Grants for flood recovery
Community Foundation distributes second round — A10

Colorado housing market update
October sales fall nearly 19 percent — A8

The Pagosa Springs SUN

$1

PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 | www.PagosaSUN.com | VOLUME 119 — NO. 8, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

A construction crew works to demolish and clean up a portion of the Pagosa Springs History Museum on Monday, Nov. 16. After being undercut by the flooding on Nov. 1 and 2, the metal building, which previously served as a Job Corps building before being relocated to the site in 1974, was taken down due to safety concerns. Museum board members have reported that a high percentage of the museum's artifacts were saved.

Additional flooding updates provided as recovery continues

Staff report

Flood response and recovery continues throughout Pagosa Country.

At their respective meetings this week, several local governmental entities provided updates on the flooding and response, including the number of structures affected.

Archuleta County

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Nov. 17, Emergency Operations Commander Roy Vega provided the board with an update related to flood recovery and response efforts.

■ See Flooding A9

CDOT officials provide update on highways, downtown project

By Clayton Chaney and Derek Kutzer
Staff Writers

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) representatives provided updates on highways around the county and the U.S. 160 reconstruction project winter shutdown to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and Pagosa Springs Town Council at their respective meetings.

U.S. 160 reconstruction

The U.S. 160 downtown reconstruction project's public information manager, Meredith Greene, explained, "We are going to be going into winter shutdown on the U.S 160 reconstruction project prior to Thanksgiving."

She noted the shutdown is for "a variety of reasons," but indicated that crews have been working on "buttoning up" areas of the project over the past week with asphalt paving at Harman Park, and the intersections with 8th Street and 1st Street.

Greene explained that the section

■ See CDOT A8

Medical center projecting narrow bottom line in 2027 budget

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 17 meeting, the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors — which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) — approved the district's 2027 budget.

The budget projects a bottom line of $5,527 for 2027.

The budget was presented by Chief Operations Officer Jason Webb and Controller Steve Wagoner.

The board previously heard a draft budget on Oct. 8, with Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese offering a caveat at the time — "We think it will change greatly."

At the Oct. 8 meeting, Bruzzese explained that the district had to present a draft budget, but that multiple factors would lead the district's second draft of its budget to look very different.

Bruzzese first indicated that, in June, the state provided an opportunity to receive funds through the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), with the state announcing on Sept. 28, that PSMC would receive $4,201,527.

The RHTP, the state's website explains, "is a five-year nationwide initiative administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and designed to strengthen access, improve outcomes, expand the workforce, accelerate innovative care models, and modernize

■ See Medical A8



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Fresh snow and clouds are seen off the backside of Wolf Creek Ski Area on Sunday, Nov. 15, after the ski area reopened for the weekend. The Colorado Department of Transportation closed Wolf Creek Pass on Monday, Nov. 16, in order to complete repair operations to reopen the pass permanently by this weekend for the winter season. The National Weather Service forecast indicates chances of snow along the pass beginning tonight, Thursday, Nov. 19, through Saturday, Nov. 21.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The U.S. flag is raised during a Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

PAWSD moves forward with revised settlement agreement following debate

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors approved a settlement agreement for the district's litigation with the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) with two modifications at its Nov. 16 meeting, following a lengthy and contentious debate.

The litigation between the districts focuses on whether or not PAWSD has the right to sell the Running Iron Ranch — which is jointly owned by the two districts and where the SJWCD aims to build a reservoir — without the consent of the SJWCD.

The SJWCD argued that this violated the terms of a previous three-way agreement between PAWSD, the SJWCD and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) governing the management of the ranch.

The lawsuit started in December 2024 when the SJWCD refused to consent to PAWSD's potential plans to sell the property to Zipper Valley Ranch, represented by Trey Fricke, and PAWSD sued in an attempt to clarify whether the three-way agreement allowed it to sell the ranch without the SJWCD's consent and to argue that it did.

The districts began negotiations over a settlement agreement in March 2026, following a variety of filings and summary judgment on a portion of the case by District Court Judge Justin Fay.

The agreement, without the modifications, was previously approved

■ See PAWSD A5

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation Moisture	Type	Depth
11/10	57	25	0.00	NA	NA
11/11	63	25	0.00	NA	NA
11/12	60	26	0.00	NA	NA
11/13	55	25	0.00	NA	NA
11/14	39	32	0.60	NA	NA
11/15	52	29	0.26	NA	NA
11/16	56	25	0.00	NA	NA

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Our View

Don't wait until it's too late

The damage to the Pagosa Springs History Museum due to flooding and its subsequent demolition this week due to safety concerns are a stark reminder: Support what you want to maintain and keep — before it's too late.

While this is definitely not the end of the museum and is only the start of a major transition for the San Juan Historical Society, it serves as a timely reminder as we approach Thanksgiving to show support and thanks for those things we appreciate in our community.

Within the last two years, Archuleta County has experienced two fires that caused evacuations and four major floods that caused evacuations, destroyed homes and have permanently changed our landscape and our town — things that for so long we only ever saw happen elsewhere when we watched the news.

Now we're that place on the news for others.

Only a couple of years ago, we would have never looked at the lot holding the museum and envisioned how much land would be swept away.

We never envisioned watching a house that locals used to call home swept down the river — or that it would be one of several to meet that fate.

We never envisioned any of this.

The Pagosa Springs History Museum, as its website states, plans to rebuild.

As someone with a family who loves history and spent countless hours volunteering with the museum, we're lucky enough to have been through the local museum time and time again.

We grew up having favorite items that depict life here in times gone by, and we were so pleased to see those items retrieved and stored away for future museum-goers to enjoy.

It will be a long road, but we eagerly await that day when a new museum is unveiled, presenting a new, reimagined way to appreciate the people and events that have helped make Pagosa Country what it is today.

We also look forward to the reopening of beloved public parks, and to seeing how some of the parks that were badly damaged or destroyed will be reimagined to be more resilient and provide more decades of enjoyment.

We hope the level of public support will continue as fundraising and planning take place for these community assets.

In the meantime, we also intend to keep celebrating and exploring what we are today and what we have today. Like we did over the spring and summer, we aim to continue being a tourist in our own backyard.

As the last two years have taught us, we don't know what the future holds, so we intend to continue making the most of our time and abilities to explore what makes our area so special, and to revisit and support the things that we love.

It's not lost on us that some of the places we explored a short time ago have likely been significantly altered by the forces of nature, making them places we want to revisit as conditions allow. We want to see the changes.

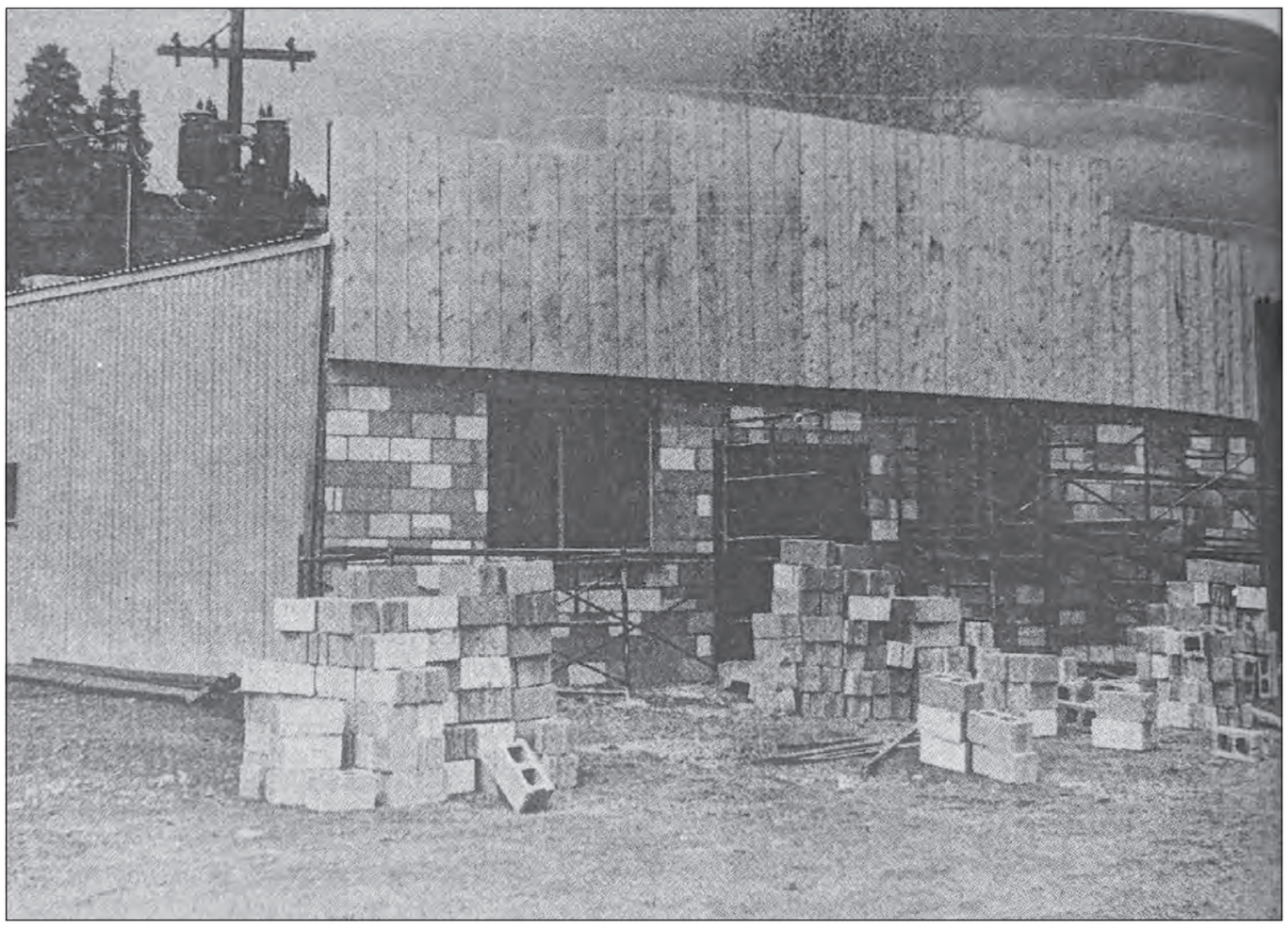
We also continue to attempt to support our local businesses, which we definitely don't want to lose. They are a huge part of why this community is special.

While it's true we sometimes don't know what we've got until we've lost it, we can and should be proactive in supporting what makes this place great, especially at such a pivotal time in our community's history.

We can't wait until it's too late.

Randi Pierce

Looking Back



From the May 16, 1974, Pagosa SUN — NEW MUSEUM — The community museum, being constructed by the San Juan Historical Society, is shaping up this summer. It is located at the water plant in the east part of Pagosa Springs and is a former Job Corps Center building. The exterior of the building is nearing completion and it will soon be ready for occupancy. The work is being done by volunteer workers who reside in the community and much of the material has been donated.

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Legacies

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 19, 1926

Do you know that the San "Juan National Forest has the highest rating for FOREST FIRES of any Forest in Colorado? The fire season is nearly at an end for this year and the San Juan Forest has a total of 26 fires with the Pike Forest second with 16.

The area burned over within our Forest this year is approximately 270 acres or an average of slightly over ten acres per fire. The largest fire occurred on the west end of the Forest and was nearly 200 acres in extent, leaving practically only 70 acres to be divided among the remainder of the fires.

The cost of fighting the fires was approximately $720.00. The startling fact is that half of these fires were man-caused and could have been avoided, since it is the duty of every citizen of this county to help protect the Forest from fire.

Harold Chapson was the boy who placed second on the Aggie stock judging team at the National Royal Stock show at Kansas City. The Aggie team won first place and Harold was adjudged second best among the members of the team. Young Chapson is a graduate of the Fort Lewis school.—Durango Democrat.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 16, 1951

Big game season is over and what a relief. Those who were lucky enough to bag their meat, and there were quite a number from this area, can spend the next six months telling how they captured the prize and those less fortunate can bemoan their hard luck swearing never again. By next big game season all the hard ships of the hunt will have been forgotten and they will all be "rarin' to go" again.

Judith Brown, six year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Brown had the misfortune to fall and break her left arm one evening last week. Judith was playing on the school ground after school when the accident occurred. Mrs. Brown, the child's mother, is the primary teacher at Allison and was summoned immediately. Mrs. Frances Lane took Judith and Mrs. Brown to Durango where the arm was set. Judith didn't let a broken arm keep her from school, but then a broken arm isn't anything new to her, it was just over a year ago that she broke her right arm. She is hoping that this will be the end of such 'breakers.'

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 18, 1976

Retail sales in Archuleta County were up 20.1% in the second quarter of 1976 over the same period in 1975, according to the Business Research Division of the University of Colorado.

At the same time service sales were up 58.8% and manufacturing sales were up 95%. Total sales in all categories in the county went from $2,780,000 in April, May and June of 1975 to $3,543,000 in the same period in 1976. Biggest increase was in manufacturing and this is attributed to the fact that San Juan Lumber Co. was not in operation in part of the second quarter of 1975.

Biggest percentage increase, other than manufacturing, was in hotels and lodgings. This category showed a whopping 58.8% increase. General merchandise showed an increase of 30.1%, and food store sales were up 31.1%. Automotive sales showed an increase from $970,000 to $1,189,000.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 15, 2001

Following the events of Sept. 11 and the subsequent cases of anthrax, people have been asked over and over to exercise caution, exercise a higher level of awareness in general and to use common sense.

After a suspicious package call Friday, Fire Chief Warren Grams said one more reminder might be needed.

Anyone who receives a suspicious piece of mail, letter or package of any kind, should leave it alone, and call Archuleta County dispatch immediately.

"If you open it and fool with it, you're putting yourself at risk," Grams said.

Since the anthrax scare began on the East Coast, law enforcement agencies in Pagosa Springs have handled a handful of calls — none of which have proved to be a "credible threat." Of those, the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District has handled two incidents.

In one case, Grams said, a piece of mail had been opened and resealed, leaving some stains on the envelope which concerned the recipient.

At this point, he added there is no reason to believe anyone in Pagosa Springs is in danger.

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.

Admiration and respect

Dear Editor:

The last weeks have brought malfunctions, misery, chaos and catastrophe to many of us in Pagosa Springs. The flood has tested us and challenged us.

As we have dealt with mud, debris, broken systems, broken hearts we have also been blessed with determined people who come to salvage and repair.

Pagosa Water and Sanitation has worked in rain and snow to restore water to our home. In dark and in light. Their dedication has lit a bright light at the end of a tunnel of mud. LPEA has worked miracles to keep that light shining. Forces of nature have made it extremely difficult to work in that tunnel.

My admiration and respect for the people of PAWS is boundless. I thank them from the muddy depths of my heart.

My gratitude also for my family at Centerpoint; they brought food and water to drink and prayers, along with people skilled in mess cleanup. They've propped us up when our feet slipped. Psalm 94:17, 18 - When I thought, "my foot slips," Your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.

Gayle and Tom Broadbent

Re: Phones

Dear Editor:

I want to say that I am in complete agreement with what Arbor Moran said in his letter in the November 5 issue of the Sun. I'm a few years older than Arbor, and I sometimes have the thought, "how did we ever get by before cell phones". An amazing piece of technology, but I don't like how we have become so dependent on them in so many ways. I could provide a complete list of my gripes here, but I'm afraid I would exceed the maximum number of words allowed.

Arbor expressed concern of receiving a call or text while in the middle of talking with a friend. However, what I find most annoying is when I'm talking with a friend face-to face and they get a text or call and they immediately interrupt our conversation so they can check on it, and sometimes feel the need to reply at that moment. Who feels like continuing the conversation after that? Not me. Maybe I'm just exhibiting the "grumpy old man" syndrome, but that kind of behavior is offensive to me (and probably many others) and I'm surprised that people will do that. Why not just say, "I'm not going to answer. I'll call them back".

C'mon people, try using some good old fashion civility toward others as you pursue your busy digital life.

Sonny Kelley
Gardner, Kan.

A thank you to Wellington

Dear Editor:

Dear Wellington Middle-High School and The Wellington Community,

On behalf of Pagosa Springs High School and the Pagosa Springs Community, we are sending our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity in supporting our football team and our community after the devastating floods. When the floods hit the weekend of October 31st, as many of you have already probably seen the images of the devastation, the impact it had on so many in our community was insurmountable. Many of our football players and coaches were isolated for many days due to roads being washed out or closed. There was even a moment we were unsure if we were going to be able to get out of Pagosa Springs in time to make our way up to Wellington for the second round of the 2A playoffs. We continue to have road closures through highway 160 in both directions, and our only option for getting out of Pagosa Springs is to go south through New Mexico. So we were lucky to be able to get our football team out and make their Wellington for the football playoff game.

Upon the team's arrival to Wellington, the immediate love given to us by your school, boosters club, River of Life Church, and community was truly amazing. Providing food, fundraising for the Pagosa Springs community, and truly showing the "we stand together" and your community way. I know there was a football game to be played, but during these times for a small community the utmost class and respect you showed was a blessing for our community and it goes beyond more than a football game. I will say that the football game did give our community a nice distraction from what was happening as we all showed our Pirate Pride for our team that weekend! I am always amazed how sports can bring communities together in so many ways and this was no exception. We thank you so much for your big hearts for the support for our team and community. Your support will not go unforgotten. We wish your team luck as they enter the next round of the playoffs into the state semi finals. We appreciate the Wellington community very much!

Sincerely,
Joshua Sanchez, Pagosa Springs High School principal
Aubrie Limebrook, Pagosa Springs High School Boosters

Christmas tree permits available online for San Juan National Forest

U.S. Forest Service

Christmas tree permits for the San Juan National Forest are available online through Recreation.gov and are no longer sold at San Juan National Forest offices.

Details about cutting areas, dates and types of trees that may be cut may be found on the San Juan National Forest Christmas Tree webpage, www.recreation.gov/tree-permits.

To purchase a Christmas tree permit, visit Recreation.gov. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will also need to set up or log into a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction.

Permits cost $8 plus a $2.50 reservation fee. Fourth-grade students with an Every Kid Outdoors pass are eligible for a free permit and can apply by entering the pass or voucher number when purchasing a permit (note: a $2.50 reservation fee will be applied). Permits must be printed and carried with you at time of collection.

Many forest roads remain closed following historic flooding, and some roads that are open may still present significant hazards, including washouts, erosion, debris accumulation, large potholes and unstable slopes. Visitors planning to harvest a Christmas tree are strongly encouraged to use caution, travel only on roads that are open to the public and check the weather before entering the forest.

Before traveling, visitors should check the San Juan National Forest's current conditions webpage, www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/conditions, for the latest information on road accessibility and closures. Closure orders for roads can be located on the alerts webpage. For additional details, you can call our post-flood information line at (970) 501-5830.

On the Columbine Ranger District, visitors are encouraged to harvest Christmas trees in the Beaver Meadows area, which currently provides some of the best access for Christmas tree cutting. On the Pagosa Ranger District, visitors should consider harvesting in the Jackson Mountain, Turkey Creek, Buckles Lake and East Monument areas.

Cutting a Christmas tree also improves forest health. The permit system helps thin densely populated stands of small-diameter trees. Local forest health experts identify areas that benefit from thinning trees that tend to be the perfect size for Christmas trees. Removing these trees in designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can open areas that provide forage for wildlife.

For more information, visit these online resources:

- Recreation.gov Christmas tree permit page with map interface.
- Help Center article: "How Do I Purchase and Print a Christmas Tree Permit?"

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

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Letters

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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.

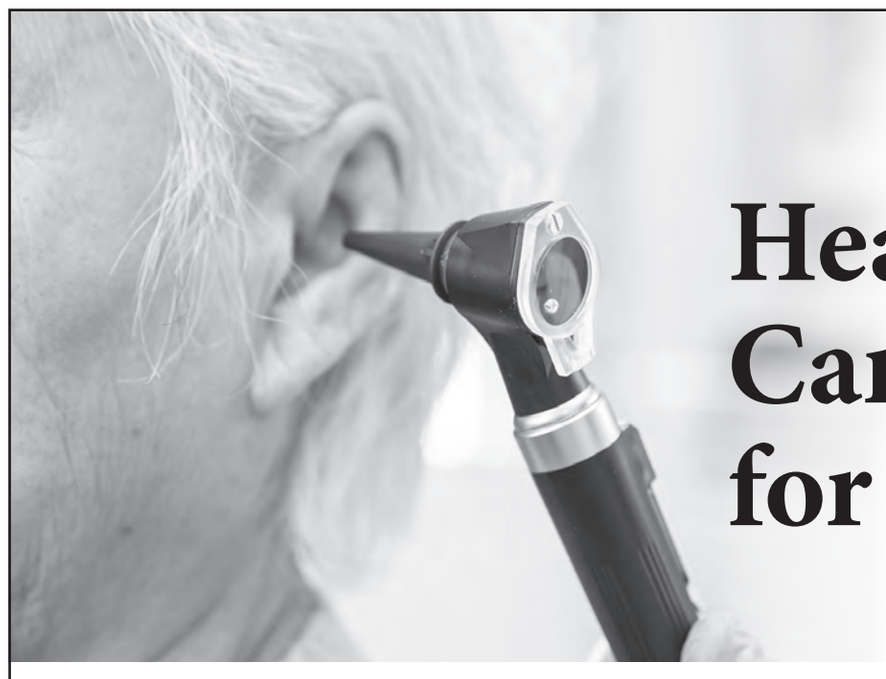
Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

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.



