional meet, hosted by the Pirates, is set to be run on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Despite expected inclement weather, the race is set to go off as planned on Thursday morning, according to Josh Kurz.

"[It's] still running as originally planned," said Josh Kurz. "It could be kind of chaotic for the runners and not comfortable. ... I think the course should probably have standing water on it on the grassy parts, but it shouldn't be crazy. There aren't any really tight corners. There's no slopes on it. It's flat. It should be a safe course."

In order to qualify for the state meet, both the Pirates and Lady Pirates must finish in the top four teams. Individual runners who place in the top 15 will also earn a spot at the state meet.

According to the coach, state qualification will come down to a lot of factors, but the X-factors on both the girls' and boys' sides are the fifth runners.

The top four runners on the boys side have been incredibly consistent this year, emphasized Josh Kurz, so it will be important that runners such as Kofke, Kieran Kurz and McKnight have great races.

Josh Kurz mentioned that Wood, DavRem and Adi Oelking all have the potential to help propel the Lady Pirates to the state meet.

The girls' race is set to start at 10 a.m., while the boys will start at 10:40 a.m. Each race will be held at Pagosa Springs High School, with the start and finish taking place in Golden Peaks Stadium.

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VOLLEYBALL

Lady Pirates pick up win in Monte Vista

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate volleyball team broke its four-game losing streak with a win at Monte Vista earlier this week.

The Lady Pirates played at Centauri on Thursday, Oct. 15, and lost 3-0.

The Falcons were 12-5 and ranked in the top five in 2A ahead of the matchup.

The loss extended the Lady Pirates' losing streak to four games and gave them an overall record of 4-12.

The girls lost the first set 25-19, the second set 25-15 and the third set 25-13.

Still, coach Chelsea Caler expressed she is proud of her team's showing in the loss.

"Centauri is a strong team, and I thought we did some good things defensively, especially at the net," wrote Caler in an email to The SUN. "We struggled to generate as much offense as we needed, but I was proud of the effort. The final score didn't necessarily reflect all the things I felt we did well."

Dawson Iverson led the team with six kills. Ellie Vining had five, and Avea Bruce had four.

Vining and Saleisha Black led the team with two aces each. The girls had a team serve completion percentage of 82 percent.

Sydney Plake led the team with two total blocks.

Darria Fiorenza led the team with eight digs, and Liana Vega had a team-high 17 assists.

The Lady Pirates were back in action on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Monte Vista.

The two teams came in ranked relatively closely, with Pagosa Springs ranked 46th in 3A and Monte Vista ranked 43rd in 2A, respectively.

Pagosa's Lady Pirates got the best of Monte Vista's Lady Pirates, winning the match 3-0 and ending their four-game losing streak.

"We did a good job sticking to our game plan and being more intentional with our shot selection," wrote Caler. "Our blocking was solid, and we had several players step up in key moments."

The girls won the first set 25-21, the second set 25-21 and the third set 29-27.

"Dawson had a great game against Monte Vista, and our middles played well," wrote Caler. "I was also proud of Veda [Deitemeyer] stepping into right back defense and making some important defensive plays. With an injury forcing a change at libero in the final set, Darria stepped into that role and played well."

Pagosa's Lady Pirates are now 5-12 this season and ranked 42nd in 3A.

Up next, they'll host the Alamosa Mean Moose on Thursday, Oct. 22, and the Ignacio Bobcats on Monday, Oct. 26.

The girls previously lost to Alamosa this season and are yet to play Ignacio.

The Mean Moose are 14-4 on the season and are ranked sixth in 3A.

The Bobcats are 13-3 on the season and are ranked ninth in 2A.

Both matches are slated to begin around 6 p.m.

Go Pirates!

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA
Hiring for the Ski Season:
November - April
Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
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- Ski & Snowboard School Instructors
- Lynx & Wolf Pup Building Attendants
- Food & Beverage Staff
  Grill/Fry Cooks - Baker - Barista
- Snow Reporter/Guest Services
- Retail
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WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Community.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100



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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
(970) 264-2100 • pagosasun.com
457 LEWIS STREET • P.O. BOX 9
PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO 81147

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
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: SONNY R. COWAN; PATRICK DISNER; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY
Case Number:

■ Continued on A14

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.*

Public Notices

■ Continued from A13

2026 CV 30043
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 12th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320851)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: MELISSA R. MCPEAK; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY
Case Number:
2026 CV 30042
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 12th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320853)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: DELDEV, INC., a Colorado corporation; ALL
UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE
PROPERTY
Case Number:
2026 CV 30047
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320859)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: MEADPROP UNITS, a Colorado LLC; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY
Case Number:
2026 CV 30048
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320863)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: SANDRA ASBURY JOHNSON; CLAUDIA ASBURY; CLEVE ASBURY; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS
CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY
Case Number:
2026 CV 30049
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320958)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradojudicial.gov).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of September 2026, for Archuleta County.
2026CW3029 Archuleta County, Application for Alternate Points of Diversion, To Make Absolute, and for a Finding of Reasonable Diligence for Surface and Underground Water Rights. **1. Applicants**: Alpine Lakes Ranch Property Owners Association, Inc. and Alpine Lakes Ditch and Reservoir Company, Inc., both of 17774 Hwy 84, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, c/o Jeff Kane, Southwest Water and Property Law LLC, 679 E 2nd Ave Unit 10, Durango, CO 81301; jkane@swpropertylaw.com; (970) 422-5512. **2. Prior Decrees, Appropriation Date, Source, Use, Integrated System, Augmentation Plan and Location Map for All Water Rights in this Application**: Applicants operate a central water supply system for the Alpine Lakes Ranch subdivision in Archuleta County for which these water rights are the primary source of supply. Each of these water rights was originally decreed in Case No. 97CW74 (Dec. 15, 1998) with an appropriation date of March 29, 1996, and portions were made absolute and diligence entered in Case Nos. 04CW83, 12CW35, and 19CW26, all in Water Division 7. The source for each water right is water tributary to the Navajo River, including from Spence Creek and Coyote Creek. Each water right has the following decreed use: in the central domestic water supply system for Alpine Lakes Ranch, including uses for domestic, livestock, irrigation of lawns, gardens, shrubs and trees, and fire protection purposes. Irrigation through the central domestic water supply system will include no more than 3,000 square feet per lot, for a maximum of 218 lots, for a total proposed irrigated acreage of no more than 15 acres. Each structure is a feature of an integrated system within the meaning of C.R.S. § 37-92-301(4)(b). Each is also subject to the augmentation plan decreed in Case No 96CW21. The location of each water right is shown on a map filed with the Application. **3. Surface water right for finding of reasonable diligence requested: A. Structure:** Central Supply Intake at Spence Reservoir. **B. Location:** in the SW1/4 NE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, at a point 1,900 feet west of the east section line and 2,150 feet south of the north section line of said Sec 8. **C. Amount:** 1.0 cfs, conditional. **4. Description of conditional underground water rights for which Applicants request to confirm alternate points of diversion, to make a portion absolute, and for entry of a finding of reasonable diligence: A. Structure names, well permit nos., and amounts: i.** ALR Well No. 1 (Permit No. 46660-F): 10 gpm, absolute; **ii.** ALR Well No. 2 (Permit No. 46659-F-R): 5 gpm, absolute; **iii.** ALR Well No. 3 (Permit No. 84590-F), 25 gpm, conditional; **iv.** Mesa Well No. 1 (Permit No. 49735-F): 25 gpm, conditional; **v.** Mesa Well No. 2 (Permit No. 53347-F): 1 gpm absolute, 24 gpm, conditional; **vi.** Mesa Well No. 5 (Permit No. 49740-F): 1 gpm absolute, 24 gpm, conditional; **vii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 (Permit No. 65300-F): 40 gpm conditional; **viii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2 (Permit No. 65301-F): 50 gpm, conditional. **B. Locations: i.** ALR Well No. 1: in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Sec 20, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM approximately 1,503 feet from the north section line and 1,575 feet from the west section line; **ii.** ALR Well No. 2: in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Sec 20, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM approximately 1,677 feet from the north section line and 1,592 feet from the west section line. **iii.** ALR Well No. 3: in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Sec 20, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM approximately 1,900 feet from the north section line and 1,630 feet from the west section line. **iv.** Mesa Well No. 1: in the SE1/4 NE1/4 of Sec 11, T 32N, R 1W, NMPM, approximately 1,750 feet from the north section line and 500 feet from the east section line. **v.** Mesa Well No. 2: in SW1/4 NE1/4 of Sec 6, T 32N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,600 feet from the east section line and 2,600 feet from the north section line. **vi.** Mesa Well No. 5: in the NW1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 6, T 32N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,675 feet from the east section line and 2,600 feet from the south section line. **vii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: in the SE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 800 feet from the south section line and 850 feet from the east section line. **viii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2: in the NE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,705 feet from the south section line and 1,230 feet from the east section line. **C. Date and amount of water applied to beneficial use in Applicants' central water supply system: i.** ALR Well No. 1: July 15, 1996, at 10 gpm (Case No. 97CW74); **ii.** ALR Well No. 2: July 15, 1996, at 5 gpm (Case No. 97CW74); October 3, 2023, at 12 gpm (this Application); **iii.** ALR Well No. 3: October 20, 2020, at 12 gpm (this Application); **iv.** Mesa Well No. 2: September 22, 1996, at 1 gpm (Case No. 04CW83); **v.** Mesa Well No. 5: January 15, 2002, at 1 gpm (Case No. 04CW83); **vi.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: September 26, 2002, at 7 gpm (this Application); **vii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A: June 10, 2020, at 9 gpm (this Application); **viii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2: September 26, 2002, at 9 gpm (this Application). **5. Description of underground water right structure constructed as an alternate point of diversion for Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: A. Structure:** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A (Permit No. 83924-F). **B. Location:** in the NE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,735 feet from the south section line and 1,042 feet from the east section line; UTM 334533E, 4108730N, Zone 13. **C. Date and amount of water applied to beneficial use in Applicants' central water supply system:** June 20, 2010, in the amount of 9 gpm. **6. Detailed outline of what has been done toward completion of the appropriation and application of water to a beneficial use as conditionally decreed, including expenditures, during the diligence period: A.** Applicants spent approximately $139,824 on consultants and vendors to complete well and pump servicing and replacement, well engineering, well drilling, and investigations and planning for increasing the capacity of Applicant's central water supply system, including for the construction of the additional structures described above. **B.** Applicants retained legal counsel, at a cost of approximately $3,150 for advice concerning the administration and adjudication of Applicants' water rights and augmentation plan. **C.** Applicants completed additional wells and placed them to beneficial use in their central water supply system as follows: **i.** ALR Well No. 2: October 3, 2023, at 12 gpm (this Application; 5 gpm previously decreed absolute); **ii.** ALR Well No. 3: October 20, 2020, at 12 gpm; **iii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: September 26, 2002, at 7 gpm. **iv.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A: June 10, 2020, at 9 gpm. **v.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2: September 26, 2002, at 9 gpm. **7. Applicants' requested findings and relief: A.** Entry of a decree confirming that Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing the appropriation of the Central Supply Intake at Spence Reservoir surface water right and continuing the conditional amount of 1.0 cfs for an additional six years. **B.** Entry of a decree confirming that ALR Well No. 2 is an alternate point of diversion for ALR Well No. 1. **C.** Entry of a decree confirming that ALR Well No. 3 has been constructed and water placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses in the amount of 12 gpm and Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing this appropriation right and continuing the remaining conditional amount of 13 gpm for an additional six years. **D.** Entry of a decree confirming that that Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing the appropriation for Mesa Well Nos. 1, 2, and 5 and continuing the remaining conditional amounts of 25 gpm, 24 gpm, and 24 gpm, respectively, for an additional six years. **E.** Entry of a decree confirming that (i) 7 gpm of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 water right has been placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses, (ii) Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A is alternate point of diversion for the Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 water right (these wells are located approximately 520 feet apart and there are no intervening water rights or structures) and 9 gpm from this well has been placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses, and (iii) Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing this appropriation and continuing the remaining conditional portion of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 water right in the amount of 24 gpm for an additional six years. **F.** Entry of a decree confirming that (i) 9 gpm of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 2 water right has been placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses and (ii) Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing this appropriation and continuing the remaining conditional portion of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 2 water right in the amount of 41 gpm for an additional six years. The requested alternate points of diversion will result in no expansion in the amount or location of use of the water rights decreed in Case No. 97CW74, are within the original contemplated draft of Applicants' conditional water rights decreed in Case No. 97CW74, and are within the same lands and have the same groundwater sources decreed in Case Nos. 97CW74 and 04CW83. **8. Names and addresses of owners or reputed owners of the land upon which any new diversion or storage structure will be constructed or upon which water is or will be stored:** seven landowner names and addresses are included in the Application, each being a member or shareholder of Applicants. Notice of this Application will be given in the manner required by law. (10 pages including exhibits)
THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of November 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: $192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304)
/s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
Published: before October 31, 2026
Published October 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320759)

DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradojudicial.gov).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of September 2026, for Mineral County.
2026CW3028 Mineral County, (18CW3051) DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION NO. 7, STATE OF COLORADO, 1060 East Second Ave, Suite 106, Durango, CO 81301, (970) 247-2304, CONCERNING THE APPLICATION FOR BOOTJACK RANCH, LLC, IN MINERAL COUNTY, COLORADO. APPLICATION FOR FINDINGS OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE AND TO MAKE CONDITIONAL WATER RIGHTS ABSOLUTE. 1. Name, Mailing Address and Telephone Number of Applicant: Dennis Burch, Ranch Manager Bootjack Ranch, LLC 12500 E. Hwy. 160 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 (970) 264-7280. Please direct all pleadings and correspondence to: Wayne F. Forman, #14082, Michael P. Smith, #48730, and Jack A. Wold-McGimsey, #59382 at BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, L.L.P. 675 15th Street, Suite 2900 Denver, CO 80202 Phone: (303) 223-1100 Fax: (303)223-0920 E-mail: wforman@bhfs.com; msmith@bhfs.com; jwold-mcgimsey@bhfs.com. **I. CONDITIONAL SURFACE WATER RIGHTS** 2. Description of Conditional Surface Water Rights: All below conditional surface water rights were originally decreed on September 2, 2020; Case No. 18CW3051; District Court, Water Division No. 7. a. Warren Ditch: i. Legal Description: The headgate of the Warren Ditch is located in the SE1/4 SW1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N 331766m E, 4145364m N, Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2, attached. ii. Source: West Fork of the San Juan River ("West Fork"). iii. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. iv. Amount: 2.0 c.f.s., conditional. v. Uses: Irrigation directly from the ditch, and storage in and filling of Warren Lake and Warren Pond, including the following in-reservoir uses: irrigation; stock watering; incidental wildlife; and year-round freshening of Warren Lake and Warren Pond. vi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 175 acres in the NW1/4, W1/2 of the NE1/4, N1/2 of the SW1/4 and NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 20 Township 37 North, Range 1 East NMPM., with 170 acres being supplemental to the Canon Ditch (Priority #124), Himes Ditch (Priority #158), Himes Ditch Teal Enlargement (Priority #1968-150) and Pangborn Ditch (Priority #123). *See* Figure 3, attached. b. Canon Creek Ditch First Enlargement: i. Legal Description: SW1/4 NW1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N 331309m E, 4145916m N, Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Source: Mountain Stream, also known as Canon Creek, tributary to the West Fork. iii. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. iv. Amount: 2.0 c.f.s., conditional. v. Uses: Irrigation directly from the ditch, and the storage in and filling of Warren Lake, including the following in-reservoir uses: stock watering; incidental wildlife; and year-round freshening of Warren Lake. c. Reach 2 Ditch: i. Legal Description: SE1/4 SW1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N 331920m E, 4145051m N; Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Source: West Fork. iii. Appropriation Date: August 10, 2009. iv. Amount: 1.63 c.f.s., conditional, when being used for irrigation; 0.24 c.f.s., conditional, when not being used for irrigation. v. Uses: Irrigation; stock watering; incidental wildlife; and year-round freshening of Reach 2 Ponds A through E, as described below. vi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 49 acres in the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 17 and the NE1/4 NW1/4, NW1/4 NE1/4, SW1/4 NE1/4, SE1/4 NE1/4, NW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 20, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., with approximately 17 acres being supplemental to the Canon Creek Ditch (Priority #124), Himes Ditch (Priority #158), Himes Ditch Teal Enlargement (Priority #1968-150), and Pangborn Ditch (Priority #123). *See* Figure 3. d. Amy's Ditch: i. Legal Description: SE1/4 SW1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N, 331897m E, 4145114m N; Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Source: West Fork. iii. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. iv. Amount: 2.0 c.f.s., conditional. v. Uses: Irrigation directly from the ditch, and the storage in and filling of Amy's Lake, including the following in-reservoir uses: irrigation; stock watering; incidental wildlife; and year-round freshening of Amy's Lake. vi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 15 acres in the SE1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 17 and the NE1/4 NW1/4, NW1/4 NE1/4 of Section 20, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M. *See* Figure 3. e. Bootjack North Diversion: i. Legal Description: SE1/4 SW1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N, 331798m E, 4145416m N; Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Source: West Fork. iii. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. iv. Amount: 3.0 c.f.s., conditional. v. Uses: Irrigation directly from the ditch, and the storage in and filling of Bootjack North Augmentation Pond and Amy's Lake, including the following in-reservoir uses: stock watering; incidental wildlife enhancement; and irrigation; and year-round freshening of Bootjack North Augmentation Pond and Amy's Lake. vi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 34.1 acres in the SE1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., and the NE1/4NW1/4, NW1/4NE1/4 of Section 20, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., with approximately 11.9 acres being supplemental to the Campground Ditch (Priority #68-151), Dermody Pump (Priority #68-13), Wolf Creek Village Lake Well, and Jackson Spring and Seep. *See* Figure 3. **II. CONDITIONAL UNDERGROUND WATER RIGHTS** 3. Description of Conditional Underground Water Rights: All below conditional underground water rights were originally decreed on September 2, 2020; Case No. 18CW3051; District Court, Water Division No. 7. a. Reach 2 Ponds A through E: i. Legal Description: All in Section 20, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., in multiple quarter-quarter sections in Mineral County, as follows (*See* Figure 1 and Figure 2): (1) Reach 2 Pond A: NE1/4 NW1/4, UTM Zone 13N 331986m E, 4144923m N. (2) Reach 2 Pond B: NW1/4 NE1/4, UTM Zone 13N 332047m E, 4144806m N. (3) Reach 2 Pond C: SW1/4 NE1/4, UTM Zone 13N 332222m E, 4144563m N. (4) Reach 2 Pond D: SW1/4 NE1/4, UTM Zone 13N 332407m E, 4144259m N. (5) Reach 2 Pond E: SE1/4 NE1/4, UTM Zone 13N 332453m E, 4144278m N. ii. Source: Ground water tributary to the West Fork. iii. Surface area: 0.75 acres, cumulative, for all Reach 2 Ponds. iv. Total Capacity: 4.0 acre-feet, cumulative for all Reach 2 Ponds. v. Appropriation Date: August 10, 2009. vi. Uses: Piscatorial, fire-fighting, aesthetic, recreation, incidental wildlife, stock watering and evaporation. b. Warren Pond: i. Legal Description: SE1/4 SW1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N 331739m E, 4145271m N, Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Source: Ground water tributary to the West Fork. iii. Surface Area: 0.26 acres. iv. Total Capacity: 2.0 acre-feet. v. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. vi. Uses: Piscatorial, fire-fighting, aesthetic, recreation, incidental wildlife, stock watering, and evaporation. **III. CONDITIONAL STORAGE WATER RIGHTS** 4. Description of Conditional Storage Water Rights: All below conditional storage water rights were originally decreed on September 2, 2020; Case No. 18CW3051; District Court, Water Division No. 7. a. Warren Lake: i. Legal Description: NE1/4 NW1/4, Section 20, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., Mineral County, UTM Zone 13N 331924m E, 4144885m N; Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Surface Area: 5 acres. iii. Total Capacity: The estimated total capacity is 66 acre-feet. (1) Active Capacity: 34 acre-feet. (2) Dead Storage: 32 acre-feet. iv. Type: Unlined, off-channel. v. Dam length: Approximately 1,400 feet. vi. Dam height: Approximately 10 feet. vii. Amount Claimed: 66 acre-feet per year, conditional, subject to as-built storage capacity, with a right to fill and successively refill at the following flow rates: (1) Warren Ditch: 2.0 c.f.s. (2) Canon Creek Ditch First Enlargement: 2.0 c.f.s. viii. Source: West Fork; Mountain stream tributary to West Fork. ix. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. x. Uses: Piscatorial, fire-fighting, irrigation, aesthetic, recreation, incidental wildlife and stock watering. xi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 175 acres in the NW1/4, W1/2 of the NE1/4, N1/2 of the SW1/4 and NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 20 Township 37 North, Range 1 East N.M.P.M., with 170 acres being supplemental to the Canon Ditch (Priority #124), Himes Ditch (Priority #158), Himes Ditch Teal Enlargement (Priority #1968-150) and Pangborn Ditch (Priority #123). *See* Figure 3. b. Bootjack North Augmentation Pond: i. Legal Description: SW1/4, SE1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N 332199m E, 4145272m N, Mineral County, Colorado. *See* Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Surface Area: 5 acres. iii. Total Capacity: The total capacity is approximately 50 acre-feet, conditional. iv. Type: Off-channel. Applicant may line this structure if necessary to avoid seepage or infiltration of groundwater. v. Amount Claimed: 50 acre-feet per year, conditional, subject to as-built storage capacity, with a right to fill and successively refill at the following flow rates: Bootjack North Diversion: 3.0 c.f.s. vi. Source: West Fork. vii. Dam length: Approximately 750 feet. viii. Dam height: Approximately 10 feet. ix. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. x. Uses: Augmentation of out of priority beneficial uses on the Bootjack Ranch, irrigation, fire-fighting, stock watering. xi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 21.1 acres in the SE1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., with approximately 11.9 acres being supplemental to the Campground Ditch (Priority #68-151), Dermody Pump (Priority #68-13), Wolf Creek Village Lake Well, and Jackson Spring and Seep. *See* Figure 3. c. Amy's Lake: i. Legal Description: SW1/4 SE1/4, Section 17, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M., UTM Zone 13N 332098m E, 4145057m N; Mineral County, Colorado. See Figure 1 and Figure 2. ii. Surface Area: 3.1 acres. iii. Total Capacity: 30 acre-feet. iv. Type: Unlined, off channel. v. Dam length: Approximately 440 feet. vi. Dam height: Approximately 10 feet. vii. Amount Claimed: 30 acre-feet per year, conditional, subject to as-built capacity, with a right to fill and refill successively at the following flow rates: (1) Amy's Ditch: 2.0 c.f.s. (2) Bootjack North Diversion: 3.0 c.f.s. viii. Source: West Fork. ix. Appropriation Date: December 31, 2018. x. Uses: Piscatorial, incidental wildlife, fire-fighting, irrigation, aesthetic, recreation, and stock watering. xi. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 13 acres in the SE1/4 SW1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 17 and the NE1/4 NW1/4, NW1/4 NE1/4 of Section 20, T.37N., R.1E., N.M.P.M. *See* Figure 3. 5. Detailed outline of what has been done toward completion or for completion of the appropriation and application of water to a beneficial use as conditionally decreed, including expenditures during the diligence period. a. Applicant spent more than $139,000 in salaries for its employees to conduct well inspections, repair flood damage to Applicant's well structures and lakes, and to maintain ditches and irrigation equipment. i. This includes repairing the headgates for the Warren Ditch, and Bootjack North Diversion. Applicant also repaired Amy's Lake after the bank was breached during the October 2025 floods on the West Fork. b. Applicant engaged the water consulting firm SGM and has spent more than $71,000 for its water rights support over the diligence period, including in, but not limited to, the following cases: 17CW3014, 17CW3050, 17CW3043, 17CW3041, 18CW3051, 19CW3028, 21CW3029, 22CW3034, 22CW3049, 22CW3044, 22CW3050, 26CW3023, and 26CW3024. c. Applicant engaged the law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, and spent more than $160,000 in legal fees to protect its water rights and interests in water court by opposing applications of others, adjudicating new water rights, and meeting its diligence obligations, including in, but not limited to, the following cases: 17CW3014, 17CW3050, 17CW3041, 17CW3043, 18CW3051, 19CW3028, 21CW3029, 22CW3034, 22CW3049, 22CW3044, 22CW3050, 26CW3023, and 26CW3024. d. Applicant engaged Evergreen Pump and has spent more than $245,000 on pump upgrades and replacements, irrigation system parts, and automation projects. i. This includes part replacements, repairs, and more than $40,000 spent on the automation of the Warren Lake sprinkler system. e. Applicant engaged Mackey Construction and spent over $30,000 on flume and headgate fabrication and installation for water rights compliance. i. This includes a replacement flume, diversion box, and headgate for Amy's and Bootjack North Augmentation Pond that were damaged by floods. f. Applicant engaged Mountain Valley Services and spent more than $756,000 on excavation work for pond and reach improvements, pump and pipeline installations, and structure work. g. Applicant engaged Summit Supply and spent more than $41,000 on pipe, pipe fittings and irrigation repair parts. 6. Claims to make conditional surface water rights absolute: a. Warren Ditch: i. Applicant has diverted water at the maximum decreed amount of 2.0 c.f.s. under the Warren Ditch water right. Diversion records with the Colorado Division of Water Resources, attached here as Table 1, specifically show a diversion of 2.96 c.f.s. on May 7, 2026. See Table 1. Applicant delivered that water to Warren Pond and Warren Lake for all decreed uses. b. Reach 2 Ditch: i. Applicant has diverted water at 0.24 c.f.s. when not being used for irrigation. Flume measurements show that 0.32 c.f.s. were diverted on September 16, 2026. *See* Table 1. Applicant delivered that water to Reach 2 Ponds A through E for stock watering; incidental wildlife; and freshening. c. Bootjack North Diversion: i. Applicant has diverted water at the maximum decreed amount of 3.0 c.f.s. under the Bootjack North Diversion water right to fill and freshen the Bootjack North Augmentation Pond and Amy's Lake. Flume measurements show 5.54 c.f.s. was diverted on September 16, 2026. *See* Table 1. Applicant delivered that water to Amy's Lake and the Bootjack North Augmentation Pond for freshening flows and replacing evaporation. 7. Claims to make conditional underground water rights absolute: a. Reach 2 Ponds A through E: i. Applicant constructed each of the Reach 2 Ponds in approximately 2006. Applicant has stored the full decreed amount of 4.0 acre feet since approximately 2011. *See* Table 2. b. Warren Pond: i. Applicant constructed the Warren Pond in approximately 2006. Applicant has stored the full decreed amount of 2.0 acre-feet since approximately 2011. *See* Table 2. 8. Claims to make conditional storage water rights absolute: a. Warren Lake: i. Applicant constructed Warren Lake to a volume of 40 acre-feet, and it has been filled since July 7, 2020. Bootjack has diverted water at the maximum decreed flow rates of the Warren Ditch (2.0 c.f.s.) to fill Warren Lake. *See* Table 2. b. Bootjack North Augmentation Pond: i. Applicant constructed the Bootjack North Augmentation Pond to a volume of 40.25 acre-feet, and it has been filled since at least May 18, 2022. Bootjack has diverted water at the maximum decreed flow rate of the Bootjack North Diversion (3.0 c.f.s.) to fill the Bootjack North Augmentation Pond. *See* Table 2. c. Amy's Lake: i. Applicant constructed Amy's Lake to a volume of 10.8 acre-feet, and it has been filled since at least May 18, 2022. Bootjack has diverted water at the maximum decreed flow rate of the Bootjack North Diversion (3.0 c.f.s.) to fill Amy's Lake. *See* Table 2. 9. Names and addresses of owners or reputed owners of the land upon which any new diversion or storage structure, or modification to any existing diversion or storage structure is or will be constructed or upon which water is or will be stored, including any modification to the existing storage pool: a. All structures are located on Applicant's property. WHEREFORE Applicant requests that the Court enter a decree: 10. Finding that Applicant has been reasonably diligent in the steady application of effort to complete the appropriation of the conditional water rights in a reasonably expedient and efficient manner under the facts and circumstances and continuing the following conditional water rights in full force and effect: a) Cannon Creek Ditch First Enlargement: 2.0 c.f.s., conditional, for all decreed beneficial uses. b) Reach 2 Ditch: 1.63 c.f.s., conditional, for irrigation. c) Amy's Ditch: 2.0 c.f.s., conditional, for all decreed beneficial uses. d) Warren Lake: 26 acre-feet per year, conditional, for fill and refill successively at the max flow rates of 2.0 c.f.s. through Warren Ditch. e) Bootjack North Augmentation Pond: 9.75 acre-feet per year, conditional, for fill and refill successively at a max flow rate of 3.0 c.f.s. through Bootjack North Diversion. f) Amy's Lake: 19.20 acre-feet per year, conditional, for fill and refill successively at the max flow rates of 2.0 c.f.s. through Amy's Ditch and 3.0 c.f.s. through Bootjack North Diversion. 11. Making the following conditional rights absolute: (a) Warren Ditch: 2.0 c.f.s., absolute, for all decreed beneficial uses. (b) Reach 2 Ditch: 0.24, absolute, when not being used for irrigation, for all decreed beneficial uses. (c) Bootjack North Diversion: 3.0 c.f.s., absolute, for all decreed beneficial uses. (d) Reach 2 Ponds A through E: 4.0 acre-feet, cumulative for all Reach 2 Ponds, absolute, for all decreed beneficial uses. (e) Warren Pond: 2.0 acre-feet, absolute, for all decreed beneficial uses. (f) Warren Lake: 40 acre-feet per year, absolute, for fill and refill successively at the max flow rates of 2.0 c.f.s. through Warren Ditch. Applicant's remaining decreed 26 acre-feet per year will continue to be conditional. (g) Bootjack North Augmentation Pond: 40.25 acre-feet per year, absolute, for fill and refill successively at a max flow rate of 3.0 c.f.s. through Bootjack North Diversion. Applicant's remaining decreed 9.75 acre-feet per year will continue to be conditional. (h) Amy's Lake: 10.8 acre-feet per year, absolute, for fill and refill successively at the max flow rates of 2.0 c.f.s. through Amy's Ditch and 3.0 c.f.s. through Bootjack North Diversion. Applicant's remaining decreed 19.20 acre-feet per year will continue to be conditional. 12. In the event the Court does not make the foregoing rights absolute, then continuing their conditional status until the next diligence application. 13. To the extent Applicant exercises the remaining conditional portions of the Cannon Creek Ditch First Enlargement, Reach 2 Ditch, Amy's Ditch, Warren Lake, Bootjack North Augmentation Pond, and Amy's Lake during the pendency of this case, Applicant requests that the Court decree those additional portions absolute as well. 14. Granting such other relief as the Court deems just and proper. (18 pages including exhibits)
THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of November 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: $192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2 nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304)
/s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
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DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradojudicial.gov).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of September 2026, for Archuleta County.
2026CW3029 Archuleta County, Application for Alternate Points of Diversion, To Make Absolute, and for a Finding of Reasonable Diligence for Surface and Underground Water Rights. **1. Applicants**: Alpine Lakes Ranch Property Owners Association, Inc. and Alpine Lakes Ditch and Reservoir Company, Inc., both of 17774 Hwy 84, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, c/o Jeff Kane, Southwest Water and Property Law LLC, 679 E 2nd Ave Unit 10, Durango, CO 81301; jkane@swpropertylaw.com; (970) 422-5512. **2. Prior Decrees, Appropriation Date, Source, Use, Integrated System, Augmentation Plan and Location Map for All Water Rights in this Application**: Applicants operate a central water supply system for the Alpine Lakes Ranch subdivision in Archuleta County for which these water rights are the primary source of supply. Each of these water rights was originally decreed in Case No. 97CW74 (Dec. 15, 1998) with an appropriation date of March 29, 1996, and portions were made absolute and diligence entered in Case Nos. 04CW83, 12CW35, and 19CW26, all in Water Division 7. The source for each water right is water tributary to the Navajo River, including from Spence Creek and Coyote Creek. Each water right has the following decreed use: in the central domestic water supply system for Alpine Lakes Ranch, including uses for domestic, livestock, irrigation of lawns, gardens, shrubs and trees, and fire protection purposes. Irrigation through the central domestic water supply system will include no more than 3,000 square feet per lot, for a maximum of 218 lots, for a total proposed irrigated acreage of no more than 15 acres. Each structure is a feature of an integrated system within the meaning of C.R.S. § 37-92-301(4)(b). Each is also subject to the augmentation plan decreed in Case No 96CW21. The location of each water right is shown on a map filed with the Application. **3. Surface water right for finding of reasonable diligence requested: A. Structure:** Central Supply Intake at Spence Reservoir. **B. Location:** in the SW1/4 NE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, at a point 1,900 feet west of the east section line and 2,150 feet south of the north section line of said Sec 8. **C. Amount:** 1.0 cfs, conditional. **4. Description of conditional underground water rights for which Applicants request to confirm alternate points of diversion, to make a portion absolute, and for entry of a finding of reasonable diligence: A. Structure names, well permit nos., and amounts: i.** ALR Well No. 1 (Permit No. 46660-F): 10 gpm, absolute; **ii.** ALR Well No. 2 (Permit No. 46659-F-R): 5 gpm, absolute; **iii.** ALR Well No. 3 (Permit No. 84590-F), 25 gpm, conditional; **iv.** Mesa Well No. 1 (Permit No. 49735-F): 25 gpm, conditional; **v.** Mesa Well No. 2 (Permit No. 53347-F): 1 gpm absolute, 24 gpm, conditional; **vi.** Mesa Well No. 5 (Permit No. 49740-F): 1 gpm absolute, 24 gpm, conditional; **vii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 (Permit No. 65300-F): 40 gpm conditional; **viii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2 (Permit No. 65301-F): 50 gpm, conditional. **B. Locations: i.** ALR Well No. 1: in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Sec 20, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM approximately 1,503 feet from the north section line and 1,575 feet from the west section line; **ii.** ALR Well No. 2: in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Sec 20, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM approximately 1,677 feet from the north section line and 1,592 feet from the west section line. **iii.** ALR Well No. 3: in the SE1/4 NW1/4 of Sec 20, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM approximately 1,900 feet from the north section line and 1,630 feet from the west section line. **iv.** Mesa Well No. 1: in the SE1/4 NE1/4 of Sec 11, T 32N, R 1W, NMPM, approximately 1,750 feet from the north section line and 500 feet from the east section line. **v.** Mesa Well No. 2: in SW1/4 NE1/4 of Sec 6, T 32N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,600 feet from the east section line and 2,600 feet from the north section line. **vi.** Mesa Well No. 5: in the NW1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 6, T 32N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,675 feet from the east section line and 2,600 feet from the south section line. **vii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: in the SE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 800 feet from the south section line and 850 feet from the east section line. **viii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2: in the NE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,705 feet from the south section line and 1,230 feet from the east section line. **C. Date and amount of water applied to beneficial use in Applicants' central water supply system: i.** ALR Well No. 1: July 15, 1996, at 10 gpm (Case No. 97CW74); **ii.** ALR Well No. 2: July 15, 1996, at 5 gpm (Case No. 97CW74); October 3, 2023, at 12 gpm (this Application); **iii.** ALR Well No. 3: October 20, 2020, at 12 gpm (this Application); **iv.** Mesa Well No. 2: September 22, 1996, at 1 gpm (Case No. 04CW83); **v.** Mesa Well No. 5: January 15, 2002, at 1 gpm (Case No. 04CW83); **vi.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: September 26, 2002, at 7 gpm (this Application); **vii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A: June 10, 2020, at 9 gpm (this Application); **viii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2: September 26, 2002, at 9 gpm (this Application). **5. Description of underground water right structure constructed as an alternate point of diversion for Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: A. Structure:** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A (Permit No. 83924-F). **B. Location:** in the NE1/4 SE1/4 of Sec 8, T 33N, R 1E, NMPM, approximately 1,735 feet from the south section line and 1,042 feet from the east section line; UTM 334533E, 4108730N, Zone 13. **C. Date and amount of water applied to beneficial use in Applicants' central water supply system:** June 20, 2010, in the amount of 9 gpm. **6. Detailed outline of what has been done toward completion of the appropriation and application of water to a beneficial use as conditionally decreed, including expenditures, during the diligence period: A.** Applicants spent approximately $139,824 on consultants and vendors to complete well and pump servicing and replacement, well engineering, well drilling, and investigations and planning for increasing the capacity of Applicant's central water supply system, including for the construction of the additional structures described above. **B.** Applicants retained legal counsel, at a cost of approximately $3,150 for advice concerning the administration and adjudication of Applicants' water rights and augmentation plan. **C.** Applicants completed additional wells and placed them to beneficial use in their central water supply system as follows: **i.** ALR Well No. 2: October 3, 2023, at 12 gpm (this Application; 5 gpm previously decreed absolute); **ii.** ALR Well No. 3: October 20, 2020, at 12 gpm; **iii.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1: September 26, 2002, at 7 gpm. **iv.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A: June 10, 2020, at 9 gpm. **v.** Alpine Meadows Well No. 2: September 26, 2002, at 9 gpm. **7. Applicants' requested findings and relief: A.** Entry of a decree confirming that Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing the appropriation of the Central Supply Intake at Spence Reservoir surface water right and continuing the conditional amount of 1.0 cfs for an additional six years. **B.** Entry of a decree confirming that ALR Well No. 2 is an alternate point of diversion for ALR Well No. 1. **C.** Entry of a decree confirming that ALR Well No. 3 has been constructed and water placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses in the amount of 12 gpm and Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing this appropriation right and continuing the remaining conditional amount of 13 gpm for an additional six years. **D.** Entry of a decree confirming that that Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing the appropriation for Mesa Well Nos. 1, 2, and 5 and continuing the remaining conditional amounts of 25 gpm, 24 gpm, and 24 gpm, respectively, for an additional six years. **E.** Entry of a decree confirming that (i) 7 gpm of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 water right has been placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses, (ii) Alpine Meadows Well No. 1A is alternate point of diversion for the Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 water right (these wells are located approximately 520 feet apart and there are no intervening water rights or structures) and 9 gpm from this well has been placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses, and (iii) Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing this appropriation and continuing the remaining conditional portion of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 1 water right in the amount of 24 gpm for an additional six years. **F.** Entry of a decree confirming that (i) 9 gpm of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 2 water right has been placed to beneficial use for all decreed uses and (ii) Applicants have been reasonably diligent in completing this appropriation and continuing the remaining conditional portion of the Alpine Meadows Well No. 2 water right in the amount of 41 gpm for an additional six years. The requested alternate points of diversion will result in no expansion in the amount or location of use of the water rights decreed in Case No. 97CW74, are within the original contemplated draft of Applicants' conditional water rights decreed in Case No. 97CW74, and are within the same lands and have the same groundwater sources decreed in Case Nos. 97CW74 and 04CW83. **8. Names and addresses of owners or reputed owners of the land upon which any new diversion or storage structure will be constructed or upon which water is or will be stored:** seven landowner names and addresses are included in the Application, each being a member or shareholder of Applicants. Notice of this Application will be given in the manner required by law. (10 pages including exhibits)
THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of November 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: $192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304)
/s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
Published: before October 31, 2026
Published October 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320797)

