Town hears update on sewer system
In-depth inspection of pipeline performed — A3

Park Ditch damage discussed
Water conservancy district considers assistance — A3

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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'Honk! the Musical'

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

Curtains Up Pagosa presents the opening performance of "Honk! the Musical" on Thursday, Nov. 19, on the stage at Pagosa Springs High School. The play features a comical, musical look at the tale of The Ugly Duckling.

Governor submits second major disaster declaration

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Friday, Nov. 20, Gov. Jared Polis submitted a second presidential major disaster declaration (MDD) to President Donald Trump following the second round of historic flooding that swept through southwest Colorado late last month and early this month.

According to a Nov. 20 press release from Polis' office, "This second request follows Colorado's October 31 MDD request for flooding that occurred in the same region from October 22 through October 25, which is still pending federal approval. The State had to submit two separate requests because the storms, which began on October 22 and October 29 respectively, are being treated as two distinct weather events by the

■ See Governor A9

Wolf Creek Pass and Colo. 151 reopen, additional emergency relief funds approved for roads

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Over the last week, U.S. 160 over Wolf Creek Pass and Colo. 151 have reopened to traffic, with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) making clear work on the stretches of highway is continuing, as well as on U.S. 160 over the Piedra River.

The agency has also made it clear the work was done with the help of Emergency Relief quick-release funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after CDOT estimated $156 million in flood damage to the region's highways.

Wolf Creek Pass

U.S. 160 over Wolf Creek Pass reopened on Saturday, Nov. 21, though CDOT warns travelers via a Nov. 22 press release to plan ahead and allow at least 60 minutes of additional

■ See Roads A4

Commissioners discuss flood recovery manager position

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Nov. 24, while discussing the 2027 county budget, the board expressed varying viewpoints on the possibility of the county and Town of Pagosa Springs hiring a flood recovery manager.

The town is advertising the position.

Commissioner Warren Brown explained that the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has indicated that grant money may be available to help fund the position with a 50 percent local match to be split by the town and county.

He noted that would come out to approximately $35,000 for the town and county to each have to pay for the position.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez indicated that the position could be filled with a full-time employee or a contractor.

He explained that the bulk of the work would be focusing on process-

■ See Recovery A15

PAWSD talks financials, 2027 budget and rates

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors discussed the district's current financial difficulties, the 2027 budget and approaches to raising more revenue for the district at a Nov. 16 work session.

The discussion opened with PAWSD Comptroller Jack Dossett presenting the district's third-quarter financial statements, which he noted did not cover the impacts of the flooding in Pagosa Springs on PAWSD, which occurred after the period ended.

He stated that general fund revenues were on track to meet the 2026 budget and that the district's insurance, legal and dues, and permit expenses had exceeded expectations.

Dossett indicated that, if the district had to transfer funding from the general fund to one of its water or wastewater enterprise funds, this transfer would likely be limited to around $120,000 due to Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) restrictions, although this number was based on enterprise fund revenue and could vary depending on final revenues for the year.

Dossett then moved to discussing the water enterprise fund, stating that he expects that service fee revenues would likely be around $260,000 less than estimated in August and that they are still listed on the budget at an original, overly high amount.

District Manager Andrew Connor attributed this to the district receiving less Capital Investment Fee (CIF) revenue in 2026 than expected, a deficiency which he stated was further enhanced by the recent flooding and general water saturation making ditches difficult to dig.

Dossett indicated that water rate revenues were also lower than expected, although this was partially due to a calculation error on his part involving drought surcharge revenues.

He added that he estimated that the district would not meet the revenue projections for the end of the year that he had made in August.

Dossett commented that the district's difficulties are enhanced by the fact that its margin for meeting its debt service coverage ratio — a ratio of net operating income to total debt service payments — requirements for its loans was already "razor thin" and, due to the flooding, some projects that the district had delayed to help ensure it would meet the required ratios would have to be done.

"I'm not willing to throw in the

■ See PAWSD A8

Guilty plea entered in Oak Fire case

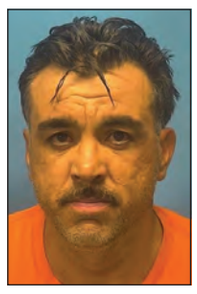
By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

One of the suspects in the 2025 Oak Fire near Pagosa Springs entered a guilty plea during a Nov. 20 court appearance.

Sergio G. Alaniz was previously facing arson charges relating to the fire, which was contained at 75 acres in August 2025.

District Court Judge Justin Fay accepted the plea agreement, through which Alaniz entered guilty pleas to two counts — a county ordinance violation of Ordinance 2017-18 (a civil violation) for burning during stage 1 fire restrictions and criminal mischief (a class one misdemeanor).

The plea stipulates a sentence of 18 months probation, with it being up to Fay upon sentencing whether that probation will be super-



Alaniz

■ See Plea A15

Town council passes second reading of ordinance approving major subdivision

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Nov. 17, the Pagosa Springs Town Council passed the second reading of an ordinance approving a planned development agreement (PD) and zoning map amendment for the Ponderosa Mountain subdivision.

The final passage of the PD comes with two amendments since the council passed the first reading on Oct. 20.

One amendment will limit any dwelling unit in the subdivision to "not exceed 2,800 square feet."

The other will restrict the proposed lodging units (planned as lodging cabins) from being sold individually, "unless the property owner pursues and receives approval for a major subdivision, via a plat amendment."

The subdivision proposes to have its main access point off of U.S 160 and Great West Boulevard, west of downtown, and proposes to fully develop the 70-acre site, in phases, with a mix of residential and commercial lodging units, the application states.

The applicant is listed as Modern Community Builders LLC.

Phase one would include building 82 for-sale residential homes and 82 stand-alone cabins for commercial lodging, equipped with a clubhouse, pickleball courts and a swimming pool, the application states.

At a previous meeting, developer Johnathan Fink explained that 30 homes, out of the total of 82, would "qualify as workforce housing" and would be deed restricted in perpetuity.

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

"There will be no difference in quality between the workforce-dedicated homes and the market-price homes," he said. "All homes will be built to the same standards, and no one will know the difference between them."

For its part, the Pagosa Springs Planning Commission, in September, recommended approval of the PD and zoning amendment to the council.

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

But some on the council and many members of the public have expressed wariness about supporting the proposed development.

At the Oct. 6 town council meeting, when the first reading was first put on the agenda, members of council were leaning toward denying the application for the PD and zoning amendment.

At that meeting, Development Director James Dickhoff urged the council to cite specific criteria in the land use code and the town-adopted comprehensive plan as grounds for a denial

■ See Council A8

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Opinion

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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Moisture	Type	Depth
11/17	49	27	0.00	NA	NA
11/18	47	23	0.25	NA	NA
11/19	50	20	0.00	NA	NA
11/20	46	34	0.00	NA	NA
11/21	38	17	0.02	S	0.10
11/22	44	11	0.12	S	0.30
11/23	34	19	0.00	NA	NA

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Our View

Happy Thanksgiving

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse." — Henry Van Dyke.

It's hard to believe it's already the end of November and we're already in the thick of the holiday season.

The rapid-fire pace of the flooding and its aftermath have made time fly, but they've also made this Thanksgiving feel very different.

There's been a lot of destruction, a lot of loss, a lot of upheaval and a lot of heartbreak.

There are and will be myriad continuing concerns for years to come. Those include, but are certainly not limited to, long-term housing that's available and affordable for our community members who continue to be displaced by flooding. We also do not yet know the toll the effects of the flooding — including on our roads, national forest access and the nationwide focus on the flooding — will have on our tourism and local businesses. We are also left to face how to rebuild the portions of our community that were destroyed by the flooding.

Life is far from perfect. Right now, living in Pagosa Country is difficult for many.

But, we are still filled with gratitude and thanksgiving, and we've been blown away by the thanksgiving and gratefulness we've seen expressed by some we know lost their homes and most of their belongings.

That gratitude has come, in part, from the love shown throughout Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

There has been immeasurable kindness and generosity in this community, manifesting in so many ways. Countless people have offered funding, food, housing, goods, time and so much more to help those who are bearing the brunt of our recent natural disasters.

Countless more both in Pagosa Country and throughout the world continue to show support through messages and fundraising.

Pagosa is the source of and recipient of a lot of love right now.

That love for our community thankfully continues to outweigh the naysayers and complainers who love to tell everyone how they have been personally inconvenienced by Mother Nature (also, here's a friendly reminder that taking breaks from social media to focus on being present in the real world is good for your health).

That love, kindness and support will help us rebuild in a way that's better and more resilient.

And that love — community members stepping up to help those who are in a position of need — helps make a community great and resilient in a way no tangible item or newly constructed feature can.

That's loving Pagosa.

And, it turns out, showing gratitude is good for us individually, as well, making it a no-brainer.

"How can the power of gratitude affect our lives? Recent research has pointed to gratitude's myriad positive health effects, including greater emotional and social well-being, better sleep quality, lower depression risks, and favorable markers of cardiovascular health. Now, new data from the long-term Nurses' Health Study shows that it may extend lives," the Harvard Health blog states before delving into a 2024 study that showed gratitude can help us live longer.

The blog later explains, "Participants with gratitude scores in the highest third at the study's start had a 9% lower risk of dying over the following four years than participants who scored in the bottom third. This did not change after controlling for physical health, economic circumstances, and other aspects of mental health and well-being. Gratitude seemed to help protect participants from every cause of death studied - including cardiovascular disease."

That's what we call an all-around win. By showing gratitude we help others, help ourselves, we're more pleasant to be around and we can live longer.

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual." — Henry David Thoreau.

From all of us here at The SUN, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving full of gratitude and kindness. We are thankful for you.

Randi Pierce

Looking Back



From the Oct. 29, 1987 Pagosa SUN — WELCOME TO PAGOSA — Thanks to local 4-H Club members, visitors to Pagosa Springs will now receive a proper greeting. Those involved in the project are, left to right front row: Dusty Higgins, Lisa Higgins and Randy Crouse. In the second row same order are: Sarah Belarde, Sally Belarde and Chance Birdsall. In the third row left to right are: Lanette Shahan, Kelli Eoff, Duane Shahan, Justin Dermody, Cherie Crane, sponsor Betty Shahan and Mayor Ross Aragon. In the top row are Justin Shahan and Eddie Oldham.

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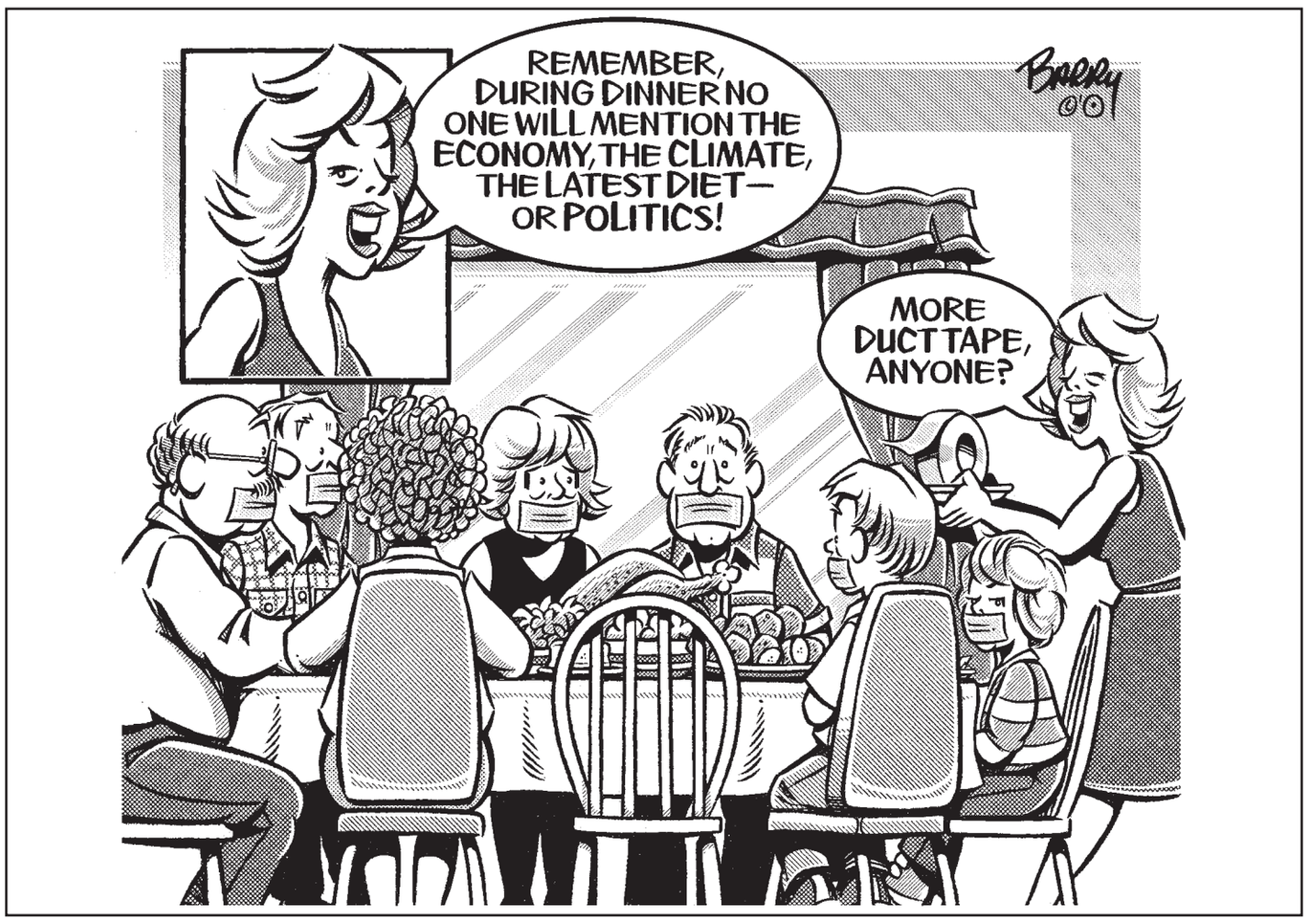