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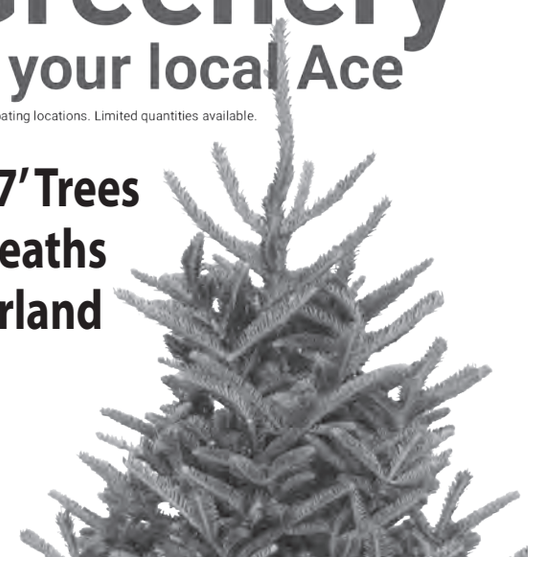




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Veterans Day

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Veterans were celebrated in multiple ways on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, including at the 23rd annual breakfast hosted by Pagosa Springs Middle School eighth-graders and at the traditional ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.







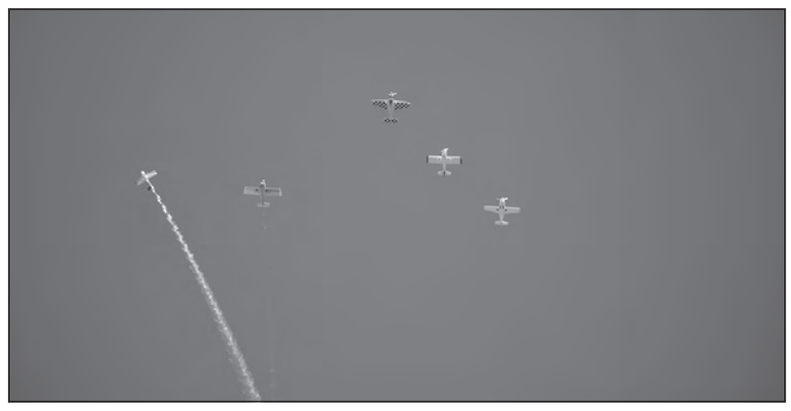












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Interested in joining our team?
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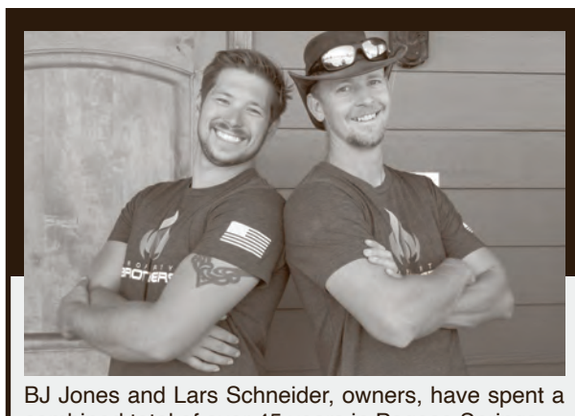
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2026 Archuleta County Election Results

Unofficial results as of press time.
State and federal results may differ.
***Indicates winner of contest.**

United States Senator
Mark Baisley 3,696
*John Hickenlooper 3,618

Representative to the 119th United States Congress – District 3
Dwayne L. Romero 3,477
*Jeff Hurd 3,838

Colorado Governor/ Lieutenant Governor
Victor Marx/ George Washington Markert 3,612
*Phil Weiser/ Lesley Dahlkemper 3,567

Colorado Secretary of State
*Amanda Gonzalez 3,494
James Wiley 3,723

Colorado State Treasurer
*Jeff Bridges 3,311
Kevin Grantham 3,651

Colorado Attorney General
Michael J. Allen 3,924
*Jena Griswold 3,526

State Board of Education Member – Congressional District 3
*Sherri M Wright 3,861
Barb Clementi 3,414

State Representative – District 59
*Katie Stewart 3,502
Naomi Riess 3,849

County Commissioner District 3
*Randy Betts 4,778

County Clerk and Recorder
*Kristy Archuleta 5,284

County Treasurer
*Elsa P. White 4,990

County Assessor
*Johanna Tully-Elliott 4,887

County Sheriff
*Mike Le Roux 5,222

County Surveyor
*Ron Sutcliffe 425

County Coroner
*Brad Hunt 4,901

Amdt. 81/Notify Homeland Security
Yes 4,218
*No 3,248

Amdt. 82/Right to natural gas
Yes 4,549
*No 2,809

Amdt. 83/Right to hunt
Yes 4,373
*No 3,049

Amdt. 84/ID number on ballot
Yes 3,663
*No 3,811

Amdt. 85/Ballot language
*Yes 4,555
No 2,846

Amdt. 86/Redistricting
Yes 4,016
*No 3,174

Amdt. 87/Tax increase for education
*Yes 3,396
No 4,038

Prop. NN/State investment in K-12
*Yes 3,622
No 3,762

Prop. 132/Penalties for fentanyl
*Yes 4,561
No 2,790

Prop. 133/Human trafficking
*Yes 5,349
No 1,974

Prop. 134/School sports based on participant's sex
*Yes 4,768
No 2,553

Prop. 135/Prohibiting surgery on minor to alter sex characteristics
*Yes 4,812
No 2,515

Prop. 136/Capping income tax rate
Yes 4,224
*No 2,980

Prop. 137/Conservation funding
*Yes 3,887
No 3,395

Archuleta County Ballot Issue 1A
*Yes 4,976
No 2,382

Archuleta County School District 50JT Ballot Issue 5A
*Yes 3,562
No 3,456

Upper San Juan Health Service District Ballot Issue 7B
*Yes 5,472
No 1,628

All judges on the ballot were retained.

Source: Archuleta County

Informative.
The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

PAWSD

■ Continued from front

and signed by the SJWCD on Nov. 6, after having been sent to the district by PAWSD.

The discussion on Nov. 16 opened with a debate about whether the board should go into executive session to discuss the settlement and hear from its attorney or not, with PAWSD board members Bill Hudson and Glenn Walsh opposing the executive session on the basis of public transparency.

PAWSD legal counsel Marcus Lock of Law of the Rockies highlighted that entering an executive session would require support from two-thirds of the board, which would not be possible with Walsh and Hudson opposing the session, and stated that he believed most of the issues before the district in terms of whether to sign the agreement were appropriate for public discussion.

After the board decided to not enter executive session, Walsh explained that he had continued to communicate with Zipper Valley following its 2024 purchase proposal and that it was willing to make an offer to purchase the ranch at a price that would pay off PAWSD's approximately $10.4 million in debt obligations on the property and would give the district a permanent conservation easement for a reservoir up to 3,000 acre feet, without any additional timelines or conditions, which had been a feature of the previous Zipper Valley proposal.

Walsh added that he would favor not signing the settlement agreement and returning to court to litigate for PAWSD to be able to sell the property to Zipper Valley under the terms of the new offer.

Hudson commented that he would also support doing this and that litigation would potentially cost $100,000, in his opinion.

"To me, going back to court is a bargain," Hudson said. "This agreement we're looking at is not a bargain. It's kicking the can down the road for a year. Right now, we have an excellent proposal for our customers and we just need to push forward with the very best offer we have, and this agreement with [the SJWCD] is not the very best offer we have."

PAWSD board members Bruce Jones, Alex Boehmer and board chairman Gene Tautges asked questions about this offer and expressed concerns about its last-minute nature and the lack of clear terms or a formal offer before the board.

Tautges commented that he believed approving the settlement would be ideal since it would give PAWSD a mechanism to ensure that the SJWCD progresses in its obligations, including selling a portion of the ranch and renegotiating the terms of certain loan agreements connected to the ranch with the CWCB, and would strengthen a future case by PAWSD if the SJWCD fails to make appropriate progress and complete the sale, renegotiations and other conditions by the end of 2027, as required by the settlement.

Boehmer stated that it would be difficult for him to make a decision on the Zipper Valley offer at the meeting since he had not had time to review it and that he was concerned that Zipper Valley intentionally provided a more favorable agreement at the last minute when the settlement was nearly approved.

He also expressed frustration with the "last-minute surprises" being presented to the board.

Lock commented that PAWSD would be unlikely to be able to sell the ranch currently without a court order and the litigation to obtain such an order would be unpredictable and would not necessarily cost the $100,000 that some board members had suggested.

He also noted that a previous three-way agreement requires the SJWCD and PAWSD to cooperate on filing diligence applications for water rights associated with the property, which the districts are currently in the process of doing and which Zipper Valley has filed to oppose.

The board then discussed if it could continue to negotiate with Zipper Valley while the settlement agreement is in place and the SJWCD is working on fulfilling its terms.

Walsh also raised concerns about a term in the settlement agreement which states that PAWSD would have 24 hours to review and approve a purchase offer for a portion of the property that the SJWCD wished to pursue, commenting that this was too short of a time to allow for an appropriate review.

Fricke then spoke to the board, commenting in response to Boehmer's concerns that he had not intended to provide an offer at the last minute and that he had wanted to wait until the "dust settled" regarding the settlement agreement negotiations before presenting another offer, although he had continued conversations with Walsh, Hudson and occasionally other PAWSD board members.

He added that he had concerns that the settlement agreement did not have enough teeth and would be ineffective in ensuring that the SJWCD makes progress or in giving PAWSD options if the SJWCD fails to do so.

In response to a question from Walsh about if he would be willing to continue working with PAWSD over the approximately one-year term of the settlement agreement and then potentially purchase the property afterwards if the SJWCD fails to move forward, Fricke said, "I think it's a ridiculous proposition and probably not," although he added later that he would not necessarily say that he would not be available in a year, but would not commit to it.

Following more discussion, the board voted on a motion by Walsh to move forward with the Zipper Valley Ranch offer and reenter litigation, which failed 3-2, with Hudson and Walsh voting in favor and Boehmer, Jones and Tautges voting against.

Hudson then moved to table the settlement agreement and to ask the SJWCD to obtain and present a letter from the CWCB that it is "interested" in the arrangement and a framework for how the SJWCD would pay off the loan obligations it would be assuming under the settlement to PAWSD before March 1, 2027. If the SJWCD did this, then Hudson stated that PAWSD could sign the agreement.

The board then discussed this concept, with Lock raising concerns that if the board does not like the current settlement agreement, as Hudson stated he did not, then it should likely continue to use the established negotiation process to alter the agreement and not pursue a different approach.

He added, following more discussion, that accepting Hudson's motion would not be legally advised.

Walsh commented that he would want the 24-hour approval provision in the settlement changed to a four- or five-day window and that he would want language about how PAWSD would refuse to provide any private customer data to the SJWCD added to the agreement.

The board then extensively discussed these additions and their potential impact on the SJWCD's willingness to agree to the settle-

■ See PAWSD A7

Thanksgiving
at Pagosa Baking Company



Pies & Desserts
traditional or unconventional
Pumpkin, Bourbon Pecan, Apple, Pumpkin Pistachio Roulade
Cookies designed for the season
Artisan Breads & Rolls, Take 'n Bake Pie Shells
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Didn't get your order in? Stop by the bakery, a limited amount of items will be available during Thanksgiving week.
Menu: www.pagosabakingcompany.com/menu/holiday-specials/
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Call by Sunday 11/22 to place your order 970-264-9348
Open Thanksgiving Day 7 am to noon
238 Pagosa Street
www.pagosabakingcompany.com

Santa Claus is coming to town!
& he is stopping by RE/MAX Eagle's Nest!



Sunday, Dec. 6th
between Noon and 2:00 PM
390 Boulder Dr, Pagosa Springs, CO

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

Food & Toy Drive for our community!
We are collecting donations of non-perishable food items for the families affected by the floods and others in need.
These will be distributed by local food banks.
Donate one of the items below or give a cash donation and be entered into a drawing for one of 3 drawings for a $50 gift certificate to a local restaurant or food truck.
Scan the QR Code for a list of suggested food items
Bring non-perishable food items that your own family would enjoy
We are also accepting new toys for a TOY DRIVE
Donations accepted at RE/MAX, 390 Boulder Drive
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through December 31.
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Thank you citizens of Archuleta County for passing ballot measure 5A!

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

The 5A campaign could not have happened without all the volunteers who stepped up in many ways.

An enormous THANK YOU goes out to:
- The **generous donors** who provided funding for campaign efforts.
- The **campaign leaders** who organized the effort.
- The **teacher leaders** who energized their colleagues and put boots on the ground.
- The **volunteers** who executed significant pieces of the campaign.
- The **canvassers** who knocked on doors and answered the hard questions.
- The **community supporters** who put up yard signs, talked to their family and friends, and openly supported the measure.
- The **students and families** who took the time to learn about 5A.
- The **community groups** who listened to 5A presentations.
- The **Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)** who began the facilities evaluation process in January 2025.

We are grateful that our community values our schools and education.

Stay tuned as the School District applies for BEST Grant funding in spring 2027.

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

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Business

Colorado housing market hits the brakes as October sales fall nearly 19 percent

Colorado Association of Realtors

Colorado's housing market experienced a significant slowdown in October, as declining sales, fewer pending contracts and long-term affordability challenges overshadowed relatively stable home prices.

With buyers increasingly cautious and sellers adjusting expectations, the market continued shifting toward greater negotiating opportunities for buyers, according to the October 2026 Market Trends Housing Report from the Colorado Association of Realtors (CAR).

Statewide

Statewide, 6,079 homes sold in October, down 18.6 percent from a year earlier, while pending contracts fell 17.2 percent, showing continued weakness in buyer demand heading into the final months of the year.

New listings fell 8.9 percent and active inventory was down 2.4 percent to 33,455 properties. Despite the slowdown, the statewide median sales price dipped just 0.9 percent to $545,000, remaining relatively stable even as homes took longer to sell.

Single-family home sales declined 19 percent, with the median price slipping 0.7 percent to $575,000.

Condo and townhome sales also fell 19 percent, although the median price edged up 0.2 percent to $415,000. Attached homes faced greater challenges, averaging 84 days on market compared to 68 days for single-family properties, with a 6.4-month inventory supply compared to 4.4 months for detached homes.

While year-to-date statewide sales are down 4.2 percent, October's sharper decline highlights growing market pressures.

With affordability falling 8.4 percent year over year, competitive pricing, seller flexibility and improved purchasing power will be critical to restoring buyer confidence and housing market momentum heading into 2027.

"Although median prices remain flat, there are far fewer transactions happening. With Colorado ranked in the top five for sellers dropping prices, as well as the top five for homeowners selling below what they purchased the home for, Colorado is really setting the pace for a housing correction that needs to happen," said Colorado Springs-area Realtor Patrick Muldoon. "Sellers are on borrowed time, and the markets do not care about the 'net' that may be needed. Prices are set by the consumer, and in this case, that is a buyer that would rather rent than buy because Front Range real estate is too expensive."

Pagosa Springs

Pagosa Springs' October housing market saw inventory rise 15.2 percent to 286 homes, while the median sales price increased 18.6 percent to $575,000.

Despite modest price gains, sales continue trailing 2025 as affordability challenges, elevated mortgage rates and limited moderately priced homes discourage buyers.

Nearly half of sales involved price reductions, with concessions increasingly common.

Recent flooding and significant highway damage have further complicated access for prospective buyers, reinforcing cautious market conditions heading into year-end.

"While it may seem the inventory of 286 homes on the market would allow the market units sold to catch up to 2025, the reality is most homes are priced well over the average and median prices and attract less buyer engagement," said Pagosa Springs-area Realtor Wen Saunders via the CAR. "Homes priced $1 million plus have more than a year inventory awaiting buyers. Affordable homes priced under $400,000 are typically condos (with additional monthly HOA fees) and manufactured homes and not as attractive to either first or second home buyers. Homes priced $500,000-$600,000 typically require updating and on smaller, quarter-acre lots. New construction is hovering in the $650,000-$725,000 range, and not affordable to locals. These factors are positioning for a market with less buyers and sales.

"Today's seller is participating because they have a need to do so and have adapted to the fact that homes are not selling quickly. A good number of sellers are disengaging rather than showing signs of distress by reducing their price. The sales numbers do not consider the number of sellers who simply decided not to renew listings or withdrew their homes from the market. About half of sales included price reductions and even more with seller concessions, setting the stage and importance to price property to entice a sale and reevaluate the market trends monthly."

Saunders also addressed the impact the recent flooding could have.

"And then came the two 100-year floods in Pagosa Springs that occurred within a week of each other," she said. Typically, moisture this time of year brings welcomed snow. Not this time. Warmer-than-normal temperatures brought heavy rain. The flood road damage will impact the end of year real estate sales, as out-of-state buyers are challenged and cannot travel into Pagosa Springs from east and west Highway 160 due to astonishing sections of roads and bridges washed away. Those buyers that drop in from Highway 84, rather than flying into Durango, have longer drive times as they are also experiencing flood road damage with single-lane traffic. Most homes were not affected by the flooding. However, the impact on the entire community is real because of road damage and non-visitor travel to the community. Add elevated interest rates creating high mortgages, cost of living expenses and ongoing affordability challenges, resulting in many buyers leaning into a common wait-and-see scenario. Yet, patient buyers and sellers willing to negotiate still find opportunities."

For more information, visit www.coloradorealtors.com/market-trends/.



OEDIT to launch new business resource navigation tool for Colorado business owners

State of Colorado

On Nov. 12, Gov. Jared Polis and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) announced that OEDIT has been awarded a grant from the SIPA GovGrants program to fund a technology-driven UX redesign of OEDIT's Program and Funding website content.

This redesign is intended to identify a business resource navigation tool that will connect small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to crucial financial and education resources that can help them start and grow their businesses.

"This new funding helps us to invest in innovative new designs to attract new businesses, grow our economy and stay competitive. The SIPA GovGrants funds our work to connect small businesses with the financial and educational resources needed to build their business, attract a skilled workforce and choose to expand here in Colorado," said Polis.

"We listened to businesses across industries and Colorado, and investing in a modernized, intuitive business resource navigation tool is a vital step toward removing barriers for Colorado's small business owners and entrepreneurs. By replacing complex information with a simplified digital experience, we are committed to making it easier for businesses of all sizes to access the critical funding, training and support they need to start, grow and thrive in our economy," said Eve Lieberman, OEDIT executive director.

The SIPA GovGrants program, provided by the Colorado Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA), funds high-impact, resident-facing civic technology innovations at all levels of government across Colorado.

"Improving the delivery of digital government services for Coloradans is crucial to bridging the gap between residents and the services they rely on every day. By investing in high-impact, civic technology solutions like this one, SIPA GovGrants is helping to ensure that all Colorado governments can meet their communities where they are through easy, accessible digital experiences," said Noah Kaplan, director of the SIPA GovGrants program. "We are thrilled to welcome OEDIT to the SIPA GovGrants portfolio, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this project will have on their community and the people they serve."

OEDIT currently offers more than 150 programs designed to support businesses of all sizes and across industries, and OEDIT's Programs and Funding webpage is one of the top 10 most visited web pages across state websites, with up to 30,000 unique monthly visitors. Simplifying access and removing navigation barriers to these resources helps connect business owners to the vital funding and educational tools they need to thrive.

The SIPA GovGrant funds will enable OEDIT to conduct user research and discovery across Colorado and industries to identify the best solution for an intuitive business resource navigation tool to help website visitors find curated lists of programs that meet their specific needs.

Making this information easier to access will connect more Colorado business owners to the resources they need to thrive, while creating a resource navigation tool that could be replicated across other state agency websites. Colorado business owners interested in participating in this research may complete the form at https://bit.ly/48vGcgH for consideration.

The initial discovery and prototyping phase for the project begins in November, with work scheduled for completion by the end of 2027.



Region 9 Economic Development receives Anthem Award for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy work

Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado has received a prestigious national Anthem Award for Campaign Strategy in Humanitarian Action and Services.

The Anthem Awards is the Webby Awards' benchmark for social impact work, recognizing brands, nonprofits and individuals who are setting the standard for good worldwide.

Region 9's 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was nominated and received Bronze recognition.

Beverly Santicola, president of Santicola and Company, nominated Region 9.

"This national recognition reflects Region 9's visionary leadership, commitment to collaboration and dedication to creating meaningful lasting change in the communities it serves," said Santicola.

Santicola and Company provides grant writing services for Native American tribes; city, county and state governments; and large nonprofit organizations.

Region 9 staff has worked with Santicola and Company on several projects over the past five years, including the nominated CEDS document.

"It was such a surprise to not only be nominated, but be selected for this award," said Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 executive director. We are thrilled to be highlighted and were one of 2,500 entries."

To learn more about the sixth annual Anthem winners, go to www.anthemawards.com.

The Anthem Awards Ceremony will be held on Nov. 17th in New York City.



Ross Aragon Community Center
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20th Annual

Festival of Trees

Friday, Dec. 4

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. • Live Tree auction 7 p.m.

Live music by Steven Blechschmidt
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Come and vote for your favorite tree
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Meet and take pictures with Santa 4-6 p.m.

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A fundraiser to benefit
PSMC EMS Downtown Station Renovation

Bidding begins Thursday, November 19
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Flooding

■ Continued from front

Vega explained that the county still has a boil advisory for anyone on a water well, and noted that the county has ordered well-testing kits for residents to use.

Vega also noted that in terms of environmental hazards, "the biggest concern right now is the silt," explaining that it may be contaminated with diesel gas or sewage.

Vega mentioned that the silt issue is "kind of new to everyone" and that La Plata County is dealing with the same issue.

He indicated that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is working to address the matter and test the silt for contamination.

Vega commented that if the silt comes back as uncontaminated that would make it easier on everyone to dispose of it.

Vega explained that people are also applying for burn permits through the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and are able to burn wood debris as it dries out.

Vega also mentioned that there are still residents who do not have power along the County Road 500 section south of Estate Circle.