NOTICE CONCERNING PROPOSED BUDGET OF PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
(PURSUANT TO 29-1-106, C.R.S)

NOTICE is hereby given to all interested parties that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District for the ensuing year of 2027; that a copy of the 2027 Budget has been filed in the office of the District at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where the same is open for public inspection; and on the District's website, www.pawsd.org and that such proposed 2027 Budget will be considered at a Public Meeting of the Board of Directors of the District to be held at 100 Lyn Avenue, Pagosa Springs, Colorado on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Any elector within the District may, at any time prior to the final adoption of the 2027 Budget, inspect the budget and file or register any objections thereto.
PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT
By /s/ Gene Tautges
President, Board of Directors
Published October 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (321059)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR EXCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL REAL PROPERTY FROM THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS SANITATION GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all interested persons that a Petition for Exclusion of additional real property from the boundaries of the Town of Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District ("District") has been filed with the Board of Directors of the District. A public hearing on the Petition shall be held Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026, at the hour of 5:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, the 1st day of December 2026 at the hour of 5:00 p.m., at 551 Hot Springs Boulevard, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.
The name(s) of the Petitioner(s) is/are:
Kelly P. Miller
Patricia L. Miller
The property requested to be excluded from the District is described as follows:
Subdivision: MOUNTAIN VIEW Block: 1 Lot: 2 Sec: 18 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W and
Subdivision: MOUNTAIN VIEW Block: 1 Lot: 1 Sec: 18 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W
All interested parties may appear at such hearing to show cause why such Petition should
not be granted.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS SANITATION GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.
TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS SANITATION GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
By: /s/ April Hessman, Secretary
Published in: Pagosa Springs Sun
Published on: October 22, 2026
October 29, 2026
Published October 22 and 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (320962)

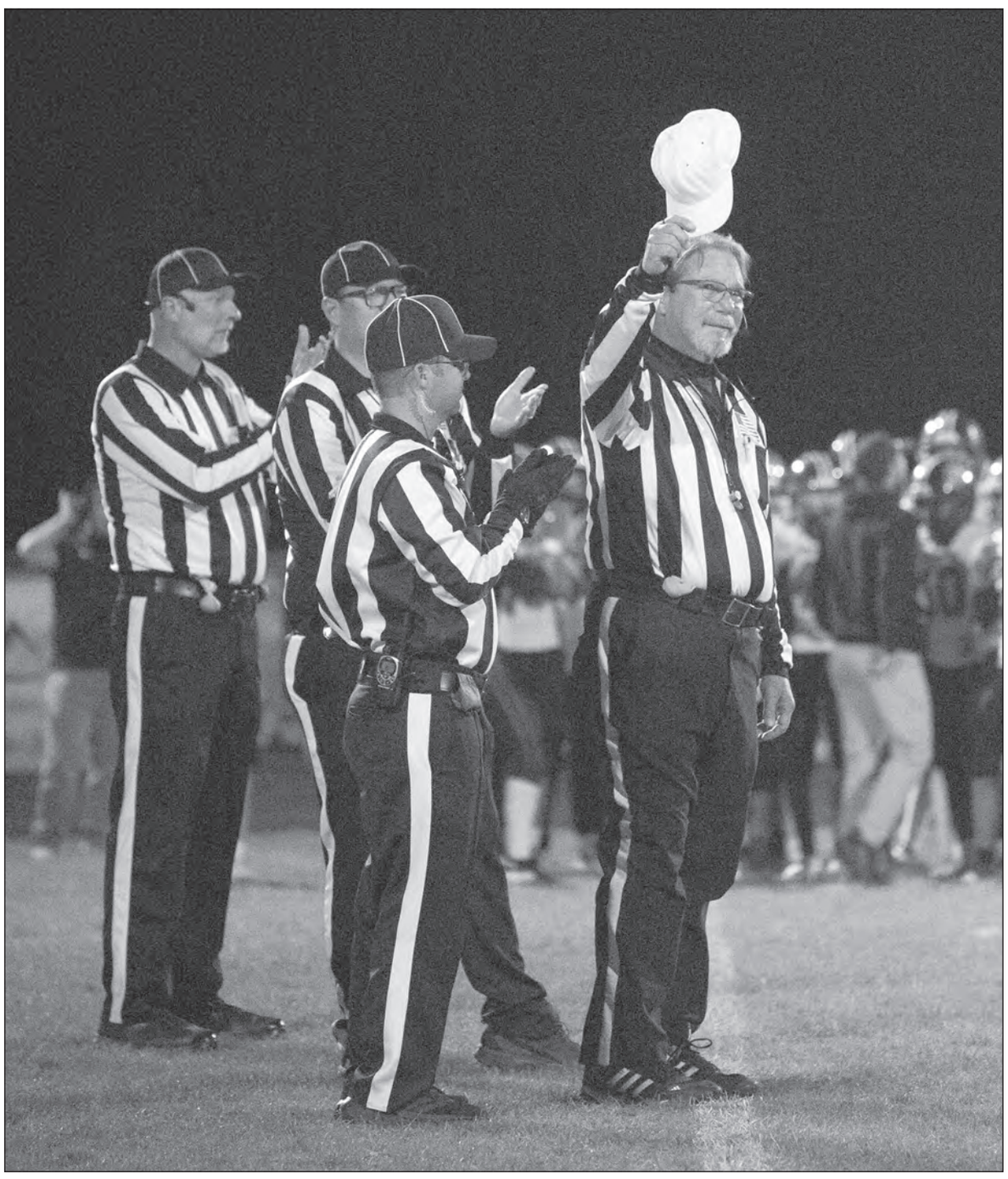
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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)

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)

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)



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Longtime referee Neil Stock tips his hat to the crowd before the Oct. 16 football game at Golden Peaks Stadium. Stock was honored and thanked following the announcement that Stock will be retiring from on-field duties after 30 years as a referee with that night's game. "His service to Colorado during those 30 years include officiating somewhere between 700 and 800 games, 60 to 70 playoff games and selections by CHSAA leadership for two state championships," the tribute stated. Stock will continue as a mentor and trainer for new officials.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, Oct. 24

By Randi Pierce
Staff writer

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) will participate in the 31st National Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, Oct. 24.

