



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 119 — NO. 5, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

‘Unprecedented’: Area experiences historic flooding, damage

By Clayton Chaney and
Randi Pierce
Staff Writers

The San Juan River peaked at 15.02 feet at about 5:45 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 23, becoming the second highest flooding event in recorded history for the river, short of only the 1911 flood which peaked at 17.8 feet.

Extensive damage was caused to roads, homes and other critical infrastructure all throughout the county. Last year, Pagosa Springs experi-

enced what was then the third and fourth largest flooding events in record history with the San Juan River, peaking at 12.82 feet and 12.66 feet.

There have been no known fatalities or injuries, according to incident officials.

Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown indicated at a community meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27, that 800 structures in the county have been impacted by the flood, with 540 of those structures being homes.

■ See Flooding A9

Numerous road closures caused by flooding damage

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Historic flooding throughout Archuleta County last week caused significant road damage and closures in the region.

Roads in the Town of Pagosa Springs and in Archuleta County were affected, along with damage to Colo. 151 and

U.S. 160.

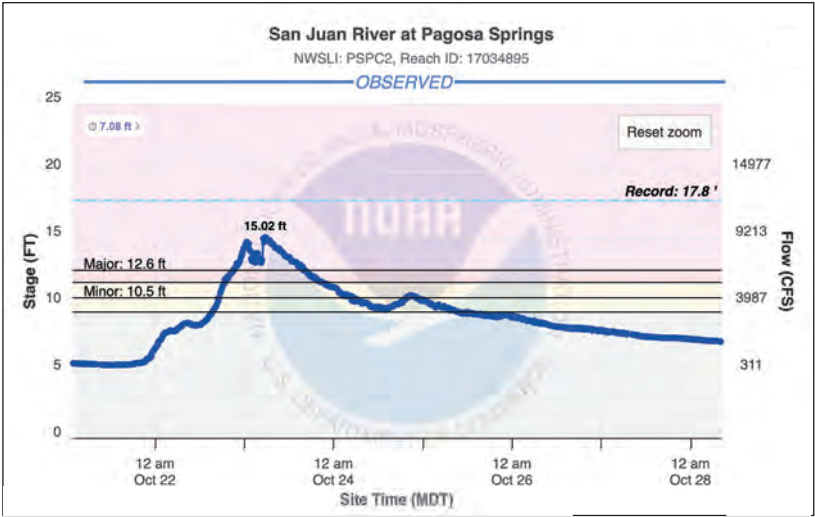
During a community flood meeting held on Tuesday, Oct. 27, County Commissioner Warren Brown indicated that approximately 150 miles of county-jurisdiction roads are currently impassable.

After being shut down on Thursday evening, Oct. 22, Wolf Creek Pass re-

■ See Damage A10



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

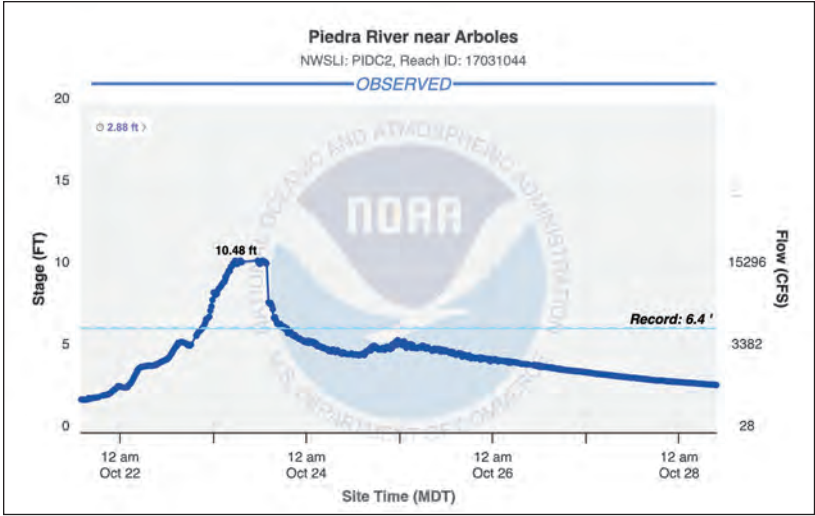


Graph courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Levels of the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs are shown before, during and after last week's flooding.



SUN photo/Shari Pierce



Graph courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Levels of the Piedra River near Arboles are shown before, during and after last week's flooding.

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SUN photo/Shari Pierce

Heavy rains and increased levels in rivers and streams on Oct. 23 led to widespread damage. The San Juan River reached its second-highest level on record.

Opinion



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"HOME OF THE WORLD'S DEEPEST
HOT MINERAL SPRINGS"



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OUR VIEW

Catastrophic event, outstanding response

Never before have we heard or spoken the words “catastrophic” and “widespread devastation” so many times in reference to our own community.

We hope to never do it again.

The last week has been unlike anything we have ever seen or experienced here in Archuleta County.

We have been heartbroken seeing what last week’s flooding — the second worst on record here in terms of flow on the San Juan River — left behind and what it took from our fellow community members.

We’d argue that, outside of the San Juan River, it’s the worst flooding ever in our community in terms of the damage and the number of lives affected.

We don’t remember another time when parts of our community were literally physically cutoff from each other to that extent.

We could believe what we were seeing and hearing, and it kept coming.

But, before the flooding ever started, the helpers were in action, reminding us of the wise words of Fred Rogers: “When I was a

boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people that are helping.’”

And they haven’t stopped helping.

It’s not every day we work to the sounds of helicopters overhead, but every time we hear it, we’re reminded of the wonderful resources who have come to help in our time of need, literally lifting our neighbors (and their pets) to safety. Ground crews are out braving the conditions to make sure our community members have the medications they need and things like food and fuel.

So many have worked around the clock to ensure people — the thing that matters the most in all of this — are OK and safe.

And it is a testament to them and the resiliency of this community that no fatalities and no injuries have been reported.

It’s simply amazing.

We cannot offer enough thanks to every single individual who has helped or will help, and we know we’ll never know everyone who has been boots on the ground (or in the air),

donated supplies or funding, worked logistics behind the scenes, fed the responders and ensured that every other facet runs smoothly.

All of this work, and all the work yet to take place, will help our community have a chance at recovery and a thriving future.

Archuleta County is resilient. This will take a long time, require a lot of patience and take a lot of cooperation, but we will bounce back. We already are.

In the meantime, let’s continue to show up for each other and welcome the folks who visit us here. Pagosa is not closed, as some have suggested.

Support local businesses whenever possible. Lend a helping hand when it’s safe and appropriate to do so. Be sensitive to the physical and mental toll this has taken on so many, and please seek help and support if and when needed.

We’re in this together, now and for the long haul.

We’re so happy we have the honor of calling Pagosa Country home.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs History Museum

The downtown area is pictured following the October 1911 flood, which stands as the worst in Pagosa Springs history.

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture	Type	Depth
10/20	64	38	0.14	NA	NA	NA
10/21	59	35	0.02	NA	NA	NA
10/22	52	44	1.40	NA	NA	NA
10/23	59	39	3.10	NA	NA	NA
10/24	53	37	0.40	NA	NA	NA
10/25	54	36	0.75	NA	NA	NA
10/26	56	30	0.15	NA	NA	NA

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 29, 1926

We desire to compliment the editors of “Mashonkasha,” the paper published by the students of the Pagosa Springs High School. The first number, distributed last week is well and neatly prepared, with a well-balanced variety of material and advertising.

Mrs. Gertrude Larson and Geo. Teeters, who is employed at her ranch in O’Neal park, were placed under quarantine Monday for diphtheria. Mrs. Larson was in the midst of threshing the season’s grain when taken ill.

Miss Charline Turner, teacher of the Yellow Jacket school, fell at the school house Tuesday and unfortunately dislocated her shoulder, necessitating a trip to Durango for medical attention. Tho she has been conducting school since under difficulties, school will be dismissed the coming week until she recovers.

John H. Lattin, proprietor of the San Juan Livery & Transfer company, last week purchased the livery barn building and property from the owner, L.F. Woolery.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 26, 1951

Every seat in the high school auditorium was filled with interested fathers, mothers and teachers at the first Parent Teachers Association meeting held Thursday evening, October 11th.

It was decided to charge 10 cents for refreshments, that money to be donated to the science department for new equipment.

“The improvement in effort and interest the students have shown in their school work,” stated Mr. Lacewell, school superintendent, “is noticeable the first six weeks of school.” Mr. Lacewell discussed this subject further in a very interesting talk to the parents.

The room count was won by the third grade taught by Miss Dorothy Mosely. The meeting was adjourned and delicious refreshments were served by the 3rd grade mothers.

The members of Beta Upsilon chapter and their husbands were entertained at a smorgasbord dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Dailey Hott at their home on October 10th.

The table was decorated in a pleasing arrangement of fall-colored leaves with clever cartoons depicting the events of the hunting season, drawn by Mrs. Earl Mullins.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 28, 1976

President Ford has signed the payment-in-lieu of taxes bill that was introduced in the Congress by Colorado’s Third District Congressman, Frank Evans. This could result in about \$100,000 in additional funds for the county, but may end up being considerably less than that.

Snow fell on Wolf Creek Pass Tuesday night, with an estimated total fall of eight inches. Chain stations were open from shortly before midnight until Wednesday morning. Most of the snow was up on top and roads were practically dry at each side.

Charges of hunting on private property without permission were filed against 15 elk hunters last week in county court. The charges were filed by WCO Judd Cooney.

According to Cooney the violations took place on the Banded Peak Ranch above Chromo. Most of the hunters were camped just outside of the private property but were hunting on the ranch and at Chama Lake. There were all fined \$50 and costs and all plead guilty.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
October 25, 2001

The proposed development of Piano Creek Ranch is on hold.

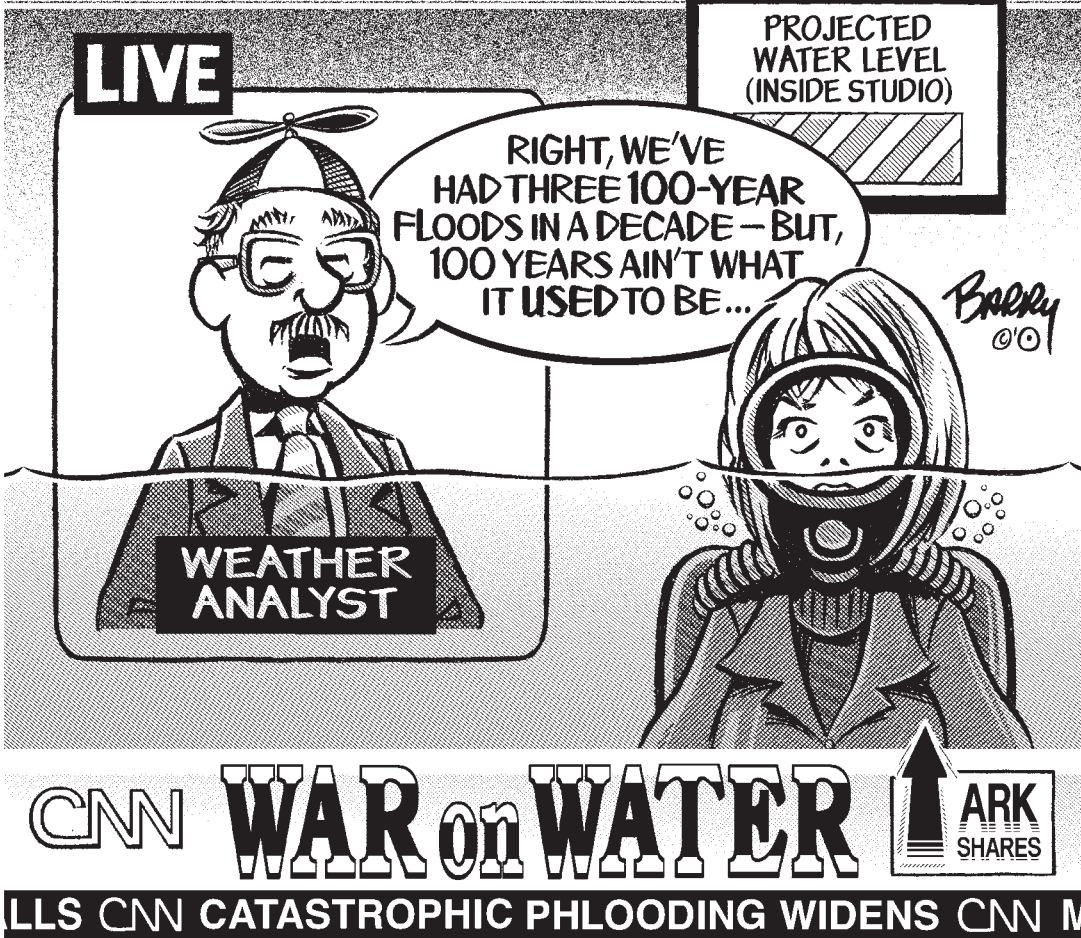
Piano Creek is a multi-million dollar, 2,700 acre, investor-owned luxury development proposed for construction on the East Fork of the San Juan River in Mineral County and about 15 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs.

“Everything is being suspended while the original 14 investors evaluate the situation,” said Matt Bachus, a spokesman for Piano Creek developers.

An office maintained on Lewis Street by the developers will be closed after Oct. 31, according to Bachus. Local employees of the office are being laid off.

Failure to secure sufficient investment backing given the current national economy is to blame for the need to place the project on hold, Bachus said. A commitment of at least 50 percent of the anticipated cost was needed in order to obtain financial underwriting from banks, according to Bachus. The 50-percent threshold was never reached.

“Those opposed to us will probably try to take credit for the suspension,” Bachus said, “but that isn’t the case. The truth is, we haven’t met the financial requirements.”





SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Low-lying clouds sit on top of freshly snow-covered mountain peaks looking north of Pagosa Springs from Reservoir Hill on Monday, Oct. 26.

Commissioners discuss 2027 draft budget

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County staff has been preparing the county's 2027 budget. The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) held multiple budget work sessions, on Oct. 13 and 14, meeting with department heads to review budget requests.

Then, during a work session held by the BoCC on Tuesday, Oct. 27, County Manager Longinos Gonzalez provided the board with a revised 2027 draft budget.

He indicated the county has prepared a "generally balanced budget" in the \$44 million range.

According to Gonzalez's presentation, the total projected revenue for 2027 is listed at \$44,889,578. That compares to the 2026 projected revenue of \$43,020,012.

Total expenditures for the 2027 draft budget are listed at \$44,068,809, which is above the 2026 projected total of \$42,646,372.

The general fund is listed to have a total revenue of \$24,58,767, which compares to the 2026 projected total of \$23,757,615, according to the presentation.

Gonzalez's presentation also notes that the general fund budget includes considerations of state property tax estimates of 5.5 percent, and a sales tax increase estimate of 1.5 percent.

■ See Budget A10

On to state



Photo courtesy Josh Kurz

A trio of Pirate harriers — Weston Sweet, Rylan Ash and Made Stretton — punched their tickets to the season's final meet on Oct. 31 with their finishes at the Oct. 22 regional meet.

Reminder: General election ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Nov. 3

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

As of 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27, Archuleta County voters had returned 3,740 ballots for the Nov. 3 election.

Ballots for the Nov. 3 general election were mailed to active registered voters beginning Monday, Oct. 5.

The election is a mail-ballot election in accordance with Colorado law.

Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3, to be counted. Postmarks do not count.

According to Archuleta County, everything with the election is operating as normal, with all of election drop boxes and hours the same as prior to the flooding.

What's on the ballot?

The following offices and items will appear on Archuleta County ballots.

Your actual ballot will include only the issues for which you are eligible to vote.

Federal offices

For U.S. senator, voters will have a choice between several candidates: Republican Mark Baisley, Democrat John Hickenlooper, Forward candidate Bob Chew, Approval Voting candidate Christopher Baum, Liber-

tarian Blake Huber, Unity candidate Adam Withrow and write-in candidate Donald Willoughby.

For U.S. representative for Congressional District 3, voters will have the option to vote for either Democrat Dwayne L. Romero, Republican Jeff Hurd, Libertarian Cory Robertson or unaffiliated candidate Clifton Brown.

State offices

For governor/lieutenant governor, voters will have several options: Republicans Victor Marx/George Washington Markert, Democrats Phil Weiser/Lesley Dahlkemper, American Constitution candidates Stephen T. Hamilton/James K. Treibert, Libertarians Eric Mulder/Wayne Harlos, Unity candidates Jeff Peckman/T.J. Cole, Approval Voting candidates Erik Underwood/Frank Atwood and unaffiliated candidates Greg Lopez/Taralyn Romero.

For secretary of state, voters will choose between Democrat Amanda Gonzalez, Republican James Wiley, Libertarian Sean Vadney, American Constitution candidate Amanda Campbell and Forward candidate Celeste Landry.

Candidates for state treasure include Democrat Jeff Bridges, Republican Kevin Grantham, Libertarian Jodie Barr and Approval Voting candidate Marilee Langer Sturgis.

■ See Ballots A11

Commissioners approve resolution for 84 Ranch variance request

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Oct. 20, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), acting as the Board of Adjustments, unanimously approved Resolution 2026-04, approving a variance request from the county's land use regulations for 84 Ranch Holding Company, located at 6252A U.S. 84.

According to the meeting's agenda, "At their Regular Meeting on August 18, 2026, the Board of Adjustment held a public hearing to approve a General Variance from the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations or 84 Ranch Land Holding Company LLC at Lot 45, at 6252A US HWY 84. The Board, with a 3-0 vote, approved the General Variance with several conditions. Staff recommends adoption of this Resolution."

Multiple public comments were given on the matter, with neighboring property owners speaking against approval of the variance.

Dawn Vrastil was the first commentator, explaining that she and her husband, William Vrastil, own three cattle farms around the country,

including one near Pagosa Springs.

She stated that the BoCC approving the resolution "would be an ill-advised act on behalf of the county."

Dawn Vrastil stated that the applicant, Brian Wattier, used misinformation in regard to a Colorado Department of transportation (CDOT) access permit.

"84 Ranch is still not compliant with property access and failed a recent CDOT inspection, but it is business as usual for the lodging unit on this property," she said.

In a later interview, Assistant County Attorney Mark Olguin indicated that the applicant has received a CDOT access permit.

Dawn Vrastil also claimed that there were 15 "violations" found on Wattier's property, but these violations were not followed up on by the county, "or it was pushed through with a 'whatever it takes' attitude."

Dawn Vrastil requested that the BoCC "delay all planning projects" in the county until its comprehensive plan is updated, "and establish, with community input on zoning that aligns with existing uses in this county."

■ See Variance A11



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Elk jump a fence west of Pagosa Springs on Thursday, Oct. 22, as areas around them flood.

SJWCD hears ranch update, meets potential board member

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors heard an update on maintenance and activities at the Running Iron Ranch at its Oct. 19 meeting.

SJWCD board member Charles Riehm explained that the SJWCD had asked, as part of its ongoing work with reservoir engineering consultant RJH Consultants, whether the 20 acres of the Running Iron Ranch that lie across U.S. 160 near the San Juan River, apart from the other portion of the parcel, would be considered a wetland.

He stated that RJH was working with Davis Engineering to do the engineering analysis that would be required to answer this question, which could impact the feasibility of building on this piece of property.

Riehm also stated that he added a padlock to the gate to this 20-acre section of the property, which was placed on the other side of the chain gate from the padlock placed by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), an arrangement which would allow members of both districts to access the property without coordinating with the other.

The SJWCD and PAWSD jointly own the property and are in the process of settlement negotiations for a lawsuit filed by PAWSD as part of an attempt to sell the property without the consent of the SJWCD.

Riehm stated he also recently drove around the ranch and took photographs of the regrowth of grass on the property after the recent rains.

“The grass is moderately coming in pretty well I would say generally across the whole area,” Riehm said.

He added that there were about 30 cow-calf pairs on the property near the Park Ditch, part of the recent temporary grazing lease the SJWCD signed with a nearby rancher.

Riehm commented that the cows did not appear to be going anywhere except where they could access water.

SJWCD board president Randy Cooper added that the cows have now been removed from the property.

SJWCD board member Candace Jones asked whether an invoice for weed treatment done by the Archuleta County Weed and Pest Department had been paid.

Riehm stated that he was unsure and that he would have to check with SJWCD treasurer Joe Tedder, who was out of town.

Potential board member introduction

At the meeting, the SJWCD board also heard an introduction from Bill O’Neill, a member of the public who came to Cooper expressing potential interest in serving on the SJWCD board, which currently has a vacancy.