Legacies

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 26, 1926

With $13,000 already realized, and thousands more in sight on alfalfa and sweet clover seed, and with turkeys being shipped out in large numbers, Allison is one of the most busy and prosperous sections in the San Juan basin.

Turkey pickers have been busy the past two weeks and the car load of empty barrels, which was unloaded at Allison about three weeks ago. has been filled with plump turkeys for the Thanksgiving market. Most of the turkeys hare been shipped to Chicago.

Allison is increasing her production of alfalfa and sweet clover seed every year. Not only has the acreage of the growers increased, but the yield per acre is rapidly advancing.

Monday and Tuesday of last week M. A. Lessman was busy supervising the loading of two cars of seed which he bought from the Allison growers for his company, the Ed. F. Maugeldorf and Bros., wholesale field seed dealers of St. Louis, Mo.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 23, 1951

The fifth annual GI Seed and Livestock Show held in Pagosa Springs last Saturday and Sunday was a huge success and many fine exhibits were made. The seed, poultry, poultry products and rabbits were on exhibition at the high school gym and the livestock was shown and judged at the Red Ryder Round-up rodeo grounds.

The Wright and Briar ranch of Pagosa Springs won the grand championship of the livestock division and E.R. Trujillo of Pagosa Springs won the reserve championship in livestock. Robert Cox of Allison won the grand championship of the seeds division with Lester A. Short of Durango winning the reserve championship. Gabriel Abeyta of Tiffany won the poultry products sweepstakes award and cup. The 2 livestock cups were awarded by the Citizen's Bank of Pagosa Springs and the Pagosa Springs SUN.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 25, 1976

Winter is a little late this year in the high country and present indications are that it may be some time before winter is at full scale in the high mountains.

Records for the past ten years indicate that Wolf Creek Ski Area has opened on or before this date six times.

Snowfall reports on Wolf Creek, and in town, show that this year is well behind in normal or average snowfall. There are, of course, the unusual years when snow has been later and has been less, but on a long time average this year just isn't making it for snowfall.

Going back through the weather records of the U.S. Weather Station here in town this year is way behind average. Snowfall average for November in town over that period is 13 inches. To date, there hasn't been a measurable amount of snow in town during November. This could change in a hurry because often early snow storms are heavy storms.

Records show only one November since 1954 when there was less snowfall in town during November than there has been this year. In 1959, there was no recorded snowfall in town. The heaviest snowfall for November during that time was in 1964 when 46 inches fell.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of November 21, 2001

When the Twin Towers disaster struck New York City, an already soft national economy shuddered. What else could happen? Plenty, especially in Pagosa Springs.

Much of Pagosa Springs' economy is propped up by the twin towers of successful hunting and successful skiing. Both depend upon successful weather. Successful weather has missed us. Specifically, we have no snow, high or low. Have our local twin towers tumbled for this season? How has no snow hurt us economically?

Everyone knows you can't ski without snow. Almost everyone knows that deep snow in the high mountains moves elk and deer downslope, concentrating them in areas where hunters can reach them more easily.

Wolf Creek Ski Area obviously exists because of a weather phenomena —prodigious amounts of snow at that location. Because of the predictability of that snow, the ski area attracts thousands of skiers year after year.

Those thousands of skiers lubricate the local economy by spending millions of dollars. Until, unpredictably, along comes a year such as this one, a year when the snow does not come.

No snow, no skiers, no dollars.

Town hears update on sewer system after an in-depth inspection of the pipeline

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Nov. 17, the board of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation and General Improvement District (PSSGID), which also sits as Pagosa Springs Town Council, received its first update on the sewer system since flooding inundated the area.

Public Works Director Nick Freelen was on hand to update the PSSGID board about the results of an in depth-sewer pipe inspection completed using SmartBall technology.

A slideshow presented by Freelen described the inspection as "running a smart ball sensor through the system," which retrieves data.

"The ball contains sensors that can detect flow speed, H2S concentrations, and acoustical signals created by gases," the slide states.

External sensors are attached at predetermined locations to monitor the ball as it travels down the pipeline, Freelen explained.

The test was done "back in August," Freelen said, but the presentation of the results of the inspection got pushed back due to flooding.

He explained that the ball helps detect "numerous types of gas pockets that are trapped in the system, adding that the gas pockets can be caused by pump inefficiencies, leaking air valves and hydrogen sulfide.

He noted there are multiple ways to "attack" these gas anomalies, and the town would likely use a "multiprong approach."

He explained that the first thing the PSSGID needs to do "is to install appropriately sized and designed pumps" for this system.

"This is what we are doing next year. We've already ordered the new pumps, so that should help reduce some of that gas intake," he said.

He added, "We will also need to reduce hydrogen sulfide. That's an issue with our system."

Currently, the PSSGID conveys its wastewater 7 miles uphill, through a series of pump and lift stations, to the Vista wastewater treatment plant, owned and operated by the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD).

Since 2015, the system has been plagued by a series of electrical and pump failures, as well as an aging pipe system.

In November 2025, town voters approved ballot initiative 2A, which created a 1 percent sales tax increase for purchases within town limits to fund critical repairs and improvements to the sewer system.

The funds collected from this sales-tax increase go into a newly created town Sewer Infrastructure and Facilities Fund.

Ultimately, the PSSGID is looking at moving away from this uphill conveyance system and looking to build a new downtown wastewater treatment facility, but a timetable on this development is uncertain at this time, Town Manager David Harris state at a previous meeting.

For now, it is important to stabilize the current system first, before the town begins transitioning to the new system, Harris has explained.

The PSSGID has worked with Roaring Fork Engineering over the past several years to analyze the health of the current system and to help plan for the future development of a downtown plant.

Freelen explained Roaring Fork also helped town staff to analyze the latest SmartBall results and how to make the system more efficient.

He noted the tests ran for "two days," and the "first one" ran from Pump Station 1 to Pump Station 2.

"On the second day we ran it from" Pump Station 2 all the way to PAWSD's Vista wastewater treatment plant, he explained.

The results of the first leg of the tests "were actually really good," he said, with it only revealing "a single gas slug."

He explained that switching the valve type near there "should alleviate that problem on" the Pump Station 1 portion of the force main.

However, the portion of the test running from Pump Station 2 to the Vista plant showed "this is where we see a lot of our gas pockets," he said.

"This is where we are really going to be focusing most of our attention, figuring out how to address these problems," he added. "This is going to be the portion of the pipeline most at risk of having a failure due to these air pockets."

The main problem in this section is that the wrong types of valves were installed and that the PSSGID will be changing these out, he noted.

"That should start alleviating our problems of the gas," he said.

The presentation showed that the total estimated cost amount for the recommended fixes to the air valves came in at $256,979.

"I'm not asking for money tonight," he explained, adding he wanted to make the board aware of what would be coming up.

When opened to questions from the board, board president Shari Pierce asked for an updated timeline on the sewer pump replacements, described as the "first thing we need to do."

Freelen said that the first set of pumps "are on a boat coming across the Atlantic right now, so those should be coming in in the next few weeks."

He added, "Following that will be the remaining four pumps, and we still have not gotten a hard date on that, last I've checked."

He continued, "Obviously, the first thing we need to do is get the pumps in, and even if they start in spring it's gonna be through summer that they are working on that, getting it done," he said.

Board member Gary Williams asked if it was the air in the system that caused the old pumps to fail.

Freelen explained that the main problem stems from "the load it puts on the pipe. It essentially creates a vacuum."

Mainly, "we are concerned with the structural integrity of the pipe itself," he added.

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Water conservancy district discusses Park Ditch damage

By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At its Nov. 16 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors discussed flood damage and repair strategies for the Park Ditch, an irrigation ditch system that runs through the Running Iron Ranch, where the district aims to build a reservoir.

SJWCD board president Randy Cooper explained to the board that members of the Park Ditch Company, the company that oversees maintenance of the ditch and is composed of landowners who own shares in the ditch, met on Nov. 10 to discuss damage to the ditch, which currently cannot distribute water due to flood damage.

He stated that, if no repairs are made, no water will be available for irrigation on the ranches that use the ditch.

Cooper indicated that the ditch company decided to hire an engineer to assess the damage, what repairs would be necessary and what it might cost so that the ditch company could start applying for grants.

"There's a lot of damage and a lot of work involved, but if they could get to it fairly soon, given the time before summer, they will get water back in the ditch next summer," he said. "It's going to take a lot of work to get there."

SJWCD board treasurer Joe Tedder asked how the ditch company is structured in terms of its ability to receive grants and other funds, citing his previous involvement with work on the Echo Ditch, where the company was not capable of applying for grants.

Cooper and SJWCD board member Candace Jones explained the structure of the company and how it is composed of members who own shares in the ditch, with Jones adding that the company might or might not be eligible for grants depending on the specific grant program.

Tedder clarified that he is also concerned about the Park Ditch Company's capability to successfully administer grant funds.

Jones stated that she was not sure how capable the company would be at administering grant funds and that this discussion would need to be had with the Park Ditch Company officers.

Tedder asked if the board wanted to initiate this conversation, and Cooper replied that the district has open conversations with the company and that Jones had provided them with a list of potential grant options.

Jones stated that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief funding excludes damage to agriculture, but that there are potentially some limited funding options for long-term repairs through other sources like the Colorado Water Conservation Board or the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"It's like dialing for dollars," she said. "Everybody's looking for what programs might cover what kind of damage, and it's going to be a patchwork and it's going to require matching funds. ... Joe, to your point, it is tedious. It's not necessarily complicated, but it is tedious and it's going to take time."

"If they haven't done it before ... a $2 million or $3 million is not something that you want to be writing your first grant for," Tedder said.

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

U.S. 160 reconstruction team offers answers to frequently asked questions

Colorado Department of Transportation and WW Clyde

As the 2026 construction season comes to a close, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and WW Clyde are transitioning the U.S. 160 reconstruction project into winter shutdown.

While major construction activities will pause during the colder months, the project team will maintain a presence in Pagosa Springs, monitor conditions throughout the project area and prepare for the final phase of construction in spring 2027.

Winter shutdown and project schedule

• When does the project officially enter winter shutdown?

The project entered winter shutdown the week of Nov. 23. Major construction activities will pause until spring, when weather and ground conditions are more favorable for completing the remaining work.

• Why is construction shutting down for the winter?

Winter weather, freezing temperatures, snowfall and ground conditions limit the types of construction activities that can be performed safely and effectively.

Pausing major construction operations during the winter helps protect the quality and integrity of the improvements being made while supporting safe travel through the project area.

• When will construction resume?

The project team anticipates resuming construction in March or April 2027, depending on snowfall, temperatures, ground conditions and other weather-related factors. A more specific restart date will be communicated to the community as spring approaches.

• Is the project expected to be completed in 2027?