He explained that 170 households have temporarily relocated to Airbnbs, but that their time in those accommodations is starting to run out, and that the Department of Human Services and the Public Health Department are working on finding short-term and long-term solutions for people who are still displaced.

He noted that supplies are still available at the county's Mountain Express Transit building.

Vega explained that crews still need to finish damage assessments for areas that they have not been able to reach yet, but that currently 37 structures are known to have been destroyed, meaning that water levels came up to door handles or higher.

He noted that 50 structures were majorly affected with water coming up to outlets inside, and that 72 structures were minorly affected with some level of water inside.

He also noted that 192 structures were affected in some capacity from the flood.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked about a specific number of residents still without power along County Road 500, with Vega explaining that it's at least 39 structures and "they might not be occupied down there."

Brown also asked about what kind of plans there are for assisting residents who do not have power until it can be restored.

"That's what's tough," Vega said, explaining that the county has made contact with everyone multiple times.

He added that everyone knows winter is coming and that the county is "not going to be able to get that road built before winter."

Vega mentioned that resupplying residents throughout the winter every couple of days "is going to be pretty tough."

He commented that he is unsure what options the ACSO will have with supplying gas or electricity over the winter, clarifying that they will help in emergency situations.

"I think a lot of it will fall on themselves, or family or friends," he said.

Vega stressed, "We might not be able to resupply you all winter long."

Medina asked for Vega's advice to residents with questions about what to do with silt built up on their property and how to dispose of sandbags used in the flood.

Vega explained that all the up-to-date information is shared on the county's website, ACSO website, emergency management website and on county Facebook pages.

"We do our best to get the information out on as many platforms as we can," he said.

He also explained that some questions are unanswerable at this time, specifically with what to do with built-up silt.

"We don't know what to do with it yet," he said.

Vega also encouraged residents to monitor the county's websites for information, noting that it "is changing all the time."

For more information on flood recovery resources, visit www.archuletacounty.gov/community/welcome-to-archuleta-county/news/archuleta-county-flood-resources.

Town of Pagosa Springs

On Nov. 17, the Pagosa Springs Town Council received updates from town staff department heads about how the flooding events have impacted various municipal departments.

Tourism Director Jennifer Green explained that, from the tourism marketing perspective, a lot of the post-flood work is about explaining to visitors and potential visitors that Pagosa is open for business.

Green explained that the town manager has done interviews with several news outlets and that she has one planned with the Denver Post to promote the area as an inviting and safe place to visit after the flood.

She also said that she is working with a few social media "influencers" to promote the area to potential visitors.

"We need to restore confidence … that it's safe to visit here, and we want to support the local businesses … after two historic floods," she said.

Council member Gary Williams remarked that he's seen local business leaders on the news and that they are doing a "great job" at promoting the idea that Pagosa is open for business.

Green described a particular "Love Pagosa" campaign that she explained as a "shared community identity," supported by the Chamber of Commerce, the Main Street Program, Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, the town "and various other entities."

"It's aimed at recovery and community pride," she said, adding that the town's visitor center had to be relocated due to the flooding.

"The new visitor center is now located at the Ross Aragon Community Center, and we are back open seven days a week," she said.

On the Public Works side of things, Director Nick Freelen explained that some of the town's streets are in bad shape.

"Sixth Street and 5th Street, those are gonna be pretty long closures, and we don't have an estimated time for reopening those," he said, adding, "They are going to have to be reengineered and then rebuilt appropriately," he added.

Hermosa Street is also still closed, he said, adding, "We are trying to keep traffic off of there to prevent people from wandering down, looking [at the river] when folks are still trying to get debris out of their yards."

He added that the town's storm drains on Hermosa have been "completely silted over" from the flood.

"It's going to be a slow cleanup, and we just ask the public's help with that by staying out of those streets unless they have a need to be there. … We have those barricades there for your safety," he said.

On that front, Town Manager David Harris urged patience, saying that "as much as we want the recovery to be fast, it's going to be years."

He added, "A lot of the projects that we are dealing with will take a few decades … that's part of the sobering message."

The town and the county are making applications to the governor for a state emergency declaration, and a "letter will go with Governor Polis' packet to the president and [the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)] for their consideration. … We need the president to provide this," he said.

He added, "It's going to be tight financially even with that, so I just wanted to warn you that we have a lot of things that need to be repaired."

Development Director James Dickhoff explained that the town conducted a residential damage assessment, with the goal to determine "the number of residential and commercial properties" damaged by the flooding.

He said that they used the FEMA Crisis Track to enter the damage "we observed," explaining that there are four categories to consider.

Those are no damage; minor damage, which is "typically water in the crawl space"; major damage; or destroyed.

"If it's knocked off of foundation and is floating down the river, as we observed," he explained.

The main properties that were "inventoried and assessed" were those that received mandatory evacuation orders along creeks and riverways, explaining that the gauge for major damage is if the water got 18 inches high up from the crawl space, which typically impacts electrical outlets.

Approximately eight of those properties were considered to be in the major damage category, one was "destroyed, floating down the river," and around 12, "don't quote me on that," had water on the floor, he noted.

"A number of other properties were definitely effected," he said, adding that "a lot of our properties even if they were not along the river corridor had water filled crawl spaces and some of those sump pumps failed for them, and a lot of folks don't have sump pumps in their crawl space."

On the commercial side, he said the East End properties were impacted as well as Hot Springs Boulevard.

Quality Inn had water and mud on the floor on the lower level and Healing Waters had damage as well, he explained.

Some on the council wanted to know what they could do to change the code to not allow people to build in areas subject to flooding events.

Council member Vahid Shabro asked Dickhoff what council can "do to change the code on where people can build."

He added we need to build to be "more resilient" since these types of events seem to be happening "more frequently."

Dickhoff responded that's discussion the council could have if and when it decides that it wants to put in place "more restrictive building requirements for building in the floodplain."

He added, "With a 100-year flood, in essence, there's a 1 percent chance every year that we could get a 100-year flood."

From the Parks and Recreation Department side of things, Director Darren Lewis noted that, as of now, all pedestrian bridges remain closed.

He explained that his department's priorities right now are the Centennial and Veterans' (near Town Park) bridges.

He added that the 6th Street bridge will not be a priority at this time.

From the house hitting the Veterans' bridge, "there's some railing and things that need to be cut off and iron put back on and welded on," he said.

The large parking lot by Mary Fisher Park has been opened, he explained as a positive thing, as well as the trail from there heading to Hot Springs Boulevard.

"Ideally, we want connectivity" with the town's main street and its businesses, he said.

On Cotton Hole and River Center parks, he said, "It looks like a bomb dropped on both of those, … and it's gonna be awhile" until those are open.

Mayor Shari asked about keeping people out of the closed parks and what the town could do on this front.

Lewis explained that the barricades are there for a reason.

"I'm down at Town Park today and I look across to Mary Fisher, and everyone's down by the river and that area is closed," he said, adding, "There's debris down there and we have tape to keep people from walking down there, but, just to be polite, you can't fix stupid. I'm sorry … we can only put up our barricades and try to keep areas safe."

Pierce asked if the town could adopt a steep fine for people disregarding closed-off parks.

Harris said, "We can always do something like that," adding that it's the "human condition to be curious, and that's not excusing what they are doing, but we have contaminated soil and water down there."

"We gotta do something for people to wake up, because we don't have enough emergency resources to be fishing people out of the river when they are already helping other people who got flooded out," Pierce said.

Lewis explained that the town wants to maintain the appearance that "we're open, but some areas are "definitely closed."

"And people do not need to be going around those barricades, by any means," he said.

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

At its Nov. 16 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors heard a detailed update from District Manager Andrew Connor on the impacts of the recent flooding on the district and the timelines for repairs.

Connor explained that the flooding on Oct. 22 and 23 and on Nov. 1 and 2 are considered separate events by state and federal emergency management agencies due to the time between them.

He stated that the first flood had a limited impact on the district, only causing impacts with its wastewater plant having to process large amounts of water and two roads with pipes underneath them being washed out, although the pipes were not destroyed — North Pagosa Boulevard and Mockingbird Place.

The impacts of the second flood were more significant, with PAWSD losing several water lines, Connor stated.

However, he indicated that the district was able to maintain pressure in the entire water system throughout the flooding and did not have to issue a boil water notice, partially due to efforts to close valves adjacent to river crossings as the flood rose.

"The staff did a phenomenal job in the response on this," he said. "For us to not have the boil notice and to not lose everything and just put up our hands, act of God, no, that's not the business we're in. We operate 24/7 regardless of what is going on."

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones complimented Connor on his work preventing a boil water notice and on his updates that he provided to the board during the flooding.

Connor stated that crews had worked extended hours for the last three weeks, leading to about 900 hours of regular time and overtime at a cost of about $40,000 in salaries.

Connor then moved on to outlining the various damage the district suffered in the second flood, starting with the Apache Street bridge over the San Juan River, explaining that a water line underneath it was damaged.

He stated that the district has been able to backfeed water to customers on both sides of the bridge and that repairs on the damaged line are not scheduled for 2026 since PAWSD will have to decide how to approach the repairs on the line before repairing it.

Connor added that PAWSD has been entering reports on the damage into the Crisis Track software provided by FEMA, which will help with processing payments for damages if federal aid is approved.

He stated that the district also sustained damage to a water line on the U.S. 160 bridge by 1st Street.

PAWSD has been able to install a temporary 2-inch water line across the bridge, and a permanent replacement will likely occur early in 2027.

He added that he has been speaking with a local boring company about the work and that many of the replacements will use fused high-density polyethylene pipes, which will be more durable than many of the damaged pipes.

Connor explained that water running 4 to 6 inches higher than the spillway at Stevens Reservoir washed out Honeybee Place, although it did not destroy the underlying head wall or culverts.

He added that the culverts were recently expanded from one to two, which helped with managing the flood, and the dam inspector inspected and found no issues with the reservoir, although the road would need to be rebuilt.

PAWSD would be working on completing road repairs at this location during the week, he stated.

Connor indicated that the ditch from Stevens Reservoir to Lake Pagosa held, although it will need to be cleared of debris, which will be done in 2026.

He stated that repairing the washout on North Pagosa Boulevard will require temporarily removing the water line and that PAWSD would re-

■ See Flooding A9

Thanks

Marine Corps birthday

The USMC Birthday Committee extends its appreciation to Mike and Shelly Martinez, owners of a local restaurant, for again providing a venue for the Marine Corps birthday celebration. Wait staff Eliza and Tess deserve our special recognition. Thanks to former Marine Bruce Roman for donating raffle gifts.

Correction

In last week's SUN, the article "Rotary welcomes exchange student from Hungary" inadvertently referred to exchange student Aron Engelsz as Szodliget instead of Engelsz.

The SUN regrets the error.

PAWSD

■ Continued from A5

ment, which board members broadly indicated they believed would not compromise it.

Tautges also made a motion to approve the settlement as approved by the SJWCD, which died for lack of a second, and Jones and Walsh, among others, expressed doubts that the SJWCD would be able to make any progress on completing the settlement agreement's objectives.

However, following these discussions and others, the board voted to approve the agreement with the changes of requiring a six-day window for the PAWSD to review purchase offers for a portion of the property submitted to it by the SJWCD and additional language concerning how PAWSD would not provide the SJWCD with private customer data by a 4-1 vote, with Hudson in opposition.

Lock indicated that he would submit the revised agreement to the SJWCD for its future consideration.

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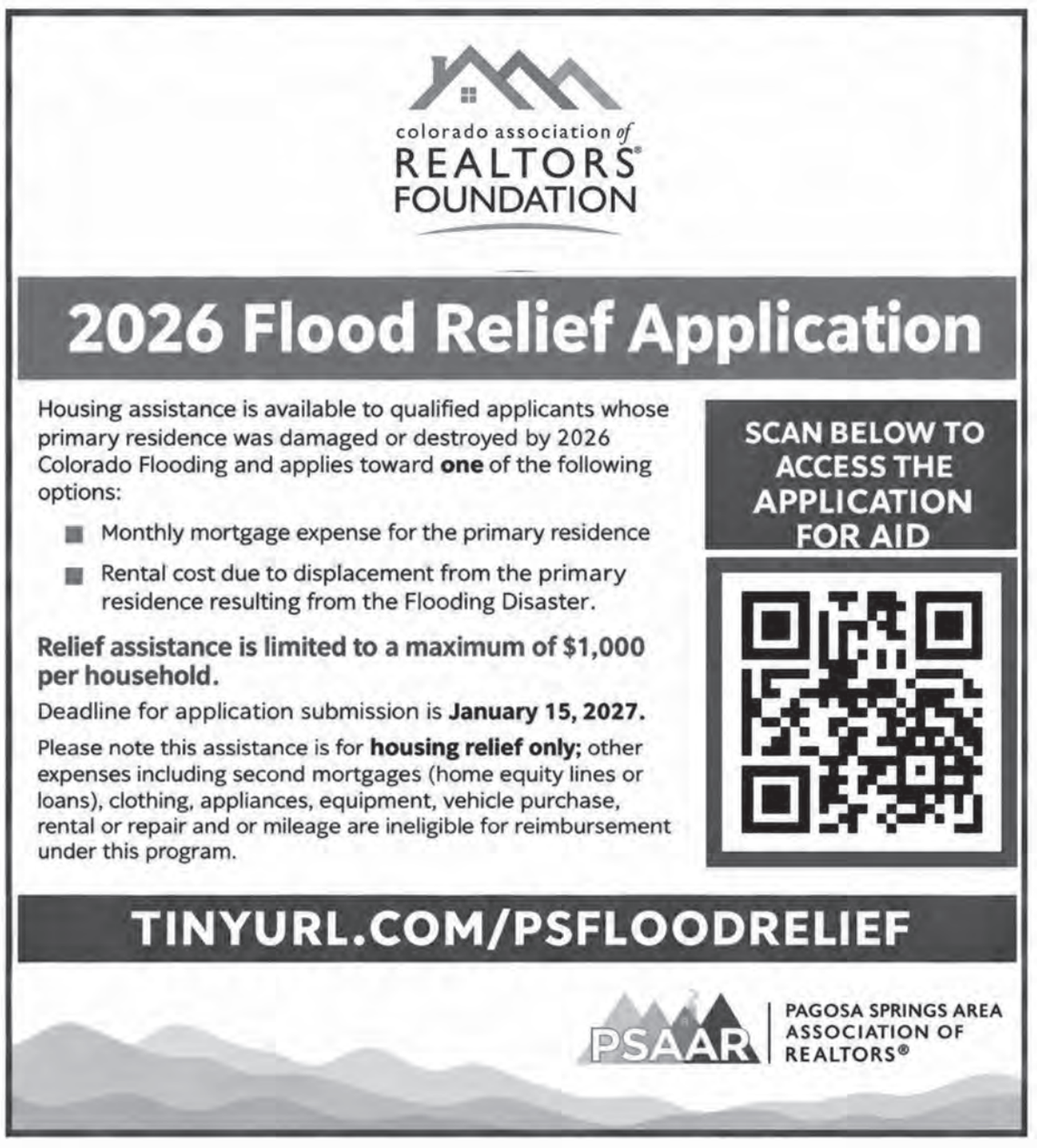




Photo courtesy Randy Osga

The Aspen House/ Aspen Services adults with developmental disabilities spend a day attending a No Limits Ranch event hosted by Carolyn and Andy Arnold. The morning was spent with Andy Arnold demonstrating horsemanship skills he has been learning from trainer Randy Osga and horse Mooshie Mustang. Each of the participants were able to learn some of the basic skills in the round pen with Andy Arnold guiding them. After that activity, they all discovered that Mooshie was a wonderful canvas for all to put their own paint-covered handprints on. After lunch, Andy Arnold, who is known for his artistic talents, shared with his friends the technique of finger painting on canvas, creating their own aspen tree designs.

Medical

■ Continued from front

technology-enabled services for rural and frontier residents."

She noted that the district had signed the contract and, once the state signed, it would be included in the budget.

The second issue Bruzzese outlined on Oct. 8 was a software mapping issue that resulted in unreliable service-level volume and revenue data in the district's general ledger software, with the district then rebuilding 2026 volumes to base 2027 budget estimates off of.

With those the contract signed and the volumes rebuilt, the board saw an updated budget on Nov. 17.

"The development of the 2027 Budget involved a detailed review of existing operations, with an emphasis on validating historical patient volumes, identifying opportunities for growth, and improving operational efficiency," the budget document states.

It adds, "Rather than relying solely on historical trends, the budget process included an assessment of actual patient volumes by service line, current scheduling practices, available capacity, and opportunities to improve patient access through more effective management of scheduling and departmental operations."

It further explains, "Revenue projections also considered anticipated increases in patient volumes associated with the addition of new providers, as well as opportunities to better utilize existing resources and capture patient demand that may not currently be served.

"Expenses are based upon actual data input into the general ledger by every department leader.

"The goal was to develop a realistic, data-driven budget that reflects both current operating conditions and achievable opportunities for growth through improved management, increased access to care, and expanded provider capacity."

Cash flow

According to Webb's presentation, the budgeted ending revenue for 2027 for PSMC is $5,527.

He noted a reduction in cash on hand due to capital expenditures of $1,481,287.

The budget document forecasts an estimated beginning fund balance of $16,149,904 and an estimated ending fund balance of $14,668,626.

"Beginning and Ending fund balances exclude restricted debt reserve cash ($878,731) and restricted funds for [Employee Retention Credit, ERC] 2021 Q1 payment of $2,095,663," the budget document states.

In a statement to The SUN, Bruzzese explained PSMC received COVID ERC funds for the third quarter of 2021 that are undisputed, but also received ERC funds for the first quarter of 2021, which are the subject of an appeal with the Internal Revenue Service.

Revenues

According to Webb and the budget document, the 2027 budget includes a 4 percent estimated net price increase to gross charge pricing, with Webb's presentation noting an outside vendor is "strategically addressing pricing."

The budget document clarifies, "Gross charges are the amounts PSMC bills before payers (insurance companies Medicare, Medicaid) reduce what they will reimburse (known as contractual adjustments)."

The budget also points toward increases in anticipated volumes translating to increases in gross charges and revenues.

Among those outlined by Webb are an anticipated 44 percent increase in gross charges to the 2026 annualized data due to the impact of a new full-time surgeon and volume data from July through October, which showed volumes 57 percent higher than in January through June.

Webb's presentation also highlights a 44 percent increase in gross charges for surgery professional fees.

The presentation indicates the professional fee has historically been dropped in 98 percent of the surgery cases, and, in 2026, "an average of only 40% of the surgery cases captured a professional fee."

The budget indicates staff is investigating the cause of the issue and is taking steps toward resolving it.

Webb's presentation also points toward a budgeted 34 percent increase in clinic gross charges, largely due to physicans added in September and November taking on more patients, and additional physicans set to be added in 2027.

Webb indicated the additions will help improve book-out time for patients.

The presentation also notes an anticipated 16 percent increase in gross charges in radiology, with it indicating there has been resolution to problems with outsourced scheduling, as well as taking into account the ordering patterns for new and additional providers.

Webb also noted a projected increase of 8 percent to the PSMC Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/ ambulance gross charges.

"PSMC EMS averages 15-20 airport transfers per month. Gross charges on PSMC EMS airport transfers are a load fee and mileage," the budget document explains.

However, Archuleta County airport construction anticipated to take place next summer will change airport transfer practices, Webb relayed to the board.

Air transfers, he noted, will need to go through the La Plata County airport, which will increase mileage and therefore gross charges.

Other revenue increase assumptions outlined by Webb include a 9 percent increase to laboratory, a 5 percent increase to inpatient and a 20 percent increase to phsyical therapy following increased staffing.

Other grants and income assumptions included within the budget are a $100,000 EMS grant, a 20 percent reduction in anticipated interested income due to the reduced cash on hand, relatively steady tax revenue and the reimbursement of up to $4.2 million through the RHTP, which will also be included as an expense.

The presentation also notes $1.1 million budgeted for donations from the PSMC Foundation, with that including $800,000 in funds raised in 2026 for the EMS facility renovation on San Juan Street and a 2027 fundraising goal of $300,000.

Expenses

In terms of expenses, Webb indicated that traveler staff expense is not sustainable for PSMC and is an area where PSMC will have to "get creative."

The 2026 traveler staffing budget was $1.61 million, Webb noted, but the estimated 2026 year-end actual expense is $3.35 million — an exess of $1.74 million.

Webb noted the bigger areas for traveler expenses at PSMC are inpatient, nursing, radiology and labs.

To respond to the expense, Webb explained, PSMC did a targeted market wage adjustment in nursing, radiology and lab effective Oct. 1; is altering hiring qualifications to expand the candidate pool; and travelers declining offered employment will not be renewed for further assignments.

The presentation and budget document also indicate PSMC will see changes to revenue deductions and provider fee income.

The budget notes that contractual allowances — the deductions to gross charges made by payers like Medicare, Colorado Medicaid and insurance companies — has been budgeted to increase by 6.9 percent.

On the provider fee, the document explains, "The CHASE (Colorado Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability Enterprise) program collects frees from hospitals throughout Colorado and uses the funds to obtain federal Medicaid matching dollars. The combined funds are then redistributed to hospitals through supplemental payments to help support hospitals offset the cost of providing care to Medicaid and uninsured patients."

The budget notes, "The federal government is reducing funding for Medicaid programs with a mandated phase-down of the CHASE program beginning October 2027."

The document notes PSMC has budgeted a 7.7 percent decrease to the estimated 2026 year-end provider fee income.

The expense assumptions also anticipate a 3.5 percent increase in charity care and a 28.4 percent increase to bad debt.