Cooper commented that he felt that O’Neill would be “more than qualified” and that the timing of him joining the board would be ideal since the board would need to focus on environmental and project management once it finalizes its settlement with PAWSD and O’Neill has extensive experience with this.

O’Neill explained that he has been a full-time resident of Pagosa Springs for about a year, and that he has had property in the area since 2012 and has been coming to the area since the 1980s.

“Pagosa Springs is very deep in my heart,” he said. “I would be proud to have the opportunity to serve on the board.”

He commented that he believes he had a “vast amount” of project management knowledge that could assist the board and that he has been working in environmental restora-

tion, decontamination and demolition for 25 years, including current work supporting the decommissioning of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, “which at this point in time is considered the hardest project in the world.”

Jones asked if O’Neill was familiar with the district’s reservoir project.

O’Neill stated that he had reviewed the information on the SJWCD website and had spoken with Cooper about it.

“I think having an opportunity for a larger bank of a needed resource is a good idea for the community,” he said. “I have to do a little deeper dive into the project itself, but at this point in time I don’t see any negative aspects.”

Riehm commented that he felt O’Neill’s background sounded “really good” and that he was pleased that O’Neill is interested in joining the board.

“I’m in favor,” he said.

Cooper closed the discussion by stating that SJWCD Executive Assistant Sally High and SJWCD legal counsel Jeffrey Kane put together a letter giving him more information about how to apply to join the board, which would be sent to him.

josh@pagosasun.com

LPEA board seeking applicants for Round Up Foundation Board

La Plata Electric Association

The La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to apply to serve on the Round Up Foundation Board, which allocates grant funding to local nonprofits and educational projects.

Interested individuals from LPEA districts 1, 2 and 4 are invited to apply by Nov. 23.

Applications will be reviewed by

the LPEA Board of Directors, with appointments made at their Dec. 16 meeting. The new Round Up Board appointees will serve a two-year term beginning Jan. 25, 2027.

The Round Up Board meets virtually on the last Monday of each month from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. Volunteers should expect to dedicate up to 10 hours per month, including meeting time and reviewing grant applications.

Open positions:

- District 1: One appointment.
 - District 2: One appointment.
 - District 4: One appointment.
- More information and applications can be accessed at <https://lpea.coop/round-foundation>.

The Round Up Foundation’s mission is to improve the quality of life in our communities. For 30 years, LPEA members have voluntarily “rounded up” their electric bills to the nearest dollar, raising more than \$1.5 mil-

lion for nonprofits in La Plata and Archuleta counties.

So far this year, the board has awarded more than \$59,000 in grants.

The Round Up Foundation Board also oversees the distribution of grants funded by unclaimed capital credits to support educational and community projects across our service territory.

For more information, contact Carrie Hugus at chugus@lpea.coop.

Colorado’s Low-Income Energy Assistance Program will begin accepting applications Nov. 1

Colorado Department of Human Services

Colorado’s Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) will begin accepting applications on Nov. 1.

Coloradans who need help paying winter heating bills, saving energy or fixing broken heating systems are encouraged to apply.

National home energy costs are expected to rise 9 percent this winter. LEAP helps eligible Coloradans pay a portion of their heating bills, freeing up household funds for essential needs like groceries, medicine, rent and transportation. Applications are accepted through April 30, 2027.

LEAP makes a onetime payment

directly to utility companies on behalf of qualifying households. Last winter, more than 80,000 Coloradans received an average benefit of \$353. Depending on funding and home audit results, LEAP recipients may also qualify for emergency furnace repair, system replacement and weatherization services.

“Eligible families can expect to receive between \$200 and \$1,000 in energy assistance depending on their fuel type, household income and other factors,” said Paul Brown, community programs manager in the Food and Energy Assistance Division at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). “An estimated

80 percent of eligible Coloradans don’t take advantage of LEAP. We encourage anyone who thinks they might qualify to apply and get the support they need.”

Who qualifies?

To qualify, households must:

- Have an income at or below 60 percent of the state median income (for example, a family of four with a monthly gross income up to \$7,258 or \$87,096 annually).
- Pay heating costs directly to a utility vendor or as part of rent.
- Have at least one household member who is a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident.

How to apply

- Online: Visit cdhs.colorado.gov/leap to apply online via CO PEAK.

- By phone: Call the Heat Help line at 1-866-432-8435 (1-866-HEAT-HELP) to request a paper application by mail.

- In person: Visit your local county Department of Human Services office.

CDHS works with partners to empower Coloradans to thrive. CDHS provides help and hope to Coloradans through a wide range of programs that support the health, safety and well-being of our state’s most vulnerable populations.

Obituaries

Robert E. J. ‘Buck’ Goodyear

June 3, 1938 - Aug. 24, 2026

“A True Highway Man”

Robert “Buck” Goodyear passed away Aug. 24, 2026. Buck graduated from Durango High School in 1956 and spent two years at Fort Lewis College. He married Martha “Beckie” Estes on Nov. 29, 1957.

He spent most of his life working road construction and then went on to the Colorado Department of Transportation, retiring in 2003 after 26 years of service.

His hobbies, when he found time, were hunting, golf, leatherwork, restoring cars and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Buck was honored to be a part of the book “Living and Dying in Avalanche Country.” He had a passion

for working with the men and women who helped keep Red Mountain and Wolf Creek passes open.

Later, after retirement, he and Beckie moved to Visalia, Calif., to be closer to their parents and other family. They left Visalia in 2024 after 30 years and moved back to Colorado.

Robert, Buck, Dad and Papa Buck was and is loved, and will be missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Rebecca “Beckie” Goodyear; and his brother and best friend, Don Lyle Goodyear; his children, William “Bill” Goodyear and Dawn Lea Goodyear Schulz; his grandchildren, Bryanna, Brittney, Lyle “Alex,” Jessica, and Phillip; and his great-grandchildren, Callie, Lily, Cassidy, Charlotte, Kate, Brody, Logan (who shares Buck’s birthday), Rory, Eleanore “EJ,” Aiden, Elizabeth and Remy.

Buck has joined those who preceded him: his grandmother and grandfather, Kathryn and Albert Leary; his father and mother, Lyle “Hap” and Leah “Skeet” Goodyear; his sister, Kaye Vandever; his son, Darrell Goodyear; and his niece, Kelly Vandever.

Buck never met a stranger and was

always there to help if you needed help.

Beckie has said, “You still had to do things his way because any other way was wrong.”

It’s time to say, “1-2-3, Gotta Go!”

Demetrio Martinez

Demetrio Martinez passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2026, at his home in Carracas Mesa, N.M. Born and raised in Carracas, Demetrio spent the majority of his life in Durango, where he dedicated 45 years of service as a foreman for the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. He was a man known by many and loved by all.

Demetrio was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bernie Martinez, and his daughter, Fay Martinez. He is

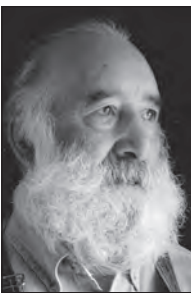
survived by his grandchildren, Jenna and Devon on Martinez, and his great-grandchildren, Michael, Sofia, Emily, Saylor, Brooklyn, Alice, Hadlyn and Harper.

A celebration of life will be held at Hood Mortuary in Durango on Sunday, Nov. 1 — which would have been his 91st birthday — at noon.

Jean Macht Taylor

The family of Jean Macht Taylor would like to let the community know of her passing on Oct. 19, 2026.

Obituary and celebration of life details to follow.



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.

Your source for community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100



HOT SPRINGS FEST

NOVEMBER 6 - 8

Soak at All Three Hot Springs: Overlook Hot Springs, Healing Waters, and The Springs Resort for only \$55

WIN A YEAR OF SOAKING AT ALL THREE HOT SPRINGS DURING THE FREE ROBE PARADE



FREE DAILY COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR ALL

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Trunk or Treat

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

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.

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

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Letters

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

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

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

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/.

Re: SpaceX stock shares

Dear Editor:

The recent letter about Elon Musk and SpaceX shares for kids took a pledge that hasn't happened yet and built a whole conspiracy on top of it. A lot of it doesn't hold up.

Start with where things actually stand. On Oct. 19, Musk posted on X that he'll give every kid in America a SpaceX share next year, and the White House says it would go through the new Trump Accounts. So far it's still a promise. No donor agreement has been approved, and no shares are in anyone's account. Cash in these accounts has to go into broad U.S. index funds. Treasury recently made a narrow exception that lets a charity or a government give publicly traded stock to large groups of kids, but only with Treasury's sign-off. Companies can't just drop shares in.

The scariest claim is that one share could knock a struggling family off food stamps or Medicaid. That isn't how it works. Kids' Medicaid eligibility is based on income, with no asset test at all. Trump Accounts are legally a type of IRA, which SNAP doesn't count, and Social Security doesn't count them as a resource while the child is a minor.

The college aid worry falls apart too. The FAFSA doesn't count retirement accounts as assets. Even if a roughly \$146 share were counted at the 20% student rate mentioned, that's about \$29 less in aid, which is hardly enough to push anyone into student loans. As for the penalties, the reporting falls on the bank or brokerage holding the account, not the family. I couldn't find anything about the IRS charging families \$500 a month.

It's fair to be skeptical of billionaires and of new government programs. I am too. But scaring families about losing food assistance and getting hit with fines that don't exist doesn't help anybody here.

Kevin Fricke

The cost of growth

Dear Editor:

As a multigenerational Pagosa Springs local raising my family here, I have watched our beautiful hometown change.

But I find myself asking: At what point does growth begin costing us the very heart of our community?

To our mayor and Town Council, I respectfully ask: When you speak of workforce housing, exactly which workforce are you referring to?

The single parent working two jobs? The middle-class family barely keeping up with rising expenses? The elderly resident who spent a lifetime working, only to return to work after retirement because their income is no longer enough?

These are not statistics. They are our neighbors, our families, and the people who keep Pagosa Springs alive.

We are facing proposals for large-

scale development while serious questions remain about our roads, infrastructure, emergency services, and the safety of our community.

Why are we so focused on attracting more people when we have yet to adequately address the needs of those already here?

I have also heard concerns about development involving land associated with the old county poor farm. Our community deserves clarity about that history and how it relates to current proposals.

When discussions arise about portions of new developments potentially serving tourism rather than permanent residents, we deserve clear answers. How many homes will actually be affordable and available to our year-round working families?

And how can we expect the very workforce these developments supposedly serve to attend public meetings at five o'clock?

Not everyone works nine to five. Some work twelve- to fifteen-hour days. Others juggle multiple jobs, raise children alone, or care for aging family members.

Their absence should never be mistaken for a lack of concern.

We are not simply questioning growth. We are questioning large-scale growth that threatens to outpace our infrastructure, compromise our safety, and push aside the needs of our existing community.

Before building more, shouldn't we take care of what we already have?

Our elderly, our single parents, our low- and middle-income families, our neighborhoods, and the services we depend on deserve consideration first.

To our neighbors throughout Pagosa Springs, our concerns deserve to be heard. We may not share the same history, income, or circumstances, but we share this community.

Our children deserve more than stories about the Pagosa Springs we once knew. They deserve the opportunity to experience the community we love.

Pagosa Springs is more than a tourist destination. It is our home.

And its future should protect the people who live here, keeping us safe and rooted, not pushing us out.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Jade Gallegos

Toilets at Treasure Falls

Dear Editor:

A big thank you to the person or group responsible for putting the portable toilets at the Treasure Falls parking lot. Treasure Falls is a popular stop for locals and tourists all year long. The area had become littered with tissue and human waste ever since the vault toilet was removed a few years ago. It is incredibly frustrating when a popular, high-traffic spot loses basic amenities like that, especially when the resulting impact on nature and the trail experience becomes so clear. Failing to provide a proper alternative after removing a vault toilet was quickly turning a beautiful scenic stop into an environmental hazard.

Holly Hasenbuhler

Ukraine

Dear Editor:

"I believe steps have been taken to convince Ukraine to capitulate," Ukrainian President Zelenskyy told Bloomberg News.

The Trump Administration's actions since October 09, 2026 represent a major shift that directly benefits the Kremlin's economic and war positioning in Russia's War against Ukraine.

- Russian Diesel Deal
- Executive Order to waive sanctions in Graham Sanctioning Russia Act
- Throttling Starshield/Starlink Access
- Lapses in Intelligence Sharing

-Withholding Patriot Air Defense Missiles

-Ultimatum on Russian Refineries

-Demands for Leadership

In 1994, the United States of America, along with the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, signed the Budapest Memorandum with Ukraine. In return for giving up one of the largest nuclear arsenals in the world, the three nations agreed to provide Ukraine with official assurances of security, sovereignty, and the inviolability of Ukraine's borders. They pledged not to threaten or use force against Ukraine.

20 years later, Russia illegally annexed Crimea and forcibly occupied territory in the Donbas region of Ukraine. In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine kept its word.

Russia broke its word.

excerpt from a recent Letter

To: Donald J. Trump, 45th and

47th President of the United States

From: Viktor Yushchenko, 3rd

President of Ukraine

"So how can anyone today, when a treacherous enemy has attacked us, forget America's signature on the Budapest Memorandum?"

Neonila Martyniuk

Montrose, Colo.

The library stayed open

Dear Editor:

Last week, incredible flooding once again shut down much of our town. From lack of power and other building issues—including too much water!—most shops, restaurants, and offices downtown had to close. Schools also were closed, of course.

But the library stayed open!

"People need us," library director Barb Brattin told me. "We opened. Patrons came in to get documents printed and pick up books on hold. Kids needed a place to go while their parents were at work. They spent time in the makerspace—off the computers and creating things, which thrills me. Once we go solar, I don't expect we ever will close, unless they forbid travel."

We are so lucky to have such a beautiful, updated library and a dedicated group of librarians who are there for us, rain or shine.

Donna Mosher

■ See Letters A6



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Work continues on forming concrete curb, gutter and side-walks in front of the old courthouse on U.S. 160.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Nov. 2-7

A message to the Pagosa Springs Community

The CDOT and WW Clyde team have been in the Pagosa Springs community for almost two years now. Many of our team members relocated to the area to be part of this important project. We've gotten to know you, we frequent the restaurants and businesses here, and want you to know that we'll be standing with you as the town and impacted areas around Pagosa Springs rebuild from this flooding incident.

After waters receded, work zone inspections were completed. The project team has reported that U.S. 160 and new concrete throughout downtown did not sustain significant damage. The excavated open areas on several of the open work zones will need to dry out before work continues at these locations. If you have specific project related concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to the project team.

Additionally, CDOT remains committed to providing you information and updates on all the highways impacted in the surrounding areas. For affected highway locations and routes outside of the project work zone, you're encouraged to continue visiting COTrip or contact CDOT's customer service by phone at (970) 385-1423. Updates are also posted to the CDOT News | Southwest Colorado Facebook group.

Work activity

Due to the increased water, milling and paving operations will be pushed back a week or two. The forecast continues to call for inclement weather later this week; 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.

• 1st Street: 1st Street is now open to two-way traffic. The north side of 1st Street remains closed.

• 5th Street intersection: 5th Street is 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.

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

• 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 milling and paving schedule for the south side of 8th-10th streets has been moved back to the week of Nov. 9. 8th Street will remain open until the south side of 7th Street 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 jay-walking 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.

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation



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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

- be 500 words or less
- include the actual first and last name of the author
- include the author's address and daytime phone number
- be received by The SUN by noon on Tuesday (deadline may move up due to a holiday)

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Archuleta County Commissioner Warren Brown addresses a room full of residents during a community meeting held on Tuesday, Oct. 27, providing updates on the impacts of the historic flooding.

Public Health reminds residents to avoid floodwater, take precautions

Archuleta County Public Health Department

Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) reminds residents to take precautions during and after flooding.

Floodwater can contain sewage, harmful germs, chemicals and debris that can cause illness or injury. Flooded areas may also hide downed power lines, sharp objects and other hazards.

Protect yourself and your family

- Avoid floodwater. Do not walk, swim or allow children and pets to play in flooded areas. Avoid rivers, streams and lakes affected by flooding.
- Wash after contact. Clean exposed skin with soap and clean water as soon as possible. Wash hands often, especially before eating.
- Clean contaminated items. Wash clothing exposed to floodwater with hot water and detergent. Clean and disinfect toys and other items before reuse.
- Protect wounds. Keep cuts covered with waterproof bandages. Clean any wounds exposed to floodwater and watch for signs of infection.
- Consider getting a tetanus booster. Cleanup brings cuts and puncture wounds from debris hidden in mud

and water. For anyone doing cleanup or entering heavily damaged areas. Get a booster if you are wounded and your last shot was more than five years ago — or you are not sure. Archuleta County Public Health can support you in getting your booster — call (970) 264-2409.

- Food precautions: If your home was flooded, your refrigerators and freezers were likely compromised and food should be discarded. If you were without power for an extended amount of time: Most refrigerators will keep food safely cold for about four hours if unopened. A full freezer will hold the temperature for approximately 48 hours if the door remains closed. For a freezer that is half full, keeping the door closed can maintain the temperature for 24 hours.

- Wash your pets. If you and your family pets have been outside in potentially contaminated areas, wash them down.

Know when to seek medical care

Contact a health care provider if you develop fever, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps or signs of a wound infection, such as redness, swelling, or increasing pain. Seek medical care for deep cuts, puncture wounds or injuries involving debris. A tetanus booster may

be needed.

Be aware of other hazards

- Standing water on roads: Water covers up road damage and mud that can impact your travel. Avoid driving through standing water whenever possible.
- Downed power lines: Stay away from fallen lines and nearby water. Report them to your utility provider or emergency services.
- Propane tanks: Do not move displaced tanks. Contact your local fire department.
- Damaged batteries: Flooded car batteries, lithium-ion batteries, and electric vehicles may pose electrical, chemical or fire hazards. Do not handle, charge or operate damaged equipment. Contact your local fire department for guidance.

The best way to protect yourself is to avoid floodwater whenever possible and use caution during cleanup.

Special considerations for those with wells and septic systems

Wells

- Turn off power to your well before any inspection happens.
- Test and disinfect: Your well will likely need to be tested and disinfected

before use.

- If your cistern or well entry point was underwater or near the flood water, disinfecting and testing afterwards is recommended.
- If your cistern was not underwater but is showing signs of sediment or discoloration, disinfect and see if that clears your system, then test.
- Do not turn your pump on: Use extreme caution and do not turn on your pump until it has been inspected due to risk of electrical shock.
- Use alternative water for drinking and bathing.

Septic systems

- Let it dry out: Limit use while the system is drying out.
- Wait to pump the tank: Don't pump until groundwater levels drop. Extra pressure to an empty tank can compromise the system.
- Get help from a pro: If you think your system has been compromised, get professional help to assess the system.

Documents with more details and safety information for many of the above topics can be found at <https://publichealth.archuletacounty.gov/>.

For more information about floodwater safety, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Business Disruption Loan Program available

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation

In response to the flooding in Archuleta County, the Region 9 Economic Development District is activating its Business Disruption Loan Program to help businesses recover and remain operational during this critical time.

Here are the highlights of the program:

- Loan amounts: \$1,000 to \$10,000.
- Interest Rate: Zero percent for the first six months; 1 percent interest-only for months 7-12; fixed prime rate thereafter.
- Repayment Terms: 24 to 48 months (depending on loan size).

- Use of funds: Payroll, rent, utilities and other essential operating costs.
- Collateral: Personal guarantees and a blanket lien (UCC-1) on business assets.

This program is designed for cash flow relief while businesses await insurance settlements, Small Business Association assistance or customer recovery. It complements Region 9's standard Business Loan Fund, which can provide larger loans for rebuilding, inventory replacement or equipment purchases.

Interested businesses should contact Jenny Stollar or Ricardo Arrieta, jenny@region9edd.org or (970) 247-9621, or ricardo@region9edd.org.

Applicants will need to provide:

- A short statement of business impact and recovery goals.
- Current financials and a simple budget showing intended use of funds.
- A personal financial statement and job retention estimate.

Priority will be given to businesses demonstrating the ability to reopen or retain employees and those leveraging additional funding sources. Please help us spread the word to affected businesses in your community. If you need assistance completing an application, Region 9 is available to walk you through the process.

Thank you for continuing to support local recovery efforts.