Yes. The upcoming construction season is anticipated to be the final phase of the U.S. 160 reconstruction project. The team will return in spring 2027 to complete the remaining construction activities and associated finishing work. Additional details regarding the completion will be shared prior to spring construction.

Remaining construction activities

• What work remains to be completed in spring 2027?

While significant progress has been made over the past two construction seasons, several areas require additional work.

Remaining construction activities include improvements along the south side of US 160 and at the following intersections: 5th Street, 6th Street, 7th Street, 8th Street, 10th Street and the Harman Park/Piedra Road area.

The project team will provide more detailed information regarding traffic impacts of these activities before construction resumes.

• Will all remaining construction areas be worked on at the same time?

The project team will evaluate the sequencing of remaining construction activities to balance construction efficiency, safety, traffic mobility, and access to local businesses and properties.

Winter maintenance and snow removal

• Will construction crews remain in Pagosa Springs during the winter shutdown?

Although major construction activities will pause, the project team will maintain an on-site presence throughout the winter to monitor the project area, assess conditions and address construction-related concerns as necessary.

Residents and businesses may occasionally see project personnel or equipment within the corridor

■ See Reconstruction A14

Happy holidays from your U.S. 160 project team.

As we enter our winter construction shutdown and reflect on another year of progress, the Colorado Department of Transportation and WW Clyde would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the entire Pagosa Springs community.

We recognize that two seasons of construction have brought challenges to daily life, particularly for our downtown businesses and residents. Your patience, flexibility, understanding and willingness to work alongside us have not gone unnoticed. We are genuinely grateful for the cooperation and kindness you have extended to our team.

Over the past two years, Pagosa Springs has become much more than a project location for us. It is a community where our team members work, shop, dine, build friendships and share in local traditions. We have come to appreciate the people, businesses and unique character that make Pagosa Springs such a special place. We are proud to be a part of this community and to contribute to its future.

As we pause construction for the winter, we hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the season, spend time with loved ones and celebrate all that makes this community so remarkable.

From all of us at CDOT and WW Clyde, thank you for welcoming us into your community and for being our partners throughout this journey. We wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and joyful holiday season and a wonderful new year.

Building a better main street, together.

Warmest holiday wishes,
Your U.S. 160 reconstruction project team
Colorado Department of Transportation and WW Clyde

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Roads

■ Continued from front

travel time between Pagosa Springs and South Fork due to ongoing road repair work.

CDOT explains motorists will encounter up to 20 minute delays and 24/7 single-lane alternating traffic guided by temporary signals at three separate locations (mile posts 151, 175 and 176).

Motorists are urged to slow down and be alert while navigating shifting traffic patterns and narrow or reduced lanes with concrete barriers in place between Treasure Falls and the Wolf Creek summit (mile posts 160 to 162).

Colo. 151

Colo. 151 reopened to travel the evening of Monday, Nov. 23, with CDOT explaining on Nov. 22 crews had been working 24/7 for the past 20 days to reconstruct the highway.

CDOT advises that the entire stretch of Colo. 151 from Ignacio to the rebuilt stretch of highway (mile points 0 to 31) is considered a managed construction zone.

Ongoing maintenance is taking place at several locations along the entire stretch of highway, CDOT explains. Temporary speed reductions will be in effect at all active work zone sites. Motorists must abide by 25 mph speed limits where flaggers are present, or 45 mph where a physical barrier is present. Motorists are urged to be alert to decreases in speed limits as they approach work zones and allow for extra travel time.

"We urge travelers to be attentive and extremely cautious, particularly on Highway 151," said Regional Transportation Director Julie Constan via the press release. "This is a two-lane, rural highway that meanders through several small communities, farms and ranches. The road is curvy and hilly in areas with limited sight distance and hidden driveways. Please take it slow."

CDOT also warns that livestock and wildlife are active along this corridor, especially at dawn, dusk and nighttime, and maintaining slower speeds is essential.

U.S. 160 at Piedra River

U.S. 160 at the Piedra River bridge remains closed between Durango and Pagosa, with plans to have a one-lane configuration prior to Christmas, according to CDOT.

CDOT notes the southerly bypass along Colo. 151 and Colo. 172 via Ignacio takes approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes between Pagosa Springs to Durango.

"CDOT is prioritizing a phased restoration process to open this critical route to motorists as soon as possible," the press release notes. "A temporary road is being constructed and will first be open to one-lane alternating traffic once completed. A temporary bridge supporting two-way traffic will be placed ahead of spring runoff, with permanent bridge construction anticipated to be complete by early 2028."

CDOT further notes that travel times along these routes could be impacted by ongoing construction work or winter weather conditions.

Motorists are reminded to visit COtrip.org or utilize the COtrip Planner App for the most current construction impacts and road conditions.

Additional $9.1 million in quick release funds approved

On Monday, Nov. 23, the state and CDOT announced the FHWA has approved $9.1 million in additional quick-release Emergency Relief funds to help repair highways and eligible local roads damaged by back-to-back storms in Southwest Colorado.

The funding comes as CDOT updated its estimate of flood damage to $156 million, up from an initial estimate of $65 million after the first storm. The second estimate accounts for the second consecutive weekend of flooding that impacted southwest Colorado.

Funding through the FHWA is separate from funding requested through the governor's second presidential major disaster declaration request that was submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency last on Friday, Nov. 20.

For more on that request, see related article.

The $9.1 million is in addition to the $6.5 million FHWA approved earlier this fall due to damage from the year's first flood, bringing the total quick release funding to $15.6 million.

The state notes that $15.6 million includes $600,000 for county roads, which is 10 percent of an estimated $6 million in damage to local roads.

CDOT requested the funds on behalf of the counties and will be working with counties to identify damages that will be eligible for this federal program as damage assessments continue to be conducted, it notes.

"I am thankful for these additional emergency funds from the Federal Highway Administration. Getting this funding now means that construction crews can do more emergency repairs ahead of winter. Southwest Colorado has been impacted by multiple devastating floods, and fixing roads and highways is an important part of getting back on our feet," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"Southwest Colorado has been dealing with major impacts, not only with their roads but their everyday lives, and we're grateful to the Federal Highway Administration for moving so quickly on this second round of immediate funding," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "These dollars let our crews and contractors keep working on emergency repairs without delay, and have already been critical in achieving key milestones like getting Wolf Creek Pass and Colo. 151 open before Thanksgiving. We truly appreciate the quick attention from FHWA and the continued support from Sen. [Michael] Bennet, Sen. [John] Hickenlooper and Congressman [Jeff] Hurd."

The $156 million figure is an estimate, and CDOT staff expressed that it expects the figure to change as inspections and assessments continue.

The $156 million total request to the federal government will be augmented by $20 million in state emergency contingency funds authorized by the Colorado Transportation Commission. CDOT has stated it will request additional federal Emergency Relief funding as damage is verified.

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Obituary

Mary Louise Bowdridge (Price)

Mary Louise Bowdridge (Price), passed away on July 16, 2026, in Pagosa Springs, Colo. She was born on April 25, 1947, in North Dakota, and carried with her throughout life the deep roots of family and the warmth of the memories made there.



Mary Lou graduated from Barstow High School with the class of 1965. She went on to build a steady and hardworking career, spending 20 years with an insurance company before working for Deloss Equipment Rental in Barstow, Calif., until her retirement in 2016. She was also a Soroptimist member for many years and found great joy in supporting the women in her club. Each year, she crocheted a beautiful tree skirt to match the theme of their fashion show tree, which was then auctioned off, sharing both her talent and her generous spirit with others.

She was witty and deeply devoted to her family, loving her children and grandchildren fiercely. Her proudest accomplishments were her children and grandchildren, and she was more proud of them than anything else. Mary Lou loved "Star Trek," read avidly and enjoyed books of nearly every kind. She loved to crochet and to watch television, and through her hands she created amazing blankets, tablecloths, doilies and runners that became lasting expressions of her care.

Mary Lou grew up in North Dakota surrounded by family, and those early bonds remained close to her heart. Her family treasures the laughter they shared, especially one unforgettable trip to the dump to see the bears, driving the car under the gate and being scared half to death before laughing so hard they nearly cried. Her grandchildren knew her as a grandmother who delighted in their happiness. She made New Year's Eve nachos with Cody every year until he moved. She loved doing whatever made the grandkids happy, whether that meant building Popsicle stick houses, making peppermint candy, or sneaking them soda when their parents were not looking. These are the moments that will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved her.

She is survived by her sons, Matthew Bowdridge and Peter "Pete" Bowdridge, and by her daughters-in-law, Cheryl Bowdridge and Johannah Tully. She also leaves behind a beloved circle of grandchildren: Cody Bowdridge and September; Brooke Miller and Jeremiah; Tyler Bowdridge and Devin; Kenzy Bowdridge; and Ryan, Garrett and Kolby Elliot. Her family also includes her great-grandchildren, Brayden, Axeton, Huntlee, and Colton. In addition, she is lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her father, Donald Price; her mother, Ruth Price; her sisters, Nancy Faust and Sally Price; her brother, Donald Price Jr.; and her daughter, Gail Hohimer.

Mary Lou will be remembered for her sharp wit, her generous heart, her creativity, and the way she made family life brighter, sweeter and more fun. The things she made with her hands and the memories she made with her love will remain with her family always."

Obituaries

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

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

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

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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
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Scan the QR Code for a list of suggested food items

Bring non-perishable food items
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Business

County's unemployment rate rises to 4.6 percent in October

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

According to a Nov. 20 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), Archuleta County's unemployment rate moved to 4.6 percent in October, up from September's figure of 4.0 percent.

Archuleta County's labor force totaled at 6,566 with 305 unemployed in October, according to the report. That compares to a labor force of 6,424 in September, with 256 unemployed.

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased three-tenths of a percentage to 4.4 in October, the report notes.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals increased by 7,300 to 139,200 from September to October.

The report also notes, "Colorado's labor force increased by 4,300 in October to 3,183,700. The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 65.3 percent in October, one-tenth of a percentage point higher than in September. The October rate of 65.3 percent is slightly higher than last month's rate, which was the lowest participation rate on record going back to 1976 (65.2 percent, September 2026). The U.S. labor force participation rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 61.9 percent in October."

The national unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percent to 4.1 percent from September to October.

Costilla County had the highest unemployment rate in the state for October with 8.8 percent, followed by Huerfano County at 7.9 percent and Otero County at 7.1 percent.

Regionally, the report shows La Plata County with a 4.4 percent unemployment rate in October, San Juan County at 4.3 percent, Mineral County at 5.3 percent, Hinsdale County at 4.7 percent, Rio Grande County at 5.4 percent and Conejos County at 4.8 percent.

Job loss, growth

"Employers in Colorado lost 5,700 nonfarm payroll jobs from September to October for a total of 2,970,300 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs decreased by 6,100, while government increased by 400," the report notes.

The report also states, "September estimates were revised up to 2,976,000, and the over the month change from August to September was an increase of 4,600 jobs rather than the originally estimated increase of 2,400 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates)."

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

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

- Financial activities with about 1,000 jobs.
- Education and health services with about 1,000.

The private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job losses in October were:

- Leisure and hospitality with about 3,200 jobs.
- Construction by about 3,200.
- Other services by about 2,300.
- Information by about 1,000.

Since October 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased by 9,300, with the private sector increasing by 11,700 and government decreasing by 2,400 jobs.

The largest private-sector job gains were:

- Education and health services by about 15,800 jobs.
- Professional and business services by about 6,000.
- Construction by about 2,400.
- Leisure and hospitality by about 1,000.

During that same period, payroll jobs declined in:

- Information by about 4,500 jobs.
- Financial activities by about 3,100.
- Other services by about 2,400.
- Trade, transportation and utilities by about 2,000.
- Manufacturing by about 1,100.

"Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 0.3 percent, below the U.S. rate of 0.6 percent," the report notes.

The report further notes that, over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased to 33.4 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from $39.76 to $40.33 — $2.33 more than the national average hourly earnings of $38.

randi@pagosasun.com

Love Pagosa App connects neighbors with volunteers, donations and lost belongings

By Jenelle Syverson
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation and Pagosa Springs Main Street, has launched Love Pagosa, a free web-based app that helps neighbors and businesses help one another as the community recovers and rebuilds.

The app brings three much-needed services together in one place, and anyone with a phone or computer can use it. It is designed to fill the gaps that have otherwise been posted on social media, so please share it with family, friends and neighbors.