According to Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux and the ACSO, the take back will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the ACSO administration building, located at 85 Harman Park Drive.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) Rocky Mountain Field Division, more than 4,400 collection sites will be set up across the country to dispose of unneeded, expired and unused prescription medications.

"This is a simple step that prevents diversion, reduces the risk of accidental poisoning, and helps protect communities," a DEA press release states.

"Since 2010, Take Back Day has helped Americans remove more than 20 million pounds of unneeded medications from their homes," said DEA Administrator Terry Cole. "By participating in Take Back Day, you are preventing potentially addictive medications from falling into the wrong hands — a small step that can save lives. I am grateful to the thousands of law enforcement and community partners who make these events possible, and I urge everyone to take a few minutes on Saturday, Oct. 24, to clean out your medicine cabinets."

"Every year, we are encouraged by how many people in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana turn out and properly dispose of their unneeded, unwanted, or expired medications," said DEA Rocky Mountain Field Division Special Agent in Charge Mark Putnam. "During the most recent Take Back Day April 25, our four states collected a total of 27,590 pounds of medications that may have otherwise been flushed, thrown in the trash, or simply sat in a medicine cabinet. This is the way to do it."

What will be collected

- Tablets, capsules, patches and other forms of prescription medications.
- Liquid medications securely sealed in their original containers.

What won't be collected

- Syringes, sharps and illicit drugs.

Why it matters

Prescription opioids — such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine and morphine — are among the most frequently misused prescription pain medications, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Removing unneeded medications from the home reduces the risk of misuse or accidental ingestion, the DEA notes.

For more information, visit www.DEATakeBack.com.

League of Women Voters of Archuleta County to hold nonpartisan ballot review meeting Oct. 26

By Janice McIntyre
League of Women Voters of Archuleta County

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Archuleta County will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Our evening will focus on a discussion of the 2026 State Ballot Information Booklet including the amendments, propositions and local initiatives.

This meeting is open to members and the public as a community election resource.

There will also be a discussion of Colorado LWV resources and local LWV leadership positions.

Please bring your election blue books if available for the discussion. This is an opportunity for you to be better informed about Colorado election processes and specific details of the current election.

Please remember to leave all partisan/political materials in your car.

We will also collect donations for the church's food pantry in cash, check and/or food pantry items. We hope to see you there.

Colorado State Patrol announces sobriety checkpoint results

Colorado State Patrol

Following are the results for the safety and sobriety checkpoint, which took place Oct. 17 (p.m.) through October 18 (a.m.) on U.S. 160 near Trinity Lane in Archuleta County:

- Traffic contacts: 516.
- Roadsides administered: 7.
- DUI arrests: 2.

There were no DUI-related crashes in Archuleta County during the checkpoint.

Community news.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100
PagosaSUN.com



Photo courtesy of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions

Dr. Robert Melton, owner of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions, provides personalized hearing, tinnitus and cognitive wellness care to the Pagosa Springs community.

The bigger picture of hearing health

By Allison Brown

Hearing loss is far more than a routine communication challenge. Growing research suggests that hearing health is deeply connected to brain health, social engagement and healthy aging.

A recent analysis from the Framingham Heart Study found that midlife hearing loss was associated with changes in brain structure, executive function declines and a 71% higher risk of developing dementia over 15 years.

While the study shows an association rather than direct causation, it adds to a growing body of evidence suggesting hearing care is a vital component of cognitive health.

For audiologist Robert Melton, owner of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions in Pagosa Springs, the research reinforces the importance of taking a proactive approach to lifelong care.

"Taking care of your hearing is about more than hearing better today," Melton said. "It may also be an important part of staying connected, engaged, independent and cognitively healthy as we age."

Melton encourages adults to establish a hearing baseline and monitor changes over time rather than waiting for severe problems to develop. Untreated hearing difficulties increase the effort required to follow conversations and often lead to social withdrawal.

At Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions, hearing health is viewed like monitoring vision or blood pressure as part of routine preventive health care.

As an independent, locally owned practice, the clinic provides comprehensive evaluations, earwax management, advanced hearing technology and specialized tinnitus treatments not widely available in the region.

In recognition of Audiology Awareness Month in October, Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is offering a special promotion on premium hearing technology. To schedule a baseline evaluation, call 970-444-2314 or visit htsaudiology.com.

Their guiding motto says it best: Hear well. Stay connected. Live well.

Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.

Professional Directory

Attorney



Daniel L. Fiedler
Attorney at Law

Estate Planning • Wills • Trusts
Probate • Elder Law

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next to Restoration Church, behind City Market

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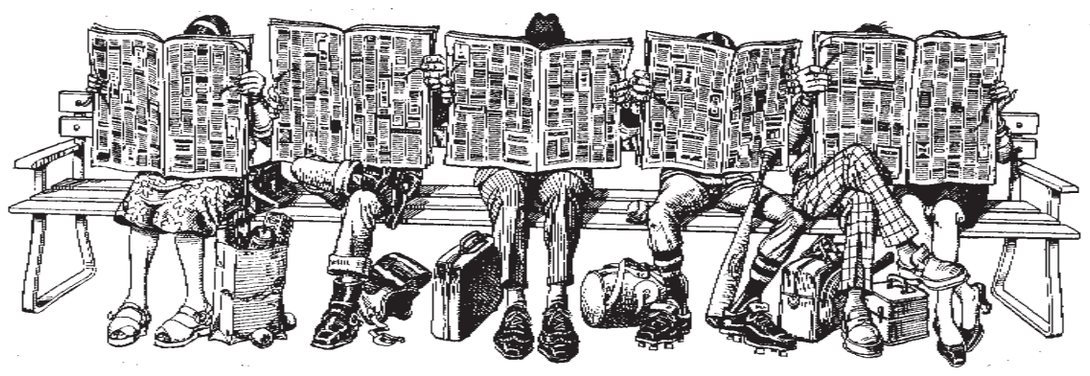
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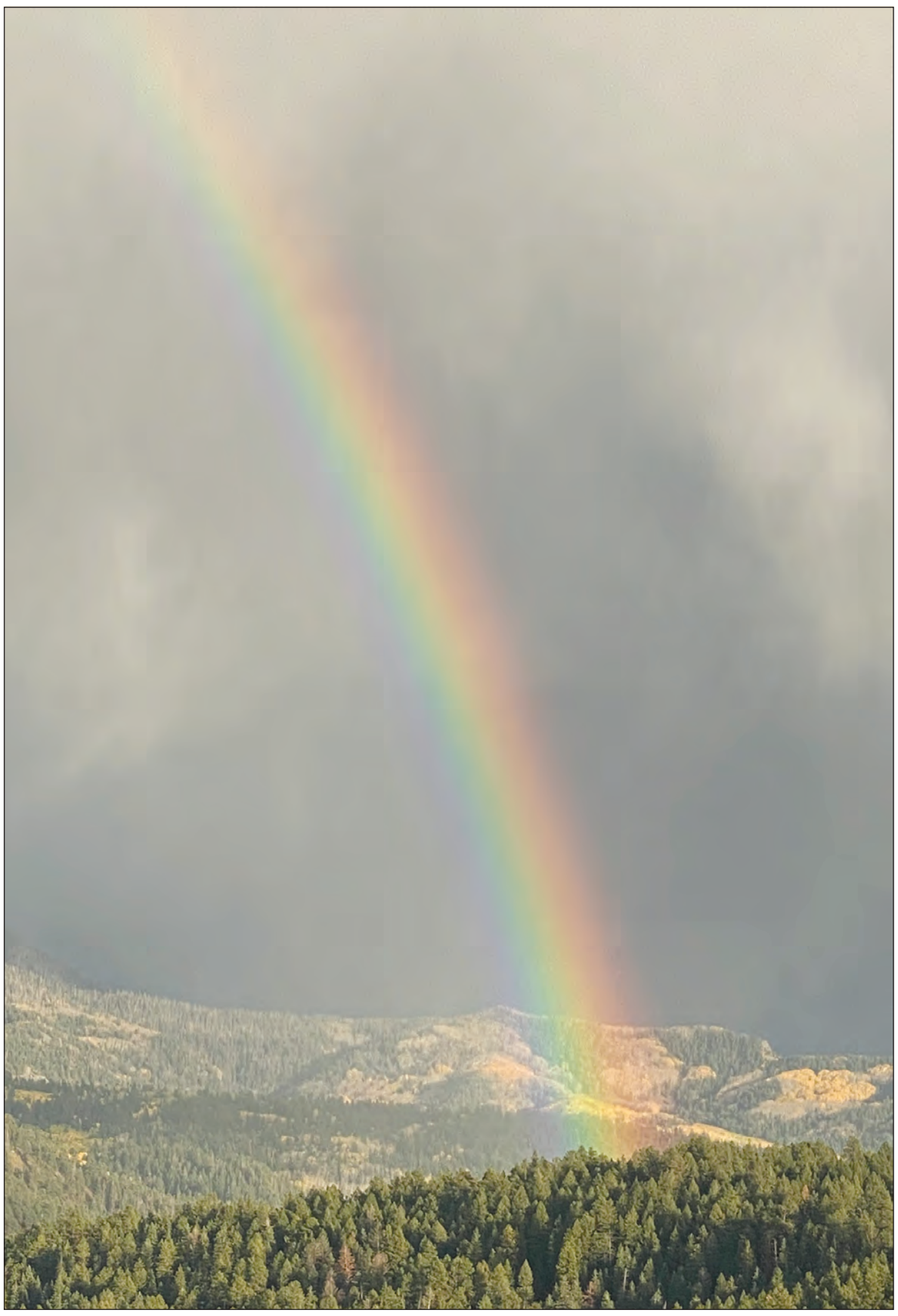
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SUN photo/Ashley Cassidy

A rainbow graces the sky as seen from east of Pagosa Springs on Monday, Oct. 19. Rain is forecasted to continue into the weekend.

Business Owners:
We're Celebrating our Veterans!



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

On November 5, we will publish photo pages in The Pagosa Springs SUN to honor those who have served.

You can help sponsor these pages by contacting your advertising representative by October 30 at (970)264-2100.

A sponsorship ad is $150 for each 2 column wide by 2-7/8" inch tall space.

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Archuleta Health Fair and Expo

7 a.m. to noon • Saturday, Oct. 24 • Pagosa Springs High School



Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Don't miss the Archuleta Health Fair and Expo this Saturday

Healthy Archuleta

The fourth annual Archuleta Health Fair and Expo is this Saturday, Oct. 24, at Pagosa Springs High School from 7 a.m. to noon.

Online preregistration closes on Thursday, Oct. 22, at noon. Register now at https://www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html to reserve your preferred time for your blood draw, and to participate in the farm-to-table breakfast and keynote presentation.

Missed the noon online deadline? Don't worry. You can still register on-site at the event to enjoy breakfast, which is included with the $5 entrance fee, and sign up for blood draws, offered until 10 a.m., with low-cost blood tests ranging from $6 to $20 depending on the selection.

The Archuleta Health Fair and Expo is an important annual community event that promotes health and wellness while connecting community members with essential preventive health care.

We are so grateful for the 50+ local, regional and statewide organizations that have come together to support this year's Health Fair. These organizations offer health screenings and lab draws, provide informational booths, support education tables, and sponsor the event to bring these resources to our community.

Be sure to stop by the event to support your individual and the community's health and wellness. To see a full list of services and exhibitors, visit Healthy Archuleta's website at https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html.

This year we are serving breakfast. Prepared by some of Pagosa's local food industry favorites, the meal will feature locally grown and sourced ingredients and will be available from 7:30 to 10 a.m.

The keynote presentation, "Caring For Your Brain Across the Lifespan," by Dr. Arturo Montaño, MD, a board-certified neurologist at Pagosa Springs Medical Center, will take place in the auditorium from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. You won't want to miss this timely topic, which will explore practical strategies for keeping the brain healthy as we age, along with risk factors, prevention, and treatment options for common neurological conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's disease, stroke and nerve damage.

You can still register online today, Thursday, Oct. 22, until noon, or simply show up on Saturday to participate in this year's Archuleta Health Fair and Expo.

Visit https://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/archuleta-health-fair-and-expo.html.

Sign up for low-cost wellness labs, participate in health screenings, talk with health care agencies and community organizations, and visit health and wellness vendors. Celebrate health and wellness with the community at the 2026 Archuleta Health Fair and Expo.

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Two Hand Touch, 6 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Blondie Brunnette Band, 6 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.

Wednesday
Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Pagosa Bible Church would like to invite you to join us for our annual Trunk or Treat!
Saturday, Oct. 31st
5-7 pm
There will be no on-site parking due to construction. There is a FREE SHUTTLE from Ponderosa Lumber and the Antique Mall parking lots. Parking also available at the courthouse, Trinity Anglican Church and Wells Fargo Bank.
Join us for a safe and fun evening with decorated trunks, candy, free food and more!
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Domestic Violence Awareness Month: when leaving is only the beginning

By Kaylie Jackson-Hauf
Rise Above Violence

When we talk about domestic violence, leaving an abusive relationship is often viewed as the turning point when someone finds safety, begins a new chapter and moves forward with their life.

While leaving can be an important step, it does not necessarily mean the challenges associated with abuse have come to an end. For many survivors, it marks the beginning of a different journey.

The effects of domestic violence can reach far beyond the relationship itself. Survivors may face the difficult task of finding housing, securing employment, managing finances or rebuilding connections with friends and family. For those with children, navigating parenting arrangements and maintaining a sense of stability for their families can bring additional challenges. For many survivors, rebuilding their lives involves challenges that continue long after leaving.

Beyond these immediate needs, there are emotional impacts that can take time to understand and work through.

Living with abuse can affect a person's confidence, sense of independence, and ability to trust themselves and others. Decisions that once felt simple may become overwhelming, and learning to feel secure in unfamiliar circumstances can take time. Even after a relationship has ended, survivors may continue to experience fear, uncertainty or the lasting effects of trauma.

It is also important to recognize that leaving does not always mean the abuse comes to an end.

Some survivors continue to experience harassment, intimidation, financial manipulation or other forms of control after a relationship ends. Shared parenting responsibilities, financial obligations and other connections may make it difficult to fully separate from an abusive partner.

Understanding these realities helps explain why safety and healing are not always achieved through a single decision or moment in time.

At Rise Above Violence, we recognize that moving forward looks different for every survivor. Some may be focused on meeting immediate needs, while others are working toward long-term stability. There is no universal timeline for recovery, and progress is not always straightforward. Our role is to provide advocacy, resources and support that honor each person's individual circumstances, choices and goals.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month continues, we hope to broaden the conversation beyond the act of leaving and recognize everything that can come afterward.