Letters

■ Continued from A5

Excessive noise

Dear Editor:

Don't even know how to label this letter but here goes. For the last 3 years my wife has made numerous complaints against the neighbor for excessive noise and when I say noise I mean that constant boom boom music that goes on for hours upon hours until you feel like screaming. So you call dispatch and they send a officer who informs you they can't do anything and we need to inform the PLPOA who in turn says it is a police matter. In addition for some strange reason after complaining you notice someone for some sick reason has started launching projectiles at your windows which so far has causes over \$700 in damage. So you call the sheriff again, they respond and same result as the noise complaint occurs. It does not take a rocket scientist to determine just where the projectiles are coming from but I guess an investigation is a little too much to ask for. Don't get me wrong I support our law enforcement but it seems their hands are tied when trying to resolve this. It seems that if you don't see the individual actually shoot the projectiles nothing can or will be done. I wonder if someone was shooting bullets at the house if the results would be the same or would this finally be enough to launch an investigation. Believe me when I say this these projectiles being used

could cause sever damage to a person and I for one would rather not wait for it to happen. This scumbag seems to love messing with peoples minds but to go after a 77 year old woman shows just how much of a coward they are. As far as the noise complaints go we just quit calling because there is no sense wasting the sheriffs time. There are noise ordinance laws both in the county and the PLPOA allowing people to live a peaceful life but they are just words on paper and nothing more. We are looking at alternative legal actions to take but until then we will just pray and hope for the best.

Richard Sutherland

PSMC remains open

Dear Editor:

Like so many throughout the greater Pagosa Springs community, Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) and our staff have been impacted by the severe flooding.

Some of our hospital and ambulance/EMS staff have been unable to report to work because flooding and road closures have prevented travel from Bayfield, Ignacio, Arboles, Durango, and communities on the other side of Wolf Creek Pass. In addition, limited air transportation and challenging road conditions have prevented some patients from being transferred to larger hospitals, requiring PSMC to continue providing their

care locally.

Despite these extraordinary challenges, PSMC remains open and continues to provide hospital and ambulance services to our community. Our dedicated and skilled staff are working tirelessly to ensure continuity of patient care. PSMC ambulances also remain staffed and ready to respond to emergencies throughout our 1,800-square-mile service area, subject to road access and safety conditions.

We are deeply grateful to the Archuleta County Emergency Management team and all the first responders, public employees, and community members working to address this unprecedented flooding. We also appreciate the emergency declarations and the efforts of the Town, County, and State to secure additional resources, including assistance from the National Guard.

A special thank you to Sheriff LeRoux for his leadership and support in helping PSMC maintain continuity of our hospital and ambulance services during this challenging time.

To our PSMC staff who continue to serve our patients under difficult circumstances, thank you. Your dedication to our community is extraordinary.

We are proud to serve this community, especially when our neighbors need us most.

We will get through this together.
Rhonda P. Webb, M.D.
PSMC CEO and CMO

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- Rose H.

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Water districts report at least \$13 million in flooding damage

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

Pagosa Springs’ water and wastewater service providers — the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) and the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) — suffered more than \$13 million in damage to their systems in last week’s flooding event, according to Wednesday estimates.

The PSSGID suffered about \$9 million in damage, stated Pagosa Springs Town Manager David Harris, while PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis indicated that, on Wednesday morning, PAWSD estimated damages at \$4,005,000.

Lewis emphasized that this is a “VERY preliminary” estimate since some PAWSD infrastructure is still inaccessible.

According to Harris, the PSSGID, which provides sewer service for downtown Pagosa Springs and is operated by the Town of Pagosa Springs, primarily suffered damage to all three of its lift stations, its two pumping stations on the line that moves wastewater from downtown to PAWSD’s Vista wastewater treatment plant, and to the sewer line that runs under the 1st Street bridge on U.S. 160.

He explained that the pumps and

electrical equipment at these stations all suffered damage due to being inundated with water and that at least some of the equipment in all these stations will likely need to be replaced.

Harris stated that the pump stations on the line to Vista are currently operating with one set of dry and submersible pumps each, when they normally use two sets of pumps that alternate operations to give each set downtime.

He indicated that the inundation during the flooding also led to the system overflowing raw sewage into the San Juan River once its pumping capacity was exceeded at the Vista pipeline.

The forced main for the Vista pipeline handled 1.7 million gallons of water on Thursday, Oct. 22; 1.58 million gallons on Friday, Oct. 23; and 1.32 million gallons on Saturday, Oct. 24, Harris stated.

He added that the pipeline usually handles about 350,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

“And that’s what made it into the pipe and didn’t go downstream into the river,” he said.

Harris stated that, by Sunday Oct. 24, the overflow had stopped and the system was back to operating as normal.

He indicated that the PSSGID is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Archuleta County Public Health Department to determine next steps related to the spill.

The damage to the 1st Street bridge pipeline was due to the water rising high enough to destroy the pipe that runs under the bridge, Harris stated.

Prior to the flooding, the PSSGID implemented a bypass using a flexible pipe running along the sidewalk on top of the bridge and a temporary pump on the east end of the bridge, Harris explained, which is still in operation since the normal pipe has been destroyed.

He added that this incident accounts for a significant portion of the cost of the damages that the PSSGID suffered.

Harris also stated that the PSSGID suffered other miscellaneous damage, including to work that was in progress to replace sections of the McCabe Creek sewer line, which is a large source of inflow and infiltration of outside water into the PSSGID system.

He indicated that this work was nearing completion prior to the flood and that it suffered at least some damage during the flooding,

although the town is still working to assess the situation.

Harris indicated that, despite the damage, the sewer system did not fail to function for any customers during the flooding incident.

According to an update from Lewis, damage to the PAWSD system included some water and wastewater pipelines that were exposed due to roads washing out and/or damaged in other flood-related incidents.

An Oct. 26 update from PAWSD District Manager Andrew Connor to the PAWSD Board of Directors highlights exposed pipelines on Mockingbird Lane and North Pagosa Boulevard due to roads washing out, as well as water line issues at 2nd Street and Hermosa Street.

However, the update adds that the exposed pipelines have been bedded with fresh material and are now operating normally and that the issues at 2nd Street and Hermosa Street were isolated to a leaking valve on the Apache Street water line, which has now been replaced.

Bedding a water or wastewater line involves ensuring that the material supporting the line from underneath is appropriately supportive and free of material like rocks that could cause damage.

Connor states in his update that the district will likely have to replace the exposed lines at Mockingbird Lane and North Pagosa Boulevard in the future, but that this will occur in conjunction with the county repairing the road washouts that cause the exposures.

His update states that the Snowball and Hatcher Lake water treatment plants are fully operational and that the diversion on the San Juan River that provides water to the Snowball plant and its associated reservoir has been cleared sufficiently to allow water to flow into the reservoir.

The San Juan water treatment plant, located at PAWSD’s offices at 100 Lyn Ave., which also contains the Vista wastewater treatment plant, was shut off before the flooding began, according to Lewis.

In an Oct. 23 update to the PAWSD board, Connor also states that the Vista wastewater treatment plant “held” during the flooding and remains operational.

He adds that the plant treated 5.7 million gallons of wastewater during the Oct. 22 and Oct. 23 flooding events.

In her update, Lewis states that damage to the river and creek diversions that feed PAWSD’s water treatment plants is yet to be fully determined.

“Our water and wastewater systems require 24/7 management,” Lewis said. “As such, we are accustomed to responding to infrastructure issues quickly and at all times of the day/night. PAWSD staff has been preparing for and working on the impacts from the flood event since before it began and will continue to do so until all issues are resolved.”

She adds, “We greatly appreciate the patience of all PAWSD customers as we work through the remainder of the flood event.”

josh@pagosasun.com



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

A kayaker takes on the San Juan River through Pagosa Springs on Sunday morning, Oct. 25. Residents are encouraged to avoid floodwater.

CDOT gives update on downtown U.S. 160 reconstruction project following flooding

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Monday, Oct. 26, at a joint work session of the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) gave an update on its highway reconstruction project through downtown Pagosa Springs and how it will be impacted by the destructive flooding event.

Meredith Greene, who works on public information for the project said, “I hate to hear everything that is happening,” regarding the flooding along the area’s waterways.

Greene explained she wanted to get local officials in the loop on the “planned work” ahead, and “where damages occurred, and what that portends for the project.”

“I’m going to use the term ‘planned work’ very loosely, because it’s just going to depend on a number of factors,” she said.

The planned work that CDOT had for this week, being conducted by contractor WW Clyde, was to “mill asphalt and then reasphalt around 8th to 10th streets,” she explained.

But that “is not going to happen now,” she said, adding that the milling crew “will be coming maybe next week and the asphalt probably two weeks later for that portion of the project.”

She further explained, “With the flooding, it sets off a chain of events for the project that we are gonna have to work through.”

One of the major setbacks is that CDOT had brought in “extra crews” to get the project done more quickly, but these extra crews were sent home “when we knew there was a major weather event coming,” she

explained.

This extra help “has not been able to return yet, because of the damage between 160 between South Fork and Wolf Creek Pass,” she said.

Once the roadway is reopened, “we can have our crews come back to town,” she added.

On damages caused by the flooding, she explained that there wasn’t really much damage to the worksite itself, but that the project is still impacted by the flooding with closed roadways and adjacent damage being a factor.

She noted that some “soil stabilization on the east side of the McCabe Creek bridge” would need to take place.

Here, she said, “there were large volumes of water coming across the jobsite at that particular location and, so, one of the things we are looking at is to assess that damage and what needs to be done there.”

She also mentioned that there appears to be a failure of “an old storm-water utility structure on the northeast corner of 8th Street that created a very large sinkhole and that impacts our site, because it’s right next to the site and needs to be addressed.”

She explained the sinkhole as 10 feet by 10 feet in size, and “we would have to excavate, and it will be a significant project to determine exactly what needs to be done at that particular location.”

She explained that while it’s not within the jobsite, it’s directly “adjacent, and needs to be repaired before we can continue there.”

“The good news is that we had our chief engineer come through the jobsite, and the infrastructure that we have put in thus far, from 1st Street up to the dogleg, where we have the storm drain ... is doing its job, even

with all of this unprecedented rain. It’s draining the way it’s supposed to,” she said.

She added, “It’s keeping the water flowing ... the way it was designed, so we were at least pleased to see that the infrastructure that is there is doing exactly as it is supposed to.”

More weather is coming in this weekend, and she noted that CDOT is monitoring this potential weather system very closely as well.

When opened to questions from town and county officials, Mayor Shari Pierce asked for a timeline on “how this storm might have set you all back in being able to complete this construction?”

“I just can’t say,” Greene replied, “It’s too early for us to have a good feel for that.”

The broader concern for CDOT at the moment is “are we going to continue to get weather?” Greene explained.

County Commissioner John Ranson asked what “priorities, such as what sections of the project” would be focused on to get the road open and potentially leave others “to next year.”

Greene replied, “I don’t know that I can answer that yet,” but added that “we have completed most of the work from 1st to the dogleg, so that part is not of concern to us at this time.”

She explained the focus now would be on stabilizing the area between 6th through 8th streets due to the “large volumes of water.”

One thing Greene indicated she wanted the local officials to know is that the CDOT and WW Clyde crews have “been living here as Pagosans throughout the project, and we care deeply about this community, and we will certainly do whatever it takes to help with the recovery efforts.”

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7B

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

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Why your YES vote is important

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

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

Local reporting that matters.

Pagosa Country to see another storm this weekend

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

With flooding in the recent past, the Pagosa Springs area faces another significant storm in its future this weekend, according to meteorologists.

According to forecasts by the National Weather Service (NWS) and local meteorologists, the storm will likely begin Friday, with the bulk of the moisture coming between Sunday morning and Monday.

At a Tuesday briefing, Grand Junction based NWS Service Hydrologist Erin Walter indicated that Pagosa Springs has a 46 percent chance to receive more than 2 inches of rain between Sunday and Monday and a 15 percent chance to receive more than 3 inches of rain during this period.

She highlighted that the snow line for this storm will be significantly lower than the previous storms that caused flooding, with snow levels starting at about 10,000 feet and dropping to 9,000 feet.

She stated that the event will likely lead to increases in river levels, although she added that forecasting indicates that major flooding is unlikely to occur and that there is currently

low confidence in the accuracy of the forecasted precipitation amounts, temperatures and snow levels.

At a joint work session held by the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners on Monday, Oct. 26, local meteorologist Shawn Prochazka from Pagosa Weather largely echoed Walter's comments.

Prochazka indicated that the "brunt of the storm" will be on Sunday, Nov. 1, and Monday, Nov. 2.

He explained that models are predicting up to 2 inches of rainfall in the area during that time, but that recent models were trending down for lower rain total amounts.

He also noted that precipitation above 10,000 feet is going to fall as snow.

"So, that is not going to contribute to run off in our rivers," he said.

In an Oct. 27 interview, Prochazka added that there is a significant amount of snow currently in the high country, although it is difficult to estimate since the snow telemetry (SNOTEL) operated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service on Wolf Creek Pass is at about 11,000 feet, near the bottom of the "good snow" that has fallen.

On Oct. 28, the SNOTEL site on the summit of Wolf Creek Pass indicated that the location currently had 4 inches of snow water equivalent and a snow depth of 12 inches.

On Oct. 27, Wolf Creek Ski Area reported in a Facebook post that it had received 20 inches of snow in the recent storms for a midway depth of 12 inches and a year-to-date snowfall of 22 inches.

On Oct. 27, Prochazka commented that he is "not too concerned" about flooding impacts from the upcoming storms due to them containing less moisture than the storms that impacted the area on Oct. 22 and Oct. 23.

He commented that there will likely be a spike in the rivers on Sunday night or Monday morning, but that he believes it is unlikely to reach flood stage.

However, he noted that the highly saturated ground from previous rain will accelerate runoff from the upcoming storms since very little water will be absorbed by the ground where the rain falls.

By mid-morning on Wednesday, Oct. 28, Incident Commander Trainee Thad McKain, who serves on the Colorado Incident Management

Team here in response to the flooding, indicated the forecasted moisture is increasing.

"They were ramping the numbers down. They have ramped the moisture totals up," McKain said, adding, "It's too early for them to start pulling triggers on the potential for any flooding. ... They definitely do not think we're going to have flooding like what we just experienced. We could see some areas with flooding. The other issue is how much more is this moisture going to impact what we have, and how [many] new issues are they going to create. So, that's where we're at right now."

On the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 28, the NWS forecasted that conditions would remain sunny with highs in high 40s or low 50s and lows in the low 30s through Thursday, Oct. 29, with mostly cloudy conditions and a 20 percent chance of snow showers after midnight starting on Thursday night. The low Thursday night is predicted to be 37 degrees.

Friday morning, Oct. 30, will see a chance of snow showers before noon and a slight chance of rain or thunder after noon, with mostly cloudy conditions and a 30 percent chance of

precipitation.

Friday evening will bring a chance of rain and snow showers before 3 a.m., shifting to a chance of rain showers after 3 a.m., with mostly cloudy skies and a low of 38 degrees. The chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Saturday, Oct. 31, will see showers with thunderstorms possible after noon along with mostly cloudy conditions, a 60 percent chance of precipitation and a high of 45 degrees.

Saturday night features a chance of rain showers before 3 a.m., shifting to rain and snow showers afterward with mostly cloudy skies and a low of 37 degrees.

Sunday, Nov. 1, and Sunday night are expected to feature rain and snow

showers with some thunder possible, cloudy skies, a daytime high of 39 degrees and a nighttime low of 34 degrees.

Rain and snow showers are likely on Monday, Nov. 2, with partially sunny skies and a high of 39 degrees.

Monday night brings a chance of rain and snow showers along with partly cloudy skies and a low of 31 degrees.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, is expected to be mostly sunny with a high of 44 degrees.

For more forecasting information, see NWS forecasts at www.weather.gov/ or Pagosa Weather's forecasts at www.pagosaweather.org/ or on the organization's Facebook page.

josh@pagosasun.com

Historic flood data

Date	Gage height (feet)	Streamflow (cfs)
Oct. 5, 1911	17.806	25,000
Oct. 23, 2026	15.02	9,230
June 29, 1927	13.50	16,000
Oct. 14, 2025	12.82	8,560
Oct. 11, 2025	12.66	8,270
Sept. 6, 1970	9.02	6,580

Data courtesy National Water Information Service

How to help following the flooding

Staff Report

Multiple organizations have announced ways to help the community following the flooding.

Following are some of those ways to help. For additional ways to help, keep an eye on www.PagosaSUN.com.

Community Foundation activates fund to assist with flood recovery

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has activated the Archuleta Community Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) to assist the Town of Pagosa Springs and surrounding areas affected by this week's flooding.

Individuals wanting to support the community are encouraged to donate to the fund to ensure their support goes where it is needed most.

Online donations can be made through the Community Foundation's website, swcommunityfoundation.org, by clicking on the "Donate" button on the home page, then selecting "2026 Archuleta Flood Recovery."

The direct donation link is https://cfssc.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=3839.

Checks made out to the Community Foundation — Memo: 2026 Archuleta Flood — can be mailed to P.O. Box 1673, Durango, CO 81302.

The Community Foundation inspires hope, leadership and generosity in the community by bringing economic stability, professional de-

velopment and collaboration to the nonprofit sector.

As a community facilitator, the Community Foundation works to increase efficiency, sustainability and success for nonprofits, while maximizing effective grant-making for philanthropists.

Pagosa Rotary rallies to help flood-affected neighbors

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs is accepting financial donations through the Pagosa Rotary Community Assistance Fund (PRAAF) to help individuals and families in Archuleta County experiencing hardship as a result of recent flooding.

The PRAAF will match the first \$20,000 in donations received for flood relief, dollar for dollar, to help local neighbors recover. The PRAAF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization that has been serving Archuleta County since 2012.

Community members wishing to contribute can donate online at: <https://pagosaspringsrotary.org/donations>.

Donations may also be mailed to: Pagosa Rotary CAF, P.O. Box 685, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Please write "Flood Relief" in the memo line of your check.

Guided by Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," the fund reflects the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors when it matters most. Pagosa Rotary will work

with local residents and community partners to identify pressing needs and provide practical assistance to neighbors impacted by the flooding. The goal is to direct support where it can make the greatest difference for individuals and families facing hardship.

Flooding can leave families facing unexpected challenges, from damage to homes and personal belongings to the loss of essential supplies and everyday necessities. Through this relief effort, Pagosa Rotary hopes to ease some of these burdens and help families move forward.

In times of hardship, the strength of Archuleta County shines through the generosity and compassion of its people. Together, we can help our neighbors recover, rebuild and move forward.

Colorado Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (COVOAD)

COVOAD coordinates community organizations and disaster recovery partners to support a collaborative, community-led response.

Individuals, organizations and businesses interested in offering donations, volunteer assistance or professional services can connect with COVOAD.

Organizations and individuals interested in volunteering, donating or supporting recovery can visit covoad.org or email coloradovoad@gmail.com.

Flood recovery resources outlined

Town of Pagosa Springs

As recovery efforts continue following significant flooding in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, several resources are available to help residents safely dispose of flood-damaged materials, access cleanup assistance and connect with community support services.

Flood debris disposal locations

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County have designated locations for residents to dispose of flood-related debris.

- Town of Pagosa Springs: wood debris only — South Yamaguchi, 976 S. 5th St.

This location accepts wood debris resulting from flooded properties within town limits only.

No other materials are permitted, and wood debris must not be mixed with other waste.

- Archuleta County: wood debris only — CSU Extension Office, 344 B U.S. 84.

This location accepts wood debris resulting from flooded properties within Archuleta County only.

No other materials are permitted at this location.

- Archuleta County Landfill: flood-damaged materials — Archuleta County Landfill, 9179 County Road 500.

The landfill hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The landfill is accepting the following flood-damaged materials:

Appliances (white goods) damaged by floodwater.

Flood-damaged personal belongings.

Flood-damaged drywall, which

must be separated from other debris before arrival.

Important safety notice: Drywall in older homes may contain asbestos in joint compound or tape. Improper removal can create serious health hazards. Residents are strongly encouraged to use qualified professionals experienced in handling asbestos-containing materials.

Please bring only materials damaged by the recent flooding.

Flood recovery assistance and community resources

Residents impacted by flooding can access additional support through the following organizations.

- 211 Colorado: Residents seeking assistance with re-entry information, shelter, temporary housing, food, clothing, financial assistance and other essential needs can connect with 211 Colorado.

Contact 211 Colorado by calling 211, texting 898-211 or visiting 211colorado.org.

Resource navigators can help connect individuals and families with available services.

- Crisis Cleanup volunteer cleanup assistance: Residents who need help cleaning up flood damage can request assistance through the Crisis Cleanup Hotline by calling (970) 283-7325.