- Volunteers and jobs: The first component connects volunteers with the work that needs doing. Residents, property owners and local businesses can post a job, such as debris cleanup or shoveling mud. Community members who are ready to pitch in can then sign up for those jobs. The Chamber encourages everyone to take part on both sides. If you need a hand, add your job. If you have a few hours to give, sign up to volunteer. New friendships have already been forged this way. Please note, due to liability, demolition and reconstruction needs are not covered through the app and must be referred to licensed professionals.
- Large donations: The second component matches people who need large household items with people who have them to give. Categories include furniture, appliances, beds and mattresses, kitchen and dining items, household items and linens. Anyone with a truck and willing to help deliver can also sign up in the app to contribute delivery services for those not able to move these large items. The app connects the three directly.
- Lost and found: The third component helps reunite people with belongings swept away by the flooding. Anyone who has found items that washed up can post them. Anyone who has lost something can search the listings and post what they are missing. A photo, a description and the location where an item was found or lost can help make the match.

In it for the long haul

Love Pagosa is planned to run until the need is filled, most likely through summer. Many properties will still need these services after bridges and roads have been rebuilt. Winter weather may also delay projects or limit access until then.

We are here to rebuild our community, because there is no community without business and no business without community.

To add a job, volunteer, post or request an item, or check lost and found, visit love-pagosa.lovable.app.

Commissioners approve housing action plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a housing action plan (HAP) which "functions as a shared set of strategies for the [Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County] to implement when coordinating on how to respond to evolving community housing needs," the agenda states.

The BoCC approved the HAP by a 2-1 vote, with commissioners John Ranson and Warren Brown voting in favor, and Commissioner Veronica Medina voting against.

"This HAP fulfills the requirements of Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) § 24-32-3705 and draws from findings associated with the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) adopted in April 2025. This HAP focuses on strategies for housing in both Archuleta County and Town of Pagosa Springs while also considering partnerships and coordination frameworks between the two jurisdictions," the agenda states.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that the HAP was presented to the Pagosa Springs Town Council and BoCC during a joint meeting during August for feedback and then presented again in September.

The agenda also explains that the HAP framework revolves around five different clusters, those being:

- Create new funding streams.
- Remove barriers to building housing.
- Support affordable housing preservation efforts.
- Organize partnerships.
- Expand housing resources and education.

Brown offered comments of praise for the work put into the HAP by the town, county and various stakeholders, adding that it is not a "one-size-fits-all plan," but that "it is one plan that is inclusive of all that are concerned."

Ranson echoed Brown's comments, while also noting the work by Multi-jurisdictional Housing Coordinator Jeff Sams on the project.

Medina expressed similar comments about the work put into the project, but added, "I see things just a little bit different."

"I feel like, we as a board, could have had an actual meeting… and discussed what's in this plan," Medina said, explaining that would've allowed the commissioners to add their "expertise and knowledge" into the plan.

Medina pointed out the plan acknowledges all the entities that were a part of the "strategy" work group for the plan, "but I don't know how much input that we really had."

Medina mentioned that she felt she could've done a better job in expressing some different views on the plan.

Brown motioned to approve the HAP, which was seconded by Ranson, with both voting in favor and Medina voting against the matter.

According to the attached HAP summary, "We have had a lot of community engagement throughout this process. Our Strategic Work Group of about 25 people met several times and contributed a lot of time and thought into these strategies. We also held open houses to get community input. Through these we were able to incorporate ideas into the HAP strategies."

The approved HAP can be viewed in its entity online at www.archuletacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026-Archuleta-Pagosa-Springs-Housing-Action-Plan.pdf.

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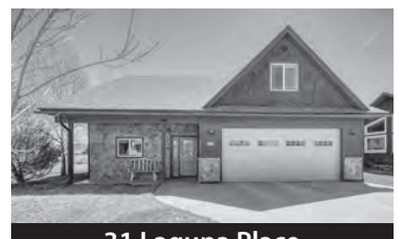

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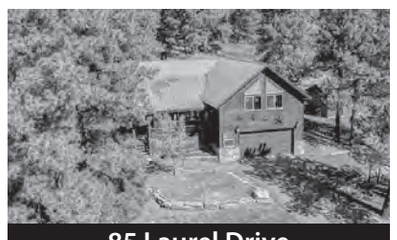

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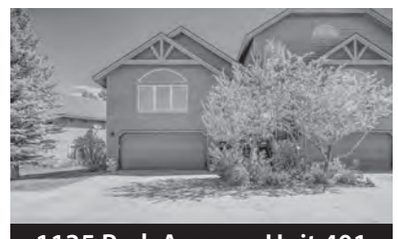

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Show unity.

A message from The Pagosa Springs SUN
an O'Rourke Media Group publication

Education

School district approves cost-of-living supplement for staff

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its meeting held on Nov. 11, the Archuleta School District Board of Education (BoE) unanimously approved a cost-of-living supplement for all part-time and full-time employees for the 2026-2027 school year.

According to the meeting's agenda, "Administration proposes issuing a Cost of Living Supplement of $2500 for all full- and part-time employees. This would be distributed in two installments: the first in November 2026 and the second in May 2027, and drawn from the restricted reserves fund."

Superintendent Rick Holt explained that one of the reasons he was hired "was to ensure that salary got a fair and competitive wage."

Holt mentioned that every year he's been here the district has been "fighting hard" to squeeze the budget in order to be able to add a percent increase to all staff salaries.

"This current year was an exception," Holt said, noting declining enrollment as a reason for the district not being able to include a cost-of-living percentage salary increase this year.

Holt noted that the district was unable to do anything other than a "step increase" that all staff receive with a year of experience, describing that as a "nominal amount of funding."

Holt explained that he spoke with the district's salary committee last spring in anticipation of the current situation.

"We do have availability of onetime funds in reserves that could be spent in this manner," Holt said in regard to the cost-of-living supplement.

He mentioned that the committee was asked how the supplement should be dispersed, whether that be a percentage of each employee's salary or a flat amount for all employees.

"And the salary committee overwhelmingly said it should be a flat amount," he said.

Holt explained that he and finance director Eric Burt reviewed the available funds and determined that a total of $2,500 could be dispersed per employee.

Holt clarified that excludes stipend and coaching positions, the superintendent, and substitute positions.

"But it's all other full, and half-time positions," he said.

Holt explained the proposal is to distribute the cost-of-living supplement in two payments, one in November and one in May 2027.

He also explained that in addition to the cost-of-living supplement, the district will have to pay 21 percent into Colorado's Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA), and 1.5 percent to Medicare.

He mentioned that employees will not receive the full amount of the cost-of-living supplement as it will be considered part of their salaries for this year.

Burt explained that 233 individuals in the district qualify for the supplement, totaling at $583,000.

He explained that the district's PERA payment would be around $125,000 and its Medicare payment would be around $85,000, bringing the total cost to around $720,000 for the district.

"So, essentially, this is a cost-of-living supplement in lieu of what we ... typically done as a percent salary increase across all salary schedules," Holt said.

BoE member Tim Taylor asked if the district's auditor approved the spending, to which Holt responded, "That's correct."

BoE member Amanda Schick commented that there is "no doubt" about staff being deserving of the supplement, but that "we just keep talking about money," highlighting the importance of understanding what funds can be spent on specific uses.

"It feels good to be able to do this," Schick said.

Holt mentioned that these funds cannot be used on capital projects, and that the reserves being used are intended to be spent on salaries and staff payments.

BoE president Bob Lynch commented that this seems like a "good thing to do now without permanently impacting the budget."

Safe2Tell sets record with nearly 98 percent of reports submitted in good faith

Colorado Attorney General's Office

Safe2Tell received 29,302 reports during the 2025-26 school year, the second-highest total in program history, with a record 97.6 percent submitted in good faith, according to the annual report released by the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

Those reports prompted more than 10,700 parent and guardian notifications and 3,600 welfare checks, while helping connect students with mental health support more than 5,100 times.

"When a student speaks up about a friend who is struggling or a threat to their school, they're doing something that takes courage and compassion," said Attorney General Phil Weiser. "Nearly 30,000 times last school year, someone chose to take that step. Behind those reports are thousands of examples of schools, law enforcement and mental health professionals stepping in to help. That's what Safe2Tell is all about — looking out for one another and making sure students don't have to face difficult situations alone."

Report highlights record good-faith reporting

While overall reporting declined 6 percent from the previous year's record of 31,177 reports, the percentage of reports submitted in good faith reached its highest level since Safe2Tell began consistently tracking data in the 2015-2016 school year, when the program joined the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

Misuse reports, which fall outside Safe2Tell's intended purpose, accounted for just 0.6 percent of submissions, tying the lowest rate on record. Deliberately false reports, submitted to mislead or cause harm, accounted for another 1.8 percent, the second-lowest rate in program history.

School safety (5,177 reports), mental health (4,547), and bullying and harassment (4,407) were the most frequently reported concerns, together accounting for nearly half of all reports received during the school year.

"The fact that nearly 98 percent of reports are submitted in good faith tells us that students and community members are taking Safe2Tell seriously," said Safe2Tell Director Stacey Scardino. "School safety, mental health and bullying continue to be the concerns we hear about most often. These reporting trends help us better understand the challenges students are facing and where to focus our outreach and education efforts."

Safe2Tell reports prompt action and support

In addition to connecting families with information and students with mental health support, Safe2Tell reports prompted other interventions during the school year.

Colorado schools and law enforcement also reported 546 suicide assessments, 293 threat assessments, 46 arrests and 2,316 school disciplinary actions in response to Safe2Tell reports.

Because a single report can prompt multiple interventions, these outcomes reflect the range of actions local response teams take to address concerns.

The annual report also highlights the difference a single report can make.

In one case highlighted in the annual report, a student submitted a Safe2Tell report out of concern that a friend might hurt themselves. After the friend was connected with help, the student sent a message thanking Safe2Tell for its quick response.

"You seriously made a huge difference. I'm really grateful," the student wrote in a message paraphrased to protect their privacy.

The full 2025-2026 Safe2Tell Annual Report, available at https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/11/Safe2Tell-Annual-Report-25-26-Final.pdf, includes additional reporting trends, outcomes, and information about statewide outreach and education efforts.

October Safe2Tell report: 3,210 reports received

The office also released the October Safe2Tell Monthly Report, showing 3,210 reports submitted during the month.

The most frequently reported concerns were school safety (18.5 percent), mental health (16.7 percent), bullying (15.9 percent) and substance use (10.7 percent). Duplicate reports, which occur when multiple people report the same concern, accounted for 11.1 percent of submissions.

Since the 2026-2027 school year began Aug. 1, 97.9 percent of reports have been valid, while false reports accounted for 1.6 percent and misuse reports accounted for 0.4 percent.

Recent examples demonstrate how reports can connect students with support:

• Mental health: A person reported concerns about a student experiencing depression and self-harm after seeing a social media post. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check and spoke with the student's parent. The school completed a suicide assessment, and a counselor arranged to meet with the student weekly.

• Bullying: A person reported that a student was being bullied and targeted by rumors, causing anxiety and reluctance to attend school. School officials investigated, contacted both students' parents, took disciplinary action, and implemented a no-contact order.

A full breakdown of all categorical data is available in the Safe2Tell October 2026 Monthly Report at https://

■ See Safe A8

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Council

■ Continued from front

if it were going to deny the proposal.

This came after some on the council expressed that they just did not like the development based on "feeling" and after many members of the public spoke out against the development during public comment.

The decision was ultimately continued by the council, and when it came back before the body on Oct. 20, for the first reading, it passed the council 5-2, with council members Leonard Martinez and Mat deGraaf voting against the measure.

But when it came back for the second reading on Nov. 17, after two historic flood events hit the community, Council Member Gary Williams had changed his tune, now siding with Martinez and deGraaf.

Williams, who had previously voted in favor of the development, explained he was now "hesitant to move forward with this subdivision."

He cited "sewer capacity" as his main reason, saying that he had originally thought that all the town's recent and ongoing upgrades to the system could easily handle the new development.

However, "since then, we've had two floods ... and I've been asked not to flush my toilets, not to take long showers ... because our sewer system was incapable of handling the flood and the current load."

He explained that he now did not want to add more of a load to the sewer system that is "currently stressed," adding that the floods have led him to believe that "we are losing ground, not gaining ground, on the sewer system."