Healing is not defined by a single decision or moment, but can involve rebuilding a life with greater safety, stability and independence. Every step toward that future matters, and every survivor deserves the time, resources and support to move forward in a way that is right for them.

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Fall is an ideal time to plant!

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A broken shark, a strange family and two shows worth catching

By Samantha Luck
Thingamajig Theatre Company



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Scott Morehead, Cameron Vargas and Tim Moore wait aboard the Orca in "Thingamajig Theatre Company's The Shark Is Broken," playing through Nov. 15.

One show is set aboard the Orca, where the mechanical shark keeps breaking down. The other begins when Wednesday Addams asks her father to keep a secret from her mother. Thingamajig Theatre Company has both stories onstage at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts: the ongoing "The Shark Is Broken" and the newly opened teen production "The Addams Family Young@Part."

During the filming of "Jaws," repeated problems with the mechanical shark left stars Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider and Richard Dreyfuss waiting together aboard the Orca. "The Shark Is Broken," written by Ian Shaw and Joseph Nixon, imagines what those hours might have sounded like: arguments about fame, money, politics and who matters most. Tim Moore, Scott Morehead and Cameron Vargas play the three actors. The production opened Oct. 9 and runs through Nov. 15.

Audiences have praised the acting and the production details.

One viewer summed up the appeal as "Fantastic dialogue, acting, set design and story." Another said the actors were "the spitting image of the original movie cast." A particularly apt endorsement described "three very smart performers in a very smart script!" One audience member's recommendation was brief: "Do not miss this show."

After weeks of rehearsal, Thingamajig's teen company opened "The Addams Family Young@Part" on Sunday, Oct. 18.

Wednesday has fallen in love with a young man from an ordinary family and asks her father, Gomez, to keep the news from Morticia. When the young man and his parents arrive at the Addams home, the two families attempt to get through dinner together.

Upcoming performances are "The Addams Family Young@Part" on Thursday, Oct. 22 and Sunday, Oct. 25; "The Shark Is Broken" on Wednesday, Oct. 28; and "The Addams Family Young@Part" Thursday, Oct. 29 through Saturday, Oct. 31.

Both productions are at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For performance times and tickets, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Leela Simpson performs as Morticia Addams and Finlay Moore as Gomez Addams dance a tango in "The Addams Family Young@Part." After weeks of rehearsal, the teen company opened the production on Oct. 18.

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Upcoming End of Life Education meetings to feature questions from past sessions, discussions

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

On Thursdays, Oct. 22 and 29, End of Life Education will feature questions from past sessions and small-group discussions.

I realize that this is no one's favorite topic, but I cannot count the times that people have said to me how important and helpful these sessions have been.

For people who have led a planned-for and orderly life, it is so important to find out what options are available and make what choices you have. It is better to face reality and prepare as much as possible for the options that are available.

The meetings will begin at 1 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in their fellowship hall, which has a side door right off the parking lot. (The front doors are often locked if there are no other church activities.)

There is a basket for a church donation, or people can bring food for the church pantry, but otherwise there is no cost.

On Oct. 22, we will have a speaker from a local funeral home to present information and answer questions. On Oct. 29, we will have a review of all information presented with available brochures and small-group discussions.

When you come to any of our meetings, you can get the booklet for end-of-life decisions that is given to you when you enter a hospital in Colorado. Now is a better time to get it and carefully read the choices that you can make.

On Nov. 12, we will try again to meet with the Emergency Medical Service team to find out what happens when you call 911. You may hope your fairy godmother shows up, but it is actually a team of what I think are true heroes. This is when you need to have a do-not-resuscitate form on your refrigerator.

You might ask why you would ever want to not be resuscitated. The truth of the matter is that if they resuscitate you, it means that you were actually dead. I have decided that if I am dead, I would prefer to stay dead. My life was great and it is over, and I am grateful for a quick and easy end.

Now, for some people, especially at an early age, resuscitation makes sense. I know of a man who was resuscitated in his 50s, and he is happy he did it. But, if you have lived a full life there comes a point that you don't want to be resuscitated only to die again, perhaps a slower and more painful process. There is life and then there is also quality of life. There is much to be considered.

I wish that people would know how important these sessions can be and help themselves by being as prepared as possible. It is not morbid to face reality, and it does not make you sad. It can make you love others and appreciate much more the life you have and available choices until the end.



San Juan Stargazers to discuss new galaxies Nov. 5

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The next meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be on Thursday, Nov. 5, starting at 6 p.m. with our social hour. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend because we will be looking at newly discovered galaxies from the James Webb Space Telescope.

Mont McAllister has been a member of the San Juan Stargazers for many years and has participated in educational programs and star parties galore, but this is the first one he is totally in charge of. We hope you will come to see his great program.

We meet at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. You can use the side door off the parking lot into the kitchen and then into the fellowship hall. (The main doors to the church are locked.)

Just come in and take a seat. Coming early offers a great chance to ask all your astronomy questions and visit with smart and caring people.

The educational part of our meeting begins at 7 p.m. and lasts about 1.5 to two hours.

This is not an advanced astronomy presentation. Materials, many from the European Space Agency, were made to educate the general public about discoveries. The James Webb Team is big on education for everyone, so information is simple and easy to understand.

Come to see how interesting and enjoyable it can be. There have been way too many newly discovered galaxies to cover them all. They will be studied for many years to come.

McAllister will pick out the best and most interesting ones to share. Many people in Pagosa Springs know him as a local bus driver, but you will now find out about some of his other talents. He is an amazing person.

If you want to join the San Juan Stargazers, you can do it at this meeting or you can check out our website, sanjuanstargazers.org, where we have information about astronomy, our local club and the Astronomical League, which is a large group of people from all over the U.S. that you automatically belong to when you join the Stargazers. It gives you all the opportunities of a huge club. There also are beautiful photos throughout the website.

We look forward to our meeting, and, as said, everyone is invited to come because the James Webb Space Telescope was made for all people so we know what an exciting time we live in and how absolutely wondrous our universe is.

You can come as a family and I assure you it will increase your discussion time around the dinner table.

Come and get excited about life, James Webb discoveries and the entire amazing universe. We will see you there.

Informative.
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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to continue focus on 'Living the Questions'

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship gathers in community each Sunday to learn and respond to justice making as we engage our lived values in the world.

Sunday, Oct. 25, is our Action Sunday, and each fourth Sunday of the month is where we put this into practice.

We will continue to focus on the theme of "Living the Questions," finding resources to stay informed and engage in actions to meet the moment in faithful ways. Over the last few months, we have addressed many postcards encouraging people to vote, and we hope to continue this effort this week before the election.

Join us for this community-minded small group in a positive, informal setting. All are welcome as we honor and celebrate diversity.

The UU Fellowship meets for worship services the first and third Sundays of the month, and offers small group ministry the second and fourth Sundays, all beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Our Community Hub is home to several other gatherings and are open to all.

Weekly Tara Meditation practice is on Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Qi Gong Practice is Mondays at 1 p.m.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle is the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

You can find us at the Greenbrier Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd. Unit B-15, on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We also offer Zoom services the first and third Sundays of the month.

Find our current newsletter at PagosaUU.org for the link to join on Zoom and further information.

Volunteers needed for annual Red Kettle campaign

Archuleta County Salvation Army

The Archuleta County Salvation Army will kick off its annual Red Kettle fundraising campaign on Nov. 21, and we're looking for volunteers to help make this year's campaign a success.

As a 100 percent volunteer-run organization, the Archuleta County Salvation Army is dedicated to helping local individuals and families in need. Assistance includes emergency shelter, food, prescription medications and support for newborns.

Ninety percent of the funds raised stay right here in Archuleta County.

We invite local churches, businesses, community groups, families and individuals to join us in ringing the bell this holiday season. It's a fun and meaningful way to spread holiday cheer while giving back to our community and helping neighbors in need.

Signing up is easy. Visit our online sign-up page to view available shifts and choose a time that works for you: https://bit.ly/RedKettleSignup.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Tom Bruin at (224) 730-7910 or tom.redkettle@gmail.com.

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority donates more than $1.4 million to 134 colorado nonprofits

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority

The Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) has announced the recipients of the 2026 Round Two Direct Effect Awards.

In this round, CHFA is donating $1,462,500 to 134 nonprofits across Colorado. The average award amount in Round Two is $10,914.

CHFA's Direct Effect Awards recognize Colorado nonprofit organizations whose missions align with CHFA's work to strengthen Colorado by investing in affordable housing and community development.

Round Two was open to organizations applying for funds to advance economic development, education and food access.

Round One, held earlier in 2026, supported organizations applying for funds to advance affordable homeownership and affordable rental housing.

Including this latest round of awards, CHFA has donated more than $13.8 million in Direct Effect Awards to more than 670 Colorado organizations since 2021.

Included in the latest round of funding are:

- Build Pagosa: $10,000.
- Healthy Archuleta: $5,000.
- Pagosa Community Initiative: $12,500.

CHFA is not a state agency and does not receive any direct state or federal appropriations. CHFA is a self-sufficient, quasi-governmental organization serving Colorado.

The Direct Effect Awards are funded by directing a portion of CHFA's program investments and earnings to provide philanthropic support and strengthen the capacity of mission-aligned nonprofits throughout Colorado. Please see chfainfo.com/directeffect for more information.



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PSMC EMS and Hospital

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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, 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.

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:

• Nov. 7 and 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: "Refresh Body, Mind and Spirit Sessions." Call or text (970) 309-6067.

The center also offers educational classes and workshops.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3).

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.

New School Location: Myths vs. Facts
Understanding Ballot Issue 5A

WE BUILD. THEY GROW. A NEW PK-8 SCHOOL ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT

MYTH #1

If I vote "No" because I don't like Vista Boulevard, the district will choose a different site.

FACT #1

The School Board selected Vista Boulevard after reviewing extensive professional site analysis, comprehensive costs, community feedback, and long-term needs. **No alternative site is currently under consideration.**

MYTH #2

If 5A doesn't pass, the district can revise the plan.

FACT #2

The district must reapply for a BEST grant in spring 2027. Changing the location will weaken our application. The greenfield build on property owned debt-free, which adds needed amenities like gymnasium, field, and track is a strength of the current application.

MYTH #3

Voting "No" only sends a message that I don't like the location.

FACT #3

A "No" vote means this proposed new school won't move forward, leaving elementary and middle school students in aging facilities with existing health, safety, security, and learning limitations.

Know what your vote means.
Learn more about Ballot Issue 5A
Go to: CitizensforASD.org

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

Vote YES on 5A
for a new **PK-8 School**

The truth about the eighth day

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Artist's Lane

For some of us, our hearts thirst for more. The more we know, the deeper our faith.

"Why doesn't anyone know about the eighth day?"

"Because it isn't taught."

I gave my daughter a quick lesson about the "eighth day" when she asked how my Zoom Bible study went.

The eighth day appears at specific biblical celebrations. Speaking of the Feasts of the Tabernacles found in John 7, it is supported by three Old Testament scriptures.

"When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter," (Ezekiel 43:27a, NKJV). See Leviticus 23:36 and Nehemiah 8:18 (NKJV).

As Christians we are living in the eighth day, and not even aware of it. Beyond the traditional creation week established in Genesis, beyond time and space, the eighth day is the resurrected life, which we sing, "He has risen." Jesus was crucified on the Friday, remained in the tomb on the Sabbath and was raised from the dead on Sunday — the day after the Sabbath. In early Christian writing, Sunday is considered both the first day of the new week and the eighth day — a day that breaks out of the old cycle of time.

Christians do not live under the law of the Old Testament, but under grace which gives us resurrected life in Him. By rising on the "eighth day," Jesus initiated a new, spiritual creation, which we are a part of, and we are to live in.

My daughter asked me, "Where are you getting this stuff?"

Her skepticism caught me off guard. I explained that these ideas come from spending time with the Lord, studying the scripture and reading the works of classic theologians like Charles Spurgeon, Oswald Chambers and G. Campbell Morgan.

"I can give you chapter and verse and the surrounding text." I explained my findings to her. I realized it was more than she needed. It sounded like heresy. As if I was going to Sedona for crystal healing and channeling.

"Does truth have layers?" Truth is absolute and unchanging. "And there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9, NKJV). While truth does not change, our human understanding of it does. Because our minds are finite, we tend to learn in layers based on our experiences and what we are able to process.

This distinction became especially clear to me while listening to a recent podcast hosted by two high-profile figures. They were relatively new to their faith and lacked a complete understanding of the history and sovereignty of God. With big megaphones, they were telling the world what they believed and were very convincing. Their commentary ended up stirring anger in many rather than understanding.

I gauged them on my own spiritual journey. When I was first opened to spiritual truths, I knew very little — absolutely nothing. Just enough to be dangerous.

I am very aware of leading someone in error. The Bible warns those who teach. "Don't aim at adding to the number of teachers, my brothers, I beg you! Remember that we who are teachers will be judged by a much higher standard" (James 3:1, Phillips).

Truth is given to us by the Holy Spirit. If we are willing to reach beyond our perceived ideas and wishful thinking, another layer of understanding will come to us. If not, we only delay the reckoning with it.

Final brushstroke: For some of us, our hearts thirst for more. The more we know, the deeper our faith. In these troubled times, we need all the faith we can get. Especially, we need discernment if someone seems to be trustworthy, but only telling what they think they know.

Readers' comments

Send your comments to bettyslade.author@gmail.com

"Hi Mrs. Slade,

"I just read your article from the September 17th newspaper and wanted to tell you it was touching to me. You have a lot of grace about you and I want to send you love and blessings in the Lord as you walk through your next steps with and without your sweet Al. Thanks for sharing your heart and encouraging the rest of us.

"Sincerely,

"Kendra Hittle"

"I do live here in Pagosa. I do not read all of your columns, but when I do I always find them encouraging and insightful, so I am happy to check out your newsletter. I have not really gone through this with a loved one up close--my grandparents dealt with dementia before their deaths, but as a granddaughter I was shielded from the day to day care. My own mom is starting to have memory issues, so the struggle and love I see in our futures makes me very tender to hearing of how others walk through this. Thanks for your words!

"Kendra."

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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

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SWORD Council awards nearly $1 million in 2027 community grants to address opioid misuse in Southwest Colorado

By Laura Warner
SouthWEST Opioid Response District

The SouthWEST Opioid Response District (SWORD) Council announced that it has awarded nearly $1 million in community grants to 12 organizations addressing opioid misuse and strengthening community resilience across Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

The $996,523.08 in awards, approved at the Oct. 14 SWORD Council meeting, will support programs and services aligned with four priorities: supporting people in treatment and recovery, treating opioid use disorder, addressing the needs of criminal justice involved individuals, and preventing opioid misuse.

The council's Community Grant program supports organizations working to meet regional needs and strengthen the systems of care available to individuals affected by opioid use disorder.

The 12 awards were selected from 21 applications requesting more than $1.9 million in total.

"Through these grants, the SWORD Council is investing in local solutions that address the many ways opioid misuse affects individuals, families and communities," Laurel Schafer, SWORD Council chair said. "The funds will help community organizations expand access to recovery support, improve connections to treatment, strengthen services for vulnerable populations and invest in prevention efforts for young people."