Volunteer cleanup services are provided free of charge. However, assistance is not guaranteed due to high demand.

The Crisis Cleanup Hotline does not handle requests for food, shelter, insurance or other social services. Residents needing those services should contact 211 Colorado.

- Colorado Voluntary Organiza-

tions Active in Disaster (COVOAD): COVOAD coordinates community organizations and disaster recovery partners to support a collaborative, community-led response.

Individuals, organizations and businesses interested in offering donations, volunteer assistance or professional services can connect with COVOAD.

Contact COVOAD by email at coloradovoad@gmail.com or visit covoad.org.

Important reminder: Assistance provided by COVOAD and its partners is free of charge. Private contractors and insurance adjusters may offer services, but they are not necessarily affiliated with COVOAD, and neither COVOAD nor local governments endorse their work.

Stay informed

Residents should continue following Archuleta County's Nixle alerts for emergency notifications, evacuation information, and public safety instructions.

Register with Nixle for citizen alerts and warnings at <https://www.archuletacounty.gov/ser.../citizens-alert-nixle/>.

The town appreciates the continued cooperation of residents, community organizations, volunteers, and recovery partners as Pagosa Springs works toward recovery.

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Important reminder: Assistance provided by COVOAD and its partners is free of charge. Private contractors and insurance adjusters may offer services, but they are not necessarily affiliated with COVOAD, and neither COVOAD nor local governments endorse their work.

Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI)

PCI is also collecting donations, including for its food and hygiene shelf.

The organization reports that supplies are regularly coming in and going right back out to neighbors who need everyday essentials.

If you need emergency food or hygiene supplies, call (970) 585-6521 or email Familysupport@pagosacomcommunityinitiative.org.

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Photo courtesy Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux addresses members of the Colorado National Guard deployed to the area.

Dozens rescued by National Guard due to flooding

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Last week's historic flooding led to days of rescues of individuals stranded throughout the county, beginning with a dramatic helicopter rescue on Friday, Oct. 23, of a local couple.

That couple, Hank and Stacey Wills, explained they knew the storm was coming, but had heard it would be a little lower than last year's flood, which was survivable and did not damage their house.

"We were maybe a little braver than we should have been, obviously," Hank Wills said.

He explained they put sandbags out and worked to protect their structures, then waking up at 4 a.m. to do more.

As the day went on, he noted, they worked to get some of their animals out with the help of his parents.

Hank Wills noted he was unaware of when the peak was supposed to hit, but as the evening went on, the water started going over the sandbag wall, but they thought they could still make it and were monitoring river levels.

But, he noted, with heavy rain falling, the water rose faster and they decided it was time to leave.

He noted his mother, who was there helping, was almost washed down, but was able to get up.

He noted that, when he tried to cross in their RV, water got into the intake and the engine stalled, with that being around 10:30 p.m.

He noted he had his parents go call a tow truck, with none of the town companies able to make it.

Stacey Wills noted the water was still below the headlights.

Hank Wills explained he was unaware of the closures in town until Deputy Craig Tamburelli with Archuleta County showed up around 2:15 a.m.

Tamburelli indicated he arrived on scene at the county road and Colo. 151 and saw an RV submerged, with white-water hitting the windshield.

He immediately retrieved a throw back and threw a rope to the RV, which was 20-25 feet away.

He noted he anchored the rope and called his commander, with Upper

San Juan Search and Rescue (USJSAR) paged to come help.

Tamburelli noted the river was also undercutting the RV, causing it to tip, which he noted was concerning.

"In a blink of a flash, the RV just swept away," Tamburelli said, noting he saw the RV tip as it went down.

Tamburelli went back to his patrol vehicle and moved downstream to find them, but the county roads were washed out.

By then, USJSAR was on scene.

He noted they went back to Darcie Place and the east side of County Road 339 to try to intercept them, and was able to spot them.

As they were going down the stream, Wills said he was praying it would catch, knowing if the RV kept taking on water, it would only be so long.

As he was praying, he said, the RV caught a rock or something so hard it ripped out the axle.

That lurched the RV out of the main channel, he said.

"It smashed into, of all places, our own fence," Hank Wills said.

Wills noted the RV had hit something and turned upright.

Stacey Wills explained they made sure the pets were safe and worked to make themselves "cozy for a while."

Hank Wills said he worked to signal to vehicles.

A swiftwater rescue team was paged out — an attempt that was also unsuccessful due to safety concerns.

He noted the continued to assess access spots, with Deputy Director Stanley Okazaki mobilizing the drone with thermal imaging when he came on duty at 6 a.m.

After it was determined that the Wills were OK, the decision was made to hold off until a Black Hawk with a hoist could be utilized.

That took about three hours, Okazaki said, and they were able to communicate with the Wills via the drone to keep them updated.

The Wills, their cats and their dogs were lifted via harness to the helicopter.

The Wills arrived safely to Stevens Field Airport at about 1 p.m.

The Wills offered thanks, with Stacey Wills noting they know God and

Christ were there.

"You deserve a lot more credit ... than you'll ever get," she said of the deputies.

The Wills were two of 40 people the Colorado National Guard had rescued as of Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 28.

Since being activated for flooding in southwest Colorado, the Colorado National Guard (CONG) has helped save 40 people, 16 dogs and a large number of cats trapped by flood waters that washed out roads according to the organization.

CONG notes in a press release that, per Gov. Jared Polis' verbal declaration of disaster emergency, more than 100 CONG members mobilized in support of Archuleta County authorities, providing aviation and ground search and rescue assistance.

CONG members are also assisting with supply delivery in support of civilian efforts in southwest Archuleta County and conducting "knock and talks" and route reconnaissance to ensure people are safe, according to the press release.

"When disaster strikes our communities, our immediate priority is to help save lives and reduce suffering, which means we protect both people and their beloved animals," said Director of Joint Staff U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William DiProffio. "Working side-by-side with local emergency responders, our soldiers and airmen have proven once again that we stand ready to support whenever and wherever we are called."

Approximately 20 CONG members formed Task Force Aviation, operating, maintaining and refueling two assigned helicopters: a hoist-equipped UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH-72 Lakota for aerial search and rescue. This task force is operating out of Pagosa Springs.

More than 80 additional personnel and 30 tactical vehicles formed Task Force Ground Search and Rescue to support the incident command in flood-affected areas.

The use of CONG forces in a support role relieves local first responders actively responding to calls in the community, the press release notes.

Incident Commander Trainee Thad

getting to high flood," he said.

"Flash flooding impacts started to occur," he added, noting incidents were occurring that didn't have anything to do with the river level.

Le Roux explained that response crews continued working through the night on Thursday, with the San Juan River peaking the morning of Friday, Oct. 23.

"One of the most amazing things I've ever seen, to be honest with you," Rockensock said.

Rockensock also provided a timeline of road closures that occurred within the town, while commending WW Clyde and its efforts in managing water on roadways.

"Without them, we would've had a whole lot more business and houses in that area flooded," he said.

Rockensock explained that North 5th Street and Juanita Street were closed around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, and that "the culvert gave way, or the road gave way" leaving vehicles and houses in the area underwater.

He noted that a travel advisory was sent out around that time, as issues with water on U.S. 160 uptown started to occur, as well.

Rockensock mentioned that Pinion Lake "literally just crossed the highway."

"It was like a river across there," he

■ See Flooding A14

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Photo courtesy Town of Pagosa Springs

Damage to a portion of North 5th Street is seen after flood waters washed it out on Oct. 23.

Area utilities, medical facilities sustain damage

By Randi Pierce and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

In addition to area roads, high-ways, water and wastewater infrastructure, last week’s flooding resulted in multiple other infrastructure issues, some of which are ongoing.

Power outages

As of midday Wednesday, Oct. 28, nearly 100 La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) meters remained out, with those going out on Oct. 23.

Of those, 58 are in the Arboles area and 29 are in the area of East Pagosa Street in Pagosa Springs.

In a message to customers, LPEA explains, “Following this weekend’s heavy rains and flooding, our crews are continuing to make repairs and restore power across our service area. While many of the outages that occurred this weekend have been resolved, flood damage and limited access have made some areas more difficult to address.”

The Oct. 26 email then provides a “snapshot” of some of the outages.

The email explains that, on Bull Elk Place/Chromo Mountain, “Flooding washed out equipment serving this subdivision. Crews completed repairs and restored power as of 2:09 PM today, Monday, October 26.”

It notes that, in the area of the Malt Shoppe in downtown Pagosa Springs, “Flooding compromised equipment. Crews are working to safely reroute power before re-energizing this area.”

In the joint town and county work session on Monday, Oct. 26, it was explained that required boring under U.S. 160.

In terms of the County Road 500 (Trujillo Road) outage, it explains, “This outage area is still flooded and inaccessible. Crews will assess the damage and make repairs as soon as they can safely get into the area.”

On the Upper Blanco, it explains, “Flooding washed out multiple power poles.”

In the area of County Road 339 and Carrico Street, south of U.S. 84, it notes, “We’ve confirmed that multiple poles are down in this neighborhood, but due to flooding crews haven’t been able to access them and make repairs yet.”

For the area of Colo. 151, it states, “While no members are out on this segment of line, there are multiple downed poles that will have to be addressed when we can safely reach them.”

The email continues, “We’d like to

acknowledge and thank our crews for the incredible work they were able to accomplish throughout the weekend. We saw several instances of trees falling into our power lines, poles being washed away and other flood-related equipment damage. Crews responded as quickly and as safely as possible and managed to restore most of the weekend’s outages within a few hours.

“Additionally, we extend a huge thank you to area first responders, as well as town, county and state organizations who were also out there around the clock this weekend offering support and working to keep our community members safe.”

Natural gas pipeline

On Friday, Oct. 23, it was announced the flooding had damaged an Xcel Energy main line in the area of Colo. 151.

Black Hills Energy Public Affairs Manager Jason Auslander spoke during the joint work session held by the Pagosa Springs Town Council and Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Monday, Oct. 26, providing an update on the company’s natural gas system that supplies natural gas to residents in Archuleta County.

He explained that following the flooding event, the system was “stabilized,” and that compressed natural gas tankers were brought in and are being staged in Pagosa Springs.

He mentioned that more trailers are on the way, “just to make sure that we can keep the system properly pressurized” and prevent losing any customers over the next week with colder temperatures on the way.

“This is going to have to be maintained for a while,” he said, explaining the damage along Colo. 151 impacted the natural gas system supplying Archuleta County.

Auslander noted that the Colorado National Guard has a team of engineers on hand to help assess the situation.

He noted that “a lot of resources” are being thrown at this, and Black Hills is asking everyone to be “judicious” with natural gas use.

“This could be an extended sort of situation,” he said.

Auslander also spoke during a community meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 27, explaining that Xcel Energy “suffered a pipeline rupture.”

He explained that it was bringing “most of the gas” that comes into Pagosa Springs.

“The system in the state was recalibrated to keep the pressure available to everybody when they turn on their heaters,” he said.

He explained that Black Hills has brought in trailers and is injecting compressed natural gas into the system “to keep that pressure up.”

He noted the only customers lost in Pagosa so far are residents along the river who had meters covered by water.

Auslander explained that extra crews and gas supply is being brought in to keep the system full “and to do everything we can to keep the system steady.”

He stressed again that customers should be as “judicious as possible” with natural gas use.

For more information and updates on the situation from Black Hills Energy, visit www.blackhillsenergy.com/news/pagosa-springs-flooding.

Pagosa Springs Medical Center

While Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) remains open, the Upper San Juan Health Service District — which operates PSMC and PSMC Emergency Medical Services (EMS) — sustained damage to portions of its facilities.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, PSMC Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese informed The SUN the district provided the state with a preliminary estimate of potential damages in the amount of \$4.1 million.

She notes PSMC will still “have a lot of assessment regarding issues to our HVAC units (which are very expensive).”

Known damage, she explains, includes:

- Hospital/clinic building: roof leaks and associated damage.

- “We had at least one rooftop HVAC unit with substantial water that filled some duct work in the building,” she notes.

- CORE building: substantial water damage to the crawl space, building supports and the HVAC unit.

- The San Juan Street EMS station: Bruzzese notes the preliminary report from the architect is that the district will have to make changes to the building foundation as a result of this flooding.

- EMS Station on North Pagosa Boulevard: Water issues with the roof, siding and crawl space.

“Like most people, we have mud and debris removal, landscaping repair and culvert clean-out,” she adds.

San Juan National Forest assisting forest visitors, clearing roadways

Staff report

Staff on the San Juan National Forest are working in lockstep with counties and the National Guard to access hunters and forest visitors trapped behind road washouts, landslides and high-water crossings.

The number of road failures on the Pagosa and Columbine ranger districts are numerous and, in many cases, too substantial to rebuild and repair prior to winter. Crews are working to clear roads where they can evacuate visitors.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Pagosa District Ranger Josh Peck spoke at a community meeting held on Tuesday, Oct. 27, indicating that the recent storms and flooding has caused “significant, catastrophic damage” to the Forest Service’s infrastructure, including roads and trails.

Peck explained that the USFS is evaluating where failures have occurred and was about 98 percent through that process.

He also noted that the USFS is looking at places of “imminent failure” to see what can be done before the next storm, winter and the spring runoff season.

Peck noted that 13 national forest system roads are closed, and that “of those, we anticipate probably eight of those are going to be closed for a long duration.”

He noted that four of those roads have people trapped with no way to exit, and the USFS is working alongside the county and emergency response crews to rescue those folks.

“Your national forest is going to be very different for the long term,” Peck said.

He noted that trails have also suffered “pretty significant damage,” noting a bridge on the Piedra River Trail that is now gone.

“We don’t know where it is, he said.

Peck explained that the USFS is expecting to find more of that kind of damage.

He also explained that the USFS has a webpage up to show what areas are closed or impassable, and it plans to run the webpage through the end of the third-rifle hunting season.

That page can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/4ssJVvz>.

Helping forest visitors

If you know of a forest visitor trapped down an unpassable road who needs evacuation help in:

Damage

■ Continued from front

opened to travel Tuesday afternoon Oct. 27, with single-lane alternating traffic in some stretches.

Town

During the flood, multiple road closures occurred within town limits, including South 6th Street, North 5th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard.

Assistant Public Works Director Brad Lattin explained that South 6th Street and North 5th Street are the only town roads that remain closed as of Wednesday, Oct. 28.

He mentioned that both roads may be closed “for quite some time,” with a major culvert failing near North 5th Street and the river eroding the edge of the roadway along South 6th Street.

Lattin indicated the town is working with Davis Engineering to come up with a repair plan, which might take two to three weeks to develop.

County

According to a map produced by



Photo courtesy U.S. Forest Service

The San Juan National Forest experienced significant damage from the heavy rains and flooding.

- Archuleta County, call 911 or the nonemergency dispatch line at (970) 731-2160 when they are ready to be evacuated.
- La Plata County, call 911 if an emergency, or nonemergency dispatch at (970) 385-2900.

Please report abandoned property information if you are forced to leave vehicles behind by emailing the San Juan National Forest at sm.fs-sanjuannf@usda.gov with the subject line of “Personal Property.” Please provide your name, phone number, license plates, description of property and a detailed location, in addition to any other pertinent information.

Support your community and avoid going onto saturated roads on the San Juan National Forest even if they are open. Just because they are passable now does not mean they will be when you turn around. First responders are put into high-risk situations to rescue trapped visitors, and this also takes resources from higher-need areas.

Visit the San Juan National Forest Conditions page, www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/conditions, for the most up-to-date information on road condi-

tions as well as maps of road closures. Please note, this list changes frequently as engineers and crews carefully assess conditions. Trails conditions will be assessed as staffing levels permit.

Individual trails and campgrounds will be updated on the San Juan National Forest Recreation website.

Critical safety reminders

- It is imperative that visitors do not try to ford water crossings on roads and trails, a practice that can easily prove deadly.

- If infrastructure such as bridges or culverts appears damaged and are not noted on the Conditions or Recreation webpages, please report it to the information line voicemail at (970) 501-5830 and do not attempt to cross.

- Do not try to drive around damaged areas — a practice that is illegal, destructive and dangerous.

- Please respect closure signage to reduce the need for rescue and to reduce additional damage when resources are extremely limited.

For information on the San Juan National Forest, call (970) 247-4874, visit the forest website or follow on Facebook.

Archuleta County’s GIS department, County Road 500, Trujillo Road, is closed from mile marker 12 to mile marker 19. The map also shows that Alpine Drive in the San Juan River Village is closed, along with other subdivision roads.

Other closures are shown on county roads 326, 339, 391 and on North Pagosa Boulevard, where a portion of the roadway was washed out.

Colorado Department of Transportation

According to an Oct. 28 press release from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Wolf Creek Pass has reopened, “but sustained serious damage including a failed culvert, a damaged retaining wall and roadway undercut by the Rio Grande. West of Pagosa Springs, one-way alternating traffic is in place.”

It also notes that Colo. 151 “was washed out in two locations near mile points 27 and 30. CDOT is planning a

temporary access road for residents and emergency responders, followed by permanent reconstruction.”

According to the map produced by the county, Colo. 151 is closed from mile marker 33 to mile marker 23.

The press release also explains that CDOT is requesting federal emergency relief funds “to repair significant flood damage to highways across Southwest Colorado as part of the Federal Highway Administration’s Emergency Relief program.”

It states, “The request estimates \$65 million in damage to federal-aid roadways and asks the Federal Highway Administration to release \$6.5 million, or 10% of the total, through its quick release process so work can start immediately. In addition, the Transportation Commission has already approved \$5 million in emergency funds to assist with immediate work as well.”

clayton@pagosasun.com

988 Lifeline

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Ballots

■ Continued from A3

For attorney general, voters will choose between Republican Michael J. Allen and Democrat Jena Griswold.

For state board of education member for Congressional District 3, voters will choose between Republican Sherri M. Wright and Democrat Barb Clementi.

The race for state representative for District 59 includes a choice between Democrat Katie Stewart and Republican Naomi Reiss.

Archuleta County offices

There are no contested races at the Archuleta County level.

Those appearing on the ballot will include Randy Betts for commissioner for District 3, Archuleta for clerk and recorder, Elsa P. White for treasurer, Johanna Tully-Elliott for assessor, Mike Le Roux for sheriff and Brad Hunt for coroner.

Ron Sutcliffe is running as a write-in candidate for surveyor.

Judicial retention questions

Voters will also be asked to vote yes or no on the retention of several judges, including Justin William W. Hood III of the Colorado Supreme Court; and judges Rebecca Ranking Freyre, Elizabeth L. Harris, Katherine E. Lum, Pax Moultrie, Karl L. Schock and Grant Sullivan of the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Ballot measures

Ballot questions referred by the general assembly or a political subdivision are listed by letter. Ballot questions initiated by the people are listed numerically.

Amendments propose a change to the Colorado Constitution, and propositions propose a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Three Archuleta County ballot measures will appear on the ballot.

Archuleta County Ballot Issue 1A asks if the Archuleta County lodging tax should be increased from 2 percent to 6 percent, generating an increase of about \$1,080,000, annually. The increased revenues would be split, with 80 percent going toward county road maintenance and

improvement, 10 percent would go toward public safety and emergency dispatch, and 10 percent would go toward child care for the local workforce.

Archuleta County School District 50JR Ballot Issue 5A concerns approving debt of up to \$79,900,000 with a repayment cost of up to \$156,500,000 if the district receives a Building Excellent Schools Today, or BEST, grant from the state to construct and equip a new pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school and provide funds to Pagosa Peak Open School to update and equip educational facilities for students. District taxes would increase by up to \$6,700,000 annual to pay the debt, with the mill levy to be sufficient to pay the principal, premium and interest.

Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue 7B would allow the district, which operates as Pagosa Springs Medical Center and operates emergency medical services, to continue to, retain and spend revenues above limits identified in the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

The ballot will also include 14 state ballot measures.

Amendment 81 asks about requiring law enforcement to notify the Department of Homeland Security when a person is charged with either a violent crime or any crime if the person has a prior felony conviction if law enforcement cannot determine that the person is lawfully present in the United States.

Amendment 82 asks about creating a new law granting the right for consumers to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes or businesses, and for distributors and utilities to sell natural gas to consumers.

Amendment 83 asks about creating a constitutional right to hunt, fish, and harvest fish and wildlife; establishing hunting and fishing as the preferred means of managing fish and wildlife populations; and preserving the right of the state to regulate hunting, fishing and wildlife management.

Amendment 84 asks about requiring a voter to sign and include the

last four digits of the Social Security number, driver's license or identification card number on the outside of the mail ballot, as well as provisions for correcting mistakes.