He added, "Until we can confidently feel like our sewer system is capable of withstanding natural disasters ... and the regular demand on the system, I don't think we should approve any new subdivision in town."

Martinez chimed in that his stance on opposing the development had not changed, asking, "How would this help us diversify our economy?"

Martinez has expressed concern that the lodging unit aspect of the development would add to what he sees as the problem of "putting all our eggs in one basket" regarding the tourist economy.

He has called the reliance on tourism "a single-point of failure" for the community if that industry all of a sudden dries up.

He, instead, has advocated for diversifying the local economy.

"I'm not a supporter of this project," he said," agreeing with Williams that he'd support some sort of "moratorium" on major subdivisions until the town's sewer infrastructure could be secured and built with growth in mind.

But council member Brooks Lindner also had not changed his mind, citing that all of the town codes and its comprehensive plan had been followed by the developer, working closely with town staff.

"This development adhered to the available criteria," adding that it would get very confusing to staff and other potential developers "if they go through all the work and approval criteria ... and then we say no," he said, adding, "I think that starts to erode trust in the bond we have with staff for future council business."

Mayor Shari Pierce, who expressed in a previous meeting that this is "not my favorite development," said that she just wants "to follow the rules," adding that she didn't see any criteria based on the code to oppose it.

Martinez expressed that he'd like to revisit both the Land Use and Development Code and the comprehensive plan.

Pierce said, "We have to follow our rules" in place right now, and if the council wants to consider changing the rules, that would be a separate consideration from the one before the council at that meeting.

Council member Madeline Bergon clarified that the council's approval tonight did not mean it's "full steam ahead" for the development and that there are still "multiple steps that would need to be completed" before construction could actually begin.

Fink told the council that it would likely be 2028 before any construction is started.

Planning Manager Owen O'Dell also explained that "there's still the biggest step that needs to be completed, and that is the preliminary plan of the subdivision, in which they will be doing all the engineering for road networks, sanitation, water, fiber, electricity, all of that engineering."

He said all of that has to be "hashed out" by that point, and "they have to be able to quantify what they are gonna need and be able to pay for those infrastructure improvements ... and then there's still the final plan."

Dickhoff added, "If there's any deficiencies in the infrastructure that is needed to serve that subdivision, then they need to upgrade that infrastructure."

He also said the preliminary plan would also be coming before the planning commission and then town council "for their consideration."

He said that the preliminary approval would have a list of contingencies that the developer would need to fix before its final plan is approved, as well.

When a motion to deny the ordinance was made, it was supported by Martinez and deGraaf, but opposed by the other five members.

A new motion was made in favor of the ordinance and it was passed 5-2, with Martinez and deGraaf opposing the measure.

PAWSD

■ Continued from front

towel because we do have commitments that are required by our debt covenant if we don't meet our debt coverage, but I think it's fair for us to start thinking about that today that we're really at risk," Dossett said.

PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh mentioned that the board had previously considered imposing a onetime surcharge to shore up the district's debt service coverage ratio, although staff had indicated that this was not necessary at the time, and questioned if the board should consider imposing one now to cover the current shortfalls.

Connor stated that he did not generally support surcharges, but that staff could look into seeing if this option would be possible and feasible.

Dossett added that he was not sure if a onetime surcharge would be considered part of the district's operating revenues by its debt covenants.

He stated that he believes that the district would still be able to make its debt payments in 2027 and that he was not willing to commit at the meeting to the district failing to meet its debt covenant requirements, although he did want to point out the possibility.

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones commented that he appreciated Dossett's focus on the issue and the detailed information he provided.

Dossett stated that the district's fuel costs would likely exceed the budget due to cost increases for fuel.

Connor added that this could also be impacted by the district potentially having to change its operations of the San Juan water treatment plant due to flooding.

Connor also stated that he would not be able to commit to some of the cuts the district had previously planned to make to the water line and raw water line maintenance due to flooding damage that would now need to be repaired.

Dossett commented that the ratio of the district's operating income to its expenses for the water enterprise is healthy, but that its large debt load and payments is what is helping cause its issues with debt service coverage ratios.

He stated that CIF revenue for wastewater was also under expectations, as was revenue from waste haulers who bring waste to PAWSD for treatment.

However, he added that there is not the "big scare" for the wastewater enterprise fund compared to the water enterprise fund.

Following a discussion of the mechanics of the district's agreement to treat wastewater from the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) and how the treatment charges in this agreement respond to inflation, Dossett highlighted again the district's debt service covenant risks due to the flooding and lack of revenues.

Dossett also commented that he is concerned about how much debt the district has compared to its revenues and that this would need to be monitored carefully in the future.

Connor added that many of the district's large upcoming expenses, such as plant modifications required by state or federal regulations, are not in the district's control and are required for regulatory compliance.

Dossett moved on to changes to the district's 2027 budget, stating that staff were looking for guidance from "the group as a whole as opposed to just one individual" on how the district should move forward with increasing revenues in 2027.

He stated that the shortfalls in rate revenues for 2026 would also impact the revenue calculations for 2027, since those calculations of future revenues and the impact of potential increases were built off of rate revenue calculations that may be overly high.

Walsh commented that he had submitted a proposal for changing raising revenues that would include a mix of permanent rate increases to address the lack of growth combined with surcharges to address flooding-related costs.

PAWSD board member Bruce Jones commented that he would see the value of looking at surcharges to address the flood costs since this would prevent them from compounding in the future.

Dossett commented that he would want to ensure that any surcharge revenues are included in debt service calculations and would need to check the conditions on the district's debt covenants before making any recommendations.

He stated that Walsh had suggested an $8 per month surcharge for flood-related expenses and that this would require some minor adjustments, which Walsh commented he expected and that the surcharge would continue after flood expenses had been paid off, although it could be adjusted depending on the district's needs.

Dossett indicated that Walsh recommended a 14 percent increase to CIFs in 2027 instead of the proposed 3 percent, although he noted that the gap in the number of CIFs paid, which could be connected to growth and their cost, is part of what created the district's present financial difficulties.

Walsh commented that he believes that the current rate of growth at approximately 1 percent is likely to be the rate into the future and that he feels that an increase would be more fair instead of compelling current customers to pay for deficiencies in new customer growth.

"I guess I just wonder where the tipping point is," said PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer. "Maybe we're there already, I don't know, but where tap fees become so much that we just start not getting the tap fees at all or very limited and we only get real high-end builds."

Walsh commented that he did not believe an increase of "a couple thousand" would impact large home construction, although it could impact builders of apartments and other higher-density buildings.

He added that there are potentially ways to change how PAWSD calculates wastewater CIFs for various home sizes to mitigate these impacts.

Dossett indicated that Walsh had proposed increasing fees for customers at fill stations by 30 percent instead of by the 15 percent staff recommended.

Walsh commented that he believes all customers need to pay more to spread the impact of increases.

The board discussed options for how to modify wastewater CIFs to account for various types of housing, after which Dossett summarized that he saw support among the board for imposing a surcharge, but was unsure what direction to take in terms of rate increases.

Walsh stated that, partially based on comments and feedback from the board's previous discussions of this topic, he would support 15 percent increases to water and wastewater rates combined with surcharges to help address flood costs, which would bring the increases to 30 percent for water and 23 percent for wastewater.

He added that the precise rate structure could be discussed more in January 2027 when the district sets update rates and would not necessarily have a significant impact on the budget.

Dossett commented that he wants to ensure the district meets its debt service obligations.

"I don't know if your calculations historically have been accurate," he said. "I know it has historically not been accurate. I have not looked to see if you've been out of compliance or not, and I don't want to look to see if you've been out of compliance or not."

Dossett stated that the budget needs to be completed by Dec. 15 and he would have to do "a little bit of gymnastics" to have a budget to present to the board that it would be willing to approve by that time.

He added, in response to a question from Jones, that Walsh offered a large amount of support in terms of directions the district could take in terms of the budget, but that he did not get similar support from the group as a whole.

■ See PAWSD A9

Safe

■ Continued from A7

coag.gov/app/uploads/2026/11/October-2026-Monthly-Report.pdf.

How to submit a report

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

About Safe2Tell

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

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

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Governor

■ Continued from front

National Weather Service (NWS).

"However, because both storms harmed the same region of the state, and the second storm created compounding damage in areas already damaged and recovering from the first storm, approval of both requests is essential for Southwestern Colorado's recovery efforts."

During an interview, Polis explained that the state is filing a second presidential disaster declaration for the recent flooding that took place across southwest Colorado beginning on Oct. 29, a separate declaration from the flooding event that occurred on Oct. 22 and 23.

"I've talked to [the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA)] and we need to get a second one in for that second wave which was a separate weather event on the 29th," he said.

Polis indicated that the total damage amount will continue to go up as more assessments are completed, but that the initial request meets the $11 million threshold for FEMA funding.

"We're well above the threshold, and we're continuing to identify damage and assess it," he said.

Polis explained that there is no "statutory timeline" as to how long it will take for the FEMA request to be approved or denied, but noted that Colorado was awarded its Aspen Acres fire request within three weeks of submitting it.

"When major disasters like this occur, it's beyond the capacity of a county or the state to single-handedly rebuild, and so that's why we need that federal assistance to be able to make sure our water treatment and roads and homes are successfully rebuilt," Polis said.

When asked about what rebuilding projects the state is making a priority, Polis stated, "Every project's a priority project, but this federal funding will be critical in helping."

He also spoke about how the state is doing everything possible to minimize the economic impact of the floods across the region, noting the state is working to repair access to tourism areas.

When asked if the Colorado Tourism Office is doing anything in particular to help promote southwest Colorado, Polis explained that the office is working in tandem with local Chambers and businesses to ensure that once communities are ready to receive tourists, "of course we convey the message that it's safe to visit, and you're welcome."

La Plata County Commissioner Matt Salka added that local jurisdictions have limited budgets, and "so that's why this federal funding is important."

Salka also mentioned that "flooding and fires are not political, but right now what's very important is that the Trump administration sees the huge impact."

Polis commented, "This is why we have FEMA, this is why we have federal emergency disaster response; it quickly overwhelms counties and states."

Polis noted that the state is doing "everything we can" in terms of providing communities with resources on the ground in recovery efforts while also commenting on the size and magnitude of the disaster.

"Just like a hurricane in Florida or an earthquake in California, this is where we need federal help," he said.

Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce also offered comments about the need for federal funds in order for communities to rebuild.

"This is absolutely not a time for politics. This is a time to realize that we are real people in our community with real problems here," Pierce said.

In October 2025, Archuleta and La Plata counties experienced flooding events that also caused damage to public infrastructure. A disaster declaration was declared for that event as well, and Polis submitted a request to the president for FEMA funds for

■ See Governor A10

PAWSD

■ Continued from A8

However, Dossett stated that the board appeared to have made some progress on it not being content with 15 percent rate increases and were potentially in favor of a surcharge to help cover flood and other costs.

Jones added that Walsh's idea with surcharges appeared to be that it would be a flexible fee to cover unknown expenses, such as floods or freezing events, while rates would cover known expenses, which Walsh generally expressed agreement with, adding that the surcharge could also help address the shortfall of income from growth.

Following a discussion of approaches and rules to dividing expenses between growth and infrastructure maintenance, Connor and Dossett indicated that having board input on what changes to CIFs should occur would be useful.

PAWSD board member Bill Hudson commented that he would want changes to CIFs to at least partially match the increases in users rates to maintain fairness between customer types.

He added that he would support a 14 percent increase in CIFs, but would not support a 5 percent increase.

Jones questioned Hudson's approach, noting that the district drastically increased CIFs in the recent past while making smaller increases to rates and adding that he did not view increases in terms of comparing percentage increases for different customer types.

He added that customers paying CIFs also have to pay increased rates, meaning that they would be billed increased amounts twice if Hudson's approach is used.

"The perspective of 'it's not fair' makes sense to me" he said. "If you're paying to be on my system, then you're going to pay the 30 percent, too."

Jones stated that he would be a proponent of a 10 percent increase to CIFs, although he would not refuse to vote for a 14 percent increase.

He added that high CIF costs are one of the primary concerns about the district he has heard from members of the community.

PAWSD board chairman Gene Tautges commented that he has heard similar complaints, but with inaccurately high numbers.

He added that he would support an even division of costs between growth and existing customers.

Boehmer stated that he supported a 10 percent CIF increase due to his concerns about the impact of high CIFs on growth and jobs in the community, although he stated that he would not vehemently oppose a 14 percent increase if it is favored by the rest of the board.