2027 Community Grant Awardees are:

• 22nd Judicial District — $85,085: Pre-trial services for defendants in Montezuma and Dolores counties.

• Axis Health System — $100,000: Staffing support to maintain 24/7 walk-in operations and rapid-access services at the Durango Regional Crisis Center.

• Boys and Girls Club of La Plata County — $25,000: Evidence-informed prevention and youth development programs for young people ages 9-17.

• CommonSpirit Mercy Hospital — $79,997.50: Feasibility study of and partnership with Colorado ROOTS addiction specialists to provide consultations via telehealth, plus patient navigation for transitions from acute care to ongoing treatment.

• Four Doves — $49,500: Low-barrier recovery navigation and long-term stability resources for adults in Dolores and Montezuma counties affected by opioid use disorder.

• Healthy Archuleta — $89,447.60: Support for the Youth Community Learning and Leadership Circle and the Youth Leadership Internship Program which strengthen protective factors against substance misuse among youth.

• Indigenous Wellbriety — $99,990.04: Peer recovery coaching, Talking Circles, outreach, referrals and navigation to treatment and other community resources, prioritizing Native Americans in Montezuma and La Plata counties.

• Manna – The Durango Soup Kitchen — $82,104: Peer-led, comprehensive recovery support program for people with opioid use disorder and co-occurring behavioral health conditions.

• Porch Light Health — $104,918: Expand access to medication-assisted treatment, re-entry transition supports and recovery engagement incentives for individuals with opioid use disorder in correctional settings in La Plata and Montezuma counties.

• Southern Ute Indian Tribe — $82,261.20: Furniture for new recovery housing serving Native Americans, with 12 beds for women and 12 beds for men.

• Team Up — $79,104.74: Support for Youth Councils on Mental Health across the region. Councils address opioid misuse, co-occurring substance use and behavioral health challenges.

• The Piñon Project — $119,115: Outreach and case management for individuals affected by opiate use disorder and experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Montezuma and Dolores counties.

For more information about the SWORD Council and its Community Grant program, contact Laura Warner at sword@region9edd.org or visit www.region9edd.org/sword.

About the SWORD Council

The SWORD Council formed in 2022 to address the impacts of opioid misuse in Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties through strategic investments of opioid settlement funds.

Subtle signs of bullying

Special to The PREVIEW

Bullying is a pervasive problem that continues to affect children of all ages. According to the initiative StopBullying.gov, about 20 percent of students between the ages of 12 and 18 experience bullying.

Bullying happens most often during the middle school years and frequently will not be reported by the targeted children.

Kids often feel embarrassed, fearful or hopeless about speaking up about bullying. That can compromise parents' ability to identify when a child is being bullied. Kids also can be bullied when they would traditionally have been safe, as the rise of digital connectivity means bullying no longer is confined to the schoolyard; cyberbullying allows harassment to follow kids into their homes.

Caregivers and parents can look for these subtle indicators that bullying is taking place:

• Physical symptoms: StopBullying.gov notes that unexplained physical indicators often are the most direct red flags that a child is being bullied. Bullied children frequently experience cuts, bruises or scratches that are unexplained. Complaints of frequent headaches, stomach aches, or feeling sick, especially on school mornings, also can indicate children are being bullied.

• Missing or damaged items: Bul-

■ See Bullying on next page





Communities Supporting New School Construction in the past 15 years in Southwest Colorado.

Durango - 2024
Dolores - 2023
Dove Creek - 2022
Del Norte - 2017
Mancos - 2017
Bayfield - 2016
Cortez - 2012
Ignacio - 2011

Vote YES on 5A for a new PK-8 School

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

100 years ago this month: historical events from October 1926

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of October has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in October 1926:

• Electrosurgery is performed for the first time on Oct. 1 in Boston. Dr. Harvey Cushing performs the operation, during which he used an electrosurgical device to remove a mass from a patient's head.

• The first in-flight fire in airline history occurs aboard an Air Union airliner on Oct. 2 in England. All seven people aboard are killed, and the plane crashes in Leigh, Kent.

• Father Charles Coughlin begins his weekly sermons broadcast on WJR in Detroit on Oct. 3.

• Pennsylvania's blue laws are invoked in Pittsburgh on Oct. 6. The laws, which were initially adopted in 1794, ban all Sunday sports in the city.

• On Oct. 6, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees becomes the first player to hit three home runs in a World Series game. The feat would not be matched for 51 years, when another Yankee, Reggie Jackson, hits three homeruns against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

• Benito Mussolini declares himself the head of Italy's national militia on Oct. 9. The declaration gives Mussolini personal command of all armed forces in Italy.

• Babe Ruth is caught trying to steal second base with two outs in the 10th inning of Game 7 of the World Series on Oct. 10. Ruth's caught stealing occurs while Lou Gehrig is in the on-deck circle and is the final out of the Series, which is won by the St. Louis Cardinals.

• A notice in the Soviet newspaper Izvestia on Oct. 11 announces that three men, including Leon Trotsky, would be placed on trial for being overly critical of the Communist Party at a recent party conference.

• Thieves use ladders to scale the wall of the Condé Museum in Chantilly, Oise, France, on Oct. 12. The thieves ultimately escape with the Condé Diamond, which once belonged to 17th century general Louis, Grand Condé.

• On Oct. 13, the United States Supreme Court rules that government directives to change clocks for daylight saving time are constitutional.

• In comments published in the Daily Express on Oct. 13, British Labour Party MP Alfred Salter says that drunkenness is a frequent sight in the House of Commons.

• The A.A. Milne book "Winnie-the-Pooh" is published and released to the public in Great Britain and the United States on Oct. 14.

• Thousands attend a ticker tape parade in New York City welcoming Queen Marie of Romania to the United States on Oct. 18.

• Charles Edward Anderson Berry is born into a middle-class family in St. Louis on Oct. 18. Berry would eventually come to be known as "Chuck Berry" and become one of the pioneers of rock and roll.

• Architect Frank Lloyd Wright is arrested at a cottage in Wildhurst, Minn., on Oct. 20. Wright, who was staying at the cottage with a Montenegrin woman, Olga Milanoff, who was not his wife, is arrested for adultery.

• "The Sun Also Rises," Ernest Hemingway's first novel, is published on Oct. 22.

• On Oct. 24, illusionist Harry Houdini performs for the final time. After the performance, which Houdini delivered in spite of a 104 F fever, Houdini collapsed in his dressing room and was subsequently taken to the hospital.

• Pope Pius XI carries out the consecration of six Chinese bishops on Oct. 28. The consecration marks the first time since the 17th century that Chinese Roman Catholics are elevated to the bishopric by the Vatican.

• Mussolini survives the fourth attempt on his life in 12 months on Oct. 31. Mussolini is shot at by 15-year-old anarchist Anteo Zamboni in Bologna, but the bullet fails to pierce his body. Police subsequently allow a mob to lynch Zamboni on the spot.

Bullying

■ continued from previous page

lied children may return home from school with damaged or lost belongings, or missing school supplies. If a child is especially hungry when returning home from school, that could indicate that lunch money or the lunch itself was stolen.

• Emotional changes: Drastic changes in mood and daily routines may signal bullying distress. Many children who were once outgoing will become withdrawn or clingy if a bully is affecting them. Outbursts or defensive behavior also can occur.

• Loss of interest: Self-esteem wanes when a child is being bullied, so the child may step back from sports or other activities.

• Avoidance of technology: A child who is being cyberbullied may begin to eschew using a phone, tablet or computer.

There is no single sign that a child is being bullied, but a pattern of subtle changes often means something is awry. A nonjudgmental and supportive conversation can help kids feel supported and safe.

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The beautiful gate

By Helene P. Smith
Special to The PREVIEW

A Matter of Faith

I knew I couldn't get to the Beautiful Gate on my own.

The Highway of Holiness stretched out ahead. This road would lead me there, but when I approached, a toll booth barred the way. Bold words on the sign above drained all hope from my heart. The astronomical price of admission held me back. I stood frozen at the entrance, wondering what to do.

I desperately wanted to travel this path to the Beautiful Gate. But how? Not even Elon Musk, Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos combined had the fortune to pay the fee.

"Please, tell me," I asked the one guarding the entrance, "how can this be paid? I want to walk this road, but I cannot afford the cost." People walked on the path, all wearing white clothing. "I see others ahead. How were they able to pay?"

"They didn't pay," he said. His voice echoed through my confusion.

"Then how? Did they sneak under the bars when you were asleep?"

He bristled. "Impossible."

"I must reach the Beautiful Gate to enter the great city of Zion. This is the only way there. I tried other paths, but they led me in circles. Please, can you help me?"

His countenance darkened. "No. I cannot." His features softened as he continued. "But I know the one who can. Look over there." He pointed. "Ask the One."

A radiant being smiled in my direction. He seemed to be waiting for me. The scent of sweet spices drifted on the breeze.

I trembled toward him, fearful he would turn me away, but determined to find an answer. "Hello. I'm—"

"I know who you are, my child." His voice reminded me of a river cascading over rocks in spring, commanding attention, yet as soothing to me as a trickling fountain.

"Oh. Um ... he ..." I gestured to the one who had directed me, but before I could explain why I had come, my hand was covered in light. Warmth shimmered into my muscles and spread into my joints and marrow. My knees bent with a will of their own, easing me to the dirt, and an ancient song erupted from my throat, "I will enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise."

I lifted my head to this personification of love, but instead of his face, I saw a cross. Tears formed. I blinked and searched for his eyes. They shone through the cross and the splendor that enveloped him — kind, loving eyes.

He reached through the cross, took my hand, and raised me from the ground. "What do you seek?"

"Don't you know?" I blurted. "It's as if you can see me, my past, my future ... everything."

The Highway of Holiness stretched out ahead. This road would lead me there, but when I approached, a toll booth barred the way.

"Yes. I know." He released my hand. "Still ... will you ask me? That is an act of worship, even greater than the song you sang to me."

"Please. I must reach the Beautiful Gate." My heart beat faster. Would he grant my request?

"The Highway of Holiness will lead me there, but the price is too high."

"I already paid the price for you. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

I fell to my knees. "Why would you do that for me? I'm nobody."

"You are precious to me, and I love you." He held out a small red vial. "My blood, for you."

As I reached out to accept the gift, blood washed over me and instantly transformed my stained clothing to pure white.

Jesus held out his scarred hand, and I took hold of it. We passed under the raised barrier arm onto the Highway of Holiness together.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

Your source for community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100



In honor of grandmother Rebekah Laue, on the first anniversary of her passing on October 26, 2025. Written by Andrea Laue Echavarri.

Rebekah Laue

In the warm wood cabin by the shining lake,
where aspens shimmer and sway like prayer,
heaven seems to draw near whispering its
nearness over the quiet waters.

Here on Cloud Cap Avenue, my grandpa
and grandma, Peter and Rebekah, made their
home — Stretcher Bearers for Christ, hearts
open, hands willing, lives poured out for the
lost, the weary, the wounded.

They built many things together:
a life woven with love, a refuge
shaped by steady faith, a place
where peace settles like soft
sunlight.

And at the center of it
all, they raised the Upper
Room — a sanctuary
where the gentle currents
of the Holy Spirit dwell,
moving through every
corner, breathing comfort,
healing, and hope.

In this sacred place by the lake, their love
became a lantern, their faith a resting place,
a legacy of healed hearts that their kindness
helped remake.

Rebekah walked these rooms with love— a
warmth that never dimmed— a loyal wife, a
tender soul, whose light still lives within.

She painted with a heaven-touch, colors
dancing on her hands. She tended her garden
with loving care, each Iris bulb planted with
a prayer.

Jesus held her heart so close, like sunrise
holding dawn, and when heaven's gates
glowed open He took her hand and gently led
her on.

Though she's gone ahead to glory, her love
remains, still near— through her paintings, in
her Iris blossoms, in every memory held dear.

And Opa, she is with you still— in the quiet
by the lake, in the home you made together,
in the hearts of those you helped to wake.

Her life was grace and beauty, her legacy
pure and true. And though she rests in
heaven now, her love still lives in you.



Photo courtesy of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions

Dr. Robert Melton, owner of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions, provides personalized hearing, tinnitus and cognitive wellness care to the Pagosa Springs community.

The bigger picture of hearing health

By Allison Brown

Hearing loss is far more than a routine communication challenge. Growing research suggests that hearing health is deeply connected to brain health, social engagement and healthy aging.

A recent analysis from the Framingham Heart Study found that midlife hearing loss was associated with changes in brain structure, executive function declines and a 71% higher risk of developing dementia over 15 years.

While the study shows an association rather than direct causation, it adds to a growing body of evidence suggesting hearing care is a vital component of cognitive health.

For audiologist Robert Melton, owner of Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions in Pagosa Springs, the research reinforces the importance of taking a proactive approach to lifelong care.

"Taking care of your hearing is about more than hearing better today," Melton said. "It may also be an important part of staying connected, engaged, independent and cognitively healthy as we age."

Melton encourages adults to establish a hearing baseline and monitor changes over time rather than waiting for severe problems to develop. Untreated hearing difficulties increase the effort required to follow conversations and often lead to social withdrawal.

At Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions, hearing health is viewed like monitoring vision or blood pressure as part of routine preventive health care.

As an independent, locally owned practice, the clinic provides comprehensive evaluations, earwax management, advanced hearing technology and specialized tinnitus treatments not widely available in the region.

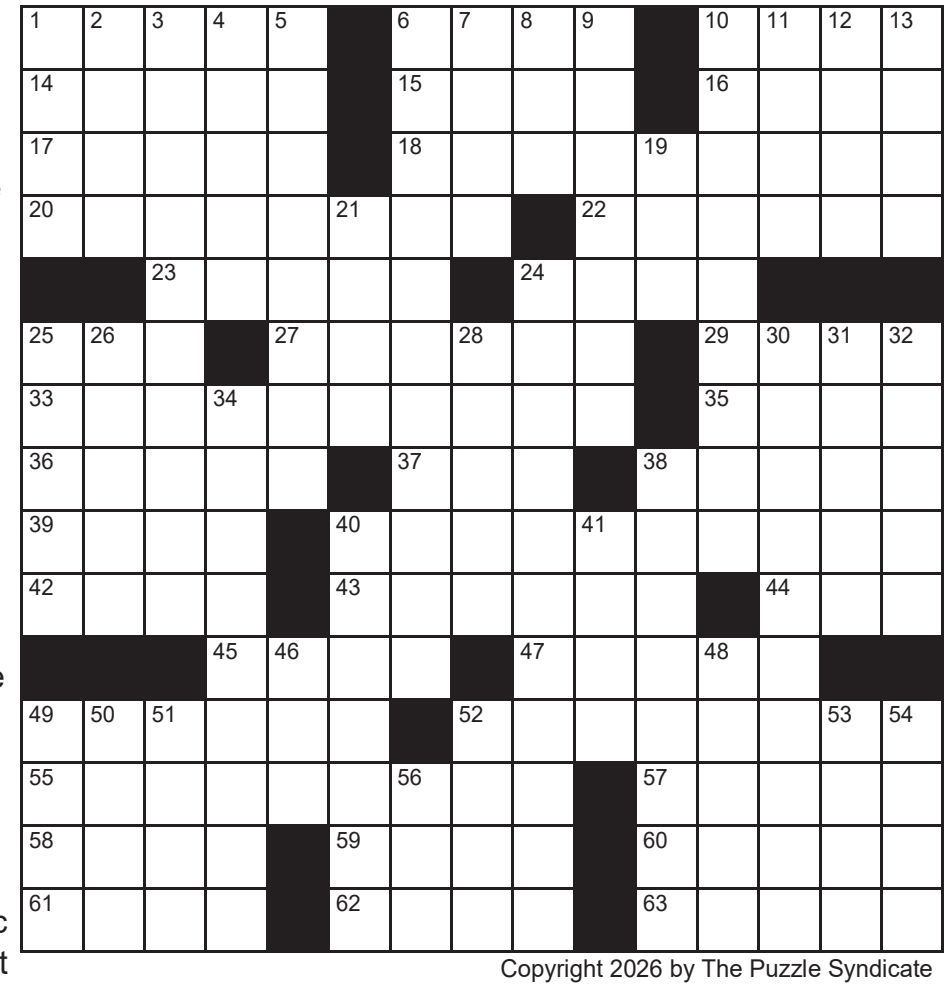
In recognition of Audiology Awareness Month in October, Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is offering a special promotion on premium hearing technology. To schedule a baseline evaluation, call 970-444-2314 or visit htsaudiology.com.