Amendment 85 asks about requiring ballots questions to be written in plain language and at no more eighth-grade reading level, as well as prohibiting a state statute from requiring language that conflicts with the requirement for citizen-initiated measures.

Amendment 86 asks about reenacting the current congressional redistricting process.

Amendment 87 concerns implementing a state graduated income tax to "increase or improve" levels of public services, including K-12 public education, health care, and early childhood care and education.

Proposition NN asks about increasing investment in K-12 public education by 2 percent each year for the next 10 years by raising the limit on state fiscal year spending.

Proposition 132 concerns changing criminal penalties for fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids; increasing the felony classifications of drug-related crimes for distribution, manufacturing, dispensing, sale or possession of fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids; creating mandated treatment for certain drug felony violations; and changing sentencing provisions for crimes related to fentanyl and certain synthetic opioids and drug-related deaths.

Proposition 133 asks about modifying existing laws and creating new laws concerning human trafficking of a minor, as well as increasing the penalty.

Proposition 134 concerns limiting participation in K-12 and collegiate school sports based on the participant's biological sex.

Proposition 135 concerns prohibiting surgery on a minor for the purpose of altering biological sex characteristics.

Proposition 136 asks about capping the state income tax at 4.4 percent of federal taxable income for individuals and corporations.

Proposition 137 concerns creating a new law to increase water and land conservation funding through allowing the state to keep and spend a portion of revenue from the state sales tax on sporting goods and equipment.

Returning voted ballots

Voters can return voted ballots by mail, through a drop box or to the Archuleta County Elections Office/Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC), located at 305 Village Drive.

Archuleta County election materials caution against returning ballots via mail to ensure they are received in time and to instead deliver them personally to the VSPC or a drop box.

Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 to be counted. Postmarks do not count.

Secure drop boxes with video are located in front of the Pagosa Springs Town Hall (551 Hot Springs Blvd.) and the TARA Community Center (333 Milton Lane in Arboles). They will be open 24/7 through 7 p.m. on Election Day.

The VSPC will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday through Oct. 30. On Oct. 31, it will be open 8 a.m. to noon. On Nov. 2, it will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 (Election Day).

On Election Day only, the Archuleta County Extension Office, located at 344 U.S. 84, will serve as a VSPC.

Ballots can be tracked via Archuleta.BallotTrax.net or www.govotecolorado.gov

Additional voter information

Voters can make sure their registration is up to date by visiting the Archuleta County Elections Office at 305 Village Drive, which is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., or online at www.govotecolorado.gov.

The office can be reached at (970) 264-8331.

Eligible Coloradans can also register to vote and update their voter registration at GoVoteColorado.gov through Election Day.

Visit www.archuletacounty.gov or www.govotecolorado.gov for additional election information. randi@pagosasun.com

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www.PagosaSUN.com

Variance

■ Continued from A3

She also spoke about regenerative farming, explaining she and her husband practice that on their farms.

"Renting lodging units or RVs does not contribute to any aspect of farming; it deteriorates it," she said.

"Just because ag tourism is a fad and it's popular doesn't mean it fits into the rural valley of Archuleta County," she added.

William Vrastil spoke next, asking the commissioners to affirm the values stated on the plaques "right behind you," specifically noting the last sentence of "accountability with maximum transparency."

He claimed there has been a lack of due process involved with the 84 Ranch project.

"This is not about the applicant personally, nor is it about his project. Our concern is the county's lack of transparency and lack of due process throughout this applicant's process," he said.

William Vrastil mentioned that during a planning commission meeting held in August 2025, then-planning commission chair Matt Nobles declared having a conflict of interest with the 84 Ranch property, yet "enthusiastically" participated in discussions involving the project.

William Vrastil explained that the county attorney later indicated that Nobles should not have participated in the discussion due to his conflict.

"Major foul in my eyes," he said.

William Vrastil also explained that those planning commission meeting minutes indicate that the Vrastils were overwhelmingly in support of the project.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said.

He then explained that in March, former Director of Development Eva Kruse performed a surprise inspection on the 84 Ranch property and "found several violations."

"And yet when she reported that ... she was told by the county manager that he was not going to allow the [board conditional use permit] to be pulled, as she had indicated would be the right thing to do," William Vrastil said.

He then explained that, since then, two planning staff members resigned, and Kruse was let go.

He also mentioned that the commissioners were contacted separately and asked to go directly to the Planning Department to see what the issue was, rather than going to the county manager, "who was, in fact, the problem."

He noted that did not happen, and stated that Kruse was fired "because

she challenged the county manager."

The next commenter stated that she is a 50-50 business partner, and also Wattier's mother.

She stated that she and her son respect their neighbors and will address any concerns about the project through the "proper channels."

"I've watched him follow every step," she said of Wattier, noting that he has done everything asked of him by the county over the past two years.

She explained that their family chose Pagosa to raise Wattier's children, and that they want to do business with locals.

Another commenter spoke in support of Wattier and his project, explaining that she recently moved to Pagosa Springs and discovered 84 Ranch.

"We were excited to see something we'd mostly encountered in documentaries taking place in the small town that we now call home," she said, in regard to Wattier's project.

She explained that Wattier has a passion for his ranch, and mentioned that there is economic and educational potential with Wattier's projects, adding that it "is something, I believe, can benefit Pagosa."

Wattier commented last, stating that he respects his neighbors' concerns.

He also spoke about the difficulties in dealing with multiple different county staff members over the past two years in regard to getting the proper permits to run his ranch business.

"I have dealt with over six people in the Planning Department in two years," he said.

Wattier explained that over that time the processes and guidance from those staff members has changed.

"I have just been beat down in these meetings recently," Wattier said, adding that he's been falsely told he is not following rules, but has not been provided with any specific examples.

"I find it odd that someone in-

spected my land and said I was breaking all these rules, and I was never informed of this," he said, explaining that he is not a big developer and that his focus is on growing organic foods and educating the community, and that agritourism is a way to bring people to Pagosa.

"People are excited for what I'm trying to do here," he said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina referred to County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini, asking if the BoCC could seek legal advice in regard to some things brought up in the comments.

Giovannini explained that the resolution is formalizing the variance decision.

She added that she is aware of one complaint on the property, and that it would be a "good idea" to look into that, but that "doesn't necessarily" stop the action of the resolution.

Commissioner John Ranson offered comment on the matter, indicating that he has been accused of corruption over the situation with 84 Ranch, adding there is "no truth or facts" to that.

"I watched a businessman come into this community and get treated like crap," Ranson said, explaining the BoCC made a 3-0 decision to approve the variance request with the best information it had on hand.

Ranson also commented on how the county's Planning Department has had multiple staff changes over the past two years.

"That's bad on us," he said.

Ranson then indicated that it was presented to him in writing "that a lawsuit is coming."

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Education



Photo courtesy Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School students, from left, Lexie, Rayleen, Cambria and Jayelle are four of the 20 finalists for the San Juan Youth Poetry Contest.

Small school, big impact: Charter school claims 20 percent of poetry finalists in regional contest

Pagosa Peak Open School

Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) is proud to announce that four of our middle school students have been selected as regional finalists in the 2026 San Juan Youth Poetry Contest. Hosted by the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI), the contest drew more than 150 submissions from students across the region in grades six through 12.

Out of just 20 finalists total selected by judges, PPOS students — Rayleen, Lexie, Jayelle, and Cambria — represent 20 percent of all finalists.

The accomplishment is especially remarkable given PPOS's small student body of just 140 students.

"We are so thrilled and immensely proud of our students," said PPOS

School Director Emily Murphy. "For a school of our size to represent one-fifth of the finalists in a competitive regional contest with over 150 entries speaks volumes about the creativity, dedication and courage of our young writers. At Pagosa Peak Open School, we aim to cultivate conditions where students feel empowered to express themselves, and seeing their artistic voices recognized on this scale is exciting."

The finalist poems have been forwarded to Colorado State Poet Laureate Crisosto Apache, who will evaluate the entries to select three overall winners in each age division.

Middle School ELA Advisor Alison Beach shared about the depth of talent and effort her students brought

■ See Finalists A13



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
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PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO 81147



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)

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: 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. MCPHEAK; 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

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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

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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

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TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
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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)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON NOVEMBER 17, 2026
Application for a CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, for a Bed & Breakfast at Subdivision: PAGOSA IN THE PINES Block: 10 Lot: 10X PIP Sec: 16 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W, 78 W Golf Place, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Comments regarding this application may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or planning@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners on November 17, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published October 29 and November 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (321653)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON NOVEMBER 17, 2026

Application for CERULEAN SKIES RANCH BOARD CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, for an RV Park at 6116 US Highway 84, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Comments regarding this application may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or planning@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners on November 17, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published October 29 and November 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (321657)

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON NOVEMBER 17, 2026
Reopening of RURAL Sec: 31 Twn: 35 Rng: 1W LOT 3, (NW4SW4), 570131300007, 780 River Forest Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO. The property is zoned AGRICULTURAL RANCHING (AR) with a proposed change to RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR). Comments regarding this case may be submitted to Archuleta County Development Services-Planning Department, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, phone: (970) 264-1390 or planning@archuleta-county.gov prior to the public hearing by the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners on November 17, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs and via Zoom Link. Published October 29 and November 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (321655)

Loma Linda Metropolitan District (LLMD) Budget Hearing Scheduled

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted and reviewed by the LLMD Board for the 2027 Calendar Year. A copy of this budget has been posted on the LLMD website, (lomalindametrodistrict.org) and on the Bulletin Board at the subdivision entrance where it is available for public inspection. Such budget will be reviewed, updated, and adopted at the regularly scheduled meeting of the LLMD Board at 4pm on Tuesday, November 10th at the Ross Aragon Community Center. Any interested elector of LLMD may inspect and/or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Published October 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (318747)

NOTICE OF BUDGET FOR PUBLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the ensuing year of 2027; a copy of such proposed budget has been filed at the SWCD office at 841 E 2nd Avenue, Durango, Colorado, where the same is open for public inspection. It is also available to be viewed at <https://zoom.us/join>, Meeting ID: 874 8378 5496, Passcode: 388748. If you plan to attend in person, please RSVP to admin@swcd.org to ensure space in SWCD's conference room. Any interested elector of SWCD may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Pursuant to 29-1-106, C.R.S. Published October 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (321782)

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 Hesserman, 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)

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.com. go.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 "Final Major Design Review" for 702 San Juan Street. The applicant is proposing a redevelopment of the existing building to convert it into a bar and restaurant with outdoor entertainment. The Design Review Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 5:30 pm to consider the Final Major Design Review Application, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comment will be taken in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round Minutes and Agendas tab located along 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 Design Review Board for their consideration. Published October 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (321805)

The Town of Pagosa Springs has received an application for "Final Major Design Review" for X County Road 600 (Parcel #569916143002). The applicants are proposing a small-scale lodging development to include 8 separate units. The Design Review Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 5:30 pm to consider the Final Major Design Review Application, in person at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and available for remote attendance via the Zoom meeting platform. Public comment will be taken in person and over Zoom. To access the meeting agendas and staff reports, click the round Minutes and Agendas tab located along 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 Design Review Board for their consideration. Public comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Published October 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (321796)

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.



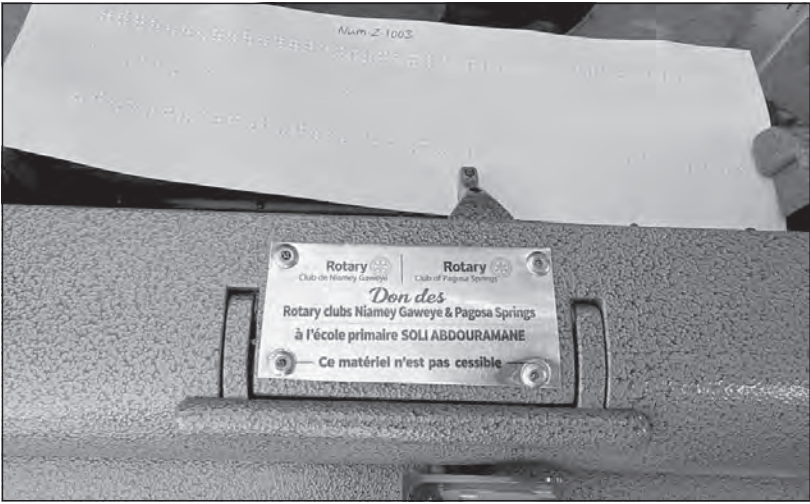
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Photos courtesy Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Rotary partners in Niamey, Niger, celebrate the arrival of educational supplies provided through a partnership with the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs. The project includes Braille writing machines, specialized paper and LEGO Braille Bricks to support students who are blind or visually impaired.

Small dots, big dreams: Rotary helps children learn through Braille

By Terri House
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

What began as an international Rotary service project has become a reality for visually impaired children in Niamey, Niger.

Thanks to a partnership between the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs and Rotarians in Niger, much-needed educational supplies have arrived at the Soli Abdouramane School for the Blind, providing students with new tools to read, write and develop essential learning skills.

On Oct. 14 and 15, Rotary partners in Niamey held special ceremonies to distribute the supplies, marking the successful completion of a project that brought together Rotarians, donors and supporters across continents.

The donations include six refurbished Perkins Braille writing machines, 60,000 sheets of specialized Braille paper and LEGO Braille Bricks designed to help children learn through touch and play.

The six writing machines represent an investment of approximately \$2,520, while nearly \$2,500 was designated for Braille paper. The LEGO Foundation also generously donated 12 sets of its innovative Braille Bricks, which combine traditional LEGO play with raised Braille characters to help children explore letters, numbers and words.

Together, these supplies provide valuable resources for students and teachers at a school where specialized educational materials can be difficult to obtain.

A partnership that spans continents

The project is the latest example of the longstanding relationship between the Rotary Club of Pagosa

Springs and its Rotary partners in Niamey.

Funding was made possible through contributions from Pagosa Springs Rotarians and a Rotary District 5470 matching grant, with members and international partners working together to identify the school's needs, obtain specialized equipment and arrange shipment to Niger.

Former Pagosa Springs Rotarian Donna Mosher, who served Rotary for 29 years, helped spearhead the project, securing donations and rallying support among fellow Rotarians. Gado Oumarou Hainikoye, based in Maryland, also provided valuable assistance with shipping the materials to Niger.

In Niamey, Rotarians from the Gaweye Rotary Club helped coordinate the distribution. Among them was Abdoulaye Dabougui, who visited the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club last year.

Abdoulaye shared photographs and video documenting the successful delivery and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs. A video of the celebration can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pod8bIK1L6o>.

In an Oct. 19 message, he reflected on the dedication behind the project, writing that Mosher had worked tirelessly to secure funding and obtain appropriate equipment for the students.

"You did everything you could to secure funding and purchase the right equipment for us," he wrote. "These are memories I will cherish forever."

His heartfelt message is a reminder that Rotary's international service projects do more than deliver supplies. They create lasting friendships and build connections between

communities separated by thousands of miles.

Building independence through education

For children who are blind or visually impaired, access to specialized learning materials can make an enormous difference.

Braille writing machines allow students to develop literacy and written communication skills. Braille paper provides the necessary materials for classroom assignments and practice, while LEGO Braille Bricks introduce a playful, hands-on approach to learning.

The project builds on earlier efforts by Pagosa Springs Rotarians to support the school, including contributions for uniforms and other specialized educational supplies.

And while the arrival of the materials marks an important milestone, the real impact will unfold in classrooms as students put their new tools to work.

Service above self, without borders

From the mountains of Colorado to the classrooms of Niger, the project demonstrates what can happen when Rotarians combine their resources, relationships and determination to address a need.

It took a network of volunteers, financial contributions, generous donors and international cooperation to bring the supplies to the students who need them.

The result is more than a successful shipment. It is an investment in literacy, confidence and independence for children whose opportunities can be expanded through education.

For the Rotary clubs of Pagosa Springs and Niamey, the greatest

reward is knowing that a world of learning is now quite literally at these children's fingertips.

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Finalists

■ Continued from A12

to their work.

"There are some excellent poets in this school," Beach said. "The eighth-graders have been learning about poetics and the power of storytelling through the novel-in-verse 'The Cross-over' by Kwame Alexander. This story about a basketball-loving teen and his family introduced them to many different types of poems, including occasional poems, definition poems, odes, repetition, time stamp poems, found material poems and free verse. For the contest many students used these poetic types and devices masterfully to write about the San Juan Mountains."

The student finalists also expressed their excitement about the recognition:

"I was so surprised," Rayleen said.

For her poem structure, she chose to write an occasional poem and shared that she learned so much from this year's ELA class.

"I hadn't even written a poem before this school year," Jayelle said, who wrote a found materials poem for the contest and agreed that the lessons in class helped immensely with her ability to compete in this contest.

While all the poems focused on the theme of the San Juan Mountains, each poem took a different perspective.

"I focused on the snow melting into spring," Cambria said. "It's a rhyming poem that focuses on the experiences we have in the mountains."

All 20 regional finalists are invited

to attend the San Juan Youth Poetry Contest Winners Celebration, hosted by MSI at the Durango Public Library on Friday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. Winners will be announced by Colorado State Poet Laureate Crisosto Apache, prizes will be awarded and student finalists will read their work.

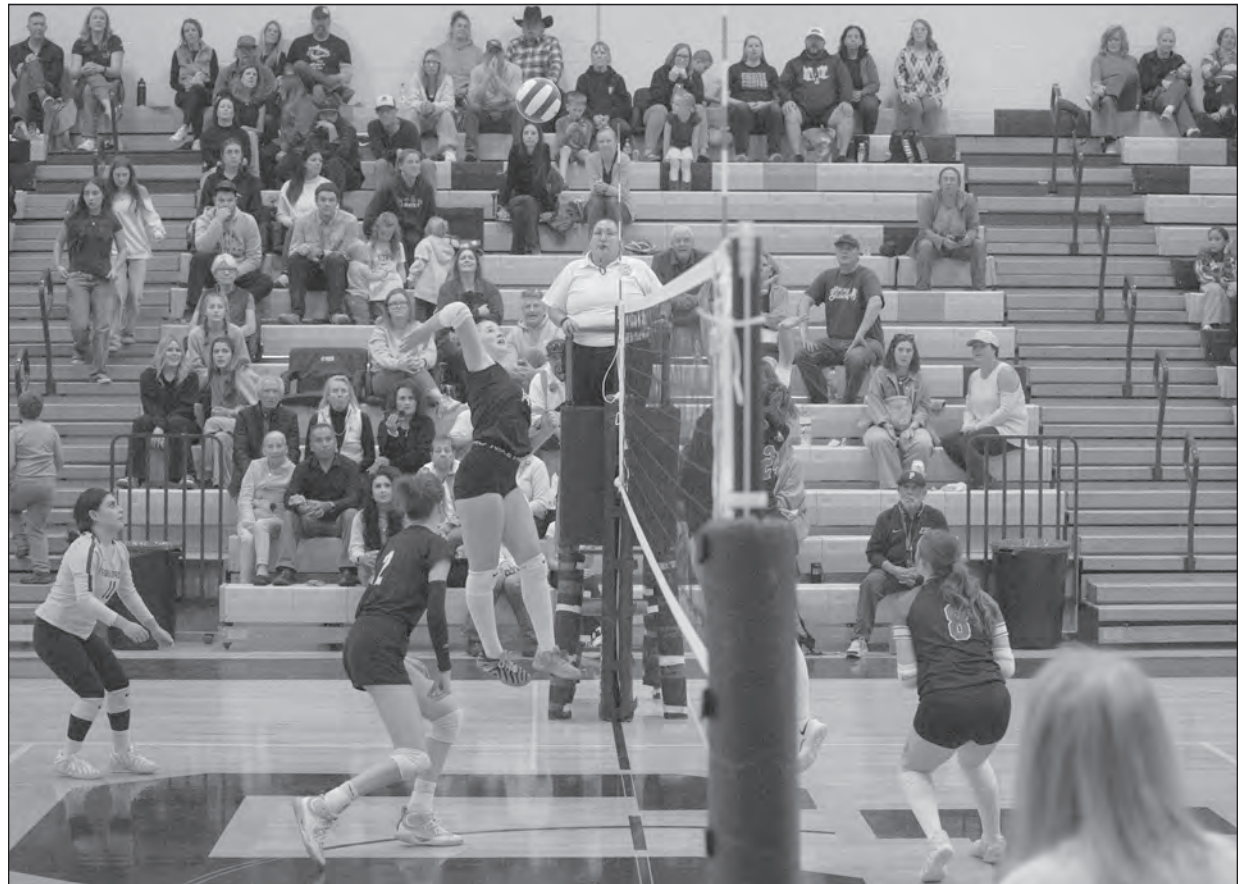
Additionally, all finalist poems will be featured in a special exhibition on display at the Durango Public Library throughout the months of November and December.