Other operating expense assumptions noted in the presentation are an 11.4 percent increase in benefit expense resulting from the increase in wages, and a 3.2 percent interest expense associated with the purchase of a new $1.2 million CT machine anticipated to be installed in late spring.

The CT is part of the district's non-RHTP capital budget for 2027, with that capital budget totaling $4,046,379.

"The Capital Budget for 2027 proposes more expense than any prior year," the budget states. "Items on the capital budget are essential to continuity of patient services or meeting the approved Strategic Plan. Given the amount of cash needed for pressing capital projects, the [Emergency Department] Remodel has been pushed to 2028."

Other capital purchases include hospital boilers, the EMS remodel, an ambulance and more.

Approved

The budget, appropriations and mill levy certification were all approved unanimously by the board.

Prior to the vote, board member Matt Mees noted that the assumptions included with the budget it make it make sense, with fellow board member Mark Floyd noted it is one of the best budgets he has seen in a long time.

"There are so many things that are out of our control," PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb said, pointing toward federal and state leadership changes as unknowns for the facility.

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CDOT

■ Continued from front

from 1st Street through 5th Street is in its final configuration, with striping planned in the upcoming week.

She noted that people will be able to park in front of businesses, but that final parking striping will not occur until 2027.

Greene also mentioned that CDOT is looking to change the wide-load restriction through downtown due to the amount of heavy equipment coming through the area for flood response and recovery.

Greene also noted that crews will finish paving driveways on the south side of U.S. 160 from 5th Street to 8th Street, but explained that 6th Street and 7th Street will remain closed through the winter.

"People will have access via 8th Street," she said.

Greene explained that the Town of Pagosa Springs opted to leave 6th Street closed due to damage the roadway sustained from the floods.

She also added that CDOT and the town are working in collaboration on a snow removal plan for U.S. 160, and that a "frequently asked questions" list for the project is being developed.

"We will be providing quite a bit of information," Greene said.

She emphasized that while crews are going into winter closure, "we're not going away."

She explained that there will still be people on-site to monitor the project throughout the winter season.

Greene explained that once crews return in spring 2027, they will have 80 working days left on the project, or about two and half months.

She also noted that there is not much utility work left, other than some electric street lighting, "as well as some potential geothermal work" near the "dogleg" section.

In response to a question from Commissioner John Ranson, Greene commented that crews will be "very purposeful about our return" in the spring and work to finish the project as quickly as possible.

Greene added that with the extra demand on materials and the availability of resources, "and the fact that our team is being retooled to focus on emergency recovery and emergency repair efforts, we felt that this was the best time to go into the winter shutdown."

In addition to hearing about the project's winter shutdown and plans, the town council also hear from CDOT representative Tracey Trulove about the fencing that has been placed in the median of the 400 block of main street.

"Our team got a few questions about the current fencing that's in the median, and I think that y'all might want to be aware that that's a conversation that's been happening in our channels," Trulove said, adding, "The Town of Pagosa and the CDOT team are staying in conversation about what the snow removal will look like."

Mayor Shari Pierce asked Development Director James Dickhoff if he could address how snow removal will be handled with the fence in the median.

"We originally contemplated this fence during a flyover for the main street project," Dickhoff said, adding, "The landscaping did not go in yet this year. We just couldn't pull it off. We had planned to do that right before the floods."

He also mentioned that "the purpose of the fence was really to discourage jaywalking in this section of the 400 block, which was pretty prevalent previously. So, that was the purpose of the fence that we contemplated about a year ago or so."

Dickhoff also indicated that he has met with the new regional maintenance supervisor for CDOT, "and he has it on his calendar to meet with us" regarding snow removal.

"In general, I think the plan is to push the snow to the center, where there's not a median, and then the town would come by, like we have in the past, and scoop the snow and move it out to a remote location," Dickhoff said.

Council member Gary Williams commented, "Clearly the aesthetic of this fence is not very good ... and what's the process moving forward to use landscaping to discourage jaywalking instead of the fence? And do we need CDOT's permission to remove the fence, I guess is what I'm asking."

Dickhoff responded that "it is the town's fence," explaining, "We are obligated to maintain that median. It's not CDOT's responsibility ... and we have not seen any success in landscaping in preventing people from walking through those areas."

Williams suggested "yucca and cactus," with council member Madeline Bergon saying, "I would also suggest thorny bushes."

Piedra River bridge

CDOT Region 5 Transportation Director Julie Constan explained to the BoCC that within days after losing the Piedra River bridge following the flood on Nov. 1 and 2, CDOT brought in engineers and contractors, and "quickly began assessing what we can do out there."

She noted that multiple options were considered, and "where we landed" involves bringing in six 72-inch diameter culverts to be placed in the river and having a one-lane paved highway on top.

Constan commented that CDOT is "cautiously optimistic" to have the culverts and one-lane temporary highway paved by the first week of December.

"This will allow us to have some kind of traffic through there," she said, explaining that it will be a temporary solution until late February or early March 2027.

She went on to explain that a temporary Acrow bridge will then be installed, allowing two-way traffic, and that CDOT will be designing a permanent solution by the end of 2027 or into 2028.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented on CDOT's response to the roadway destruction, saying, "I appreciate CDOT's ability to pivot during this difficult time and get us as much access and connectivity as possible."

Colo. 151

Constan explained that Colo. 151 had two washout locations over the course of the two flooding events: one at mile post 27 and one at mile post 30.

She explained that the work that crews were able to do after the first storm held up through the second storm, but unfortunately a new washout occurred.

Constan also noted that crews have been able to pave a new road at mile post 27, allowing residents in and out of the area with access from the south.

She mentioned that culverts have been ordered for mile post 30 and that the section will be paved "hopefully no later than Friday [Nov. 20] this week."

She also explained that CDOT is looking at speed reductions through "due to the volume of traffic that's gonna be on that highway," noting that the usual U.S. 160 traffic will end up on Colo. 151.

Brown asked about the possibility of a temporary traffic light at the intersection with County Road 928, explaining that residents have been having trouble "getting out on that semi-blind corner."

"We'll take a look at that," Constan replied.

Commissioner Veronica Medina also inquired about damage occurring on county roads 973 and 975, noting that big trucks are speeding and "it's become a hazard."

Constan acknowledged the concern and indicated that she would reach out to crews.

Jackson Mountain

Constan explained that "pretty significant movement and sloughing" has occurred at mile post 151.3 on U.S. 160 in what is known as the Jackson Mountain slide area.

She mentioned that the section of highway has been "moving for years," and that CDOT performed stabilization work in 2012 and 2013.

She explained that work "has held and did well," but that a new area adjacent to it is now moving.

Constan mentioned that CDOT is monitoring the area and performing tests in order to understand how much at risk the highway is "because our whole goal is keep that highway open through the winter," noting the permanent stabilization work will occur in spring 2027.

"So, that is why we do have it down to one lane," she said, indicating that the alternating signals will likely be in place for a "decent part of winter."

Wolf Creek Pass

Constan also mentioned that the east side of Wolf Creek Pass in the "narrows" sections is currently being paved as the goal is to have the pass opened by this Friday, Nov. 20.

She explained that on the west side of the pass, there are two sections with concrete barriers that will remain in place over the winter, due to part of the road "just hanging in thin air."

She noted that crews are working on drainage ditches on the uphill side between the cliff and highway that "were dug very deep," with 3- to 5-foot drop offs right next to the pavement.

"We're getting that squared away," she said.

Medina commented that the accessibility into Pagosa Springs has been "top of mind," adding that she was happy to hear the progress being made, noting this is "very important information for our community."

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Flooding

■ Continued from A7

activate its San Juan water treatment plant, which is currently turned off, to provide water to customers in the area during the disruption.

Connor added that these repairs are likely to occur in the next "couple weeks."

The district lost 1,400 feet of water line on east U.S. 160 near High Country Lodge where the line runs near the riverbank, Connor explained.

He added that this replacement was completed last week and that water service was restored to some customers who had been cut off.

Connor also noted that this work cost about $65,000.

"Getting through these two events and keeping pressure up in the entire system is beyond what I can even fathom, and I can fathom a lot," said PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges.

Connor stated that he has been working every day except one Saturday since the flooding and has been primarily in the field with PAWSD crews.

Connor explained that the West Fork diversion that feeds PAWSD's Snowball water treatment plant suffered damage in three areas, including regions where embankment slides near Jackson Mountain damaged the line.

He stated that repairing this damage is a top priority and thanked staff from Bootjack Ranch and the U.S. Forest Service for their assistance in helping PAWSD with gaining access to the area and preparing for repairs.

Connor indicated that he was able to secure a local contractor for the repair work and the replacement pipes are ordered, but that brush removal in some areas still needs to be completed, and PAWSD is working on finalizing plans for the repairs.

He stated that these repairs will likely cost between $800,000 and $1 million and that they will have to be completed before PAWSD receives any federal assistance, if such assistance is approved.

PAWSD is currently feeding the Snowball plant with water diverted from Fourmile Creek and is in "good shape," but that repairs do need to proceed quickly.

In response to a question from Tautges, Connor confirmed that any FEMA relief money PAWSD receives could come in months and that PAWSD would have to pay for repairs and then be reimbursed later.

He added that FEMA relief would only cover up to 75 percent of the damages, with the other 25 percent being split between the state and local entities.

Connor also indicated that he was unsure when FEMA relief might arrive and this would depend on the president signing the federal major disaster declaration that is currently on his desk.

He stated that he was able to defer payments to the Colorado Department of Transportation for work on its U.S. 160 reconstruction project until 2027 as a way to free up enough money to pay for the repairs now, although how the district will move forward in the future is undetermined.

Connor indicated that the district's Fourmile Creek diversion that feeds Hatcher Lake was undamaged, and that the intake structure and reservoir on the San Juan River that supplies water to San Juan water treatment plant experienced some damage and a large amount of silt accumulation during the floods.

He stated that removal of the silt accumulated at the front of the reservoir would likely occur in 2027 and that it would be usable until then, such as when the plant is needed to supply water during North Pagosa Boulevard reconstruction.

He indicated that the district also had to flush out the reservoir due to concerns about raw sewage flowing into the river upstream during the flood event, which it had done over the recent weeks.

When asked by Tautges for a "wild guess" of the total damage costs from the flood, Connor stated that he

■ See Flooding A11

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Bank of Colorado will **match up to $15,000 in donations** made from Nov. 12th thru Dec. 1st.

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Questions may be directed to Pennie DeClark at 970-731-4166.



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Celebrating 251 years

Photos courtesy Tom Zilhaver

Marines and their guests celebrate the 251st birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps at a birthday celebration on Nov. 10. The event featured the traditional cake-cutting with a mameluke sword and a video message from both the commandant and the sergeant major of the Marine Corps.





Community Foundation distributes second round of grants for flood recovery

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

As flood recovery across Southwest Colorado enters its fourth week, our communities continue to show up for one another.

Neighbors have put in long days of cleanup, given their time and energy to gather supplies, and found countless other ways to help.

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado is grateful for the steady support happening across the region.

The total raised so far, as of 10 a.m. on Nov. 18:

• Archuleta County Flood Recovery Fund: $260,823.

Amount available after the first ($35,000) and second ($50,000) rounds of grants: $166,412.

Bank, credit card and administrative fees total $9,411.

• La Plata County Flood Recovery Fund: $734,988.

Amount available after the first ($40,000) and second ($61,000) rounds of grants: $616,988.

Bank, credit card and administrative fees total $17,000.

9News Denver's Word of Thanks campaign has helped raise $220,212 so far for flood recovery through swcogives.org.

Because the La Plata County fund has received strong local support, the foundation, in consultation with Kyle Clark, who manages the Word of Thanks Fund at 9News, will direct these dollars where local funding is more limited, extending recovery resources across Southwest Colorado.

The foundation continues to meet with local officials and nonprofits to understand how needs are changing and where ongoing support matters most. Guided by their insight, the second round of grants will go to organizations providing direct assistance with cleanup, home repairs, housing, financial relief, food and transportation.

Archuleta flood recovery: $50,000 total

• Healthy Archuleta: $20,000 for food support through the Archuleta Food Pantry Network. This grant will purchase 3,330 pounds of local ground beef to supplement the network's food pantries for about two weeks.

• Pagosa Rotary Club: $15,000 for essential supplies and cleanup to restore residential driveways and repair private water and septic systems. As of Friday, Nov. 14, more than 40 residents have requested help with these critical needs.

• TeamUp, Pagosa Outreach Connection: $15,000 for onetime emergency rent or mortgage assistance, car repairs and other needs for community members in Archuleta County. These funds will help 15 households remain self-sufficient.

La Plata flood recovery: $61,000 total

• Durango Food Bank: $10,000 to support the Flood Relief Distribution Center at the Durango Mall. The center has been set up as a central location for folks to stop by for food, clothing and basic household needs.

• La Plata Family Center: $20,000 to provide permanent housing to three displaced families who lost their mobile homes in the floods. This also includes support for the Animas Valley Grange, which provides meals and cleanup supplies.

• La Plata Youth Services, Collaborative Management Program (CMP): $20,000 to support a dozen of the most vulnerable children and youth in La Plata County. The CMP is well positioned to address this growing concern and will leverage its established coalition of 14 providers to deliver wraparound services for at-risk children and youth.

• Manna Soup Kitchen: $5,000 to provide transportation assistance for flood victims and workers with significantly longer commutes. This includes gas cards, bus passes and car repairs.

• Southern Colorado Community Action Agency: $1,000 to provide 10 nights of temporary lodging to a displaced family in Ignacio. The family has limited access to transportation, and their home is undergoing repairs. They hope to move back in soon.

• Women's Resource Center: $5,000 to fund $500 gift cards for women and mothers impacted by the floods who need financial assistance. This program is in partnership with Housing Solutions for the Southwest, which will help process applications.

Montezuma flood recovery: $20,000 total

• Pay It Forward: $10,000 to provide financial assistance to Mancos residents who lost access to safe water due to significant damage to the rural and town water systems, as well as those who have experienced property damage from flooding along the Mancos River.

• Region 9: $10,000 to provide financial assistance to Mancos businesses that were unable to open due to the lack of safe water from damaged systems.

These funds go to local organizations equipped to support individuals and families in the community. Rather than granting to individuals directly, the foundation relies on these partners, who have the staff and systems to get help where it's needed.

The foundation's 8 percent administrative fee covers the costs of managing these funds responsibly, including bookkeeping, annual audits, IRS compliance, data security, insurance, software and the staff time needed to vet and process each grant.

The foundation is continuing to work with local nonprofits and officials to help inform where these dollars will have the most impact. Updates will continue as new grants are made.

To support the Foundation's Community Emergency Flood Recovery Funds, visit swcommunityfoundation.org/cerf/.

HUD Publisher's Notice

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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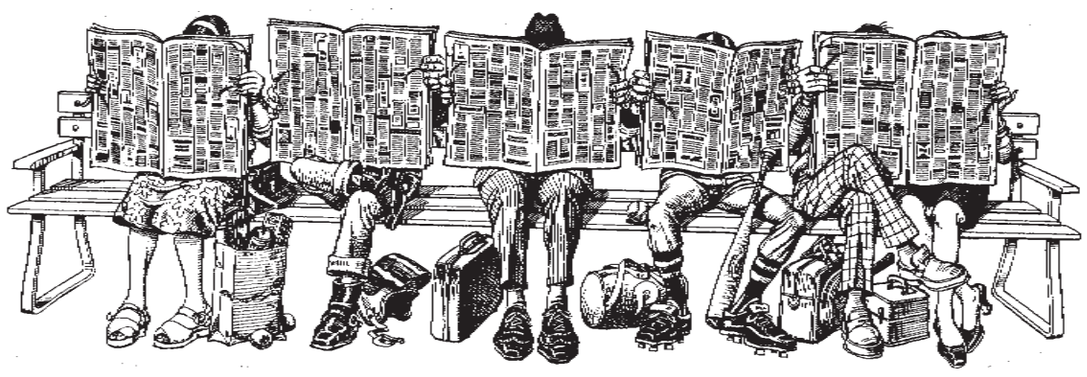
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Sports

Soccer



Photo courtesy Trevor Gian

Several Pirate soccer players recently garnered all-conference honors for their work on the pitch this season. From left to right are Hudson Davis (first team), Niilo Pietila (first team), Oliver Samu (second team), Ryder Davis (second team) and Ryder King (co-Player of the Year and first team).

Swim

Lady Pirates to open season at Durango meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team is back and ready for the upcoming 2026-2027 season.

Last year's team was led by a strong group of seniors that have since moved on, but coach Heather Miller was already excited at the end of the 2025-2026 season about this year's seniors and the leadership they'll provide, including Chloe Gantt and Gianna Shaeffer, who made the state meet last year.

The Lady Pirates will begin their season in Durango on Friday, Nov. 20, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Durango Rec Center.

Schedule

The following schedule was accurate as of press time, but is subject to change.

After the Thanksgiving break, the Lady Pirates will be back in action for four meets in December.

They'll be in Glenwood Springs on Friday, Dec. 4, beginning at 5:15 p.m. The following day, Dec. 5, they'll compete in Grand Junction beginning at 11:15 a.m.

On Dec. 10, they'll hit the water in Salida beginning at 5 p.m..

They'll compete in a meet hosted by Sargent at Adams State University in Alamosa beginning at 5 p.m. on Dec. 17.

Their next meet will take place in the new year in Montrose on Jan. 8, 2027, beginning at 5 p.m. They'll stay in Montrose for another meet the following day, on Jan. 9, 2027, beginning at 10 a.m.

The girls will be back in Grand Junction on Jan. 15, 2027, for a 5:15 p.m. meet before heading to Durango for two days on Jan. 22 and 23, 2027, where action will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 22.

Finally, the Lady Pirates will close out their season with a two-day meet in Grand Junction on Jan. 29 and 30, with action beginning at 6 p.m. on Jan. 29.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Golf



Photo courtesy Mark Faber

Pirate golfer Chatwin Pickering recently earned all-conference honors for his performance at the conference golf meet.

Flooding

■ Continued from A9

believes the repairs might cost $1.5 million, depending on the repair costs for the water lines crossing the San Juan at the Apache Street and 1st Street bridges.

Tautges closed the update by thanking all PAWSD staff for their work, including field crews and office staff who answered customer and board questions and provided information during the flooding.

Upper San Juan Health Service District

The board of directors of the Upper San Juan Health Service District, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center, also heard an update on the flooding at its Nov. 17 meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese noted that the district's east side Emergency Medical Services (EMS) building located on San Juan Street had water all around it during the second flood, with some water in the garage area.

She noted the living quarters are higher, and added the building had no issues outside of things the district will address with its upcoming remodel of the facility.

"It's a strong old building and it made it through," she said.

PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb noted later in the meeting that the floor would be raised another 5 inches.

Chief Operations Officer Jason Webb noted that PSMC maintained operations through pretty much the entire event, but noted the district did spend some money to keep things up and going.

While there were capacity issues at times and there have been challenges moving people out to higher levels of care, he indicated PSMC remained operational.

He added EMS has been heavily dependent upon air transport, which it will continue to lean on until the roads improve.

"All in all, we were very resilient," he said, adding the flooding is a big community challenge.

Public Notices

BEFORE THE COLORADO ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
NOTICE AND APPLICATION FOR HEARING
DOCKET NO. 261100284
TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Pursuant to Rule 523.d, the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission Staff has applied to the Commission for an Order Finding Violation against Big Run Production Company (Operator No. 8455), to adjudicate allegations in the Notice of Alleged Violation No. 404568880.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to: 1) the general jurisdiction of the Energy and Carbon Management Commission of the State of Colorado under § 34-60-105, C.R.S.; 2) specific powers granted pursuant to § 34-60-106, C.R.S.; 3) the Colorado Administrative Procedures Act at § 24-4-105, C.R.S.; and 4) the Commission's Series 500 Rules at 2 C.C.R. 404-1, that the Commission has scheduled this matter for hearing before an ECMC Hearing Officer at the following date, time, and location (subject to change):
Date: January 19, 2027
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place:
Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203
Virtual Hearing with Remote Access via Google Meet
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/vzm-wqff-qjs
Or dial: (US)+1 301-845-5231
PIN: #316 476 849
Deadline for Affected Persons to Petition: December 18, 2026
The Notice and documents related to this matter including a complete list of affected Facilities can be found on our "Hearing eFiling System Document Search" page

■ Continued on A12

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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"You know that scene in Castaway where Tom Hanks's character is on the island and has a toothache and uses a rock to knock out his bad tooth?

A week ago, I was ready to do a Tom Hanks.

I was visiting Pagosa Springs (my happy place, but you'd hate it, you should totally never go there), and I had to get help. Black Diamond was the only practice that opened at 7:30am on Monday, so they got the call. Thankfully, they could fit me in that day. I thought I'd be told "this tooth needs to come out," and I was ready to say "SIGN ME UP." To my surprise, Dr. Nylund took a look and said the tooth looked fine, and he didn't like to meddle with teeth that can be saved. He suspected I was grinding my teeth at night, and that was the reason for my pain. He adjusted my bite while I was there and sent me away. I thought, "OK, there's no way that solved my problem...."

How wrong I was! Dr. Nylund had said it should feel better in a couple of days, and you know what? He was RIGHT! It totally worked. Once the pain subsided, I realized how grumpy I'd been for several days running. As soon as I returned home, I started wearing my night guard again. (PSA: Do not stop wearing your night guard if you've got one.)

So if you find yourself in Pagosa and need dental work (again, definitely do not go to Pagosa, it's not for you), go to Black Diamond!