Their guiding motto says it best: Hear well. Stay connected. Live well.

Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 Roll call listings
6 Sea eagle
10 End of a Hemingway title
14 Praise highly
15 Gas light
16 U.S. weather agcy.
17 Hitching post
18 Books with stiff covers
20 Push-up target
22 John ___ Booth
23 Hunt in Hollywood
24 Blew the whistle
25 URL ender
27 Sycophant
29 "Tide" anagram
33 Humiliations
35 "Swordfish" director Dominic
36 Pastry specialist
37 NY opera house, with "the"
38 Like some lawsuits
39 Black cat, maybe
40 Distribute differently
42 Pucker-inducing
43 Win the favor of
44 Leaky tire sound
45 "Law & Order: SVU" star
47 Eagles tight end Johnny
49 Suck-up
52 Form a league
55 Up in the air
57 Gave a PG to, e.g.
58 Stable color
59 Vane direction
60 Correct, as text
61 Say it ___ so
62 Tenement pests
63 Warbucks, to Annie

DOWN

1 Certain tide
2 Wheel shaft
3 Fixer-upper?
4 Put on cloud nine
5 Baby transport
6 Improvement
7 "Get ___!"
8 Scand. land
9 Lengthwise
10 Tylenol, e.g.
11 It beats scissors
12 Put together
13 Back talk
19 Storage box
21 Paper quantity
24 Negotiated payouts
25 Explorer John or Sebastian
26 "The Look" author Michelle
28 Massage
30 Completely shattered
31 FDR or JFK
32 Hawthorne's "Twice-Told ____"
34 Opinion
38 Unable to escape
40 Verify, as a password
41 Give praise
46 Vacation rental
48 Movie genre
49 Cosmonaut Gagarin
50 "Hanna" actress Mireille
51 Glance over
52 Solidarity symbol
53 Care for
54 Singer Arnold
56 Motorists' org.

Answers to Previous Crossword:

W	A	L	T	■	H	O	O	H	A	■	R	O	S	A
A	G	A	R	■	E	A	T	O	N	■	E	P	I	C
R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	■	G	E	N	T
P	R	E	M	E	D	■	S	P	A	C	I	N	G	S
■	■	■	O	V	A	L	■	S	L	A	M	S	■	■
C	H	A	L	I	C	E	S	■	S	P	E	E	C	H
H	I	R	O	S	H	I	M	A	■	E	N	S	U	E
A	C	T	■	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	■	A	B	E
S	K	I	P	S	■	A	C	T	N	O	R	M	A	L
E	S	C	H	E	W	■	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	S
■	■	H	A	R	E	M	■	C	I	T	Y	■	■	■
C	L	O	S	E	S	E	T	■	T	E	T	H	E	R
H	I	K	E	■	S	T	E	A	L	T	H	I	L	Y
A	C	E	R	■	O	R	A	T	E	■	M	R	S	A
N	E	S	S	■	N	O	S	E	D	■	S	E	E	N

PagosaSUN.com

Join us as we imagine the future

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

Do you remember the day you graduated high school? For me, it felt like a whole world of possibilities lay before me. I could do anything and be anything with my new found freedom. It was a magical time, and I couldn't wait to get started.

Since we opened our beautiful new library, I have that same feeling. With all these new spaces, what can we do here? Events? Programs? Collections? What else? There are so many choices. Sure, we could plan out the next three years behind closed doors and let you know what we decide. But this is your library. So, we want you to join our planning team.

Nov. 9-11 we will hold small focus groups throughout the day to collect your feedback. We will pose three main questions: What are the challenges of living in Pagosa? How does the library make your life better? What can the library improve?

We expect a rich conversation. And we expect wonderful, unexpected answers.

So, dream big, Pagosa. We have just graduated into a big, bright building full of possibilities. Help us imagine the future.

Public comment period open on 2027 budget

If you're interested in seeing where our income comes from and how we spend the funds, now is the time for public comments on our 2027 budget proposal.

You can view a copy of the proposed budget on our website at www.pagosalibrary.org. From now until Nov. 18, you can submit your comments to director@pagosalibrary.org.

A budget hearing will take place on Nov. 18 at the library, at which time the library board will hold an open forum for your feedback before finalizing the budget.

Volunteer opportunities in our adult education programs

GED Program

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer tutor to help members of our community get their GED? Are you a retired teacher? Are you an expert in math, science, language arts or history who wants to make a difference and has some extra time to give?

The library is looking for tutors to work with students one-on-one for a few hours a week to help us keep our Adult Education GED program thriving.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor for the GED program, or are a student seeking tutoring, please email our adult basic education coordinator, Nicole, at esl@pagosalibrary.org. No experience is required; training and supervision will be provided.

Library News

Intercambio/English as a Second Language (ESL)

If you are someone who enjoys cultural exchanges, or are looking to brush up on your Spanish, think about joining our new Intercambio program at the Library.

Intercambio connects volunteers with adult English language learners through relationship-based one-on-one classes. Our ESL curriculum requires no prior teaching or second language experience, just a positive attitude and a little extra time in your week. Our curriculum, training and ongoing support make teaching easy, enjoyable and impactful.

If you are interested in learning more about our adult basic education classes, either as a volunteer tutor, or a student, please email our adult basic education coordinator, Nicole, at esl@pagosalibrary.org.

New meeting rooms ready to reserve

Your new library offers one large community room that can be divided into two smaller rooms. We also have two new study rooms.

If you would like to reserve a room, give us a call. Our website will soon offer you the option to reserve meeting rooms on your own. Stay tuned.

New Craft and Hobby database marks makerspace opening

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

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

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

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

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.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly calendars at the library or check the website, www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar, so you don't miss any of the free pro-

■ See Library on next page

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Friends of the Library hosts successful open house

Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

On Saturday evening, Oct. 17, the Friends of the Library Committee hosted an open house event.

Friends of the Library members were invited to bring a friend to tour the newly renovated facilities, enjoy a food spread and enter a free drawing for a chance to win various book-themed prizes.

A newly published anthology, created by Kathy Muth, was featured, with several Pagosans reading from their writings; two lucky guests received a copy from the drawing.

The open house had more than 50 attendees, and the Friends of the Library welcomed 18 new members, raising more than $1,000.

An annual membership is $15 for an individual, $25 for a family or $150 for a lifetime membership.

Membership includes access to exclusive Friends of the Library events, such as the open house, as well as early access and discounts on book sales throughout the year.

To become a member, please stop by the library Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or visit www.pagosalibrary.org to complete the form.

Library

■ continued from previous page

grams, events and activities available to you and your family.

Tech Time

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

New fall titles ready for checkout

The publishing season has two peaks: spring and fall. This fall, lots of new biographies are hitting the shelves just in time for the holidays.

• Actor Michael Douglas pens an autobiography, "One Helluva Ride" (large print) and shares his unfiltered life story, from his complex relationship with father, Kirk Douglas, to winning Oscars, battling addiction and finding true love.

• "Brady: An American Story and the Price of Greatness" is a biography of NFL quarterback Tom Brady written by former Sports Illustrated journalist Lars Anderson.

• "Cormac McCarthy: A Legacy Revisited" is a biography of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist written by Tracy Daugherty.

• "Alexander: God, King, Man" by Edmund Richardson describes Alexander the Great's journey from an overlooked youth to a godlike military genius who died heartbroken.

• "The Rolling Stones: The Biography" by Bob Spitz (large print) explores the fractious, codependent bond between Mick Jagger and Keith Richards after 60 years of groundbreaking music.

New in large print

• "Probable Caws" by Donna Andrews is the 39th installment in her Meg Langslow cozy mystery series. Meg investigates a murder at a castle-turned-horse-rescue where a thug was killed after threatening rescued horses.

• "Until Midnight" is the latest psychological thriller from Luanne Rice. A perfect wedding is disrupted when a woman claims to share a child with the groom. After she's found murdered, dark secrets about a mansion and a secret society emerge.

• "A Murder in Springtime" by Martin Walker is the 19th novel in the Bruno, Chief of Police mystery series. A newly arrived nursing home employee and lodger is found brutally murdered on the back patio of Pamela, the long-time neighbor and friend of Chief of Police Bruno Courrèges.

• "Hard Country" edited by Don Money, Reavis Wortham and Rachel Santino, is a two-volume Western and crime fiction anthology set (alongside its companion volume Rough Country) featuring stories from top authors in the genre.

New fiction

• Just in time for Halloween, gothic horror novel "Solace House" by Will Maclean hits the shelf. University students clearing out a Victorian mansion discover the eerie journals of former owner Edwin Flayne, a man obsessed with a parallel realm.

• "Gilded Mountain" by Kate Manning is set in 1907 mining town Marble, Colo. Sylvie Pelletier works at a manor house and confronts injustice when she discovers the marble mining company's unfair labor practices.

• Gothic thriller "The Children" by Melissa Albert is "a twisting narrative of family secrets and long-held resentments, which asks whether we can ever really exorcise the ghosts of a childhood forsaken in favour of a parent's artistic vision."

New nonfiction

• "All We Say: The Battle for American Identity" by Ben Rhodes explains our common past through 15 key speeches.

• "You are the Parent" by Dr. Siggie Cohen encourages parents to "move from overparenting to balanced parenting and become the leader your child needs."

• Hate holiday parties? They might be a lot more interesting after reading "How to Read the Room: The Art and Science of Social Observation" by Pamela Meyer. Learn how to interpret social cues, identify motives and power dynamics, recognize emotional shifts, and distinguish genuine from superficial agreement.

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 in e-book or e-audiobook on Hoopla or Libby.

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

HUD Publisher's Notice

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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:

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

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 yellow-rumped warbler.

An early-spring and late-fall migrant, of the birds with "warbler" in their names this is one of the earliest to show up and the last to leave our area. It is one of the most common warblers and the main winter warbler in North America. While most of them migrate to the tropics in fall, some remain as far north as New England and Seattle year-round.

Their ability to digest the wax coatings of bayberries and wax myrtles, unique among warblers, is an adaptation that allows these birds to find food and winter so far north. Like other warblers, they mainly eat a wide variety of insects and spiders in summer and rely on them to feed their young. Showing up in their diet are spruce budworms, a serious forest pest. In trees, where males forage higher than females, they search among leaves, twigs, branches and trunks for food. They also fly out to catch insects on the wing and will pick them from the surface of rivers and oceans, from spiderwebs and manure piles.

When insects become less abundant, they will eat berries, including those of juniper, poison ivy, poison oak and dogwood, and fruits of grapes. They will also eat wild seeds and may come to feeders for sunflower seeds and suet.

Yellow-rumped warblers have a patch of yellow feathers on the head, referenced in their Scientific name, Setophaga coronata, which translates as crowned moth-eater. The more visible yellow patch on the rump has given them the name butterbutt. In the Audubon's group, which resides in the mountainous west, yellow patches are also found on the throat and sides of a gray body with dark and white patches. Members of the Myrtle group in the eastern U.S. and the boreal forests of Canada have a white throat. In both, winter and female colors are more subdued than those of breeding males.

In spring and summer, the song of the male yellow-rumped warbler is a common sound in conifer forests. In fall, the frequently given "chek" call made by both sexes while flitting within the trees will help to locate it, at least for the second that one stays still.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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Get ready for winter: tips for seniors to stay safe and warm

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

As winter approaches in Colorado, now is the perfect time for older adults to prepare their homes and vehicles for snow, ice and freezing temperatures.

Make sure your snow shovel is in good condition, and, if you use a snowblower, check that it is running properly before the first heavy snowfall. Stock up on ice melt or sand to help prevent slippery walkways, driveways and steps. Check your furnace, replace air filters, seal drafts around windows and doors, and make sure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working. It is also wise to keep a supply of flashlights, batteries, blankets, bottled water, nonperishable food and necessary medications in case a winter storm causes a power outage or makes travel difficult.

Having these supplies ready before the weather turns bad can make winter more comfortable and less stressful.

Just as important as preparing your home is preparing yourself. Snow shoveling and clearing ice can be physically demanding, especially for older adults, and can increase the risk of falls, injury and heart strain.

Consider arranging for a family member, neighbor or snow-removal service to clear your walkways and driveway. Keep your cellphone charged, maintain a list of emergency contacts, and check in regularly with friends and family during severe weather.

If you need to travel, make sure your vehicle is winter-ready with good tires, windshield washer fluid and an emergency kit.

Winter can be a beautiful season in Pagosa Springs, but preparation is key to staying safe, warm and independent. A little planning today can help you enjoy the winter months with greater peace of mind.

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.

Senior News

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.

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

■ See Senior on next page



HELPING OTHERS HELPS YOUR BRAIN

Scientists have recently discovered something: We are hard-wired for good. Read more in today's excerpt.

Why does compassion lead to health benefits in particular? A clue to this question rests in a fascinating new study by Steve Cole at the University of California, Los Angeles, and APS Fellow Barbara Fredrickson at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The results were reported at Stanford Medical School's Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education's (CCARE) inaugural Science of Compassion conference in 2012. Their study evaluated the levels of cellular inflammation in people who describe themselves as "very happy."

Inflammation is at the root of cancer and other diseases and is generally high in people who live under a lot of stress. We might expect that inflammation would be lower for people with higher levels of happiness. Cole and Fredrickson found that this was only the case for certain "very happy" people. They found that people who were happy because they lived the "good life" (sometimes also known as "hedonic happiness") had high inflammation levels but that, on the other hand, people who were happy because they lived a life of purpose or meaning (sometimes also known as "eudaimonic happiness") had low inflammation levels.