PPOS is a tuition-free Performance charter school serving kindergarten through eighth-grade students through innovative, project-based and place-based learning. For more information about PPOS, visit pagosapeakopenschool.org.

Sports



VOLLEYBALL



Lady Pirate Dawson Iverson sends the ball across the net as her fellow Pirates provide backup against the Ignacio Bobcats on Monday, Oct. 26.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirates fall to Mean Moose, Bobcats

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School volleyball team dropped two straight after their win over Monte Vista and fell to 5-14 on the season.

The No. 44 Lady Pirates hosted the No. 8 Alamosa Mean Moose on Thursday, Oct. 22, to close out last week and lost to the Mean Moose 3-0.

The girls lost the first set 25-19, the second set 25-17 and the third set 25-16.

"We came out strong in the first two sets, and despite some adversity in the third set, I saw our team come together and play aggressively in a way we hadn't seen before," wrote coach Chelsea Caler in an email to The SUN.

Dawson Iverson and Avea Bruce each had a team-high seven kills in the match, accounting for 14 of the girls' 19 kills.

Tatiana Monterroso and Liana Vega each had an ace, the teams' only two

aces of the match. As a team the girls had a serve completion percentage of 87 percent.

Bruce led the team with two total blocks. Monterroso and Vega each had a team-high eight digs, and Vega led the team with 16 assists.

Though flooding closed Wolf Creek Pass, Alamosa was still able to make it over Cumbres Pass after the match and reached home safely.

In their opening match of the new week, the Lady Pirates hosted the No. 10 Ignacio Bobcats, a 2A team, on Monday, Oct. 26. The girls lost 3-0 once again, losing the first set 25-20, the second set 25-10 and the third set 25-14.

"We struggled to communicate and overall execute," wrote Caler. "It wasn't our best showing, so we're focused on cleaning up serve receive and our offense heading into the final tournament."

Sydney Plake, Bruce and Veda Deitemeyer each had a team-high five kills in the match.

Iverson led the team with two aces. The team as a whole had an 87 percent serve completion percentage for the third straight game.

Ellie Vining and Deitemeyer each had a team-high two total blocks, Monterroso led the team with eight digs, and Vega had a team-high 17 assists.

The Lady Pirates will close out their season with a tournament that begins on Friday, Oct. 30.

They'll play a match against 5A Grand Junction, who is 10-9 on the season, at 1 p.m.

At 3 p.m., the Lady Pirates will take on 3A Delta, who is 12-7.

The following day, the Lady Pirates will play a to-be-determined opponent.

"With only two practices, we're focusing on serve receive, transition, and smarter setting and hitting decisions," said Caler. "The goal is to compete and enjoy what could potentially be our final weekend together."

jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com

FOOTBALL

Pirates to head to Colorado Springs for first-round playoff matchup

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate football team had its matchup against the Coal Ridge Titans canceled this past week due to the team being unable to travel during severe weather.

The Pirates ended the regular season as the No. 18-ranked team in the state's 2A division, earning a playoff spot.

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) approved a

24-team playoff bracket last year for the state's 2A division.

The Pirates are now scheduled to take on the No.14 Banning Lewis Academy Stallions in Colorado Springs on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 1 p.m.

Coach Nathan Morales spoke about the Pirates' game against Coal Ridge being canceled, expressing some frustration.

"It probably kept us from getting a home playoff game," he said, explaining that a win against Coal Ridge likely would've moved the Pirates up in the state's rankings.

Morales added that is all kind of in "hindsight" now, as the team turns its focus to Banning Lewis.

"It was unfortunate," Morales said, explaining the Pirates wanted to play Coal Ridge, but with the cancellation the team was able to take another week of rest before playoffs.

"Would we have rather played the game? One-hundred percent, but that was out of our control," Morales said, reiterating that the Pirates are in the playoffs, "and now we're focused on that."

Morales mentioned that it's "exciting" entering the playoffs as every game is now a win-or-go-home scenario.

"We're a good football team that deserves to be in the playoffs," he added.

Morales explained that the Pirates intend to leave on Friday and have a night's rest in Colorado Springs before their matchup against the Stallions.

"We gotta go down there and play well, and be physical," he said, noting that taking care of the football and creating turnovers on defense will be crucial for the Pirates to get a victory.

"[There's] usually a big special teams play, too," Morales added. "That's usually who wins these games."

Morales reiterated that the Pirates simply need to execute on all sides of the ball as "that's what winning in the playoffs looks like."

He also mentioned that the 2A division is highly competitive this year, with multiple state champion contenders in the playoffs.

"We'll be fighting for that, and if you don't believe that as a competitor, why are you competing?" Morales said.

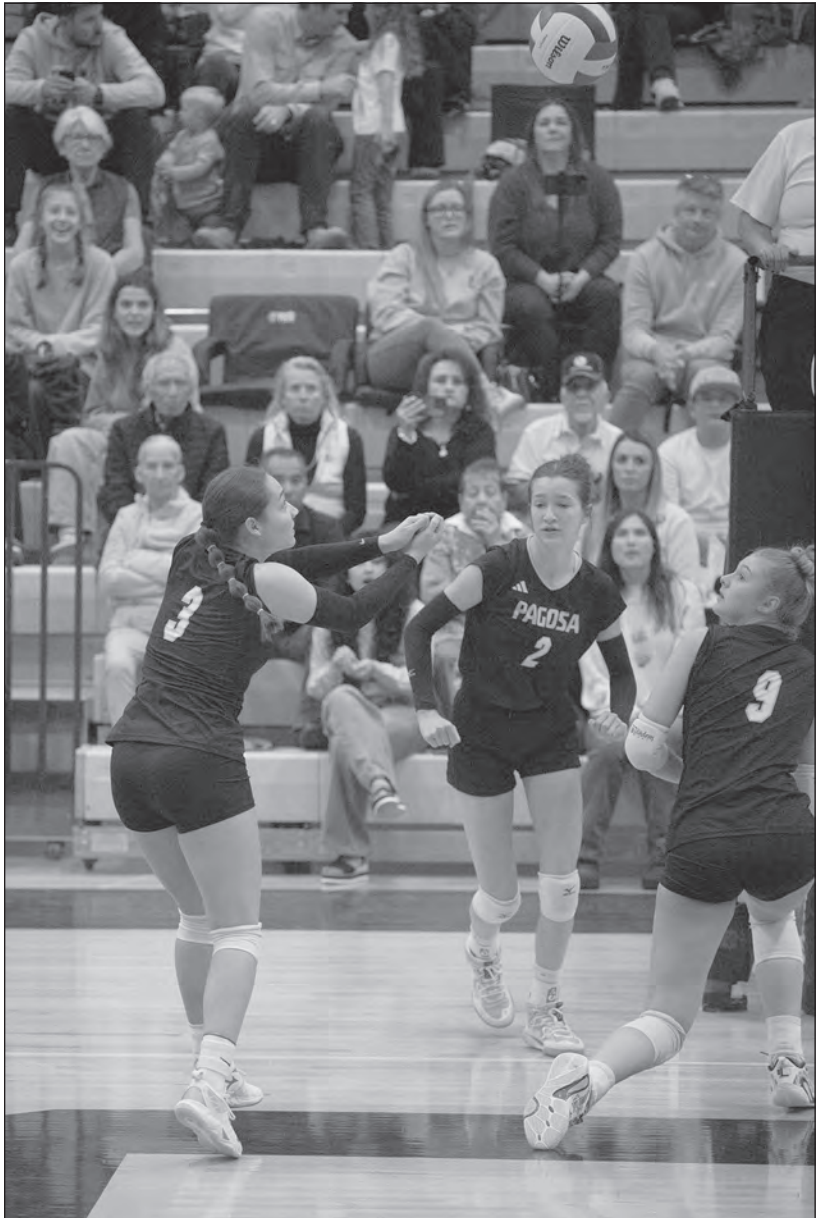
He also spoke about how the Pirates need to be road warriors and his message to the team early on in the season was that they would have to travel well given their schedule in the Western Slope League.

The Pirates played away games in La Junta, Delta and Aspen this season.

"That's the nature of the beast that we face every year in Pagosa," he said.

The Pirates have yet to win a road game this season.

clayton@pagosasun.com



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Liana Vega bumps the ball into the Ignacio Bobcat territory during the Lady Pirates' final home game of the season on Monday, Oct. 26.

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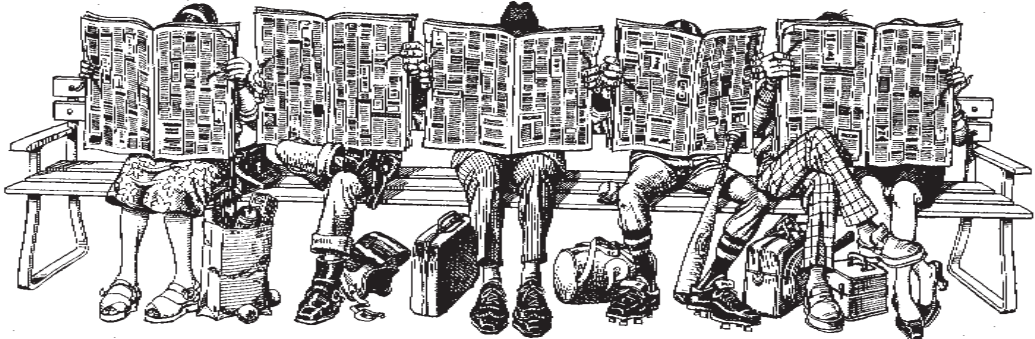
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Pirate runners compete at the 3A Region 2 meet on Thursday, Oct. 22, at Pagosa Springs High School. Nine teams competed for a chance to advance to state.

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Soccer

Pirates’ season draws to a close

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The 2026 Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys’ soccer season has come to an end earlier than anticipated, but coach Trevor Gian explained he is proud of his team and the way the season ended.

The Pirates played their final game of the season on Friday, Oct. 16, tying Fruita Monument 1-1 to move to 5-5-2 on the season.

When the final regular season rankings were finalized and the playoff bracket was released, the boys were ranked 35th in 3A, just three spots out of a playoff spot.

In the final week of the season, Gian tried to schedule one final game to give the boys one last chance to move into the playoff picture. Unfortunately, a multitude of issues, including historic flooding in Pagosa Springs, left the Pirates without a game in the final week of the regular season.

Even though the season ended rather abruptly, Gian held one final practice with the boys on Monday, Oct. 26, to wrap the season up.

Gian emphasized that this season has thrown a lot of things their way —

a canceled tournament early in the season, lots of injuries and historic flooding at the end of the year — but through it all the boys have responded well all year.

“I’m] very proud of the response of our team,” Gian said. “That’s been a big message. I think every time I talk to you, our response has been phenomenal. And the season sort of showcases that, right? [In] a different year, I think it would look different. We had a great team. We have great players.”

This year’s team featured a group of five seniors. Sebastian Coba, Jonathan Rodriguez, Bryant Sanchez, Ryder King and Connor Kirkham all played their final game as Pirates, but their impact will be felt for years to come, emphasized Gian.

“It’s that leadership that comes with being a senior,” he said. “Having been through it as a freshman, sophomore and junior, and then seeing the seniors before them, seeing the people that have kind of led in that spot previously, and knowing my expectations of leadership, and they meant everything. They just keep perspective in a sense and they lead by example.”

The small group of graduating

seniors means that next year’s team will feature a host of returning players who are excited to step up.

The junior class specifically is a class that has the potential to make a real impact on the field next year, emphasized Gian.

“I’m really excited to see this junior class,” said Gian. “It’s going to be a big class. I’m really excited to see them step up next year. [I] love what I saw from the freshmen and the sophomores this year, as well. I think the sky’s the limit. I’ve got very high expectations for next year.”

Even though this year ended sooner than expected, Gian emphasized that nothing that happened would be possible without the help of his assistant coach and managers.

Assistant coach Dyan Rice and team managers Italia Pereyra, Laykyn Baxstrom and Madelynn Mathis were all big parts of this year’s team, noted Gian.

Gian and the rest of his staff will host the team banquet on Friday, Nov. 6, and all-conference selections will be made in the coming weeks.

“I mean, it’s just such a great group of players,” said Gian. “Couldn’t be more proud.”

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Cross-Country

Trio of Pirates advance to state meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

Despite flooding in Pagosa Springs, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirates hosted the Colorado 3A Region 2 meet on Thursday, Oct. 22.

The Pirate cross-country teams welcomed nine teams from their region to compete, with a trip to the state championship meet on the line. The top four teams in both the boys’ and girls’ races would qualify, along with the top 15 individual finishers in each race.

Head coach Josh Kurz and his team of coaches and volunteers were able to catch a break in the weather on Thursday morning and run both races.

Unfortunately, even though both teams improved their finish from last year’s regional meet, they each placed fifth and failed to qualify for state.

“We believe we had the talent to qualify, but injuries and a couple of fluke events played a major role in Thursday’s outcome,” wrote Kurz in an email to the SUN. “We hope being one place away from qualifying will fuel our team to train harder, especially during the summer.”

Weston Sweet led the way for the Pirates at the meet, finishing ninth overall with a time of 17 minutes,

45:27 seconds. Behind him was Rylan Ash, who placed 14th with a time of 18:01.12.

Jacen Easling placed 23rd with a time of 18:47.97, Miles Dempster placed 29th with a time of 19:14.31, and Hawkin Kofke placed 34th with a time of 19:38.67 to round out the top-five scoring Pirates at the meet.

Kieran Kurz placed 39th with a time of 19:50.91, Liam McKnight placed 43rd with a time of 20:01.20, Wells Witting placed 56th with a time of 20:59.58, and Silas Yost placed 59th with a time of 21:29.96.

The boys placed fifth out of the nine teams from their region competing with 103 points. They scored nine more points than fourth-place Gunnison.

Both Sweet and Ash qualified for the state meet with their individual performances at regionals.

Madi Stretton led the way for the Lady Pirates with a 15th-place finish and a time of 21:54.21.

Behind her was Bella Jackson, who placed 17th with a time of 22:11.75. Lucy Rivera placed 25th with a time of 23:07.42, Olivia Diffey placed

28th with a time of 23:20.49, and Elsy Wood placed 43rd with a time of 25:36.17 to round out the top-five scoring Lady Pirates at the meet.

Isabelle Ratcliff placed 47th with a time of 26:17.97, Adelaide Oelking placed 52nd with a time of 27:21.97, and Skylar Leiker placed 56th with a time of 28:25.13.

The girls placed fifth out of the seven teams competing from their region with 105 points. They scored six more points than fourth-place Alamosa.

In her senior year, Stretton qualified for the state meet with her 15th-place performance on Thursday.

“We are super excited that the season continues for 3 of our athletes,” wrote Josh Kurz. “Madi, Weston, and Rylan earned the opportunity to compete Saturday at the State Championship in Colorado Springs!”

The meet will be on Saturday, Oct. 31, and will be held at the Norris Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs.

The 3A girls’ race will kick off at 9 a.m., while the 3A boys’ race will start at 10:20 a.m.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Good luck, Pirates!

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Compassionate dental care meets personal experience at Black Diamond Dental

By Justin Nylund, DDS
Black Diamond Dental of
Pagosa Springs

Dentists should have perfect teeth, they are trained in dental school how to take care of teeth.

Dentists highly value and care for teeth, that’s their job after all. Dentists are always lecturing us what we are doing wrong with taking care of our own teeth. Dentists should know what to do not to have any dental problems.

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I had really good teeth until I woke up one day with my face swollen, extreme pain in my mandible and part of my face numb.

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Photo courtesy Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

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SUN photos/Clayton Chaney
Roads, parks and trails are flooded in downtown Pagosa Springs Friday morning, Oct. 23. The San Juan River reached a height of 15.02 feet around 5:30 a.m., making it the second highest flooding event in recorded history.

preview

ARTS & LIFE

Happy Halloween





Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

From left are Olive Fladwood as Wednesday Addams, Brooke Anderson as an Addams ancestor and Gabby Padilla as Pugsley Addams in Thingamajig Theatre Company’s production of “The Addams Family Young@Part” at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Love, monsters and movie stars take the stage at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

By **Samantha Luck**
Thingamajig Theatre Company

The Addams family has always been comfortable with things that make other people nervous. Graveyards, ghosts and the occasional threat of bodily harm are all part of ordinary domestic life. But in “The Addams Family Young@Part,” now entering its final weekend at the

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Wednesday Addams has presented her parents with something genuinely unsettling. She’s growing up.

Worse, she’s in love with a nice young man from a respectable family. When Wednesday asks her father, Gomez, to keep the relationship secret from Morticia, the stage is set for a family dinner that would test the patience

■ See Center on next page

Live Performers

- Thursday**
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Sunday**
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Cues and Brews: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

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Center

■ continued from previous page

of considerably less eccentric people.

Thingamajig Theatre Company's teen production brings the familiar characters to life in a musical that finds its best comic possibilities in the peculiar business of being a family. Behind the Addamses' macabre tastes and gleeful disregard for convention are parents struggling to accept their daughter's independence, a marriage complicated by a well-intentioned secret and two families discovering just how little they understand one another.

The young cast is led by Finlay Moore as Gomez, Leela Simpson as Morticia and Olive Fladwood as Wednesday. Quinn Mitchell takes on Uncle Fester, Gabby Padilla plays Pugsley, Lillian Buchner portrays Lurch and Nora Cram appears as Grandma. The visiting Beineke family includes Damian Turk as Lucas, the object of Wednesday's affection, with Lillian Jones as Alice and Ben Anacker as Mal.

The production is part of Thingamajig's ongoing commitment to developing young performers in Pagosa Springs.

Following last year's "Beetlejuice Jr.," the teen company has again taken on a musical with recognizable characters, energetic comedy and an opportunity for local students to work together on a full theatrical production.

Its final performances take place Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., with 3 p.m. matinees Saturday, Oct. 31, and Sunday, Nov. 1.

While the Addamses prepare to close their doors, Thingamajig's professional production of "The Shark is Broken" will remain onstage through

Nov. 15.

Written by Ian Shaw and Joseph Nixon, the play returns audiences to the famously troubled production of Steven Spielberg's "Jaws." Actors Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider and Richard Dreyfuss are waiting aboard the Orca while the mechanical shark repeatedly fails to cooperate. The cameras are idle, the schedule is slipping, and the three men have little to occupy them beyond conversation, argument and the occasional

bruising assessment of one another's talents.

The premise is amusing partly because of what audiences already know. "Jaws" became a landmark in American filmmaking, but that outcome was far from certain to the people enduring its difficult production.

The play imagines the private frustrations behind a public triumph, with the movie's celebrated

■ See Center on next page



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Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

From left are Scott Morehead as Roy Scheider, Cameron Vargas as Richard Dreyfuss and Tim Moore as Robert Shaw aboard the Orca in Thingamajig Theatre Company’s production of “The Shark is Broken” at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

Center

■ continued from previous page
shark serving mostly as an excuse to leave three complicated men alone together.

Directed by Laura Moore, “The Shark is Broken” stars Tim Moore as Robert Shaw, Scott Morehead as Roy Scheider and Cameron Vargas as Richard Dreyfuss. Its 90-minute running time, without intermission, places the audience in the company of the actors for an evening of sharp exchanges, bruised egos and occasional moments of unexpected vulnerability.

There is a worthwhile contrast between the two productions. The teenagers in The Addams Family play adults learning that they cannot control their children, while the professional actors in “The Shark is Broken” portray grown men who are not always especially good at controlling themselves. Both plays find humor in human behavior that remains recognizable regardless of the rather unusual circumstances.

“The Addams Family Young@Part” concludes Sunday, Nov. 1. “The Shark is Broken” continues through Nov. 15.

Both productions are presented at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. Performance schedules and tickets are available at PagosaCenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

About Thingamajig Theatre Company

Thingamajig Theatre Company was co-founded in 2011 by Tim and Laura Moore. It is an award winning professional 501(c)(3) nonprofit theatre in residence within the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Its talented actors, directors and production experts come from across the U.S. to produce musicals, comedies and dramas year-round.

Thingamajig also is dedicated to providing theatrical experiences and educational opportunities for youth and teens in our community.

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month: beyond October

Rise Above Violence

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to a close, we have an opportunity to reflect on the conversations we shared throughout October and what we hope people will carry forward.