- Krista J

2363 Eagle Dr Unit A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
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Black Diamond Dental Pagosa Springs

Public Notices

■ Continued from A11

here https://oitco.hylandcloud.com/DNRCOGPublicAccess/index.html. Select "Search for Docket Related Documents" from the pull-down menu, use the above "Docket Number", and select "Search".
Published November 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (323871)

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. MCPEAK; ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY
Case Number:
2026 CV 30042
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com
SUMMONS
TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 12th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (320853)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: DELDEV, INC., a Colorado corporation; ALL
UNKNOWN PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE
PROPERTY
Case Number:
2026 CV 30047
Murray Wilkening, P.C.
Murray Wilkening Atty. Reg. #:15302
7691 Shaffer Parkway Suite B
Littleton, CO 80127
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: (303)763-8988
Email: murray@mwilkening.com
SUMMONS
TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the attached Complaint. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you within the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 21 days after such service upon you. If service of the Summons and Complaint was made upon you outside of the State of Colorado, you are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after such service upon you. Your answer or counterclaim must be accompanied with the applicable filing fee.
If you fail to file your answer or other response to the Complaint in writing within the applicable time period, the Court may enter judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice.
The following documents are also served with this summons: **DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET**
Dated this 16th day of August 2026.
/s/ Murray Wilkening
By Murray Wilkening - #15302
Published October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (320859)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN E. WITHROW III
Defendants: 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*. (320863)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Tel.: 970.264.8160
Plaintiff:
Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
v.
Defendants:
Charles H Miel, et al.
Case No.: 2026CV30008
COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM
This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium, recorded on August 10, 2000, Reception Number 20007580, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered **July 7, 2026,** in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows:
See **Exhibit "A"** attached hereto and made apart hereof
Owner(s): **DOLORES FAY MATZAT; FERNANDO ROHDE SHOTWELL; MARGUERITE WENDY SHOTWELL; MIA G JACKSON; WILLIAM T REYNOLDS; EVELYN F REYNOLDS; JAMES E CHATFIELD; THELMA E CHAT- FIELD; M. MARGARET MCMAINS; HOWARD MC- MAINS; JERRY WAYNE MCMAINS; MARY K MCMAINS; STEPHEN M HALL; CARLA C HALL; MORRIS H RYAN; ANNA L RYAN; MICHAEL D POINTS; EDIE F POINTS; VALERIE MAE HALL; EDWIN LEROY BROWN; HAZEL L DARDAR; SYLVIA T WEBB; DONNA PALMER; MARY MARGARET CROW; JERRY HASELBAUER; DORIS LANE; CHARLES D RALLS; MARTHA L WEG; VANESSA SHEREE ALVAREZ; JOHN L SUMMERS; MARY EVE SUMMERS; MILTON D BRACY; MARY PAULINE BRACY; PATRICK MARK CLOPTON; AMY RUTH CLOPTON; RHONDA KLOTZ STEADMAN; VICTORIA JENSEN; STANFORD L JENSEN; JOE A GOMEZ; LOUANN GOMEZ; MARIA CARROLL; JAMES CARROLL**
Evidence of Debt: Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium, recorded on August 10, 2000, Reception Number 20007580, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
Current Holder of evidence of debt secured by the Declaration: Teal Landing Property Owners Association, Inc.
Obligations Secured: The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs.
Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901
Association Assessments Due to: Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
Debtor(s) & Amount Due: See attached Exhibit "A"
Amount of Judgment: See attached Exhibit "A"
Type of Sale: Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act
THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CUR- RENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION.
The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assess- ments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST
THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will, at **9 o'clock A.M., on January 6, 2027, Sale Number 2026-04** in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147 sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property de- scribed above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association thereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication: 11/12/2026
Last Publication: 12/10/2026
Name of Publication: The Pagosa Springs Sun
NOTICE OF RIGHTS
YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO.
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NO- TICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.
THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL (1-800-222-4444), THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (1-855-411-2372), OR BOTH, BUT THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.
The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows:
Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901
INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or con- ducted at the Sheriff's Department for Archuleta County, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147, 970-264-8434.
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed this 23 day of September 2026.
By: /s/ Mike Le Roux, Sheriff
Archuleta County, Colorado
EXHIBIT "A"
Teal Landing Condominiums Matter Amount
CHARLES H MIEL (C#171102445) A 276,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1121, 1124, 1125 and 1126 in Building Number(s) 11,
Unpaid Assessments: $2,111.40
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $3,356.23
DOLORES FAY MATZAT (C#171505670) A 77,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1121, 1124, 1125 and 1126 in Building Number(s) 11,
Unpaid Assessments: $760.33
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,005.16
FERNANDO ROHDE SHOTWELL and MARGUERITE WENDY SHOTWELL (C#171506231) A 64,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1121, 1124, 1125 and 1126 in Building Number(s) 11,
Unpaid Assessments: $756.50
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,001.33
MIA G JACKSON (C#4252401859) A 126,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1121, 1124, 1125 and 1126 in Building Number(s) 11,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,506.17
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,751.00
WILLIAM T REYNOLDS and EVELYN F REYNOLDS (C#170111603) A 154,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1221, 1224, 1225 and 1226 in Building Number(s) 12,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,414.35
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,659.18
JAMES E CHATFIELD and THELMA E CHATFIELD (C#170121545) A 126,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1221, 1224, 1225 and 1226 in Building Number(s) 12,
Unpaid Assessments: $969.10
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,213.93
M. MARGARET MCMAINS and HOWARD MCMAINS and JERRY WAYNE MCMAINS and MARY K MCMAINS (C#170709067) A 154,000 / 60,310,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1221, 1224, 1225 and 1226 in Building Number(s) 12,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,402.14
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgment Amount: $2,646.97
STEPHEN M HALL and CARLA C HALL (C#170202741) A 154,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1325, and 1326 in Building Number(s) 13,
Unpaid Assessments: $947.60
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,192.43
MORRIS H RYAN and ANNA L RYAN (C#170204168) A 126,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1325, and 1326 in Building Number(s) 13,
Unpaid Assessments: $2,322.79
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $3,567.62
MICHAEL D POINTS and EDIE F POINTS (C#170307227) A 105,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1325, and 1326 in Building Number(s) 13,
Unpaid Assessments: $659.10
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $1,903.93
VALERIE MAE HALL AND EDWIN LEROY BROWN (C#171208333) A 92,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1325, and 1326 in Building Number(s) 13,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,038.42
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,283.25
HAZEL L DARDAR (C#170809750) A 210,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1411, 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425 and 1426 in Building Number(s) 14,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,453.77
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,698.60
SYLVIA T WEBB (C#171403256) A 105,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1411, 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425 and 1426 in Building Number(s) 14,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,189.55
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,434.38
DONNA PALMER (C#4252300619) A 69,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1411, 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425 and 1426 in Building Number(s) 14,
Unpaid Assessments: $930.18
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,175.01
MARY MARGARET CROW (C#170214522) A 105,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) 15,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,032.40
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,277.23
JERRY HASELBAUER and DORIS LANE (C#170214811) A 126,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) 15,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,794.04
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $3,038.87
CHARLES D RALLS (C#170216261) A 78,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) 15,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,307.74
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $2,552.57
MARTHA L WEG (C#170300693) A 84,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) 15,
Unpaid Assessments: $516.88
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgment Amount: $1,761.71
VANESSA SHEREE ALVAREZ (C#171500283) A 154,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) 15,
Unpaid Assessments: $4,988.72
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $6,233.55
JOHN L SUMMERS and MARY EVE SUMMERS (C#170304349) A 118,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,160.20
Costs: $1,000.00
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,405.03
MILTON D BRACY and MARY PAULINE BRACY (C#170706006) A 231,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,775.54
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $3,020.37
PATRICK MARK CLOPTON and AMY RUTH CLOPTON (C#171301005) A 145,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16,
Unpaid Assessments: $892.24
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,137.07
RHONDA KLOTZ STEADMAN (C#171502768) A 105,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16,
Unpaid Assessments: $726.84
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgment Amount: $1,971.67
VICTORIA JENSEN and STANFORD L JENSEN (C#170308662) A 84,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, and 1726 in Building Number(s) 17,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,009.26
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,254.09
JOE A GOMEZ and LOUANN GOMEZ (C#170311039) A 154,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, and 1726 in Building Number(s) 17,
Unpaid Assessments: $1,418.25
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $2,663.08
MARIA CARROLL and JAMES CARROLL (C#170807523) A 364,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, and 1726 in Building Number(s) 17,
Unpaid Assessments: $3,579.06
Costs: $244.83
Attorney's Fees: $1,000.00
Judgement Amount: $4,823.89
In **Teal Landing Condominium.** All as tenants in common with the other undivided interest owners of said build- ing as depicted on the Plat recorded in Reception Numbers 20102922, 20105650, 20106879, 20203146, 20204764, 20304272, 20209496, and subject to Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium recorded at Re- ception Number 20007580, and all subsequent supplemental Plats or Declaration thereto, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado.
Published November 12, 19, 26, December 3 and 10, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (323493)

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

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of October 2026, for Archuleta County.
2026CW3035 Archuleta County, (20CW3018, 13CW3023, 06CW27, 98CW74, 88CW16)
DISTRICT COURT, WATER DIVISION NO. 7, STATE OF COLORADO, La Plata County Courthouse, 1060 East Second Ave., Suite 106, Durango, CO 81301, (970) 247-2304. IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR WATER RIGHTS OF: SAN JUAN RIVER RANCH ASSOCIATION, INC., IN ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO. **APPLICATION TO MAKE PORTION OF WATER RIGHT ABSOLUTE AND FOR FINDINGS OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE.** 1. Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address of Applicant: San Juan River Ranch Association, Inc. ("Applicant") c/o David Nordstrom, President, P.O. Box 4279, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, Telephone: (319) 360-1440, Email: dvnordy@gmail.com Direct All Pleadings to: Bushong & Holleman PC, Steven J. Bushong, Cassidy L. Woodard, Emily C. McCrary, 1966 13th Street, Suite 270, Boulder, CO 80302, Email: sbushong@BH-lawyers.com; cwoodard@BH-lawyers.com; emccrary@bh-lawyers.com 2. Names of Structures: 2.1. Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #1; and 2.2. Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #2. 3. Descriptions of Conditional Water Rights: 3.1. Original Decree: Water Court Case No. 88CW16, District Court in and for Water Division No. 7, State of Colorado (the "Water Court"), dated December 9, 1988 (the "88CW16 Decree"), 3.2. Subsequent Diligence Decrees: The Water Court made subsequent findings of reasonable diligence and confirmed portions of the conditional water rights absolute in the following cases: Case No. 20CW3018, decreed on October 14, 2020 (the "20CW3018 Decree"); Case No. 13CW3023, decreed on April 8, 2014 (the "13CW3023 Decree"); Case No. 06CW27, decreed on October 31, 2017 (the "06CW27 Decree"); and Case No. 98CW74, decreed on May 2, 2000 (the "98CW74 Decree"), 3.3. Legal Description: 3.3.1. Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #1: In the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 and the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 14, T. 36 N., R. 1 W. of the N.M.P.M., Archuleta County, Colorado. The outlet of Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #1 is located whence the South ¼ corner of Section 14, T. 36 N., R. 1 W. of the N.M.P.M. bears South 61° 00' West a distance of 2,339.2 feet. *See* **Exhibit A**, 3.3.2. Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #2: In the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 and the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 14, T. 36 N., R. 1 W. of the N.M.P.M., Archuleta County Colorado. The outlet of Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #2 is located at a point, being on the outlet of Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #1, whence the South 1/4 corner of Section 14, T. 36 N., R. 1 W. of the N.M.P.M. bears South 81° 01' West a distance of 1,568.2 feet. *See* **Exhibit A**, 3.4. Source: The source for both Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #1 and Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #2 (collectively "Reservoirs") is the San Juan River, 3.5. Appropriation Date: The appropriation date for both Reservoirs is August 1, 1987, 3.6. Uses: Recreation, fisheries, municipal and industrial, domestic and augmentation water, 3.7. Amounts: 3.7.1. Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #1: Originally decreed 35 acre-feet conditional, of which 22.21 acre-feet was previously made absolute for all uses except municipal. 12.79 acre-feet remains conditional for recreation, fisheries, industrial, domestic, and augmentation uses; and 35 acre-feet remains conditional for municipal use, 3.7.2. Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoir #2: Originally decreed 65 acre-feet conditional, of which 45 acre-feet was previously made absolute for all decreed uses except municipal. 20 acre-feet remains conditional for recreation, fisheries, industrial, domestic, and augmentation uses; and 65 acre-feet remains conditional for municipal use, 3.7.3. Refill Rights: The Reservoirs were decreed with the right to refill once each season when water is available in accordance with the reservoir's priority. The refill rights for the Reservoirs in the amount of evaporation loss replacement are absolute for all decreed uses except municipal. That portion of the refill rights for the Reservoirs that was not necessary to replace evaporation losses remains conditional. The refill rights for the Reservoirs for municipal uses remain conditional in their entirety, 3.8. Remarks: As determined in the 06CW2 Decree, the Reservoirs were constructed in their decreed location, although a more specific location for the Reservoirs is provided in that decree. The Reservoirs are filled by the O'Bannon Ditch, the headgate of which is located at a point on the South bank of the San Juan River whence the West quarter corner of Section 13, T. 36 N., R. 1 W. of the N.M.P.M. bears North 16° 19' West, 999.6 feet. Pursuant to the 06CW27 Decree, absolute status for the municipal use decreed to the Reservoirs shall be granted only if there is a special district or other quasi-municipal entity in place and providing municipal water supply within the development, or if the Applicant can otherwise demonstrate such use. 4. Request to Make Absolute: Applicant requests a finding that the refill rights for each of the Reservoirs be made absolute in the entire amount of any seepage loss for all uses except municipal, the result of which will be to make the Reservoirs' refill rights absolute for both evaporation and seepage loss consistent with the General Administration Guidelines for Reservoirs, as amended February 2016, p.12. 5. Request for Finding of Reasonable Diligence: For all remaining conditional amounts and uses of the water rights decreed to the Turkey Creek Ranch Reservoirs #1 and #2 that are not made absolute as requested above in Paragraph 4, Applicant requests findings that it has exercised reasonable diligence and that said conditional amounts and uses continue in full force and effect. 6. Diligence Activities: As confirmed in Case No. 10CW64, Applicant's various water rights and related infrastructure are part of an integrated water supply system for the development of the San Juan River Ranch. The Reservoirs are integral parts of that system. As such, work done on any component of the system advances the whole. During the diligence period, Applicant has performed the following activities that demonstrate it has exercised reasonable diligence in the development of all remaining portions of the conditional water rights decreed to the Reservoirs: 6.1. Applicant spent approximately $40,000 in restoring the O'Bannon Ditch headgate and Ditch after flooding in 2025 caused significant damage, a portion of which was reimbursed by Southwestern Water Conservation District. Applicant also spent another approximately $10,000 during the diligence period on maintenance of the O'Bannon Ditch and in excess of $30,000 on the operator of the O'Bannon Ditch. The O'Bannon Ditch is the filling structure for the Reservoirs, 6.2. Applicant spent approximately $47,500 on maintenance of the Reservoirs, including repairing aerators, stocking the Reservoirs with fish, replacing piping, removing weed build-up along the Reservoirs' banks, and other tasks necessary to maintain the Reservoirs, 6.3. Applicant invested approximately $285,000 during the diligence period into improving and maintaining its water treatment plant, including engineering and installation of new filters and repairs during the diligence period, 6.4. A new home within the San Juan River Ranch was constructed during the diligence period and work has begun on clearing a lot for another new home. The new homes have been/will be connected to Applicant's water system, increasing the demand for water, 6.5. Applicant installed a new and bigger pump on the SJRR Well #1 to supply its increased water use, 6.6. Applicant conducted routine water quality monitoring during the diligence period, which involved monthly sampling at four different locations within Applicant's water system. The total cost expended on water quality monitoring was approximately $40,000., 6.7. Applicant is continuing to assess the ability to expand the Reservoirs for improved resiliency for its augmentation plan, 6.8. Applicant has participated as an opposer in two applications in Water Court and one application in the District Court in and for Water Division No. 3, State of Colorado, to ensure that other water users do not cause injury to Applicant's water rights. 7. Land Ownership: 7.1. Ken Zeiler, 4909 Greenwell, Huntertown, IN 46748, 7.2. Haydon Gary T Family Revocable Trust Established 3/10/1999 Dated 12/24/2019, 3245 N. 20th St., Phoenix, AZ 85016, 7.3. San Juan River Ranch Partners, LLC, PO Box 4279, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that the court enter an order (1) granting Applicant's request to make an additional portion of the Reservoirs' refill rights absolute in the amount of seepage loss as described in Paragraph 4 above; (2) granting Applicant's request for findings of reasonable diligence for the remaining conditional amounts and uses of the Reservoirs' water rights not made absolute herein as described in Paragraphs 5 and 6 above, and continuing said conditional water rights in full force and effect; and (3) granting such other and further relief as deemed appropriate. (7 pages including exhibit)
THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of December 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: $192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at www.coloradojudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106,
Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304)
/s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
Published: before November 30, 2026
Published November 19, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (324244)

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

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. 37-92-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right
applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of October 2026, for Archuleta County.
2026CW3034 ARCHULETA COUNTY – SAN JUAN RIVER OR ITS TRIBUTARIES.
Jeff Greer, c/o Scott C. Miller and Jason M. Groves, Patrick, Miller & Noto, P.C., 229 Midland Ave., Basalt, CO 81621, (970) 920-1030. APPLICATION TO MAKE ABSOLUTE IN PART AND FOR FINDINGS OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE. **First Claim:** For Finding of Reasonable Diligence. Greer Diversions. Original Decree: Case No. 04CW76, February 2, 2006, Water Division 7. Subsequent diligence decrees: Case No. 12CW6, February 25, 2013; Case No. 19CW3008, October 23, 2020, all Water Division 7. Legal: Diversion Point #1: NE ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼, Section 13, T35N, R2W, N.M.P.M., 2,049 feet from the south section line and 2,398 feet from the west section line of said Section 13. UTM Coordinates: Northing 4126434, Easting 321698, Zone 13N. Diversion Point #2: SE ¼ NE ¼ SW ¼, Section 13, T35N, R2W, N.M.P.M., 1,925 feet from the south section line and 2,432 feet from the west section line of said Section 13. UTM Coordinates: Northing 4126396, Easting 321708, Zone 13N. Source: Geothermal surface water originating from hot springs under or near the rear of the buildings located at Block 21, Lots 25 and 26, Town of Pagosa, also known as 432 and 426 Pagosa St. The water free flows to Applicant's diversion points, where Applicant will divert it for the uses described herein. The water is tributary to the San Juan River. Appropriation date: June 13, 1998. Amount: 0.067 c.f.s. (30 g.p.m.), conditional for Diversion Point #2 for all decreed uses. 0.067 c.f.s. (30 g.p.m.) was previously made absolute for Diversion Point #1 for

LIBRARY NEWS

The need to be together: crafting a plan for an active, vibrant library

By Barbara Brattin
SUN Columnist

You hear a lot of interesting comments when you invite people to strategic planning focus groups. Please provide more comfortable seating near the windows. Our kids could use a potty ladder. I want a space where I can work and also watch my kids play. That's valuable information.

But if you really want to flesh out what's important to the people you serve and how the library can do better, don't just ask about the library's hours or collections. If you want to know how the library can do better, ask the people you serve about the community they live in.

This month, we did just that, and heard some surprising answers. Yes, there were the obvious answers about living remotely and the tremendous weather challenges. But what we heard the most time and again was a deep desire to be together, in community.

People of all ages want activities to bring them together so they can develop deeper friendships, especially with people their own age. As librarians, we are very aware of senior isolation. We know that our book clubs and volunteer opportunities serve a bigger purpose. What we didn't expect to hear was the need for young parents to be together. Storytime and children's programs are social events for parents, too. And they want more of those opportunities.

Over the next few months we'll be crafting a plan that responds to your feedback. Our goal is an active, vibrant library with you in it.

Watch for bigger and better opportunities to be together in this bright and beautiful community space.

And thank you to everyone who took the online survey or spent time with our consultant to guide us toward a better future. The survey will continue to be available through the end of the month on our home page, www.pagosalibrary.org.

Upcoming programs

• Beginner's Quilt Square (adults): Thursday, Nov. 19, 2 to 4 p.m.

• Escape Room Enchanted Forest (tweens, grades five through eight): Thursday, Nov. 19, 4 to 5 p.m.

• Book Scootin' Baby Dance Party (ages 0-2): Friday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• Early Explorers Grocery Store (ages 3-5 with a caregiver): Friday, Nov. 20, 4 to 5 p.m.

• Puzzle Palooza (all ages): Saturday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. to noon.

• Teen Advisory Group (ages 12-18): Tuesday, Nov. 24, 4 to 5 p.m.

• Conversational Spanish, Monday, Nov. 30, 4 to 5 p.m.

Pick up monthly calendars at the library or check the website, www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar, so you don't miss any of the free programs, events and activities available.

Two ways to support your library in November

Colorado Gives is an annual event sponsored by the Colorado Gives Foundation. Now through Dec. 8, you can make a donation to the Ruby M. Sisson Library in support of our technology classes in our new makerspace.

Simply go to Coloradogives.org and click on the search button. Search for Ruby M. Sisson and you will be taken to the library foundation's page. From there you can make a donation of any size. Thank you.

Required minimum distribution looming? Consider the library

Our library foundation recently received a major gift from a couple who was looking to donate their required minimum distribution. We are so grateful for their support.

If you're pondering how to manage this year's required minimum distribution from your tax-deferred retirement account, consider making a direct transfer to the Ruby M. Sisson Library Foundation.

You'll avoid income taxes on the amount you transfer directly, and you'll help the library do even more wonderful things.

The Foundation EIN is 83-1063172. Contact foundation@pagosalibrary.org with any questions. And, thank you.