Both Jones and Boehmer stated that they would vote against a 30 percent CIF increase.

Connor summarized the board's direction to staff as being pursuing surcharges to reach a 30 percent rate increase for water and a 23 percent rate increase for wastewater and aiming for a 14 percent increase in CIFs.

Prior to Connor providing a breakdown of changes in the capital projects proposed in the budget, Jones noted that he would want a breakdown at a future meeting of what adding projects back into the budget would cost to help guide the board on its rate increase decisions.

Among the projects Connor discussed, he explained that removing silt from the district's water intake on the San Juan River for the San Juan water plant would have to be added back into the budget due to additional silt from the flooding, that the district's proposed meter replacement program would have to be paused due to costs and issues with the selected replacement meter, that a water line would have to replaced near the U.S. 160 bridge near 1st Street due to flood damage and that various infrastructure and treatment plant projects for wastewater would be delayed until 2028.

Connor added that he would provide a prioritized list of projects to the board to help guide its decision-making and understanding of work needed in the district.

"I know how difficult this was for you and you don't know how much I, and I'm sure we all, appreciate you gritting your teeth and …" said Tautges. "Appreciate it."

Connor commented that staff have been working on the budget for several months and this was "good to get ahead of it."

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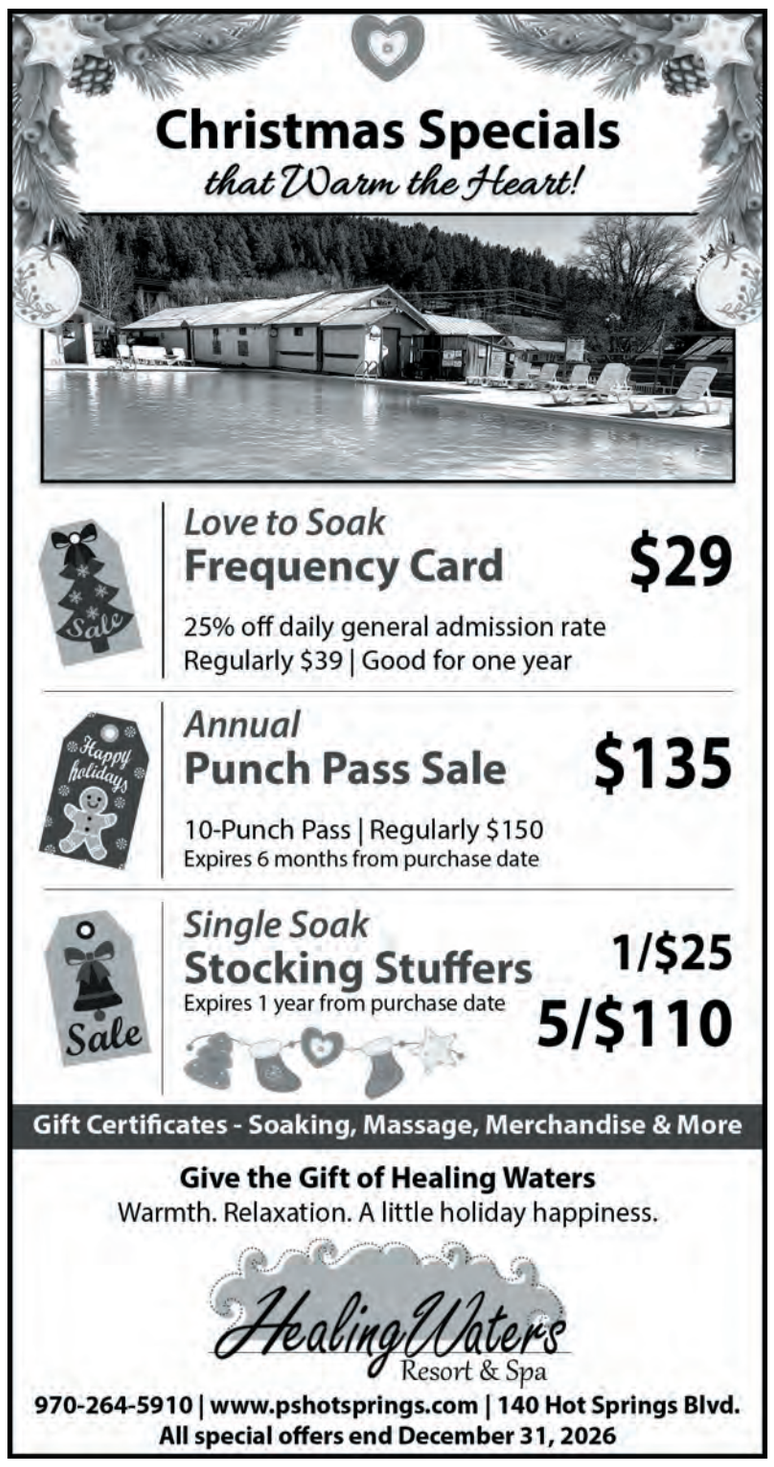

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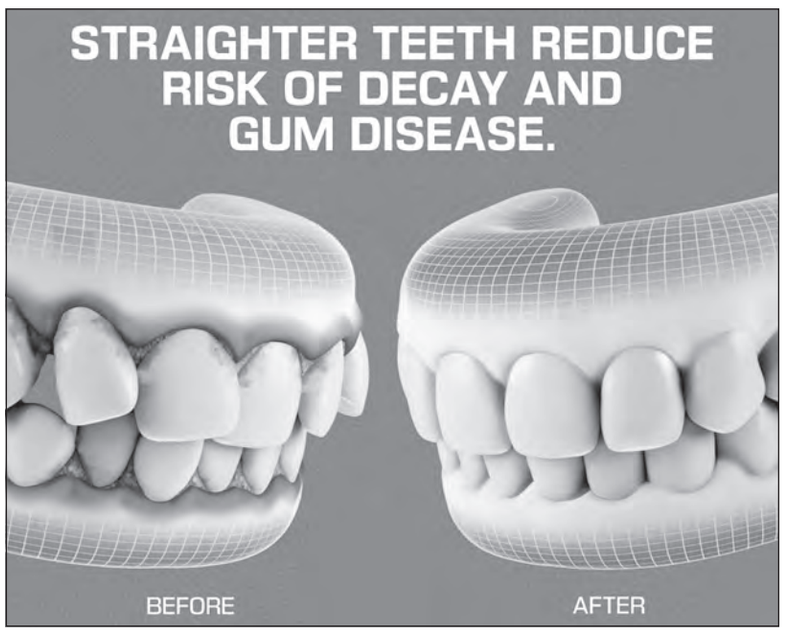

Illustration courtesy Black Diamond Dental

Black Diamond Dental offers Invisalign treatment to help patients achieve straighter, healthier-looking smiles with clear, comfortable and removable aligners.

Black Diamond Dental offers Black Friday savings on Invisalign

By Allison Brown

A straighter smile could be closer than you think. Black Diamond Dental is making it easier for patients to explore Invisalign this holiday season with a special Black Friday offer of 50% off treatment.

Led by Dr. Justin Nylund, DDS, Black Diamond Dental offers Invisalign as a discreet alternative to traditional metal braces. Rather than using brackets and wires, the treatment relies on a series of custom-made, clear plastic aligners that gradually move teeth into better positions.

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For more information, call Black Diamond Dental at 970-398-2398 or visit blackdiamonddds.com.

Black Diamond Dental is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.

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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.**

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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

The view as seen from Wolf Creek Ski Area on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 21, following a snowy morning. The top of Wolf Creek Pass is seen in the bottom of the photo. U.S. 160 over Wolf Creek Pass reopened that day, but repair work continues.

Governor

■ **Continued from A9**

$13 million worth of damage, but that request was denied.

When asked what is being done differently in this year's FEMA request to ensure that it is not denied again, Polis explained, "I would say there's an order of magnitude difference in the damage."

He noted that the October 2025 request also met the minimum threshold for FEMA funding, but this year's "is far above that threshold."

"So, there's a difference in the level of cost and comprehensive emergency management that occurs," Polis said.

Polis also explained that there are many different streams of funding from FEMA, adding that highways are "only a small part of the road infrastructure damage," noting that many county roads and private roads were washed out.

"There's just a lot of work to do," he said.

The Nov. 20 press release also explains that Colorado submitted its first MDD on an "expedited basis" with damage assessment still ongoing.

"Before state and federal teams could fully assess the destruction from the first storm, a second round of historic flooding struck many of the same communities, causing additional damage and complicating recovery efforts," the press release states.

It also explains that joint state and federal assessments identified and validated $28.5 million in public assistance (PA) damages from the second flooding event across Rio Grande, Conejos, Archuleta and La Plata counties.

It notes that 271 primary homes were destroyed or deemed uninhabitable, and an additional 136 homes were "impacted" as well.

"At the height of the flooding, more than 6,300 residents were under mandatory evacuation orders and more than 3,300 homes were inaccessible. Hundreds of Coloradans remain displaced, with damaged roads, bridges, and water systems complicating recovery as winter approaches. Some households may remain without road access until spring, while others remain without homes to return to," the press release states.

The press release explains that the second MDD "request includes:

• PA, Categories A-G: for Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma and Rio Grande counties. This includes support for eligible recovery efforts that threaten essential public infrastructure. Eligible support includes debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repairs to roads, bridges, water control facilities, public buildings, utilities, parks and other public facilities.

• Individual Assistance: for Archuleta, Conejos, La Plata and Rio Grande counties, including assistance for individuals and households, disaster case management, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance and disaster legal services.

• Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding: This statewide request is to support projects that reduce the risk of future disasters, including improvements to flood-prone infrastructure, streambank stabilization and measures to protect communities from repeated flooding. Statewide eligibility would give Colorado the flexibility to prioritize eligible projects wherever they can reduce future risks."

On Monday, Nov. 23, Sen. Michael Bennett "led the entire Colorado Congressional Delegation, including U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper and U.S. Representatives Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse, Jason Crow, Jeff Hurd, Lauren Boebert, Brittany Pettersen, Jeff Crank, and Gabe Evans, in a letter to President Trump expressing strong support for Governor Jared Polis' request for a second expedited Presidential Major Disaster Declaration following devastating and historic flooding and debris flows in Southwestern Colorado and the San Luis Valley beginning on October 31," according to a press release from his office.

Bennett's press release notes that more than 2,000 homes have been affected across the region.

"This second wave of flooding eclipsed the previous incident and dropped more than five inches of rain onto already saturated ground, only compounding massive damage and destruction to these communities. Mandatory evacuation orders affected over 6,321 Coloradans at the height of the flooding, cutting off access to more than 3,300 homes. With 1,000 residents currently needing temporary lodging and over 450 homes inaccessible, federal support is critical as winter approaches," the press release states.

The letter urging support for the president to sign the second MDD can be viewed in its entirety at www.bennet.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/1123-MDD-FINAL1.pdf.