A life of meaning and purpose is one focused less on satisfying oneself and more on others. It is a life rich in compassion, altruism, and greater meaning. Another way in which a compassionate lifestyle may improve longevity is that it may serve as a buffer against stress. A new study conducted on a large population (more than 800 people) and spearheaded by the University at Buffalo's Michael Poulin found that stress did not predict mortality in those who helped others, but that it did in those who did not. One of the reasons that compassion may protect against stress is the very fact that it is so pleasurable. Motivation, however, seems to play an important role in predicting whether a compassionate lifestyle exerts a beneficial impact on health. Sara Konrath, at the University of Michigan, discovered that people who engaged in volunteerism lived longer than their non-volunteering peers — but only if their reasons for volunteering were altruistic rather than self-serving. Another reason compassion may boost our well-being is that it can help broaden our perspective beyond ourselves. Research shows that depression and anxiety are linked to a state of self-focus, a preoccupation with "me, myself, and I." When you do something for someone else, however, that state of self-focus shifts to a state of other-focus. If you recall a time you were feeling blue and suddenly a close friend or relative calls you for urgent help with a problem, you may remember that as your attention shifts to helping them, your mood lifts. Rather than feeling blue, you may have felt energized to help; before you knew it, you may even have felt better and gained some perspective on your own situation as well.

Source: "The Compassionate Mind." By Emma Seppala. http://www.psychologicalscience.org

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

"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday" Isaiah 58:10

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.
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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

The next dates for bingo are Fridays, 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. 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.

Monday, Oct. 26 — Navy bean and ham soup, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, pumpkin bars, and milk.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 — Beef Frito pie with cheese and sour cream, cornbread, garden salad, fruit, hazelnut beignets, and milk.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 — Tuna salad, broccoli salad, macaroni salad, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Thursday, Oct. 29 — Pumpkin ravioli with sage butter, spinach and onions, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, almond croissant, and milk.

Friday, Oct. 30 — Curry chicken over rice, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, chai 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

■ See Senior on next page





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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

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.

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,

■ See Calendar on next page

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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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If you were in last year's veteran's pages, we will use the same information unless you email to update before October 30.
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

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.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Rummikub. 1:15-3:45 p.m., Senior Center.

Tween Secret Snacks. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages grades 5-8/11-13. See if you really know your favorite treats. Join for tasty treats and a few laughs as you try a few different secret snacks. Get them all right for a small prize.

Teen Advisory Group. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 12-18. Be a voice at your library. Build leadership skills, mentor others and plan programs that interest you. Snacks will be provided.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

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.

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. 29

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. 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.

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.

Know Your Knots Workshop with Jesse Krebs. 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Jesse Krebs will teach beneficial basic knots.

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. 30

Pagosa's 100+ Women Who Care. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Coyote Moon. Build community with other women while putting your $100 donation to work helping area nonprofits. For more information, visit swcommunityfoundation.org or email Rachel@swcommunityfoundation.org.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Early Explorers: Vet Clinic. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5 with caregivers. Explore the world of a vet clinic in a safe and age-appropriate environment. Get ready to make crafts, read some stories, move around, play in the sensory bin and more. Dress for mess.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Addams Family

■ See Calendar on page 21

Trinity Anglican Church

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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COMPOUNDING
CONTRAINDICATION
COPAY
DISPENSE
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GENERIC
MEDICATION
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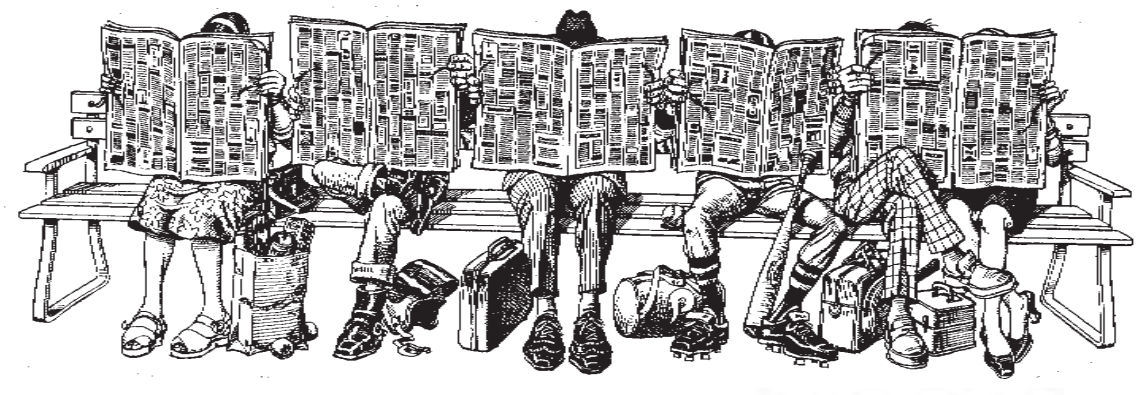
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 19

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).

Saturday, Oct. 31

Witches on the Water. 10 a.m., Lake Pagosa boat ramp. Don your costume and join for a paddle.

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.

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).

Sunday, Nov. 1

Pumpkin Party. 9:30-10:45 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Kids age 4 through fifth grade are invited to enjoy a Bible lesson and singing, along with pumpkin-themed games and snacks. Questions? Email lindy@pagosabiblechurch.org. Sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship.

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, Nov. 2

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.

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, Nov. 3

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those ages 55 and up.

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Rummikub. 1:15-3:45 p.m., Senior Center.

Tween Book and Art Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 11-14. Adventure with books and art activities in this fun-filled hour. This month's book is "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens. Copies are available to check out from the library.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

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.

Adult DIY: Holiday Centerpieces. 1:30-2:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Create your own holiday centerpieces with dried and artificial eucalyptus and a variety of other decorative items.

Disney Trivia. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-10. Create a team and come by to test your Disney knowledge at Disney trivia. Old-school classics and more recent releases will be discussed. The first-place team will win a trophy and bragging rights.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.



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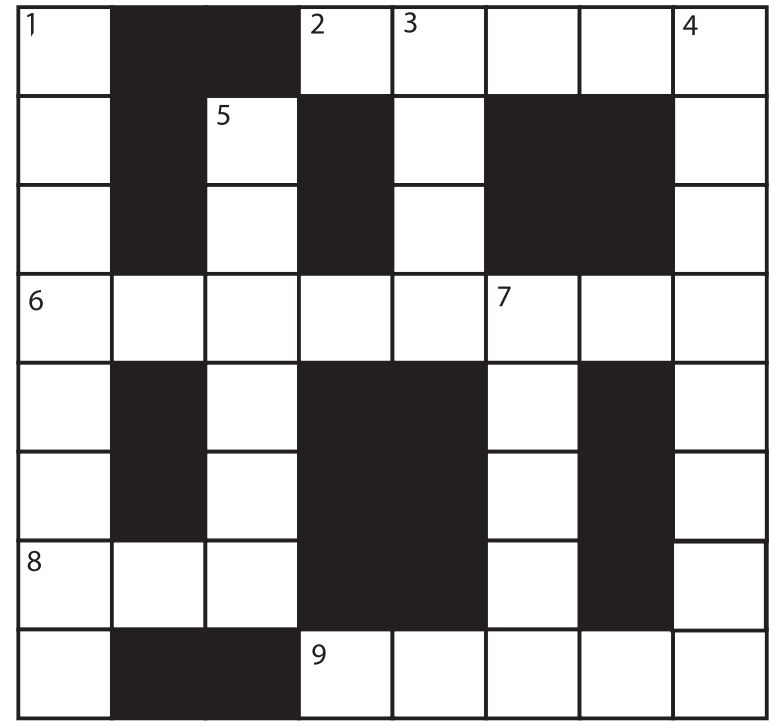
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kids' corner

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

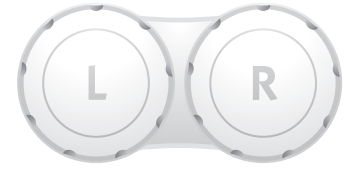
a liquid mixture used for cleaning and storing contact lenses

"How they say that in..."

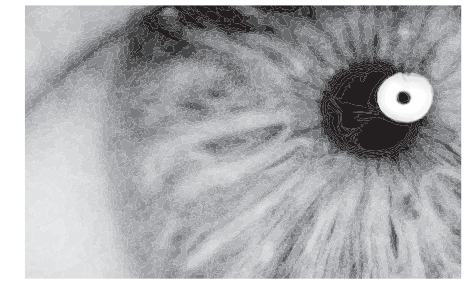
English: Case
Spanish: Caja
Italian: Scatola
French: Boîtier
German: Schatulle

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

A look at the oldest Halloween traditions

Special to The PREVIEW

As with many celebrations, Halloween is steeped in traditions —many of which can be traced back quite some time.

Since Halloween is believed to have originated from Celtic pagan, ancient Roman and early Christian events, its traditions are varied. The following is a deep look at some old traditions associated with Halloween.

Bonfires

Historians trace many traditions of Halloween to a Celtic holiday known as Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts lived 2,000 years ago in parts of what is now Northern France, Great Britain and Ireland.

During Samhain, people believed that the door between the worlds of the living and the dead was blurred. On Samhain, Celts believed the ghosts of the dead returned. Also, Druids made predictions about the future at this time of year. It was customary to build large, sacred bonfires and burn crops and other sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

While large bonfires are not typically part of Halloween celebrations today, revelers can light fire pits in their yards that are reminiscent of ancient celebrations.

Trick-or-treating

Christianity spread throughout Celtic regions and blended with other rituals. Pope Gregory III expanded on a holiday Pope Boniface IV established to honor Christian martyrs to include all saints and martyrs. All Saints Day on Nov. 1 commemorates the venerable saints, and All Souls Day on Nov. 2 celebrates loved ones who went on to eternal rest.

All-Hallows Eve (Halloween) was a time to pay homage to the dead. Poor children would go door to door in more affluent neighborhoods offering to say prayers for residents' deceased loved ones in exchange for some food or money. This was known as "souling," which became the basis for trick-or-treating. Later the tradition became known as "guising" in areas of Scotland, where children would go around in costumes.

Witches

Images of witches riding broomsticks are everywhere come Halloween, and witch costumes remain a standard.

Almanac.com indicates that, during the Middle Ages, women who practiced divination were dubbed "witches," from the Anglo-Saxon word "wicce," or "wise one." It was believed the witches could go into a trancelike state, and would do so in front of their fireplaces. Superstitious people believed the witches could fly out of their chimneys on broomsticks and terrorize others with magical deeds.

Bobbing for apples

Bobbing for apples is not quite as popular as it once was, as more people have become concerned about spreading germs. During the Roman festival for Pomona, which occurred around Nov. 1, Pomona, the goddess of fruit and orchards, was celebrated. Romans believed the first person to catch a bobbing apple with his or her teeth would be the first to marry. It also was believed apple peels contained the secrets to true love.

Carving pumpkins

Removing the insides of pumpkins and carving them into funny or fearsome faces may be messy work, but it's tradition on Halloween.

Turnips were the material of choice in ancient Ireland, but were replaced by pumpkins when immigrants came to America. The "lanterns" were made with scary faces and lit to frighten away spirits.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA 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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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.

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

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.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100 Classifieds (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED



SONIC

NOW HIRING
Immediate Openings

Day & Night
Shift Managers

Apply in person at 2501 Eagle Dr., Pagosa Springs
or online at
CAREERS.SONICDRIVEIN.COM

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

3R RANCH- SEASONED FIREWOOD 14" to 22" long, mixed lengths, you load and you haul. $195 per cord split or $110 per cord rounds. 3 cords or more, 20% off. (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.

FORKLIFT Lektro model 2020. Manufactured in the middle 1960s. Max lift 1000 pounds. No forks. Currently has a roll clamp on it. Uses 6x8L 16 deep cycle batteries, included. Hydraulic pump doesn't work, chain driven steering needs a little work. $500. 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.

FOR SALE

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.

VOTE YES ON 5A. We Build. They Grow.
New PK-8th grade public school for students, staff, families. www.CitizensForASD.org - Find out WHY.
Paid by CitizensForASD.

LOST & FOUND

PRESCRIPTION EYE GLASSES, wire frame lost. Generous reward if found. Call Ann White, (970)946-4810.

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.

YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Oct. 23 and 24, 8 a.m. sharp, rain or shine. Three story house and garage full of stuff. Furniture, artwork, Western decor, clothes, bedding, patio furniture, yard tools, workout equipment, office furniture, 186 Clearwater Dr. Hwy 160 East, right on 84 South, right on River Forest Dr, left on Clearwater. AEHPOS2.0.

ESTATE SALE. 10/24- 10/25 8 a.m., 1329 Cross Creek Place. Decorator's dream. Furniture, kitchen, Christmas galore, tools, game processing equipment and more.

YARD SALES

The annual Christmas Shoppe at the Methodist Thrift Store will open Monday, November 2. We have an impressive selection of unique holiday decor items this year, and the prices can't be beat. Come in soon, before someone else buys all the good stuff.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AVAILABLE. Liberty Theatre building. Main Street access, parking, AC, fiber Internet, Eastern Range and river views, keyless entry. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

LARGE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park. 112 acre lot— $995 /month. and 1.27 acre lot— $750 /month. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities are located at the street. Tenant must verify end use with the county. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

PAGOSA SECURE STORAGE- 80 Bastille Drive. Offering "Smokin Deals" on all units. Temperature Controlled Units available. Managed by Team Pagosa Realty (970)731-8599 Call today for availability.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from $465-$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

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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 1 BATHROOM house for rent. Private ranch 10 miles from town. Water, trash, sewage, plowing and mowing. $1500/ month. (309)948-9220.

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH, w/ 2 car garage, granite, carpet bedroom. 1st and last month's rent and $1500 deposit. $2289 per month. No smoking or pets. Call (970)903-3942. 151 Masters Cir.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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 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.

NEMINISTORAGE.COM 10x20 $165, 10x15 $145, 10x10 $125, 5x10, $95 monthly. (970)264-3333.

NEWER ENERGY EFFICIENT DUPLEX 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage, granite counters, stainless appliances, water and sewer included. Available 11/01 $1,800/ month. No pets. Background and credit check; $40 application fee. 1 year lease. First month's rent and security deposit due at lease signing. Call Ron (970)946-5010.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM 2 bathroom, 2 car garage home on the way up to Wolf Creek Ski Area. 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.

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT in downtown with beautiful views. Rent $1181. Large floor plan, affordable living through tax credit program. Income and eligibility requirements apply. hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

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 2 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATHROOM, 1 car garage townhome in Whispering Pines. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

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. Available NOW. Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

HOMES FOR SALE

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.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying *or* Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672

JANN C PITCHER REAL ESTATE

MarcieLewis.com

HUNTER'S LOG CABIN ON 23 ACRES, BORDERS NATIONAL FOREST on two sides. Has a well and brand new septic. MLS Number 837311. $429,900. For further information, contact Lee Riley, I Sell Pagosa. Jann C Pitcher Real Estate. (970)946-3856.

NEAR NAVAJO LAKE, 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on 2.2 acres on quiet street, central water, lots of updates, $355,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker. (970)946-0473.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

ARBOLES 2 ACRES with approved septic and well. $100,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.

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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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