Six new computers available for public use

Thanks to a grant from the Statewide Internet Portal Authority, we've added six new public computers to our technology offerings. Internet, Microsoft Word and printing are available.

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.

Radon detectors available for checkout

The Colorado State library recently partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to provide a limited number of radon detectors to libraries for circulation.

The Ruby Sisson Library has two units available to check out with a library card for a three-week loan. Instructions are included in the kit. Reserve one through the library catalog or ask at the front desk.

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

Thanks to the State Grants to Libraries program offered through the Colorado State Library, we will be investing an extra $1,482 in large print titles this year and providing a year of access to Hoopla e-books and e-audiobooks. We greatly appreciate this state support.

New nonfiction

Get a head start on the holidays with these new titles:

• "Taste of Home Ultimate Christmas Cookie Collection: 200+ Festive Recipes for Sharing, Gifting and Celebrating."

• French Culinary Institute grad Tracey Zabar brings us "Cookies for the Holidays: 75 Recipes for the Sweetest Season."

• Delight your relatives as they gather 'round the piano this season with "Christmas Carols: Super Easy Songbook Beginner-Friendly Piano Sheet Music with Letter Notes and Chord Diagrams, 60 Timeless Holiday Classics."

Eclectic travel guides

• If you love exploring bookshops or literary locations, "A World of Bookish Places: Travel Inspiration for Book Lovers" from DK Publishing is perfect for you.

• "The World's Most Haunted Places" is by Emmy-nominated writer and producer Jeff Belanger. Battlefields, prisons, asylums, national monuments — all of them have stories to tell.

New history

• Pulitzer Prize finalist Nathaniel Philbrick has released his long-anticipated nonfiction book, "The Rush: California Gold, the Civil War, and the Making of the Modern World."

• FOX News anchor Brian Kilmeade writes his fifth work of nonfiction, "Uniting the States: Six Crucial Moments that Forged the American Miracle."

New fiction

• "The Great Wherever," by Shannon Sanders, stars an impulsive and heartbroken woman who inherits her father's share of a Tennessee farm that is rich in family secrets and occupied with annoying ghosts. It is a Reese's Book Club pick.

• Bestselling author Kelley Armstrong returns with a supernatural horror novel, "Dive Bar at the End of the Road." Five car accident victims stumble into a backwoods dive bar to wait for help and quickly learn that going outside is a very bad idea.

• "Our Noble Selves," by Kate Atkinson, is described as "a thrilling tale of post-World War II London, where the peace proves as tricky to navigate as the past."

• "Crux," by Gabriel Tallent, follows two troubled teens who band together in an intense friendship while pursuing the thrills of rock climbing in the Mojave Desert.

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.

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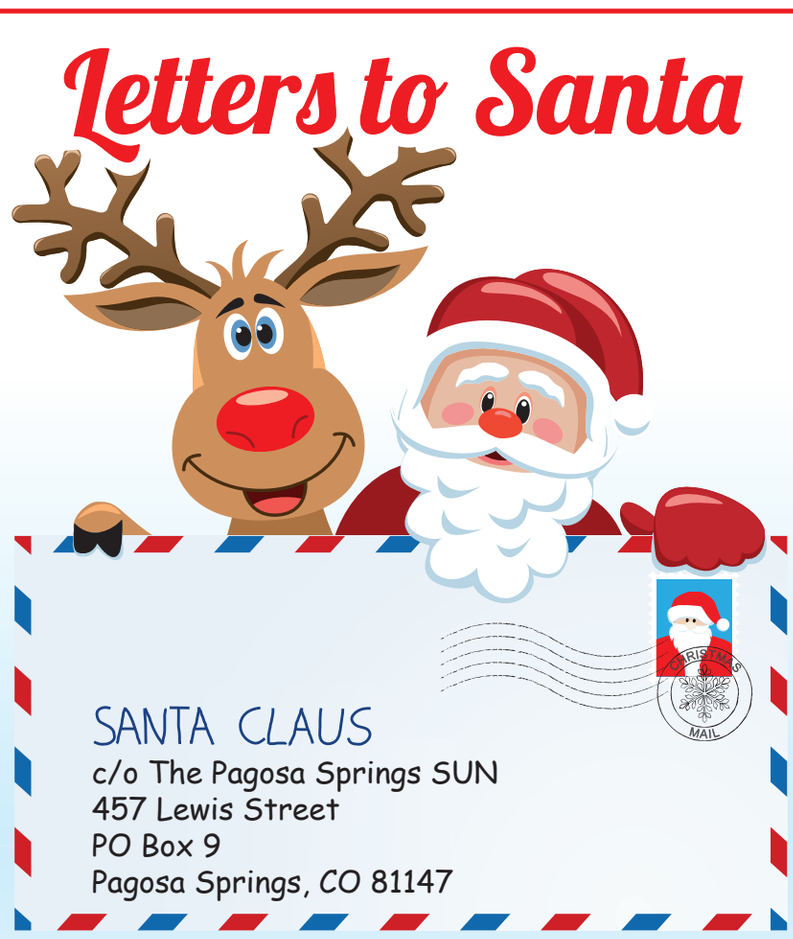
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‘Honk!, the Musical’

Nov. 19-21 • Pagosa Springs High School



Photo courtesy Kierstan Renner

‘Honk!, the Musical’ to take the stage this weekend

By Anthony Aldwell
Curtains Up Pagosa

Curtains Up Pagosa presents “Honk!, the Musical” this weekend, with four performances at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, Nov. 19, 20, and 21, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Nov. 21, all on stage in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

Based on the well-loved tale by Hans Christian Andersen’s “Ugly Duckling,” in which a mysteriously looking bird is born and raised by a caring mother duck, but encounters cruel ridicule and teasing from his father and other barnyard characters.

So, he leaves home, and though he is pursued by a cunning and hungry cat, with the help of friendly geese and a frog, he is reunited with his family and eventually realizes he is actually a — well, if you want to know the end of this story, you must come see it unfold in glorious fashion this weekend.

“Honk!” is a collaboration of two talented British theater masterminds, with the music composed by George Stiles and the book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe.

This is truly a family show with humor and thoughtful themes for children and adults alike, accompanied by clever melodies that will likely remain with you after the show.

Once again, Curtains Up pursues its community theater mission of entertainment and education by utilizing our local talent to produce a show that includes 55 Pagosa residents on stage, back stage and in our live pit orchestra, from ages 8 to 80.

This show is the result of the expertise and many hours of dedication from local artists, led by Director Jeannie Abbas, Musical Director Anika Borders, choreography by Sophie Martinez, costume design by Summer Sackett, and set design and stage management by Morgan Vining, all under the guidance and inspiration of CUP Artistic Director Krisha Doocy.

Curtains Up Pagosa appreciates the excellent support our community provides to our productions, a sentiment especially relevant during these challenging days in Pagosa Country.

We aim to bring a cheerful entertainment to all during our four shows this weekend. You might even be nodding at one of the show’s central themes: “Just believe in yourself. Don’t be left on the shelf, feeling that all hope is dead and gone. And you may find, in your own way, you’re a ...”

Tickets are now available online at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa. Adult tickets online are $22.50, while seniors and students are $18.34. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Live Performers

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

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: 13th Hour, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Out on Work Release, 6 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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

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

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Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign to begin Nov. 21

Archuleta County Salvation Army

As Archuleta County continues the long process of recovering from the recent devastating floods, the Archuleta County Salvation Army is preparing to launch its annual Red Kettle campaign on Saturday, Nov. 21.

This year's campaign takes on special significance as our community works together to rebuild, recover and support neighbors facing difficult circumstances.

In the immediate aftermath of the flooding, our local Salvation Army has been assisting with the emergency response, providing support to National Guard units deployed to our community and helping families displaced by the flooding, with assistance from our district office.

The Red Kettle campaign remains an important part of our year-round effort to help local individuals and families in need. One hundred percent of the funds raised through our local campaign stay right here in Archuleta County, helping address needs within our own community.

We recognize that many residents are still dealing with the effects of the flooding, while others have generously devoted countless hours to helping their neighbors. We understand that volunteering may not be possible for everyone right now. But, for those who are able, even an hour or two of bell ringing can make a difference.

Bell ringing will take place at the City Market grocery store in Pagosa Springs Nov. 21 through Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers can sign up for shifts online at www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D45A4A723A6FEC16-66545987-2026#/.

For those unable to volunteer in person, contributions can also be made through our local Virtual Red Kettle at: https://salarmy.us/ArchuletaKettle.

As we approach the holiday season, we are reminded that the strength of our community comes from neighbors helping neighbors. Whether through volunteering, making a donation or simply spreading the word, every act of generosity helps us continue that tradition.

For further information, contact Tom Bruin at tom.redkettle@gmail.com or call (224) 730-7910.

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Please include your first name and age on your letter.

Make sure we receive your letter by noon on Thursday, Dec. 18th

You can also email your letter to
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The Pagosa Springs SUN

Pagosa Springs High School National Honor Society to present Brunch with Santa Dec. 5

Pagosa Springs High School National Honor Society

Pagosa Springs High School's National Honor Society (NHS) is excited to invite community members of all ages to its Brunch with Santa event on Dec. 5 from noon to 2 p.m. in the high school commons.

Families are welcome to enjoy a warm breakfast, festive activities and the opportunity for children to meet Santa Claus. Guests can take photos with Santa, participate in holiday-themed crafts and enjoy a cheerful, family-friendly atmosphere designed to kick off the holiday season.

"We brought this event back to our community last year and it was a huge success. NHS members are excited to provide this service to our community for a second year," said Connor Kirkham, vice president of the NHS leadership team.

"It's a wonderful way to bring the community together, celebrate the spirit of the season, and support the service initiatives of our National Honor Society students," said Darcy DeGuise, Pagosa Springs High School's NHS advisor.

The free event is open to the public.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact DeGuise at ddeguise@pagosa.k12.co.us.

About NHS

NHS recognizes outstanding high school students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, service and character.

NHS members at Pagosa Springs High School are dedicated to enriching the community through volunteering and service-driven events like Brunch with Santa.





Love Pagosa

A message from
The Pagosa Springs SUN



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Library's new makerspace supports hands-on learning for kids and adults

By Donna Mosher
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

Sharing knowledge and resources in a community has always been the purpose of libraries.

Our newly expanded Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library offers so much more than books. The library now boasts a shared community workshop called a makerspace. Here, people of all ages and experience levels can learn, create and collaborate with shared tools and technology.

We call this innovative makerspace the Fair Play Studio. Jasmine Lee is the Fair Play Studio coordinator.

Colorado Gives Day is Dec. 8. It is the biggest 24-hour giving movement in the state of Colorado. The library is dedicating our Colorado Gives Day fundraising campaign to expand what our makerspace offers.

"The name Fair Play pays homage to the primary donor that made this space possible," Lee said, "who grew up in Fair Play, Colorado, without access to a lot of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning. This donor wants to promote STEM learning for all the young people who come to our library to learn.

"Fair Play, of course, also means equalizing access to knowledge and technology."

Currently, the Fair Play Studio has a 3-D printer, a laser cutter, a button maker, a laminator and two sewing machines. We also have smaller tools like soldering irons, hand-sewing tools and hot wire cutter for foam.

Lee sees a community center where people learn from each other and turn ideas into real, finished objects. She will organize classes, invite community members who can share their skills and help patrons use the space.

"I want to enable our young people to get hands-on experience with the tools of science, technology, design and engineering," Lee said. "I want to nurture a love for lifelong learning and empower these kids with a spirit of invention and self-sufficiency."

Your contribution to the Fair Play Studio on or before Colorado Gives Day on Dec. 8 will help us purchase tools and technologies to improve the learning our makerspace offers.

Visit ColoradoGives.org and search for Ruby Sisson Library to donate.

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



‘The Shark Is Broken’ closes as Thingamajig Theatre Company looks ahead to ‘A Year with Frog and Toad’

By Samantha Luck
Thingamajig Theatre Company



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Sydney Hoel, pictured in Thingamajig Theatre Company’s production of “Come From Away” this summer, returns to Pagosa Springs this winter to serve as music director and perform as Mouse and other woodland characters in “A Year with Frog and Toad.” A doctoral candidate at New York University, Hoel joins the five-member professional cast under the direction of Andrew Barratt Lewis. The musical will open Dec. 11 and runs through Dec. 29 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, the cast of “The Shark Is Broken” took its final bows at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, closing out a run that began Oct. 9 and took audiences back to the summer of 1974, when a young Steven Spielberg was attempting to make a movie about a great white shark off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard.

The shark, an expensive piece of machinery that proved almost comically ill-equipped for life in the Atlantic Ocean, left the film’s three principal actors with an abundance of time on their hands. What those men might have said to one another in the intervening hours is the subject of Ian Shaw and Joseph Nixon’s play.

Under the direction of Laura Moore, Tim Moore, Scott Morehead and Cameron Vargas brought Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider and Richard Dreyfuss to life aboard the Orca.

For all the pleasure of recognizing the actors who would eventually become inseparable from their characters in “Jaws,” the play’s most interesting moments had little to do with the movie. Here were three men at different stages in their lives and careers, each with a slightly different idea of what constituted success, obliged to spend the summer in one another’s company. Their conversations were by turns funny, cruel and unexpectedly affectionate.

The production’s run coincided with an autumn that none of us in Pagosa Springs is likely to forget. The historic flooding that affected so many of our neighbors also reached the arts center, damaging portions of the building and disrupting the ordinary business of running a theater.

With road closures and the difficulties of recovery, even getting to a performance required some determination. We are especially grateful to the audiences who made that effort, and to the many friends of the theater who have offered their support throughout these past several weeks.

The next production in Thingamajig’s winter season takes us to a considerably more hospitable corner of the animal kingdom.

“A Year with Frog and Toad,” which opens Dec. 11, is based on Arnold Lobel’s celebrated children’s books and follows two friends through the course of a year.

Frog is the more adventurous of the pair; Toad would generally prefer

■ See Theatre on next page

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Theatre

■ continued from previous page

to stay in bed. They plant a garden, go swimming, bake cookies and attempt to navigate the small difficulties of everyday life, most of which become rather more difficult in Toad's company.

Returning to direct the professional production is Andrew Barratt Lewis, a longtime favorite of Thingamajig audiences whose work includes this summer's "Come From Away," last winter's "A Christmas Carol" and the much-loved holiday production "All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914."

Lewis has a particular gift for ensemble storytelling, evident in productions that ask a relatively small group of performers to create a world considerably larger than the stage on which they are standing. That skill should serve him well in "A Year with Frog and Toad," where five actors will bring Lobel's woodland community to life.

Vargas will play Frog opposite Tim Moore's Toad, with Trevor Brown appearing as Snail and several other woodland inhabitants. Samantha Luck and Sydney Hoel complete the five-member cast as Turtle and Mouse, respectively, along with additional characters.

With music by Robert Reale and book and lyrics by Willie Reale, the Tony Award-nominated musical has a buoyant, jazz-inflected score and retains the quiet humor that has made Lobel's stories favorites across generations.

Performances are scheduled for Dec. 11-13, 18-20, 22-24 and 26-29.

Winter children's theater camp

This year's Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre Winter Camp will offer young performers an opportunity to experience the musical from both sides of the stage.

The camp will culminate in "A Year with Frog and Toad KIDS," a shorter adaptation of the Broadway production, with instruction provided by the professional actors appearing in the full-length show.

Children will be able to watch their teachers play the very characters they themselves are preparing to portray, then bring their own ideas about those characters into rehearsal.

Open to children ages 7 to 13, the camp will begin with an audition workshop on Dec. 12 from 3 to 4 p.m., during which participants will learn about the audition process and receive their scripts.

Regular camp sessions will take place Dec. 19-23 and 27-30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a final rehearsal Jan. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The children's production will be presented Jan. 2 at 2 and 4 p.m., Jan. 3 at noon, and Jan. 4 at noon and 2 p.m.

Enrollment is limited to one cast, and registration is open now. Tuition is $410 per child, with a sibling rate of $385, including fees. Families can find complete information and register at pagosacenter.org under "Classes and Camps."

A change to the winter season

Among the productions announced as part of Thingamajig's winter season this summer was "Who's Holiday!," the decidedly adult Christmas comedy that was to feature local favorite Ivy King.

A new family scheduling conflict has made it impossible for King to appear this winter, and the company hopes to revisit the production in the future. Those familiar with King's considerable gifts as a performer will understand why we are particularly eager to find another opportunity for her to take on the role of a grown-up Cindy Lou Who.

In its place, Thingamajig will present "Dirty Dancer," an original one-woman parody created and performed by longtime company director and actress Melissa Firlit. Presented at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, the show takes audiences to the summer of 1963 at Kellerman's Resort, where Firlit plays every character from the beloved film "Dirty Dancing."

Through physical comedy, audience participation and the film's familiar soundtrack, she revisits the romance, the dancing and the famous lift. The production is an irreverent tribute to a film whose appeal, nearly four decades after its release, seems remarkably undiminished.

"Dirty Dancer" will be presented Dec. 29 and 30, and Jan. 2 and 3. Season ticket holders who purchased tickets for "Who's Holiday!" may use them for the replacement production.

Also returning this holiday season is Thingamajig's annual "A Merry

■ See Theatre on next page









More than a ribbon: the role men play in ending violence

Rise Above Violence

Preventing domestic violence and sexual assault requires more than recognizing violence after it occurs. It also means examining the attitudes and behaviors that allow it to continue and understanding the role each of us plays in creating a community where violence is not tolerated.

Violence against women and girls is not simply a women's issue. It affects entire communities, and men have an important role to play in preventing it.

The White Ribbon Campaign began in Toronto in 1991, following the murder of 14 women at École Polytechnique in Montreal two years earlier. Founded by men who believed they had a responsibility to challenge violence against women, the campaign grew from a simple but important idea: Remaining silent in the face of violence and harmful behavior allows it to continue.

Each year, Nov. 25 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. On this day, people around the world wear white ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to ending violence. But the campaign asks men to do more than wear a ribbon. It encourages them to take an active role in challenging the attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence.

The messages young people receive about women and relationships are shaped by the world around them. Social media has become an especially influential part of that environment, exposing young men to ideas about masculinity and relationships that are not always healthy. When disrespect or hostility toward women is repeatedly dismissed or normalized, those attitudes can begin to shape how young people view and treat others.

Men have an opportunity to challenge those messages, both through their own actions and in conversations with the people around them. Sometimes that means speaking up when a comment crosses a line. Other times, it simply means setting an example of what respect looks like in everyday relationships.

In a small community like ours, where personal relationships are woven into nearly every part of daily life, these conversations may feel especially uncomfortable. It can be difficult to challenge the behavior of someone we know or care about. But silence, even when unintentional, can send the message that harmful behavior is acceptable.

The White Ribbon Campaign encourages men to recognize the influence they have on one another and to use that influence to help prevent violence. It is an opportunity to consider how individual choices contribute to the expectations we establish within our community.

This Nov. 25, Rise Above Violence invites men in our community to take the White Ribbon Pledge: to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Through Men Rising, a small, invitation-based gathering will also take place at 4:45 p.m., bringing together men committed to supporting these efforts locally.

Wearing a white ribbon is a visible expression of support, but its greatest value comes from the conversations and actions that follow. The commitment to preventing violence should extend beyond Nov. 25 and become part of how we treat one another throughout the year.

To learn more about the White Ribbon Campaign and take the pledge, visit www.riseaboveviolence.org/whiteribbonpledge.

Theatre

■ continued from previous page

Little Christmas Concert," scheduled for Monday, Dec. 21 — an evening of holiday music featuring talented performers from the company.

Tickets for the winter season and registration for the children's theater camp are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts box office at (970) 731-7469.

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Neighbors helping neighbors: Support local food pantries this holiday season

Healthy Archuleta

Community members are invited to support our local food pantries by donating food or funds and volunteering at the 19th annual "Fill the Bucket" food drive on Saturday, Nov. 21.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the importance of coming together as a community and ensuring that all our neighbors have access to nutritious food.

This year, in the wake of the historic flooding in Archuleta County, that spirit of giving and caring for one another is especially important. While many residents continue to navigate the challenges of recovery, others are struggling with the rising cost of living, food expenses and the added financial pressures that come with the winter months.

Our local food pantries play an essential role in supporting the health and well-being of our community. Throughout the year, dedicated volunteers give generously of their time to ensure individuals and families have access to food in a welcoming, dignified environment.

Healthy Archuleta, through its Food Pantry Network, continues to work alongside local food pantries to identify emerging needs, share resources and strengthen food access across Archuleta County. Sustaining these efforts requires the ongoing support of our broader community.

Help fill the bucket

Once again, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) and members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 111 are organizing their annual "Fill the Bucket" food drive to benefit our local community.

When: Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: City Market and Natural Grocers parking lots in Pagosa Springs.

What to bring: Nonperishable food items or monetary donations.

Community members are encouraged to consider donating nutritious, shelf-stable foods such as canned vegetables and fruits, beans, canned meats, rice, oats, pasta, peanut butter and other household food staples.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated, as they provide flexibility to address food pantry needs.

Give the gift of your time

Healthy Archuleta is also seeking volunteers to work alongside LPEA personnel to staff the food drive at both locations, welcome shoppers, encourage donations and help collect donated food.

Whether you are an individual, a family, a young person looking for a meaningful way to serve or a member of a local organization, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others while giving back to our community.