While the month creates dedicated space for attention, the experiences of survivors and their families continue long after awareness campaigns, community events and headlines fade.

Throughout the month, we explored how domestic violence affects individuals and families. These are not easy subjects, especially in a small community where our lives and relationships are closely connected. It can be uncomfortable to acknowledge that abuse happens in familiar places. But, these conversations matter because domestic violence is not something that only happens

somewhere else.

Awareness is more than recognizing that domestic violence exists. It means deepening our understanding of those affected, recognizing that situations are often more complex than they appear from the outside, and accepting that we may never fully know the circumstances behind another person's decisions. Sometimes, simply having a fuller picture changes how we view someone else's experience.

There is value in creating space for conversations that have historically been difficult. Although our understanding of domestic violence has grown, stigma has not disappeared. Fear of judgment, shame and uncertainty about how others may respond can still make it hard for survivors to share their stories or seek support.

The more openly we acknowledge these realities, the less isolated those affected may feel.

At Rise Above Violence, we know that behind every discussion are individuals and families whose lives have been changed in ways others may never fully see. Every survivor has unique experiences, circumstances and needs. Our work is rooted in honoring those differences and providing advocacy, resources and support that respect each person's choices and goals.

As October ends, we extend our sincere gratitude to the community that stands alongside Rise Above Violence. Your generosity, involvement and willingness to be part of these conversations make a meaningful difference for survivors and their families.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month may be ending, but the importance of this work remains. Thank you for being part of a community that cares, continues to learn and stands with survivors all year long.

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.

Of course, with our questionable and dangerous weather, all plans are more tentative than usual.

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 program he has planned and is totally in charge of. We hope you will come to see how well he will do, especially if you ride his bus.

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. You will not regret coming.

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Step back in time with Main Street Bethlehem this Christmas season

Centerpoint Church

Main Street Bethlehem will return to Centerpoint Church this December 3, 4 and 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. nightly. It will take about 30 minutes to walk through the streets, visit with the shop owners, sample some of the food and enjoy the atmosphere of first century Bethlehem. There will be authentic Roman soldiers ready to enforce the mandatory census and collect the appropriate taxes, anxious and nervous pilgrims making their way to Bethlehem, and eager shop owners who are excited to make extra money from all the additional pilgrims journeying to the city of David. There will be authentic costumes, live animals, a synagogue with priests and a shofar, shops, the inn and, of course, the stable where Jesus was born. There is no charge and no time limit, so just leave your cares at the door and take a step back into time, and you will leave with a better understanding of what it might have been like to be in the City of David during the birth of our Savior. Bethlehem, at the time of Jesus' birth, was a very small village filled with very common and ordinary people. They worked hard to provide for their families, depended on their neighbors for the help and assistance they would need at times during the year, shared with those who were struggling even more than they were, and worshiped regularly in the local

Blood donations needed: Drive set for Nov. 18

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The PREVIEW

Holiday travel, winter weather, seasonal illnesses, and busy year-end schedules often result in fewer blood donations during the winter months. Patient needs, however, don't take a holiday. Hospitals rely on blood donations every day to help accident victims, cancer patients, surgical patients, new mothers and others in need of lifesaving transfusions. You can help strengthen the blood supply this winter by registering and attending our next drive scheduled at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse on Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Local volunteer Sharee Grazda can be reached at (970) 946-2760 by call or text to answer your questions or schedule an appointment for you. You may also register online at Vitalant.org, or call Vitalant at 1-877-258-4825. Thank you for caring and sharing this winter season.

synagogue — if Bethlehem was even large enough to qualify for one at that time. They feared God. They obeyed the Law. They lived in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Politics were not an important part of their lives; their opinion did not matter and no government official cared the least about them. They were subjects of the Roman Empire — good for taxes and labor when called upon — and as long as they obeyed the laws they were left alone — most of the time. It was to these people that God sent His Son — the poor, plain, common, ordinary, unremarkable, hardworking, God-fearing peasants who had no voice and no control over their national life. Maybe you can identify with them. Maybe you would agree that even though you live more than 2,000 years after the birth of Christ your life is not significantly different than theirs. Better living conditions, more conveniences, better health care and medicines, unimagined technology — but when you take away all the extras you find that we are in the same situation as the people of Bethlehem. Ordinary people living ordinary lives depending on ordinary friends and neighbors to help us when we can't do it alone. Fearing God, obeying the laws of our land, working hard, doing all that we can to make ends meet — this is our life. Though we are worlds apart and centuries later, God sent His Son for us just as much as He did for the people of Bethlehem. Never forget that Jesus was born as

a human for you, lived a sinless life for you, was crucified on a cross for you, rose from the dead for you, returned to heaven to prepare a place for you, and will one day come back to take you to your real home, your eternal home. All you must do is believe that He truly is the Son of God, turn from your sin, accept His free gift of forgiveness and salvation, and surrender your life to Him. Maybe Main Street Bethlehem would open your eyes to a truth you never realized before; maybe it would answer a few questions that have been bothering you — or maybe it will raise a question or two that one of us would be happy to visit with you about. But, you will never know if you don't go. The doors open at 6 p.m. on Dec. 3, and will reopen Friday and Saturday evenings at 6 p.m. as well, and remain open until 7:30 p.m., so there is plenty of time to come and experience this one-of-a-kind opportunity. It could change the way you think of Christmas and deepen your understanding of scripture. It could become a family tradition that kicks off your own Christmas season, starting out with a reminder of the importance of this event in your own personal life. Don't miss this incredible chance to travel back into time to experience the village where Jesus Christ was born. It could change your life forever — and for eternity. Centerpoint Church is located at 2750 Cornerstone Drive. For a preview video and more information, visit www.centerpointpagosa.com.

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Oct. 29 End of Life Education meeting to feature questions from past sessions, discussion

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

On Thursday, Oct. 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. 29, we will have a speaker from a local funeral home to present information and answer questions. We will also 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.

U.S. Marine Corps birthday celebration planned for Nov. 10

By Ed Robinson
Pagosa Springs Marine Corps Birthday Committee

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, Pagosa Springs-area Marines and their guests are invited to celebrate the 251st birthday of the United States Marine Corps at Boss Hogg's Restaurant and Grill, 157 Navajo Trail Drive, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Wilderness Room on the restaurant's main floor.

The celebration will feature the traditional cake-cutting with a Mameluke sword and a video message

from both the commandant and the sergeant major of the Marine Corps. The oldest and the youngest Marine in attendance will also be honored.

Attendees may order food and beverages from the menu at their own expense, with a 20 percent gratuity added. Complimentary birthday cake will be served.

Other service members, especially U.S. Navy corpsmen, are welcome. Dress is casual; however, uniforms are always welcome.

Contact Ed Robinson, (970) 731-0718, with any questions.

Semper fidelis.

'Surviving the Holidays' seminar set for Nov. 8

By Marie Rascoe
Centerpoint Church

Grieving, or know someone who is?

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holidays can be especially painful.

Our "Surviving the Holidays" seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with their emotions.

- What to do about traditions.
- Helpful tips for maneuvering social events.

Join us at Centerpoint Church on Sunday evening, Nov. 8, from 5-7 p.m. in the church library, 2750 Cornerstone Drive.

For more information, call (970) 731-2205.

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Community support needed for Pagosa Community Initiative’s toiletry shelf

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI), Archuleta County’s family resource center, is asking the community to help stock its toiletry shelf for local youth and families.

SNAP benefits provide incredible support by helping families purchase food. However, SNAP benefits do not cover essential nonfood items such as hygiene products, cleaning supplies and laundry soap. These necessities are vital to family health,

dignity and overall quality of life. PCI is seeking donations of items including:

- Hygiene products: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hair brushes, hair ties and Q-tips.
- Cleaning supplies: dish soap, disinfectant wipes, all-purpose cleaner, sponges, paper towels and trash bags.
- Feminine products: pads, tampons and panty liners
- Laundry supplies: laundry

detergent, stain remover and dryer sheets.

Every donation — large or small — can make a meaningful difference for a neighbor in need. By working together, the community can help ensure local families have access to the basic supplies they need to feel healthy, secure and supported.

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PCI office, located at 550B Hot Springs Blvd.

If you have questions or for more information, call (970) 585-6461.

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to focus on covenant in November

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As we enter the month where we traditionally turn our attention to gratitude, the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship will focus on the theme of covenant.

Our forebearers sought religious freedom and came to America, where they could worship without an obedience to hierarchical authority, instead being joined by covenant, a promise to uphold their values together. The First Parish in Plymouth, Mass., was founded and is now the oldest church in the UU Association of congregations.

We are grateful for right to gather and worship this free, liberal faith. Join us as we celebrate this legacy with open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

Our services begin most Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Each first and third Sunday is a more traditional worship service. We have small group ministry the second and fourth Sunday, the Going Deeper Circle and Action Sunday, respectively.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we will be joined by guest speaker Tami Bradshaw with a sermon titled “Sacred Web.”

Bradshaw is a certified spiritual director through the Stillpoint Center for Christian Spirituality. Bradshaw holds a Master of Arts in Religion from the Iliff School of Theology, where she was opened to many wisdom traditions. For more than 25 years, she has participated in and leads spiritual formation programs in local churches for all ages. She is a member of Summit Church Durango, a United Methodist congregation.

The holy days of All Saints-All Souls Day will serve as introduction to the theme of covenant as understood in foundational Unitarian Universalism.

We will consider some of our personal ancestors as well as those who came before us in the UU tradition.

The covenants we speak today are

built on the promises kept alive by the “saints” that came before us.

We will consider covenant making as a sacred, living web which gets broken and repaired by intentional, imperfect folks — us. In a fragmented world, we are called to practice “spiritual justice-making” by renewing our promises to care for one another and the interconnected web of life. You are invited to bring a photo or memento to add to the altar and together we will renew our commitments to each other and to future generations by creating a web of memories and intentions.

The rest of the month will shape out with the following programs:

- Nov. 8: Going Deeper Sharing Circle, 10:30 a.m.

This ongoing group is a safe place for sharing and practicing deep listening in community.

- Nov 15: Sunday service, 10:30 a.m. — “Our Covenant,” Michael Demchak, presenter.

The core of Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith and not based on a set doctrine or creed that tells us what to believe. Through love and respect for one another, we create a community that allows for individual thoughts and beliefs, while also supporting and helping one another.

- Nov 22: Action Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

As we engage our lived values in the world, we take action, responding to justice making.

- Nov 29: Fifth Rest Sunday — no services held.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located in the Greenbrier Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiri-

tual home for those wishing to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good.”



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Community
news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

Local reporting that matters.

The knoll didn't hold

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

What a year 2026 has been, and it's not over yet. With a heavy knock on the door Thursday afternoon, the Archuleta County sheriff came to warn the residents that the rains were coming and we would be flooded. We needed to evacuate.

I said to the family, "We've been through three floods. The water has come up to the knoll, but our house has always been safe. We are 50 yards from the river bank. We'll move our outside furniture back from the river. Your dad doesn't do well away from the house, so I think we should stay in our own home. Friends have offered their homes, but we'll be safe."

Thursday evening, Oct. 22, the rains came, thundering and clashing against our metal roof. All through the night the water poured down. At 4 a.m., the water had gathered only a few inches from the back door.

When I woke Friday morning at 6 a.m., I was surprised that my feet landed on dry carpet. I called our son next door. He waded in 4 feet of water from his apartment, which was 18 inches deep in water. One of the neighbor dogs was caught in the rain, and was snuggled up on in one of his leather chairs. Coco spent the night safe from the elements. Her owner was notified.

Our daughter and son-in-law were trapped in their home on the other side of the river, but they were warm and dry. Our other daughter spent the night with us to help take care of her dad. We were all OK. The family moved in sync as to recover and what to do next.

Facebook postings from Pagosa's residents showed the devastation of the raging waters. Rainfall in the San Juan Mountains flowed down tributaries, moving downstream into the rivers coming into our town. I started praying for our neighbors, who I knew must be in more danger than we were. Their houses were closer to the Blanco River.

I've written about "A River Runs Through It" several times. It's the semi-autobiographical story of Norman Maclean's life. The Blanco River has always been a part of our family's life and in our backyard. But not today; our river was 4 feet deep, rushing in front of our house. Its banks were widened to the size of a hundred-yard football field.

In Friday's morning light, we surveyed our property. One of our cabins, which stored 200 pieces of art, was floating down the river. Another cabin, my art studio, was lying on its side. The others, full of painted furniture and framing supplies, looked like a box of dominoes randomly tossed and piled.

I've said many times I wasn't ready to deal with all my inventory. I had art supplies, framing supplies, a mat cutter and print drawers in the

Artist's Lane

cabins. Several of our grandchildren are very creative and I was saving it for them. Well, all my wondering what to do with my art has been answered for me. My paintings floated down the Blanco River. Maybe they will end up in Mexico and will be hung next to art pieces of Elvis on black velvet.

The bathhouse, which had pulled away from the water line, leaned on its side about a hundred feet from where it originally sat. The electrical box placed on the top of the light pole had fallen and now helplessly clung to the pole, standing on a high patch of green grass. We still had electricity.

When the gas pilot light went off, I had no idea that our 500-gallon propane tank had also snapped away from the gas line. It was nowhere in sight, until the neighbor found our tank. It was reported that a 1,000-gallon propane tank was seen moving down the river. With the price of gas, we didn't have it so bad.

Our little town was on national news. Good Morning America interviewed our county sheriff. We made the news. Not the kind of news we wanted. It could have been worse. People from all over the globe heard about Pagosa Springs and called with heartfelt wishes and told us they were praying for us.

Our blue painted 1920 Overland car, the first to come over Wolf Creek Pass, which we used for a flower bed is still on the property. A little piece of Pagosa's history was spared. The brand-new riding lawnmower we bought a couple of months ago is still on our property.

On Sunday morning, I expected to see standing water, but the water was still rushing at our back door. Hailstones dropped on our back patio, telling us that it's going to be wet for a long time.

Final brushstroke: I had put a lot of faith into the knoll behind the house; it didn't hold. But the anchor of faith in my heart still holds. It's going to take a lot of shoveling out and a roll-off dumpster parked on our property to take care of all the debris. The most important news of all: there were no casualties that I know of.

Your source
for community
news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

The people of Pagosa are safe. Still trapped in their homes or evacuated to other homes, but we are all still safe. That's a praise to God.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Community United Methodist Church to observe All Saints Day

By Ken Daniell

Community United Methodist Church

On Nov. 1, the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) will be observing All Saints Day, a day our founder John Wesley called “a festival I truly love.”

He found the service to be especially comforting, and we invite you to share in this special occasion.

On All Saints Sunday, we express our gratitude for the lives of those who have died and also celebrate those who continue to live as faithful followers of Christ’s teachings:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” — Matthew 22:37-39.

During both worship services, we call out the names of the deceased and ring bells in tribute to those who have gone before us. If you would like a name read aloud during the service, contact the office at (970) 264-5508. If no reply, please leave a message for the church secretary.

The handbells will begin the worship experience with a lively

rendition of “When the Saints Go Marching In.” The Sanctuary Choir will be singing “Cantique de Jean Racine” (In English), an ethereal anthem typically sung on this day. The service will end with the powerful hymn, “For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest” by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

All are welcome — please join us for this special worship experience. CUMC is located at 434 Lewis St. We offer two service times: 8:15 a.m. is a casual gathering, and 11 a.m. is the classic service with choir, handbells and organ.

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). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the “Good Vibe Tribe” who practices Science of Mind principles of posi-

tive thinking.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosacomunitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

Medicare Open Enrollment
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Susan Kuhns

Sunday Night Unplugged to feature Susan Kuhns

By Emrys Tyler

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church's next edition of Sunday Night Unplugged will feature Susan Kuhns, a retired nurse practitioner and seasoned mom who has always treasured a quiet love of music.

The COVID period gave her the opportunity to develop her skills in guitar and vocals, and she now joins

other musicians in Pagosa to share and enhance their unique talents.

Kuhns plays weekly at Pine Ridge and for the Unitarian fellowship.

This Sunday, Nov. 1, at 5 p.m., Kuhns will share songs with us on the theme of remembrance.

All residents and visitors are welcome to join us for this free concert at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 South Pagosa Blvd., next to our hospital.

Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

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,

■ See Calendar on next page

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
move around, play in the sensory bin and more. Dress for mess.
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).

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).
Sunday Night Unplugged Concert. 5 p.m., St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Songs of remembrance will be performed by Susan Kuhns. All are welcome.

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.
■ **See Calendar on page 15**

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 More eccentric
- 6 Pilgrim to Mecca
- 10 Greek god of war
- 14 Sierra _____
- 15 Togo's capital
- 16 Word with back or knuckle
- 17 Charge of wrongdoing
- 19 iPhone voice
- 20 "Fee, ____, foe, fum"
- 21 Insect's outer shell
- 23 Top-of-the-line
- 25 Show stopper?
- 26 Hardy's cohort
- 28 Formal proclamation
- 30 More up to the task
- 31 Sticker figure
- 32 Rocket killer: Abbr.
- 35 Beat, as a heart
- 37 Mouth piece?
- 39 Sow's pen
- 40 Bit of statuary
- 42 Coffee additive
- 43 Pancake topping (var.)
- 44 Just say no
- 45 Trojan War figure
- 48 Takes in
- 50 Like population growth
- 52 Scottish cap
- 55 Nuclear particle
- 56 Swiss policy since 1815
- 58 Burn soother
- 59 Pinball error
- 60 Kind of sax
- 61 Monocle part
- 62 Knock 'em dead?
- 63 Plant disease

DOWN

- 1 Norwegian king

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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50						51					52	53	54	
55						56					57			
58						59				60				
61						62				63				

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- 2 Supermarket section
- 3 In a sad way
- 4 Compass heading
- 5 Renewal, biologically
- 6 Some choir members
- 7 Party hearty
- 8 Run ____ (go wild)
- 9 Church position
- 10 Roll call mark
- 11 Indian yogurt dip
- 12 Flynn of classic film
- 13 River by the Louvre
- 18 Skater's jump
- 22 Car attachment
- 24 Angers
- 26 Pool exercise
- 27 Rest up against
- 29 Carthage queen
- 31 Machu Picchu locale
- 32 St. _____, FL

- 33 Bikini tops
- 34 A ____ pittance
- 36 Heavy down-pours
- 38 Hair piece?
- 41 Burger flipper
- 43 Lapidary's wares
- 44 Hearty laugh
- 45 Himalayan nation
- 46 Napoleon's fate
- 47 Flatware piece
- 49 Simple song
- 51 Simon or Sedaka
- 53 Molecular bit
- 54 Vidal's "____ Breckinridge"
- 57 Batted first, with "off"

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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 pine siskin.

These small, social birds travel in gregarious flocks where they keep in contact while foraging or in flight with a rising, buzzy, zhreeeeet call. Even on their breeding grounds they are unusually unterritorial, nesting in loose colonies and tolerating other pairs nearby. But the story changes in winter, when flocks and individuals can become aggressive around food sources. Then a siskin is quick to chase other flock members from a feeder by lowering its head and lunging with wings and tail spread. Competing birds may spiral together several feet up in the air while fighting to establish dominance.

Seeds dominate the pine siskin's diet. They forage in the topmost canopy of seed-bearing trees, often hanging upside down to harvest seeds from cones. Their primary natural foods are the seeds of pines, spruce, hemlock and cedar. But, they also eat seeds of deciduous trees like alder, birch and maple, young buds, stems and leaves, the seeds of weeds, and insects, spiders and grubs in summer. After nesting in conifer forests, they move into semi-open country to feed in fields of thistles and wild sunflowers. Feeders with nyjer seeds will attract pine siskins to your yard.

You could hold a pine siskin in the palm of your hand. They are small, brown streaky birds with a sharp, pointed bill and short notched tail. Yellow feather patches are visible when they spread their wings and tail.

Although we are in their year-round range, in other areas pine siskins are an irruptive species that move in irregular patterns in winter in search of food. Depending on the abundance of cones in northern boreal areas, they may stay put or move far south some years. They are still believed to be fairly common, but their erratic movements make numbers hard to assess. Partners In Flight categorizes them as a "Common Bird In Steep Decline."

You can help document bird numbers in winter by participating in Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch, which starts on Nov. 1. It's a fun way to focus your attention and contribute observations of the natural world. Despite the name, you don't even need to have a feeder to participate in this valuable citizen science project. Visit feederwatch.org for information.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.