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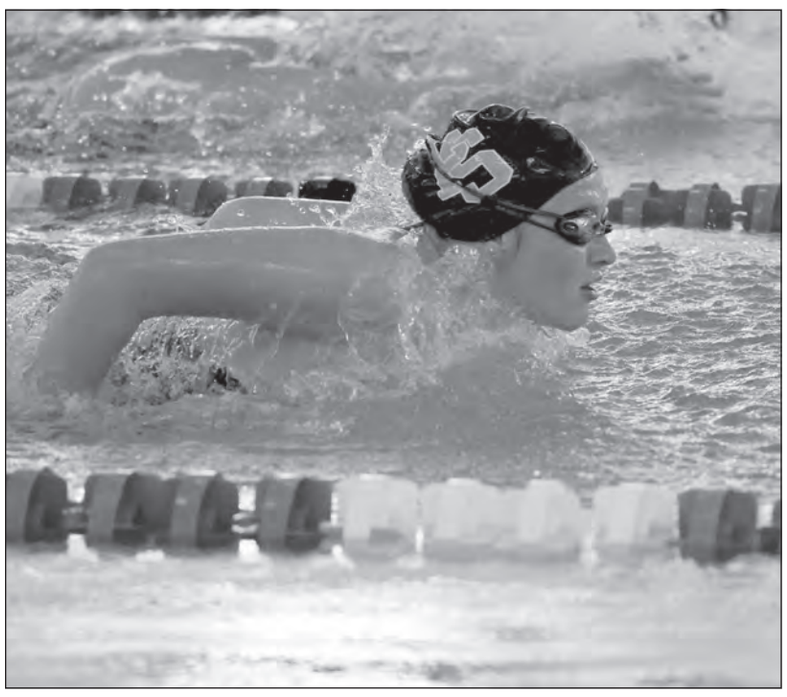


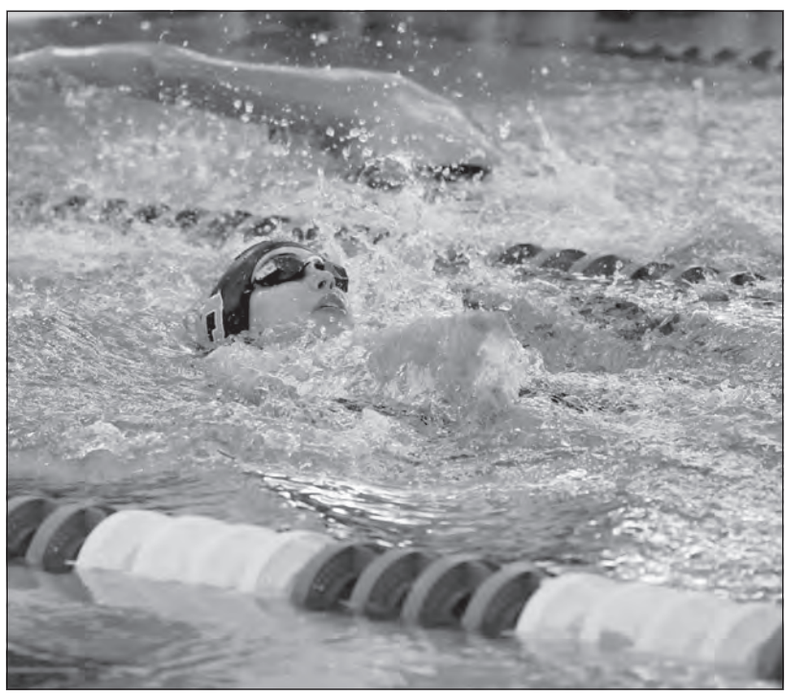

Photos courtesy Heather Miller

The Lady Pirate swim team takes to the water for the first time during the 2026-2027 season as part of a double dual meet in Durango on Friday, Nov. 20. The Lady Pirates beat Durango 121-112 and Sargent 148-73.

Lady Pirates top Durango to open season

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate swim team opened its season with a first — likely defeating the Durango Demons for the first time in team history.

The team opened its season on Friday, Nov. 20, at Durango's double dual home meet against Durango and Sargent, with the Lady Pirates topping their hosts 121-112 and the Sargent Farmers 148-73.

According to coach Heather Miller, the squad includes 18 swimmers this year.

Of those, 14 are returning from last year. Three are new to the team and one is returning to the team after being unable to swim last season, Miller explains in an email to The SUN.

"We have a great group of swimmers who are able to swim pretty much everything and are willing to put in the work to get better," Miller wrote. "With barely 2 weeks of practice we had many best times at the Durango meet."

The Lady Pirate team of Grace Cram, Gianna Shaeffer, Chloe Gantt and Leilani Snell took first in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of two minutes, 21.25 seconds.

The Lady Pirate squad of Brooklyn Trujillo, Avery Book, Kailey Vincent and Kaiya Lyons took fifth with a time of 2:46.89.

Cram also took first in the 200-yard freestyle, logging a time of 2:49.98. Lucia Rivera followed in fourth in 3:22.05, Isabela Forster took fifth in 3:26.56 and Lyons took sixth in 3:28.49.

Gantt notched second in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:52.03.

Eight Lady Pirates took to the water for the 50-yard freestyle.

Leilani Snell led her teammates at the meet with a time of 30.53 seconds, which earned her third.

Shaeffer took fourth with a time of 31.13 seconds. Cheyenne Trujillo finished 10th in 32.87. Book finished 15th in 35.57 seconds, with Brooklyn Trujillo following in 16th with a time of 36.35 and Shantee Murphy taking 18th in 36.40 seconds. Mikaila Anderson finished 20th in 42.10, and Kaillen Taylor took 26th in 1:03.83.

Gantt claimed first in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:21.27, with Vincent nabbing second with a time of 1:47.78.

Cheyenne Trujillo led the Lady Pirates in the 100-yard freestyle, taking fourth in 1:18.42. Lyons followed in sixth with a time of 1:24.62. Forster notched a seventh-place finish with a time of 1:31.60. Taylor took 10th in 2:24.30.

Rivera took third in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 9:34.13.

Three Lady Pirate relay teams competed in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The team of Cram, Snell, Shaeffer and Gantt took second with a time of 2:07.03.

The team of Lyons, Brooklyn Trujillo, Cheyenne Trujillo and Vincent took fifth in 2:21.60.

The squad of Book, Murphy, Forster and Rivera took seventh in 2:33.91.

Cram led the Lady Pirates in the 100-yard backstroke, taking third overall with a time of 1:28.34. Snell followed in fifth with a time of 1:36.78. Vincent took seventh in 1:39.22. Brooklyn Trujillo followed in eighth with a time of 1:41.65. Murphy was the next to finish, taking ninth with a time of 1:48.65. Anderson took 11th in 1:56.51.

Shaeffer garnered second in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:26.06. Book finished in fourth in 1:36.75.

The squad of Murphy, Rivera, Forster and Cheyenne Trujillo took first in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 5:57.31.

"We still have a lot of work to do building a good training base and working on stroke technique but we had a great early first meet and I believe for the first time in team history we beat Durango," Miller highlights.

The Lady Pirates will now have a break from competition until they take part in the Friday Night Invite hosted by the Glenwood Springs Demons on Friday, Dec. 4.

The meet is set to kick off at 5:15 p.m.

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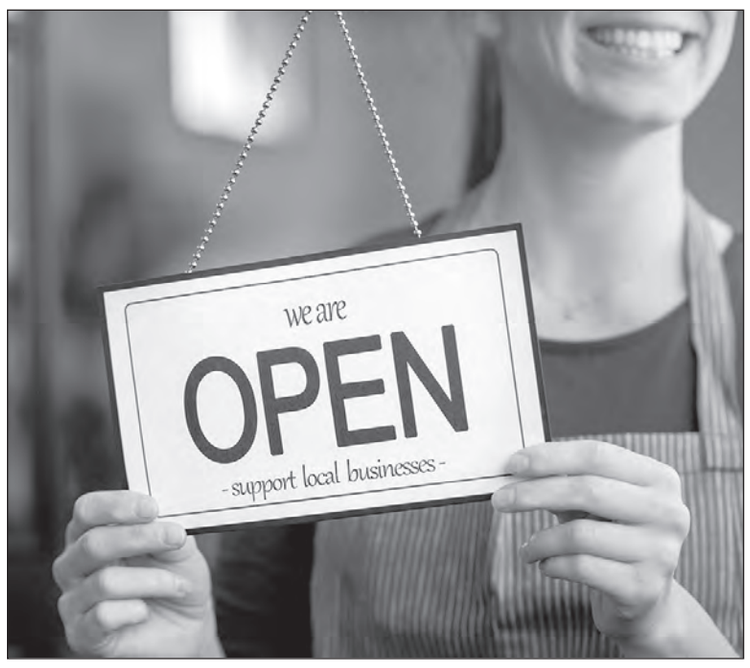

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- Krista J

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Outdoors

Keep Colorado Wild Pass raises $43.2 million to support state parks, wildlife conservation, and county search and rescue teams

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) published the 2026 Keep Colorado Wild Act Report to share how revenue from the sale of the Keep Colorado Wild (KCW) Pass is being used to meet outdoor recreation and conservation needs in Colorado.

As part of the Keep Colorado Wild Act of 2021, CPW and the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) created an optional $29 annual state parks pass (KCW Pass) for Colorado residents, which can be added when registering passenger vehicles, light trucks, motorcycles and recreational vehicles. The KCW Pass offers a 60 percent savings compared to a traditional annual state parks pass and provides entry into 43 Colorado state parks.

Since the pass became available in January 2023, the KCW Pass has generated approximately $146 million through June 30, 2026, demonstrating its significant contribution to funding for outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation.

Funding directly supports CPW's mission to provide quality state parks, conserve wildlife, support local communities and ensure lasting benefits for Colorado's natural resources.

"Colorado is known for our grand outdoor spaces, offering Coloradans and visitors an amazing variety of world-class outdoor recreational activities. In Colorado, we uplift and invest in conservation efforts to preserve our state parks for future generations, protect our ecosystems and make sure parks are accessible for everyone to enjoy," said Gov. Jared Polis.

In fiscal year 2026, CPW sold approximately 1.6 million KCW passes, a 5 percent increase from the previous fiscal year, generating more than $43.2 million in revenue. In fiscal year 2025, approximately 1.5 million KCW passes were sold, generating $41 million in revenue, a 3 percent increase over the prior year.

Initial KCW Pass revenue (the first $32.5 million) is dedicated to state park maintenance and staffing. Remaining funds are allocated as follows: $2.5 million to the Colorado Backcountry Search and Rescue Program; $1 million to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center; and the remainder to the Wildlife Cash Fund and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund for broader wildlife and outdoor recreation initiatives.

KCW Pass funding is used to help CPW accomplish the following 10 goals:

- Providing an affordable state parks pass to ensure Colorado's outdoors are welcoming and accessible to all.
- Ensuring sufficient staffing and resources to manage and protect Colorado's existing state parks.
- Supporting the thousands of search and rescue volunteers in Colorado who risk their lives responding to backcountry emergencies and developing educational programs and campaigns to promote backcountry safety.
- Protecting winter recreationists by supporting backcountry avalanche safety and awareness.
- Building and maintaining new state parks on a regular basis in partnership with local governments.
- Growing CPW's capacity to address outdoor recreation beyond state parks, including on federal lands.
- Increasing state trails program funds for trail stewardship, new trails and river recreation.
- Dedicating resources for the State Wildlife Action Plan to conserve vulnerable species and habitats.
- Supporting CPW's initiatives that are focused on equity, diversity and inclusion in the outdoors.
- Funding Colorado Regional Outdoor Partnerships to support community-driven conservation and recreation planning projects.

Learn more about the KCW Pass at cpw.state.co.us/keep-colorado-wild-pass.

Forest Service recruiting members for Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee

U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region, which includes national forests in Colorado and Wyoming, is recruiting individuals to serve on its Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), which was established as required by the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act.

Applications will be accepted until Dec. 20.

The RAC will help improve collaborative relationships and provide recommendations to the Forest Service concerning project proposals being considered for funding provided by the act.

The RAC will include 15 members appointed by the secretary of agriculture after reviewing background information provided by each prospective member.

Any individual or organization may submit a nomination. To be eligible for membership, nominees must:

- Be a resident of the state in which the RAC has jurisdiction (Colorado or Wyoming).
- Identify which interest group they seek to represent and explain their qualifications to represent that interest group. Categories can be found on the Greater Rocky Mountain RAC webpage.
- Provide a cover letter stating why they want to serve and what they can contribute.
- Provide a resume showing relevant experience.
- Complete Form AD-755, Advisory Committee or Research and Promotion Background Information: www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-755-advisory-committee-commodity-board-background-information.pdf.

Membership will have balanced and diverse representation and include individuals who are recreation users, members of environmental organizations, elected officials, tribal representatives, school officials, timber industry professionals, public at large and other related interest groups.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training and experience working with the interest area they represent; their knowledge of the geographic area covered by the RAC; their demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision-making; and their ability to contribute to the balance and diversity of the RAC. Additional information may be requested to determine qualifications.

Completed application packets should be submitted before Dec. 20.

Selected candidates will serve a four-year term. RAC business is typically conducted during one to four meetings per year, usually held at the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Supervisor's Office in Delta, Colo., or through a virtual platform. Meetings usually last one to two hours in length.

Program details and information on how to apply can be found on the Greater Rocky Mountain RAC website. Additional information on Secure Rural Schools can found on the program's national page.

For questions or to submit an application, please contact the RAC coordinator at daniel.malta@usda.gov.

Forest Service updates closure orders

U.S. Forest Service

The San Juan National Forest has updated road and motorized trail closure orders on the Pagosa and Columbine ranger districts to reopen roads that have been repaired.

The closures listed below prohibit motorized traffic on all listed roads through Dec. 31. Pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists are allowed on these roads at your own risk. Find the full closure orders and maps on our Alerts page.