Even an hour or two of your time can make a meaningful difference. Community members interested in volunteering for a shift at either location are encouraged to contact Healthy Archuleta at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Supporting our food pantries beyond the holidays

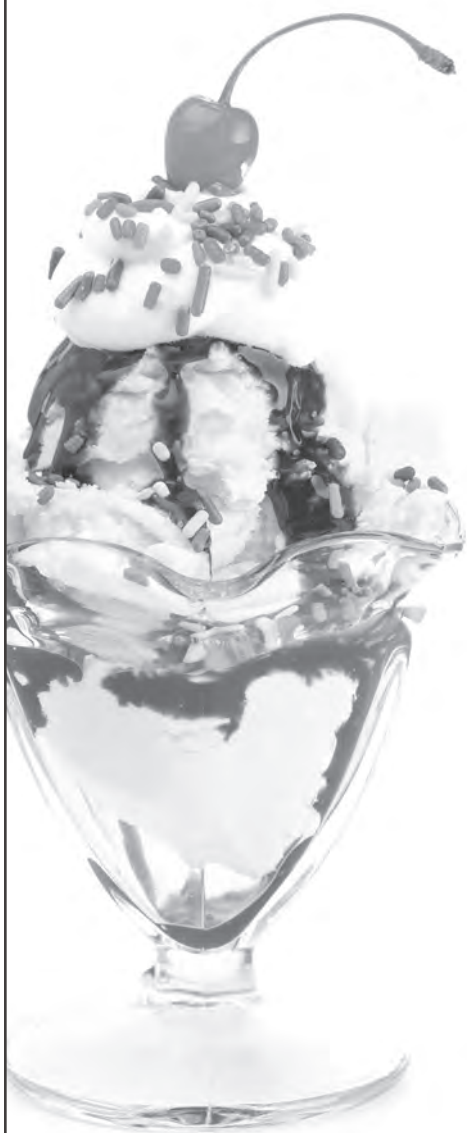
While the holiday season provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of giving, access to nutritious food is a year-round need.

We encourage community members to consider supporting our local food pantries throughout the year through food and monetary donations, volunteering and helping

■ See Support on page 13



Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you



Thank you citizens of Archuleta County for passing ballot measure 5A!

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

The 5A campaign could not have happened without all the volunteers who stepped up in many ways.

An enormous THANK YOU goes out to:

- The **generous donors** who provided funding for campaign efforts.
- The **campaign leaders** who organized the effort.
- The **teacher leaders** who energized their colleagues and put boots on the ground.
- The **volunteers** who executed significant pieces of the campaign.
- The **canvassers** who knocked on doors and answered the hard questions.
- The **community supporters** who put up yard signs, talked to their family and friends, and openly supported the measure.
- The **students and families** who took the time to learn about 5A.
- The **community groups** who listened to 5A presentations.
- The **Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)** who began the facilities evaluation process in January 2025.

We are grateful that our community values our schools and education.

Stay tuned as the School District applies for BEST Grant funding in spring 2027.

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

Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you • Thank you







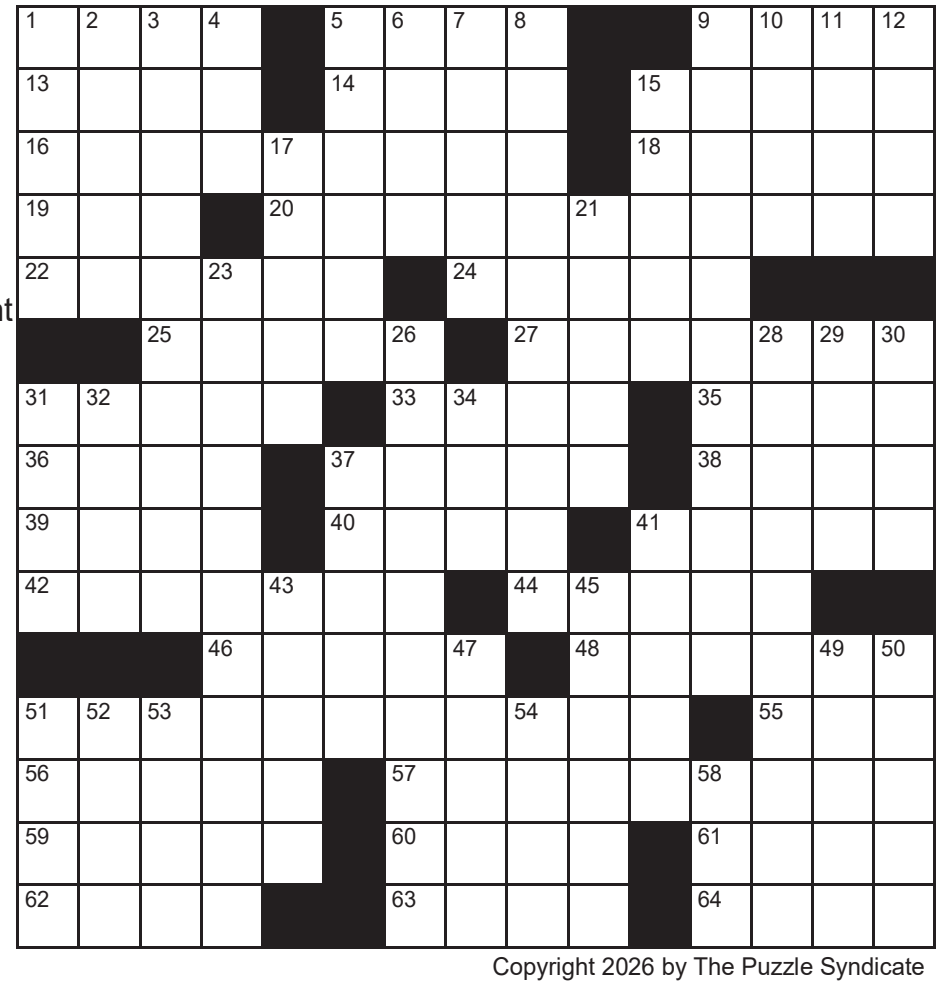


Photos courtesy Gene Tautges

The local Knights of Columbus council hosts its annual Veterans Day spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, giving back to those who are serving and have served our country.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 Jessica of "L.A.'s Finest"
5 Weighs (down)
9 Dinner in a pot
13 Horse's walk
14 Doctor Zhivago
15 Parlor instrument
16 Gave it a go
18 Baseball's Hank
19 Teacher's fave
20 Maine's position in the US mainland
22 Raises
24 "All kidding ___ ..."
25 Baseballer Pee Wee
27 Glass raiser
31 Nets
33 Small pie
35 One of the Great Lakes
36 Secret plan
37 Heredity units
38 Holiday mailing
39 Composer Stravinsky
40 Strongly suggest
41 Big name in briefs
42 Barcelona native
44 "___ life!"
46 Furious
48 "Twelfth Night" duke
51 Slowly from slow, et al.
55 ___ de toilette
56 Bowl over
57 They're the devil's work-shop
59 March of ___
60 Motors, briefly
61 Keep ___ (persevere)
62 Dove into a base
63 Right away
64 Electronic switching devices, briefly

DOWN

1 Slack-jawed
2 Procrastinator's word
3 Montana's state flower
4 Polished off
5 Skirt around
6 On the ___ (bickering)
7 Activist Thunberg
8 One crossing Main, maybe
9 Si and Am in "Lady and the Tramp"
10 Edible tuber
11 Hazzard deputy
12 Refusal word
15 Bamboo muncher
17 Allots, with "out"
21 Prison uprisings
23 Controlled from a hub
26 They never end
28 Nomadic sorts
29 Ireland alias
30 Many wines
31 Long story
32 Pond cover
34 Director Lee
37 Tropical fruit
41 Like some criticism
43 Feline's nine
45 "I kid you not!"
47 Billy Joel's "We ____ Start the Fire"
49 Rock bottom
50 Gives the boot to
51 Root beer brand
52 First best actor Oscar winner Jannings
53 Malek of "Bohemian Rhapsody"
54 Gymnast Korbut
58 Some degrees, briefly

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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:

• Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Refresh Your Spirit, Body and Well-Being Gathering at the SpiritFire Sanctuary at Xanadu, weather depending. Call/text (970) 309-6067 for your booking.

• Sunday, Nov. 22, 1 p.m.: Meditation and Beaver Super Full Moon Coming Drumming Circle outdoors at the SpiritFire Sanctuary at Xanadu, weather permitting. A $10 love donation will be collected.

The center also offers educational classes and workshops.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

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

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

Support

■ continued from page 11

spread awareness of available food resources.

Healthy Archuleta extends its gratitude to LPEA, members of IBEW, our local grocery stores, food pantry partners and the many community members who continue to demonstrate what it means to care for one another.

Together, we can build a healthier, more resilient community where everyone has access to nutritious food and a sense of belonging.

To learn more about the Food Pantry Network, access food resources or get involved, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org/food-pantry-network.html.

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HELPING
Friends and Neighbors affected by Flooding

Bank of Colorado will
match up to $15,000 in donations
made from Nov. 12th thru Dec. 1st.

Funds will go to the Pagosa Community Initiative and Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs to go **directly to helping flood victims in Archuleta County.**

Contributions can be made at the Bank of Colorado Pagosa Springs Branch
205 Country Center Dr.

Questions may be directed to Pennie DeClark at 970-731-4166.

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Pagosa Scene . . .

Our Savior Lutheran School Oktoberfest

Photos courtesy Hannah Longmire

Scene ... supporting Our Savior Lutheran School at last week's Oktoberfest fundraiser. After being rescheduled due to weather and flooding, the event featured live music, BBQ, auction opportunities, festive attire and more.













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 downy woodpecker.

North America's smallest woodpecker is a permanent resident across Canada and all of the United States except Hawaii and the most arid southwestern regions. They occupy open woodlands, particularly those with deciduous trees, and riparian areas along streams. In summer, downy woodpeckers consume enormous numbers of insects, including some that are forest and agricultural pests. Their small size allows them to feed on places like weed stems and galls that larger woodpeckers can't reach.

In winter, they are frequently found foraging in mixed flocks with birds of similar size, including nuthatches and chickadees. They readily come to feeders, especially those with suet, and add acorns, berries and grains to their diet. Male and female downies maintain separate feeding areas in fall and early winter, with pairs forming in late winter. Even when the sexes are together, they separate feeding areas, with males chasing females away from the best feeding spots.

Downies share adaptations with other woodpecker species that allow them to drill on trees and uncover insects and larvae under the bark. They are able to position their toes with two forward and two backward to better cling onto the trunk, and a stiff tail provides stability when they lean back. Feathers over the nostrils and nictitating membranes that shield the eyes keep wood particles out.

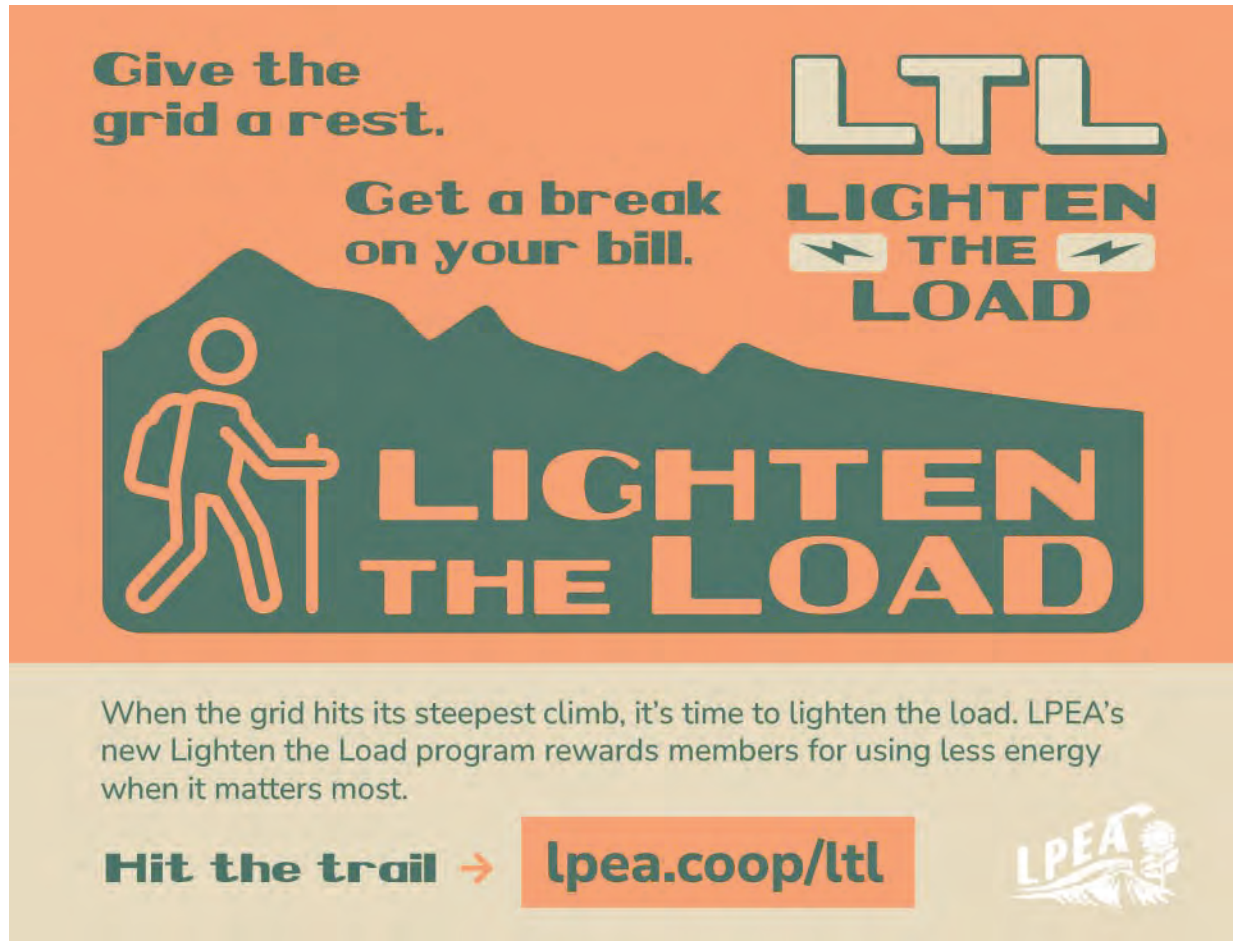
The downy woodpecker's name is a reference to the soft, white feathers that make up the white stripe on its black lower back. Its head is striped in black and white, with males wearing a small patch of red on the nape. Black wings are checkered with white patches and the white outer tail feathers have black spots. Its bill is short and chisel-like.

Distinguishing between the nearly identical downy and hairy woodpecker species can present a challenge. When the two are together, the larger size of the hairy is apparent. The hairy's bill relative to head size is much longer, and its outer tail feathers are not spotted.

Research has presented evidence that the plumage mimicry between downy and hairy woodpeckers is an example of one species evolving to look like another. When mimicry like this occurs in nature, it is believed to confer an advantage to one of the species.

For information on events, visit www.weminucheaudubon.org and www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/.

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Preview Calendar

All events listed in The PREVIEW Calendar are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, Nov. 19

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.

Early Community Thanksgiving Meal. Noon-1:30 p.m., St Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. All are welcome to pick up a dinner of turkey and trimmings. A MET shuttle will run from the Methodist Church downtown at noon and 12:45 p.m.

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.

Beginner's Quilt Square. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Want to learn how to quilt a square? A basic introduction to quilting will be held in the new makerspace.

Tween Escape Room: Enchanted Forest. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 11-13/grades 5-8. You encounter some strange fairy-tale creatures while walking through the woods. Will you be able to find your way back?

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'Honk!, the Musical.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets for this lively musical comedy are $22.50 for adults, and $18.34 for seniors and students, and are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Friday, Nov. 20

San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership Monthly Partnership Meeting. 9-11 a.m., Archuleta County Administration Building, 398 Lewis St. Hear from local partners who work in forest and watershed health. All are welcome.

Boot-Scootin' Baby Dance Party. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Sisson Library. Grab your partner and head to the library for a western-themed baby dance party. There will be a dance floor, ball pit, disco ball, bubbles, game and more. This event will have semi-loud music and flashing lights.

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.

Early Explorers: Grocery Store. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5 with caregivers. Explore the world of grocery stores in a safe and age-appropriate environment. Make crafts, read some stories, move around, play in the sensory bin and more. Dress for mess.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'Honk!, the Musical.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets for this lively musical comedy are $22.50 for adults, and $18.34 for seniors and students, and are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Saturday, Nov. 21

'Fill the Bucket' Food Drive. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., City Market and Natural Grocers. Join La Plata Electric Association and members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 111 for the annual food drive.

Pagosa Piecemakers Quilt Guild. 9:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. All quilters and wanna-be quilters are welcome. Social hour is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information on meetings and classes, email pagosapiecemakers@gmail.com.

GriefShare. 10-11:30 a.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive. A 13-week program to assist with the healing process, regardless of how long it is since your loved one passed. Register and learn more at www.griefshare.org.

Puzzle Palooza. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Put together some puzzles and have some family fun.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'Honk!, the Musical.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets for this lively musical comedy are $22.50 for adults, and $18.34 for seniors and students, and are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Curtains Up Pagosa Presents 'Honk!, the Musical.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Tickets for this lively musical comedy are $22.50 for adults, and $18.34 for seniors and students, and are available at www.onthestage.tickets/show/curtains-up-pagosa.

Monday, Nov. 23

Women's Fellowship. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

Conversational Spanish. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

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.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Rummikub. 1:15-3:45 p.m., Senior Center.

Teen Advisory Group. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 12-18. Be a voice at your library. Build leadership skills, mentor others and plan programs that interest you. Snacks will be provided.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

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.

Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mindful Drawing. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Monday, Nov. 30

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

■ **See Calendar on next page**

Thanksgiving issue
Thursday, November 26
Early Deadlines

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, November 20

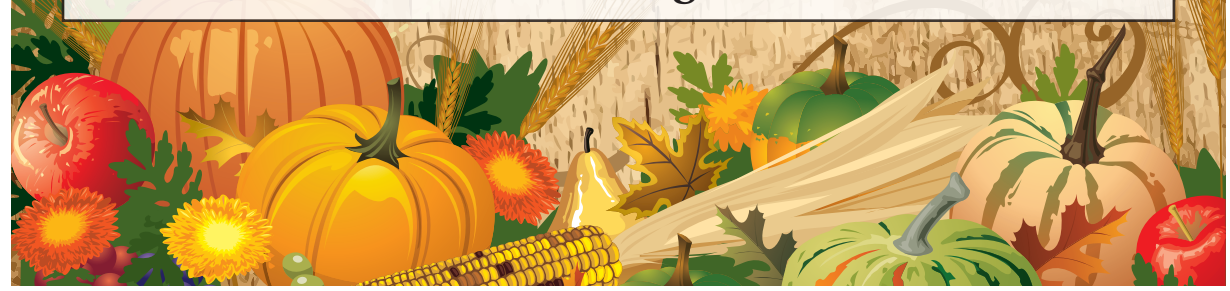
Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Monday, November 23

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Thursday, November 19

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to hold Action Sunday

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship remembers Trans Day of Remembrance this week at our Action Sunday, held fourth Sundays each month.

Part of our action is to educate ourselves about issues that align with our values honoring the worth and dignity of every being. We will spend some time writing to our elected representatives, sharing our voices in collective power to help tell a different story than some we may have heard during the election cycle, particularly as it relates to trans youth and their families.

Every year on Nov. 20, the Trans Day of Remembrance is held to remember those who were lost to violence in the past year.

The following site gives details of trans people known to have been killed, as collated from reports: https://tdor.translivesmatter.info.

This site, Trans Lives Matter, notes: "The idea is to bring together what we know about trans people we have lost so that others can understand who they were and what happened to them. Although we often know very little, what we do know is absolutely heartbreaking - but we owe it to all of those we have lost to do at least that."

To honor this remembrance, The Unitarian Universalist Association (www.uua.org) offers this prayer: "On this Transgender Day of Remembrance, we remember those who have been murdered for being who they are, those who face violence on a daily basis, those who have lost loved ones, and those who worry for loved ones. May we come to a time when we cease to shame children around gender roles and expression, where we allow for freedom and exploration of identity and expression, and to a world that operates from love especially when things are difficult and confusing. May all of us who live with the threat of violence find support, strength, community, hope, and safety from violence." — the Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe.

Join us in solidarity to learn and grow with open minds, loving hearts and helping hands.

The UU Fellowship space is available for adjacent groups to meet in the UU Community Hub.

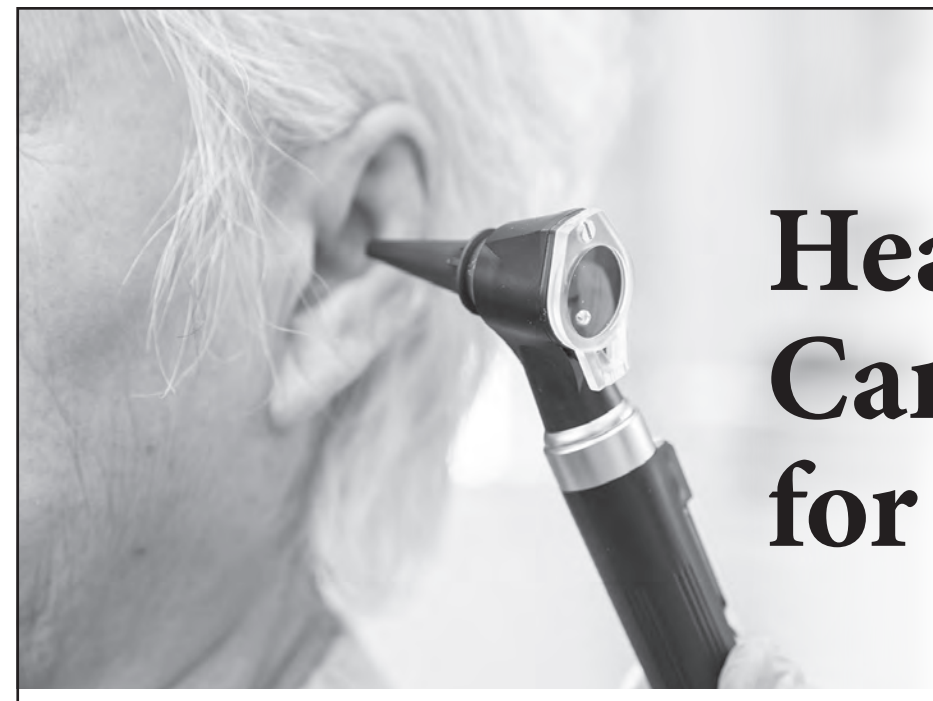
The Tara Meditation Group is held Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Qigong practice on Monday afternoons at 1 p.m. The Wise and Wakeful Circle will meet Nov. 28, and typically the second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m. This open group is a time of connection, mindfulness and engaging in community.