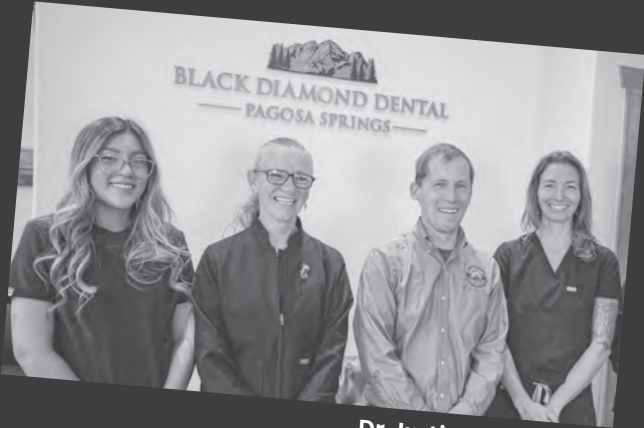
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- Rose H.

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Photo courtesy Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

After losing three of his own teeth due to cancer, Dr. Justin Nylund of Black Diamond Dental brings a personal, compassionate approach to dental care.

Compassionate dental care meets personal experience at Black Diamond Dental

By Justin Nylund, DDS
Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs

Dentists should have perfect teeth, they are trained in dental school how to take care of teeth.

Dentists highly value and care for teeth, that’s their job after all. Dentists are always lecturing us what we are doing wrong with taking care of our own teeth. Dentists should know what to do not to have any dental problems.

If so, I’m a dentist, and I wear a partial to replace missing teeth. What the heck?

I had really good teeth until I woke up one day with my face swollen, extreme pain in my mandible and part of my face numb.

It was scary to have problems with my teeth. It’s easy to lose track of your teeth when there are so many other things to worry about in life.

I ended up with a rare cancer in

my mandible. I had surgery to remove a section of my mandible and three teeth that the cancer had compromised. I ended up losing my three right back lower teeth.

With the reconstruction, implants or a bridge were not an option for me, so now I wear a partial. This is very humbling as I used to have perfect teeth.

At Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs, we understand that life happens, and we can’t be perfect in every aspect of life. We don’t judge you or the condition of your mouth. We will work with you where you are and on a timeline that works for you.

Please contact us at 970-398-2398 if we can help you make your life better. Learn more at blackdiamonddds.com.

Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN’s Community Connect sponsored content program.

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

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 12

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.

Thursday, Nov. 5

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.

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.

Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum. 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library, Community Room A. The topic will be "Water Wise."

San Juan Stargazers. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Social time will begin at 6 p.m., followed by an educational presentation at 7 p.m.

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).

Friday, Nov. 6

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. For ages 0-2. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime and connect with fellow caregivers.

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.

Saturday, Nov. 7

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 Shark is Broken.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Nov. 8

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'The Shark is Broken.' 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).

Surviving the Holidays. 5-7 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. Find help in your grief, especially during the holidays. For more information, call (970) 731-2205.

Monday, Nov. 9

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Drop-in Session: Future of the Library. 10 a.m., Sisson Library. Talk about challenges of living in Pagosa Springs, how the library affects your life and how the library can improve. Sign up at www.pagosalibrary.org or call (970) 264-2209.

Drop-in Session: Future of the Library. 3 p.m., Sisson Library. Talk about challenges of living in Pagosa Springs, how the library affects your life and how the library can improve. Sign up at www.pagosalibrary.org or call (970) 264-2209.

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. **Drop-in Session: Future of the Library.** 5 p.m., Sisson Library. Talk about challenges of living in Pagosa Springs, how the library affects your life and how the library can improve. Sign up at www.pagosalibrary.org or call (970) 264-2209.

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.



DO THIS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND YOUR BODY WILL THANK YOU



This week we are focusing on investing time in others. After reading this excerpt, why not get a friend and begin brainstorming together how you can help your community?

Benefits from helping others:

- Increase happiness
- Increase a boost in a feel-good part of the brain
- Remind people that they are relatively lucky
- Feel connected to others
- Feel needed and effective
- Take the mind off worries for a while
- Feel generous

difference. However, people should be careful when others ask favors. Sometimes it is perfectly fine to say no to favors.

Ways to Volunteer:

- School or tutoring program
- Clean up a local park
- Work with immigrants
- Community events
- Volunteer as a coach
- Local hospital or clinic

Source: "8 benefits of helping others." By Mykim Tran. <http://www.examiner.com>

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

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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Seniors invited to Halloween costume party Friday

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Halloween is a wonderful time for people of all ages to celebrate, laugh and enjoy a little spooky fun. For older adults, participating in holiday activities provides an opportunity to socialize, build friendships, reduce feelings of loneliness and stay connected with the community.

Dressing up in a costume, sharing a few laughs and enjoying time with friends can lift spirits, create lasting memories and remind us that having fun never gets old. Staying socially active and participating in enjoyable activities are important parts of healthy aging and overall well-being.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) invites local seniors to join us for a Halloween Costume Party on Friday, Oct. 30, at 11 a.m. Come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume and get ready for a fun-filled time with friends, laughter and plenty of Halloween spirit!

Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, so let your creativity shine and show off your spooky, silly or spectacular side.

At ASI, we believe that every season is an opportunity to celebrate life, strengthen friendships and bring joy to our community. We look forward to seeing everyone for a Halloween celebration filled with fun, fellowship and a few delightful tricks and treats.

Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving closures

ASI will be closed on Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day. ASI will also be closed for Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, and Nov. 27. No meals or services will be provided on those days.

Daylight saving time ends

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we “fall back” one hour, so set your clocks back one hour as we return to standard time.

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.

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.

Senior News

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. 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.

Monday, Nov. 2 — Shrimp scampi over linguine, roasted Brussels sprouts, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt and milk.

Tuesday, Nov. 3 — Grilled Reuben sandwich on rye, cheesy cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, carrot cake and milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 4 — Country fried chicken and gravy, glazed carrots, buttermilk biscuit, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Thursday, Nov. 5 — Butternut squash ravioli with Alfredo sauce, Swiss chard, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, muffin, milk.

Friday, Nov. 6 — Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, peas, baked potato salad, garden salad, fruit, blueberry pie and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen

Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

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

■ See Senior on next page



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Ruby Sisson Library going solar, help plan the future

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

Through a generous grant from a private foundation, the library will be installing a 35kW solar photovoltaic panel system on the library's original, reinforced roof and adding battery storage to maintain power in the building during grid interruptions.

Our array is designed to produce more power than we need during daylight hours which we will store for after dark or sell back to the grid.

This \$100,000 project includes money for all-age public education about renewable energy and complements the Colorado Energy Office grant we received to install EV charging stations.

This is great news, as our local revenue tax decreased slightly for the second year in a row. With a bigger building, more lights and more computers, adding solar power in our sunny climate is intended to offset the majority of our currently purchased power, providing needed budgetary relief and freeing funds for more programs, collections and services.

Best of all, we will be able to keep the doors open when the power grid fails for several hours while power is being restored.

We are grateful to the Library Foundation and Jonathan Dobson for helping us plan and prepare this grant application. Look for roof activ-

Library News

ity in the spring as we go solar.

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.

Help us plan the future

During the month of November, we are collecting feedback from everyone in the community about what you would like the library to prioritize for the next three years.

We'll begin the week of Nov. 9 with in-person drop-in sessions to talk about the challenges of living in Pagosa Springs, how the library

affects your life and how we can improve. We're hoping to hear from parents and caregivers, seniors, Library Foundation and Friends members, and everyone in the community who has an interest in the library's future.

Please join us at any of these one hour drop-in sessions. Sign up on the library's website ([www.pago-](http://www.pago-salibrary.org)

[salibrary.org](http://www.pago-salibrary.org)) or give us a call at (970) 264-2209.

• Monday, Nov. 9: 10 a.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

• Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m.

• Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m. (parent and caregiver focus), 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

If none of these sessions work

with your schedule, or if you're not comfortable talking in front of others, we will offer several additional opportunities to provide feedback, including online surveys and a "talk-back" board at the library.

Thanks for helping us dream the future.

■ See Library on page 19

Senior

■ continued from previous page
Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help

enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AIR
BAG
BUCKET
BUTTER
CARAMEL
CHEESE
CORN
CRUNCHY
FLUFFY
GARLAND
HULL
KERNEL
KETTLE
MICROWAVE
MOVIE NIGHT
OIL
POPPING
SALT
SEASONING
SNACK
STOVETOP
THEATER

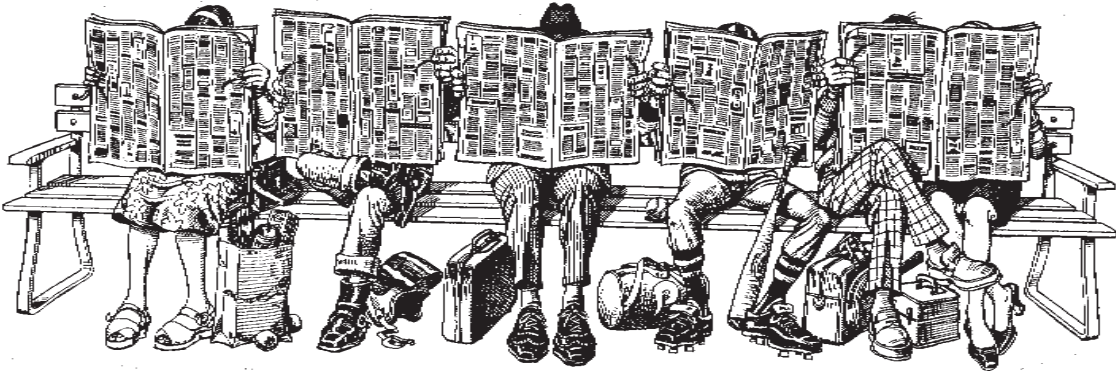
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Library

■ continued from page 17

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.

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, wood-working, 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.

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

Fall is a hot season in the publishing industry, as the upcoming holidays promise lots of sales. There are many new novels from big-name authors and some holiday books to get you in the spirit.

New in large print

- "Hollow Bones" by Jodi Picoult is described as "a riveting novel about the risks we take to protect the ones we love in a world where crisis is always just around the corner."

- Stephen King and Peter Straub team up to deliver "Other Worlds Than These," the third book in the Talisman fantasy series, finished by King after the death of his writing partner.

- Ann Cleves scores again with "The Dying Light," book four in the Two Rivers series. Matthew Venn investigates a murder and a disappearance connected to a prominent British politician.

- Freida McFadden pens a new psychological thriller, "The Witch." When Julia Barlow loses her job, she returns to her family's estate, where supernatural occurrences abound.

New nonfiction

- Sports Illustrated writer Peter Gammons brings us tales from 60 years covering America's favorite pastime in "It's All About the Players: What I've Learned from Baseball's Best."

- Journalist Michael Lewis, author of "Moneyball" and "The Big Short," returns with a fascinating study of the clashes between Elon Musk's DOGE tech initiatives and career civil servants in the U.S. government in "Blockers: Rebels in the Deep State."

- Daily reading for pleasure has dropped by 40 percent over the past two decades, and fewer than half of American adults read a book of any kind in 2022. In "The New Dark Ages: The Death of Reading and the Dawn of the Post-Literate Society," London Times columnist James Marriott proposes the potential impact of the shift away from reading and offers a passionate defense of the written word.

New fiction

- Bonnie Gamus, author of the

popular "Lessons in Chemistry," brings us a new office politics comedy novel, "Peck and Peck," set in 1982 New York City. Recent college graduate Batter Gray's deep love for poetry lands her a basement job at the rarefied, dysfunctional and secretive poetry quarterly called Peck & Peck.

- "Off the Reservation" follows up on the previous novel, "The Only Good Indians," by Stephen Graham Jones. Survivor Nathan Yellow Tail joins a group of Blackfeet activists on a cross-country road trip in a run-down RV to repatriate the remains of a Blackfeet boy from the notorious Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania.

- Mindy Misener's debut novel "Good Guys" follows estranged sisters Georgie and Jo, who uncover the crimes of a town's war hero, Gary Clemmons, leading to devastating consequences that expose the dark side of small town patriotism.

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.

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This sweet 1-year-old male puppy is ready for a home. He's very sweet and wants to be with people all the time. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.



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HIGH- END DINING ROOM SET with 8 upholstered chairs. Table 96" x 46" plus 18" extension. See to appreciate. \$1,000. (970)946-9379.

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SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers 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.

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.

PAGOSAAA: 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.).

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

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ASPENGLow LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061.

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TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning and mitigation. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

REPAIRS FOR SNOWBLOWERS, CHAINSAWS, Portable Generators, Chain Sharpening, and more. We pick up and drop off. Call MechaNick's Repair (970)398-5730.

RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

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3R RANCH HIRING one full or part-time position. Ranch and landscape maintenance. Must have own reliable transportation and valid driver's license. 40 hours a week available. \$23 per hour. (970)264-5160.

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FULL-TIME to fulfill bookkeeping responsibilities at Ponderosa Lumber. Windows software and credit /collection experience knowledge preferred. We offer a competitive wage. Medical, dental benefits, 401K and paid time off. Please call (970)731-4111. Ask for Jim.

BEEHIVE HOMES IS HIRING a dependable cook to prepare our chef's pre- arranged menu Monday- Thursday from 7a.m.- 3p.m. \$17- \$19 per hour with the opportunity for increase. Send resume to staffpsbeehive@gmail.com or apply in person.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

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COLORADO DREAM HOMES IS HIRING. Full time, full slate of homes for steady work through all seasons. You won't hear "I'll call you when I need you" from us – we work hard to create reliable jobs in construction. Seeking exterior carpentry/ framing crew that are consistent, team oriented and motivated by incentives to add to an already strong team. Starting pay ranging from \$22-\$30 hourly depending on experience/ skill level. PTO and paid holidays. Send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com or drop by our office at 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application.

HEALTHY ARCHULETA IS HIRING for several part- time positions, including Youth Engagement and Bilingual Social Worker roles. Learn more and apply at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

JOIN THE TEAM at Beyond the Gates Restaurant at Keyah Grande. We're looking for a friendly, reliable server for Sunday brunch. Pay is \$14.42/ hour plus tips.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at \$18/ hour, full or part -time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

LINE COOK POSITION OPEN The Keyah Grande Guest House is hiring a part-time line cook (\$20/ hour) for our new fine dining restaurant. Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

MOUNTAIN SPIRITS WINE AND LIQUOR is looking for a dependable, friendly, part-time and full-time cashier to join our team. **We're looking for someone who:** Is reliable and punctual, Has great customer service skills, Is friendly and outgoing, Can work independently and as part of a team, Is available nights and weekends, Has a positive attitude. If you are interested, please stop by the store to apply. **Come join our team.**

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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.

CLASSIFIED ORDERS

Clip & bring with check or credit card number to
The SUN office, 457 Lewis Street

To place ad by phone, call (970) 264-2100

Classified ads may be emailed to
classads@pagosasun.com

Or, place your ad online at PagosaSUN.com

Payment must be received by the deadline.

Classified deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.
(Earlier deadlines for holidays.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Category: _____

Ad: _____

Please run ad _____ consecutive weeks
(The Pagosa Springs SUN is published once a week on Thursdays.)

Charge for line ads — 20 word minimum

1st week: 60¢ per word

2nd week and every consecutive week after, no changes:
30¢ per word

\$ _____ is enclosed. (\$12 minimum)

Visa/Mastercard/American Express/Discover accepted.

Credit card number _____

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Signature _____

Classified Categories

Announcements
Autos
Business Opportunity
Commercial for Rent
Commercial Property
Condos
For Sale
Health
Help Wanted
Homes for Sale
Land/Building Sites
Livestock
Lost and Found

Miscellaneous
Mobile Homes
Open House
Personals
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Ranches
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Residential Rentals
Services
Timeshares
Vacation Rentals
Wanted
Yard Sales

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

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Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

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HELP WANTED

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DELIVERY - Starting at \$18/hr DOE, 40 hr/week
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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.

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Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

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ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
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Send applications & resumes to:
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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A RELIABLE, enthusiastic baker to join our team at Faire Society for our 4a.m. baking shifts. No previous experience necessary — we're happy to train the right person. Reach out to Faire Society or drop your application by today.

WINGS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER is seeking a Full- Time Toddler Teacher- a fun-loving, caring, and creative professional to support the growth and learning of our young students. \$20- 25/ hour, Monday- Friday.

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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.

4 SET TIRES COOPER DISCOVERER 275/60R20 AT3 S4. Good tread. \$480 (970)946-0305, leave message.

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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.

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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 taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

TWO 50-GALLON STEEL DRUMS with lids. Used, great condition, clean, \$35 each. Can be seen on Thursday or Friday at Pagosa Springs SUN, 457 Lewis Street.

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Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

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All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

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YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE. 1329 Cross Creek. Friday, Saturday, 8a.m. Christmas, tools, clothing, decorator's dream, furniture, grills, smokers, welder, plasma cutter and more.

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.

WE ARE TRYING THIS AGAIN. Estate Sale, Friday, Oct. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 31, 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, crafting supplies. 186 Clearwater Drive. Hwy 160 East, right on 84 South, right on River Forest Drive, left on Clearwater. AEHPOS2.0.

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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.

FLEXIBLE COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL 1,000 sq. ft. space on the western side of Pagosa Springs available January 1. Comes with overhead garage door, side door, and bathroom. It will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized. Tenants in compound include building trades, personal training, UPS, light manufacturing and artists. Rent is \$1,050/ month. Please contact Jessica at raswheeler@gmail.com.

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.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

PAGOSA SECURE STORAGE- 80 Bastille Drive. Offering "Smokin Deals" on all units. Temperature Controlled Units available. Managed by Team Pagosa Realty (970)731-8599 Call today for availability.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

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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.

2 BEDROOM 2 BATHROOM country home. 7 miles west of Pagosa. Utilities and water renter's expense. No smoking. \$2000/ month. (970)398-0303.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

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.

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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.

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NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH unit in downtown. Fireplace, small patio, community area with picnic table. All utilities included except internet (water, sewer, electric, gas, trash pick up and snow removal). All appliances included. 2 parking spaces. Background check and credit report required. Pets upon approval, no smoking. \$2100 per month. Available July 15. (318)347-6100 or (682)706-6012.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM 1.5 BATH condo near Lake Pagosa. Available NOW. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

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.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED HOME on 5 acres. 1240 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms with loft. 2 bath. Off paved road. 2401 Meadows, close to town. \$2200.

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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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

ARBOLES 2 ACRES with approved septic and well. \$100,000. Peggy Andrews, Independent Broker, (970)946-0473.



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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
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The Value of Suffering

An epistle of Peter Laue through the hands and mind of his son John Laue.

"Now I rejoice in my suffering for your sake, and in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is the Church." These words from Colossians 1:24 were written especially for me in these days and for all of God's most holy family who are bonded together through deep suffering.

Paul's words are an enigma for many. After all, Christ's work is a finished and complete work. What could possibly be lacking in His afflictions? As early as the second century, early church father Tertulian cites this verse and treats "lack" as something belonging to the ongoing life of the Body, not to a deficiency in Christ's redemptive work. He says this because the Church is indeed His Body. Also, from the second century, early church father Origen presents this as a PARTICIPATION in Christ's own path of suffering, not as making up for something unfinished in Christ's Passion itself.

These concepts became a new reality for me when I suffered a compression fracture on my L2 vertebrae on September 16th. Moving through the healing process has been and continues to be a painful undertaking. At first, the world offered me an easy out in the form of pain pills. After all, why not blunt or blot out the pain completely? It was an appealing option, but after just one day, I decided to pick up my cross and join my suffering to Christ's Passion for the sake of His body.

This decision created a paradigm shift in my faith life and my stance in prayer. I am no longer asking Jesus to heal me or take away my pain. He can do that if He desires it. My precision prayer, instead, is an acceptance of Jesus' invitation to suffer with Him, joining my pain to His most Holy Passion. This new stance in prayer also bubbles over to those who request my prayers. Should I immediately intercede to ask for a healing or should I instead ask for Christ to enter into their suffering to accomplish His Will in their life?

As for my suffering since September 16th, I sensed God infusing a new measure of Pentecostal power into my spirit. More particularly, God spiritually placed Samson's jaw bone of an ass into my hands. With this jawbone, Samson slew one thousand Philistines and now I have this tool in my back pocket. Hallelujah! With this jawbone, I have smoked out the last remaining Philistines in Pagosa Springs and the entire county of Archuleta. They have been slain and now the final score can be tallied.

What is the final score for Pagosa Springs and what is the final score for my life? The answer is simple and direct:

SATAN ZERO, JESUS WON!

And with the score proclaimed, I returned to Christ in His suffering and in His Passion. I join now with Him and proclaim "IT IS FINISHED".