No UU service will be held Sunday, Nov. 29, as fifth Sundays are set aside as an intentional day of rest.

For more information, check out the website PagosaUU.org for our current monthly newsletter and more.

The fellowship space is located in the Greenbrier Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to "Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good," and gather together in active hope.

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A range of options are now available to reduce the impact of ringing or buzzing in your ears so it feels less intrusive, day and night. Strategies include sound therapy, bimodal neuromodulation, hearing aids with tinnitus features, and counseling approaches to help your brain filter and manage noise effectively.

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Robert Melton, AuD
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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

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. Spend a fun hour after school discussing books and doing art activities.

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Fourth Wing Fan Party. 6-7:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Activities, games, food and prizes, all dedicated to the Fourth Wing series in honor of its newest release.

Colorado Gives: making a difference for our local seniors

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Senior News

Colorado Gives is an opportunity for Coloradans to come together and support the nonprofit organizations that make a meaningful difference in their communities.

Through Colorado Gives Day and the ColoradoGives.org online giving platform, individuals can make donations to organizations they care about, helping local nonprofits continue providing essential services to those who need them most.

For Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), community generosity plays an important role in ensuring that older adults in Archuleta County have access to nutritious meals, social connections, educational programs and supportive services that promote health, dignity and independence. Every donation, no matter the size, helps strengthen the safety net for our aging population.

When you choose to support ASI through Colorado Gives, you are investing directly in the well-being of our local seniors.

Your generosity helps sustain Meals on Wheels, congregate dining and Grab-N-Go meal programs, along with activities and outreach services that keep older adults active, engaged and connected to their community.

As the cost of providing services continues to rise and government funding becomes increasingly limited, donations from individuals and local businesses are more important than ever. We invite you to visit ColoradoGives.org and support ASI. Your gift is more than a donation; it is an investment in someone's independence, a nutritious meal, a friendly visit, a new friendship and a stronger community.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of the seniors who helped build the community we call home.

Thanksgiving closures

ASI will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 26 and Nov. 27.

No meals or services will be provided on those days.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Salmansohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility classes

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

American mahjong

American mahjong is played using a set of tiles and the current year score card. Play includes groups of three or four players and follows a pattern of division exchange and display of tiles.

Bring your card and come to play or watch and learn from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays at the Senior Center.

Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of play, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Rummikub

Come check out Rummikub on Tuesdays from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. It is a tile-based game for two to four players, combining elements of the card game rummy and mahjong.

Emotional freedom

On the second Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., join the "Tappers," who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Senior Center.

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/

■ See Senior on next page

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"You know that scene in Castaway where Tom Hanks's character is on the island and has a toothache and uses a rock to knock out his bad tooth?

A week ago, I was ready to do a Tom Hanks.

I was visiting Pagosa Springs (my happy place, but you'd hate it, you should totally never go there), and I had to get help. Black Diamond was the only practice that opened at 7:30am on Monday, so they got the call. Thankfully, they could fit me in that day. I thought I'd be told "this tooth needs to come out," and I was ready to say "SIGN ME UP." To my surprise, Dr. Nylund took a look and said the tooth looked fine, and he didn't like to meddle with teeth that can be saved. He suspected I was grinding my teeth at night, and that was the reason for my pain. He adjusted my bite while I was there and sent me away. I thought, "OK, there's no way that solved my problem...."

How wrong I was! Dr. Nylund had said it should feel better in a couple of days, and you know what? He was RIGHT! It totally worked. Once the pain subsided, I realized how grumpy I'd been for several days running. As soon as I returned home, I started wearing my night guard again. (PSA: Do not stop wearing your night guard if you've got one.)

So if you find yourself in Pagosa and need dental work (again, definitely do not go to Pagosa, it's not for you), go to Black Diamond!

- Krista J

2363 Eagle Dr Unit A, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

970-398-2398

www.blackdiamonddds.com

BLACK DIAMOND DENTAL PAGOSA SPRINGS

Senior

■ continued from previous page

or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Tai chi

Tai Chi classes are held at the Senior Center on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Tai chi is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive a notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox's Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of $6, but no one will be turned away. There is a $10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

Community Cafe menu

Call or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Nov. 19 — Chicken fajitas with tortillas, guacamole, sour cream, salsa, garden salad, fruit, muffin and milk.

Friday, Nov. 20 — BBQ country ribs, green beans, corn casserole, garden salad, fruit, apple crisp and milk.

Monday, Nov. 23 — Ham steak with cherry sauce, scalloped potatoes, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, fig bars and milk.

Tuesday, Nov. 24 — Beef spaghetti, broccoli, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, strawberry angel cake and milk.

Wednesday, Nov. 25 — Turkey and gravy, classic stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, garden salad, pistachio fruit salad, pumpkin spice cake and milk.

Thursday, Nov. 26 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 27 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

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HELPING OTHERS WILL HELP WITH YOUR CHRONIC PAIN



Today's excerpt is a personal account of someone who deals with their own chronic pain by investing time with others.

One of my biggest coping techniques for living with chronic pain is distraction. I like to stay so busy that I don't have time to notice how badly I feel.

Volunteering accomplishes this task and so much more. Volunteering takes us out of ourselves, out of the house, out of our solitary environment and into opportunities to see that we're not alone.

Even if you can't get out of the house, there are many opportunities to volunteer right from your own home.

Pain tends to isolate us from friends and family. We may feel "trapped" in our homes or our own bodies.

Spending time (whether outside the home or volunteering online) outside of ourselves gives us an opportunity to develop/re-establish relationships. Whether it's helping people who are living with pain as well — or anyone in need – from elderly people just in need of a companion to children in need of homework help, volunteering can introduce you to wonderful people you never would have met otherwise I have always volunteered. As a child and teenager, it was at church. As a Marine, I volunteered to serve my country. And later in life, I found a whole community of people living with pain and found that when I help them, I'm actually helping myself. Spending time with such wonderful people in TPC's chat room or discussion forums gives me perspective. I see people who are dealing with so much more than I am and I'm able to pull myself out of the cocoon of pain and my own personal pity party and get back into the world. I've met so many amazing people who give me hope and encouragement and the time I spend volunteering comes back to me ten-fold in renewed strength and motivation.

Source: "Volunteering in Pain." By Carolyn Noel. http://paincommunity.org

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

"...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.
Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.

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Photo courtesy Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

A Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County home is lifted into place. The organization is finishing up its five-year project to triple our historical build capacity, with the completion of four more modular homes this year. Habitat's annual open house event will be held the first week in December.

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County announces open house, community survey

By Leah Ballard and Jenny Highum
Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is finishing up our five-year project to triple our historical build capacity, with the completion of four more modular homes this year. Our annual open house event is being held the first week in December, with both evening and mid-day viewings available.

As part of our application to become designated as a community housing development organization (CHDO) we're expanding the open house event to include a community survey about our finished products.

The community-wide survey includes a questionnaire about exterior aspects of Habitat homes. Additional survey questions are geared specifically toward the community we serve: workforce members earning up to 80 percent of the area median income (AMI) which is about $80,000 for families of one to four individuals, and $100,000 for households of five to eight.

Come see our finished product and learn more about our work in Archuleta County.

The open house will take place at 100 Mansions Circle in Pagosa Springs, with two opportunities to attend:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 3, from noon to 2 p.m.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the homes, learn how Habitat partners with local families to create affordable homeownership opportunities, ask questions and provide feedback on the finished homes and products. Guests can also pick up a program application and connect with Habitat staff and others in the community. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

As a thank you for participating and helping shape future housing initiatives, individuals who complete the CHDO survey will receive a gas card incentive.

"Creating affordable homeownership opportunities takes more than building houses. It takes community involvement, local partnerships and an understanding of the housing needs of the people who live and work here," said Leah Bal-

■ See Habitat on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

ANSWER:

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

Recovery Assistance Center to open, community donation request issued

By Marissa Marquez
Southwest Colorado Cares

The Recovery Assistance Center (RAC) is scheduled to open the week after Thanksgiving, and as we prepare to welcome those in need, we are reaching out to our wonderful community for support through donations.

Our goal is to provide individuals and families affected by the floods with essential household items as they begin the process of rebuilding and recovering.

While other organizations are working hard to provide food and clothing, the RAC will focus on everyday household necessities that can help make life a little easier as families work to get back on their feet. We want to help create a sense of comfort and normalcy as they begin rebuilding their homes.

Donations can be taken to the former Parish Hall at 455 Lewis St. on Nov. 20, 21 and 23 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Donation guidelines

We kindly ask that all donated items be new or gently used and in good, working condition.

Please remember that these items will go directly to families who are working to rebuild their homes and lives. We want to ensure that the items we provide are useful, reliable and something families can feel good about receiving.

In other words, this isn't an opportunity to clean out the basement and pass along that broken microwave. Our goal is to give these families a helping hand by providing quality items they can truly use.

What will not be accepted

Please note that we will not be accepting:

• Food or clothing. We encourage you to bring these donations to our local food pantries or thrift stores, where they can be put to good use.

• Mattresses.

What will be accepted

Items we are accepting include the following.

• Small appliances: microwaves, coffee makers, air fryers, hair dryers, curling irons and hair straighteners, and other small household appliances.

• Kitchen items: pots and pans; dinnerware; cups, mugs, and thermoses.

• Linens and bedding: All donated linens and bedding must be new.

Donating large furniture or appliances

If you have larger furniture pieces or major appliances you would like to donate, we encourage you to use the Love Pagosa website.

This platform helps connect community members who have items to give with individuals and families who are in need of them.

Steps to donate larger items:

1. Visit https://love-pagosa.lovable.app/.

2. Click on "Furniture & Appliance Donations."

3. Select "Offer an Item."

4. Enter your item information.

5. Submit your post.

Rebuilding together, stronger

Our community has been deeply affected by these historic floods, and we know the road to recovery will take time. But if there is one thing these difficult circumstances have reminded us of, it is how special our community truly is. We are strong, resilient and always willing to show up for one another when it matters most.

Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity, compassion and continued willingness to support our neighbors during this difficult time.

Together, we can help our community recover, rebuild and come back stronger.

Library

■ continued from previous page

lard, executive director of Habitat Archuleta. "We hope residents will stop by, tour the homes, ask questions and share their thoughts. Their feedback helps us better understand how we can continue serving our community."

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County works to build a strong and stable community by creating and preserving affordable homeownership opportunities for local residents. Through partnerships with families, volunteers, local businesses, contractors and donors, Habitat brings people together to build homes, community and hope.

For more information, contact Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County at (970) 264-6960, email volunteer@habitatarchuleta.org or visit www.habitatarchuleta.org.





Shop the SUN classifieds.

DIABETES CARE WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

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DOSE
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GESTATIONAL
GLUCAGON
GLUCOMETER
GLUCOSE
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HYPERGLYCEMIA
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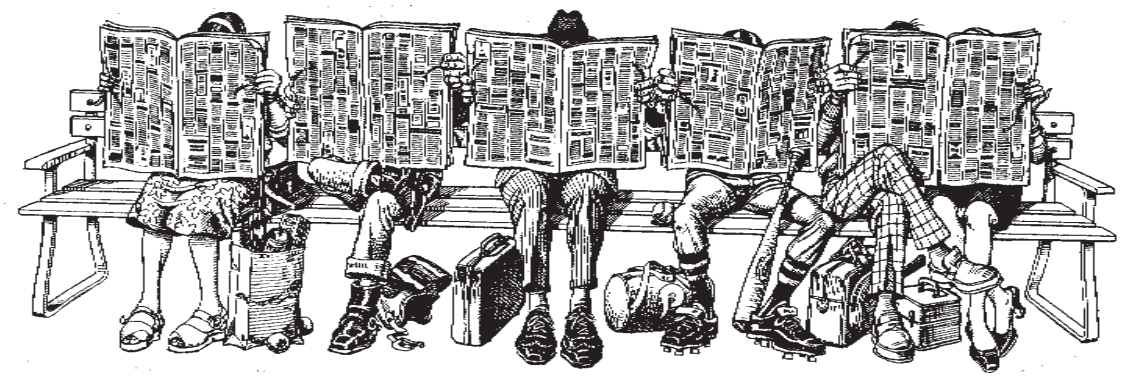
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A lot more water under the bridge

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Artist's Lane

Am I at the right funeral? So, I sprang to my feet, thought I was being humorous, and brought the truth about this person.

There is something about flood waters that brings an element of cleansing, a gentle spirit and a lot of love. Also, with nearing the end of a person's life, meaningful words flow from one's thoughts and generosity bubbles over. The situation catches everything in its path — things that need to be said, and things that have hung on and need to be gone.

Besides all the water under and over the bridge, there is an undercurrent that forces one to see what is relevant, not only with words, but in taking action.

Digging through the water and mud, a team from Centerpoint Church came to help us with our Sheetrock and removing wet installation.

My son said, "I don't know when I've had complete strangers come along to help. I've had so many offers."

When the flood waters rose, my Sweet Al and I were moved to the house of our daughter and her husband. The generosity of our children has made everything OK for us. We are safe and pampered in their home.

Trapped by the flood, being isolated for several days, there were things left undone in order to unify the family. With tenderness, the one focus on everyone's mind, was that they take care of their daddy, who has lived a beautiful life.

My middle daughter said, "I woke up and had to write down the things I need to say at Daddy's services."

My youngest daughter said, "I need to write down what I want to say. I won't be able to read it, but I have things I want to say about Daddy." She took action to write her heartfelt words.

As I listened to them, I thought, that's being wise. When it happens, everyone will be exhausted, emotionally expended and wondering what to say or not. I think it's a good thing to be prepared.

Do I have anything to say? I think I'm going to sit this one out. Everything I've thought about over the years, I've already written in one or more of my articles for my column. Maybe I need to let them plan their dad's services. They have it already figured it out. My job is to enjoy him, and listen to him when he tries to express a thought or two.

I went to a friend's funeral and when they opened the service to everyone, a person spoke with swelling words about this dear soul. I thought, this isn't the person I know; I don't even recognize who she is talking about.

Am I at the right funeral? So, I sprang to my feet, thought I was being humorous, and brought the truth about this person. On the way home, my daughter said, "Mother, a eulogy is supposed to be positive."

I told her, "I was being positive and honest with a lot of love. That other person went on and on what seemed to be 30 minutes. It was as if she was assessing the crawlspace after a horrific flood and wading through the debris, trying to find beauty in the chaos.

To learn how to write a standard eulogy, I went to Wikipedia. A eulogy is read in about three to five minutes. It's a relationship between someone and the deceased. It should give the audience something real to hold onto — not a list of accomplishments, but a relationship that shaped another person.

It also said that the opening line carries the weight. It tells the room what kind of eulogy it will be — serious, warm, funny or mixed. A perfect quote isn't necessary, but it needs something true. It tells the audience about a real person, not a saint.

In these last days, as my Sweet Al sits in his recliner and rocks, waves to me and tells me he loves me, these are the tender moments I want to hold onto. Every time I hold out my hand for him to take it, he bows his head, closes his eyes and begins to pray.

All these years, he has never lost his sweetness and kindness. Two years ago, an accident put us in the same room in the hospital. Not knowing what was going on, he was bound to his bed. When he tried to get out of bed, the alarm went off. I was in the bed next to him. He told the nurse to send a memo to his wife and tell her that he loved her.

When he used my kitchen blender to blend pink deer brains to tan a hide, it didn't feel like love, but it was Al. He became my muse, my angst and the one who drove me up the wall at times, and listened to me for hours. Yes, after, 66 years there's been a lot of water that has run under our bridge, but it's still holding.

A patter, a doer, he showed his love through his actions. His dry wit made me laugh and gave me words to write. He never lost his sweetness as limitations and dementia riddled his body and mind.

Final brushstroke: These last two floods have proven to be more water under the bridge, and more than our little town's river banks and bridges can hold. We are all part of these stories that have made us laugh and cry. These stories are full of warm humor, which gives the room permission to breathe. Each day, we are given breath to breathe and more tender moments.

Send our comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

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CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

PAGOSA AA: 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30p.m. Tuesday Men's meeting 5:30p.m. Tuesday - Thursday, 12 noon, Friday Women's meeting 11:30a.m. Saturday 10a.m. Sunday 10a.m. Sunday Zoom 10a.m. Zoom: ID 858-319-763 password 754-234. For information call Kathi (970)946-1482, Ranza (970)903-3849 or (970)731-9774 or central office (888)333-9649.

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FLOOD- DISPLACED RESTAURANTS — kitchen and bar available at The Colorado Garden Company. If the recent flooding has displaced your restaurant, café, catering business, or food service operation, we may have a place for you. Our commercial kitchen, bar, and covered pavilion at The Colorado Garden Company in Pagosa Springs are available to help local food businesses get back up and running. Temporary or longer-term arrangements considered. Call JP, (970)398-0518.

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

FLOOD- DISPLACED FAMILIES and animals— housing available. We have a home available for families displaced by the recent flooding, including those with pets, horses, or livestock. Our beautiful 3 bedroom/ 2 bathroom home on 35 acres in Alpine Lakes Ranch will be available around Nov. 7. Horse/ cattle pasture, barn, oversized garage, RV parking and storage options. Short or long-term rentals considered. Insurance-funded housing welcome, but not required. Call JP, (970)398-0518.

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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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How do you grow a community? Downtown garden seeks community members to help rebuild

By Lisa Edlund
Pagosa Springs Community Garden

How do you grow community?

This was the question we asked ourselves at the garden located below 5th street on the Riverwalk in downtown Pagosa Springs.

It was post COVID and the garden was not flourishing.

We were a small group of individuals and families who believed we could grow something bigger than a garden. We wanted to create a welcoming, shared space where children could learn and explore, community groups would gather, volunteers could serve, and visitors could get to know our town a little better.

Each summer we have been able to impact more of the community through education, open space, volunteer opportunities and food donation.

We had just begun the design phase of a wellness space and new children's beds. We had a great summer teaching kids about radishes and other edibles in our youth beds. We had seniors helping. Future hopes were to have some yoga sessions and live music nights. Community art was showing up. Compost bins were being built.

This historic flooding has changed everything.

We want the garden to be a place for everyone. We don't lock our gate, and we share harvest and space with our community. Whether you stop by for a quiet lunch on the bench overlooking the river, bring your kiddos and friends to explore and play, or volunteer your time, we want all to enjoy the space, and hope to rebuild and heal together.

Our community has been through a very traumatizing event and natural disaster. The devastating floods that swept through Pagosa and the surrounding communities have forever changed the places we call home. Houses have been destroyed, families displaced, schools disrupted and familiar places we once gathered in have been transformed by the power of our river. The Riverwalk and our park spaces no longer look familiar. Our community is still cut off in many ways, and the work of rebuilding is not even close to being over.

For many of us, the loss cuts deep. We are grieving lost homes, businesses, gathering places and parts of our community that may never look the same. Access to other communities and services has been reduced to the bare minimum. As we begin rebuilding and creating new spaces, it is a reminder of how much we need one another and how important community is for not only survival, but well-being.

Our garden was not spared by the floods. The San Juan River and McCabe Creek confluence destroyed the entire space. The river took with it most of the plants, beds, infrastructure and gathering spaces we had built together. This loss is bigger than the downtown space the garden occupies, and we are not willing to give up on what the garden represents.

Growing community is something we believe in and want to continue. The community must grow the garden now.

As we begin thinking about rebuilding, we don't want to recreate what was there before. The flood has given us an opportunity to reimagine the garden and other spaces with respect for the river and its tendencies. We can rebuild in a way that is more thoughtful, sustainable and flood-wise. We want to explore how this space can become a demonstration and learning environment where we can grow and heal alongside the river. Hope, resiliency, community and preparedness will be a dominating theme.

We are looking to redesign how the garden functions, how the beds are arranged, what materials they are made of, and how the space can best serve our community for the next 100 years. We are looking for two or three additional community members to join our garden leadership in forming a rebuilding garden task force.

You don't need to be a gardening expert. We are looking for people who care about this community and want to help shape our future. We welcome folks with ideas, experience or interest in water engineering, flood-wise design, building and landscape design, education, sustainability, community building, or outreach. We also need people who have connections, fresh perspectives, ideas and a genuine desire to help bring people and resources together.

We are off to a good start and have support from community groups, including Healthy Archuleta, which has been a champion of our garden for several years, the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, our neighbors who kindly included us in their recent clean-up day and Vista Community Garden of the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, which offered us a fallow bed for our yearly garlic planting.

If you would like to be part of this next chapter, we invite you to complete our Community Garden Rebuilding Task Force Interest Form at https://bit.ly/4A8Jrad. You can also request the form or learn more about this rebuilding effort by contacting the garden leadership at lisasnowturtle@gmail.com or Healthy Archuleta at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Whether you are interested in serving on the task force or contributing your time, skills, ideas or resources in other ways, we welcome your involvement. To follow our rebuilding journey, connect with us on Instagram: @pagosagardens.

Let's grow something new together.

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