Visit the San Juan National Forest Current Conditions page at www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan/conditions for the most up-to-date information on all road conditions as well as maps of open roads. Many roads on the San Juan National Forest have begun to close based on the Motor Vehicle Use Map dates for the winter.

For additional details, you can call the national forest's post-flood information line at (970) 501-5830.

The described roads include the following National Forest System (NFS) roads in their entirety, unless otherwise noted.

Columbine Ranger District roads

- 133: Little Beaver.
- 160: Jungle Canyon.
- 171: Junction Creek (County Road [CR] 204).
- 537: Spring Creek (CR 335)
- 571.F: La Plata Canyon F.
- 571.B: La Plata Canyon B.
- 571.G: NL Vacation.
- 591: Lime Creek.
- 599: Red Creek.
- 604: Bear Creek.
- 615.A: Turkey Creek A.
- 620: First Notch.
- 682: Missionary Ridge.
- 724: Middle Mountain — above Berri Gate.
- 724.G: Berri Park G.
- 740: Mitchell Lakes.

Columbine Ranger District motorized trails

- 530: Runlett Park.
- 672: Green Canyon.
- 791: Madden Creek Proper OHV Trail.
- 792: Bedrock Creek OHV Trail.
- 794: Boren Creek OHV Trail.
- 796: Madden Creek Access OHV.
- 797: Neptune OHV Trail.
- 798: Basin Creek OHV Trail.
- 808: Vallecito View.
- 809: Bear Creek Spur.
- 810: Bear Creek Loop.
- 811: Berri View.
- 812: Berri ATV.
- 814: Dark Canyon.

Pagosa Ranger District roads

- 618: Archuleta Creek.
- 621: Lower Piedra.
- 622: First Fork.
- 627: Devil Creek.
- 628: Snow Ranch Road, past Snow Springs Trailhead, includes Snow Springs Trailhead.
- 629: Lower Turkey Springs, between upper and lower closure gates.
- 630.1: Monument Park West.
- 631: Mosca.
- 639: Trail Ridge.
- 006: Kenney Flats.
- 645: Fourmile past Lost Valley of the San Juans, includes Fourmile Trailhead.
- 653.B: Valle Seco B.
- 657.C: Blanco Basin C.
- 660: Castle Creek, closed from junction with Opal Lake to Fish Creek Trailhead, includes Fish Creek Trailhead.
- 665: Nipple Mountain, from closure gate past 029 Echo Canyon.
- 667: East Fork.
- 668: Leche Creek.
- 684: Quartz Creek.
- 735: Aspen Spur.
- 842: Deep Canyon.

Pagosa Ranger District motorized trails

- 646: Snowball.
- 024: Porcupine.
- 648: West Fork, Past West Fork Campground.
- 033: Hatcher.
- 648.A: West Fork A.
- 648.B: West Fork B.
- 649.B: Burns Canyon B.
- 039: Fall Creek.
- 642: Sand Bench.
- 725: Wolf Creek.
- 843: Cemetery Road.
- 704: Snow Springs ATV.
- 818: Snowball Connector.

Just because roads are passable now does not mean they will be when you turn around.

Although the flood waters have begun to recede from the national forest, conditions still remain unstable in many areas and roads may continue to deteriorate. First responders are put into high-risk situations to rescue trapped visitors, and this also takes resources from higher-need areas.

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

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The Pagosa Springs SUN



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

The landscape is seen looking east underneath the Elma lift at Wolf Creek Ski Area late afternoon on Saturday, Nov. 21, the Alberta Reservoir is seen in the background filled with water. As of Tuesday, Nov. 24, the ski area a total of 72 inches of snowfall on the season, with 21 inches falling in the last seven days.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife invests more than $3.7 million in outdoor equity grants to provide outdoor experiences for youth

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Today, the Outdoor Equity Grant Board and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) announced the 49 recipients of more than $3.7 million in Outdoor Equity Grants.

These grants, funded through the Colorado Lottery, support organizations that break down barriers to Colorado's outdoors and create inclusive opportunities for youth and families to take part in education, conservation and job training opportunities in the outdoors.

The Nov. 23 announcement brings total investment in getting kids outside with outdoor equity grants to more than $14 million since 2022.

"Colorado's outdoors are special, and our Outdoor Equity Grants help Coloradans get outside, hike our world-class trails and explore our wild spaces. Getting outside is fun and inspires young Coloradans to enjoy outdoor recreation, conservation and nature. Helping kids engage in outdoor education and recreation prepares the next generation of state leaders and scientists," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"Outdoor Equity Grants are a unique way for young Coloradans to connect with the natural world and empower a sense of collective responsibility and participation. We are excited for organizations that serve underrepresented youth and communities to continue applying for this grant and to see the wonderful ways in which they cultivate a lifelong sense of stewardship and belonging," said Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources Dan Gibbs.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP), created in 2021 by the passage of House Bill 21-1318, funds community, educational and governmental organizations and tribes that increase access for youth to Colorado's outdoors. Grants support youth who have traditionally been excluded from conservation careers and the outdoors, allowing them to experience Colorado's iconic landscapes.

Through Outdoor Equity Grants, organizations across the state provide outdoor opportunities for youth who are: racially and ethnically diverse, low-income, disabled, LGBTQ+ or American Indian. In 2025, the Colorado Legislature passed House Bill 25-1215, which strengthens the program's future by increasing the amount deposited into the OEGP fund to up to $4 million, depending on Lottery proceeds and availability of spillover funds.

The OEGP received a $2.7 million transfer from the Colorado Lottery and $1 million from CPW's Parks Cash and Wildlife Cash Funds, making this year's grant awards the largest annual investment the program has made in outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities for youth across Colorado.

"Everyone should have access to outdoor learning and recreation," said Laura Clellan, director of CPW. "Grant projects tackle historic barriers that marginalized communities have faced in their enjoyment and participation in the outdoors. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is proud to support community organizations in providing Colorado youth with the chance to develop lifelong learning skills and a connection to the world around them."

Over six grant rounds, the board has awarded funding to support 215 outdoor, conservation and educational grant projects. Grants have supported everything from equine therapy programs to environmental education curriculum development to the creation of outdoor education scholarships for students with learning differences.

While the OEGP has awarded more than $14 million to date, requests for funding far exceed the amount of available funding each year, and applicants participate in a competitive process to receive awards. In 2026, the board received over $21 million in requests for the available $3.7 million.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Board received nearly 300 initial applications from organizations across Colorado from April to June. After reviewing the grant interest submissions over the summer, the board invited 72 applicants to complete full applications in the fall and approved 49 organizations to receive grants this fall.

This year, the board emphasized the need for a wide representation of youth and communities reflected in the grant recipients. Outdoor Equity Grant projects will reach youth from across the state who face a diverse range of barriers in accessing the outdoors.

Phillips County 4-H introduces low-income youth in Phillips, Sedgwick and Yuma counties to camping, while The Buddy Program will provide recreation and adventure programs for teenagers in the Roaring Fork Valley. The Black Girl Advocate will connect young Black women and girls with environmental education and college-readiness programs, and Flying Pig Farm will offer more than 60 environmental and food-related field trips to youth with disabilities in El Paso County.

"What has inspired me most throughout this year's grant cycle was seeing the creativity, passion and commitment of organizations across Colorado working to make the outdoors more accessible and inclusive for minority youth groups," said Mackenzie Maher, OEGP board member. "As someone born with cerebral palsy, I understand firsthand how barriers can limit opportunities to experience the outdoors. This incredible amount of money we were able to disburse represents more than financial support. It represents countless opportunities for young people and their families to build connections, develop confidence and experience the outdoors in ways many may not have thought possible."

The Outdoor Equity Grant application opens annually each spring. The board will request initial grant interest forms in the spring of 2027 and will distribute grants by December 2027. Interested applicants can learn more about the grant opportunity on the Outdoor Equity Grant Program webpage.

Outdoor Equity Grant recipients for 2026 include:

- San Juan Mountains Association: $90,444.
- Southwest Conservation Corps: $99,975.

For more information, visit https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/Outdoor-Equity-Fund.aspx.

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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
Doctor of Audiology
Hearing & Tinnitus Specialist



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8th Annual PSMC Foundation
Wreath Silent Auction



A fundraiser to benefit
PSMC EMS Downtown Station Renovation

Bidding begins Thursday, November 19
and ends Tuesday, December 1 at 1 p.m.

In person and online bidding • Visit our event page on Facebook

Starting bid $35, minimum increase $5

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Reconstruction

■ Continued from front

during the winter months. This is part of ongoing project monitoring and maintenance and does not necessarily indicate that full construction operations have resumed.

• How will snow removal be handled throughout the construction area?

The project team is working closely with CDOT and the Town of Pagosa Springs to coordinate a winter snow removal plan that accounts for the current roadway configuration, completed improvements and remaining construction areas.

The goal is to support safe travel, maintain access and protect newly installed infrastructure. Snow removal procedures may be adjusted throughout the winter in response to weather events and changing conditions.

• Who should I contact if I have a snow removal or construction-related concern?

Residents and businesses with concerns related to snow removal within the construction area, temporary traffic control or other construction-related conditions are encouraged to contact the project hotline or email.

The project team will coordinate with the appropriate agency or personnel to address concerns as needed.

• Will the project area continue to be monitored during significant winter weather events?

The project team will continue monitoring conditions throughout the winter shutdown. Coordination among the project team, CDOT and the town will remain important as snowfall, freezing temperatures and snowmelt affect the corridor.

Traffic, parking and business access

• Will traffic patterns change during the winter shutdown?

The project team anticipates maintaining the established winter traffic configuration until construction resumes. However, temporary adjustments may be necessary due to weather conditions, maintenance activities or safety concerns.

Motorists should continue to follow posted signage, pavement markings and temporary traffic control devices.

• Why are some construction signs, cones, and barricades still in place?

Although major construction activities have paused, portions of the project remain unfinished. Temporary traffic control devices are necessary in certain locations to protect motorists, pedestrians and infrastructure until construction can be completed.

Please do not move or remove construction signs, cones or barricades, even when crews are not actively working.

• Will South 7th Street remain closed throughout the winter?

Yes. Due to construction delays associated with significant rainfall and flooding, South 7th Street will remain closed at U.S. 160 throughout the winter shutdown. Access to the area will continue to be available via South 8th Street.

The project team anticipates completing the remaining work and reopening the intersection in spring 2027, weather and construction conditions permitting.

• Are downtown businesses accessible during the winter shutdown?

Yes. The project team encourages residents and visitors to continue supporting downtown Pagosa Springs businesses throughout the winter. Please follow designated pedestrian routes, posted parking restrictions and any temporary access signage.

We appreciate the continued resilience and cooperation of our local business community throughout the reconstruction project.

• What should motorists and pedestrians keep in mind when traveling through the project area this winter?

Although active construction has paused, the corridor remains a construction zone with some temporary conditions in place. Motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to:

Follow all posted speed limits, signage, and traffic control devices.

Adjust driving speeds to winter weather and roadway conditions.

Park only in designated or legally permitted areas.

Use designated pedestrian routes and crossings.

Remain alert for snow removal equipment and project personnel.

Staying informed and connected

• Will the project hotline and email remain active during the winter shutdown?

Yes. The project hotline and email will continue to be monitored throughout the winter shutdown. Residents, businesses and community members are encouraged to contact the project team with construction-related questions or concerns.

• Will the community continue to receive project updates during the winter?

The project team will continue to provide updates as needed throughout the winter, particularly if there are significant changes to traffic conditions, access or the anticipated spring construction schedule. As construction resumes in 2027, the team will provide additional information regarding upcoming activities, anticipated closures, traffic shifts and construction milestones.

• How can I stay informed or contact the project team?

Project hotline: (970) 335-9230

Project email: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com

Project webpage: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.

For emergencies, please call 911.

A thank you to our community

CDOT and WW Clyde sincerely appreciate the patience, cooperation and support of the Pagosa Springs community throughout the past two construction seasons.

Although construction is temporarily pausing, our commitment to the community and the successful completion of this important project remains unchanged.

We look forward to returning in spring 2027 to complete the remaining improvements and continue building a better main street together.

From your U.S. 160 reconstruction project team, we wish everyone a safe and happy winter season.



Blood drive results in 46 units donated

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The SUN

Friends and neighbors, great job on the Nov. 18 blood drive at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

Thanks to your heeding of the call for much-needed donations, the drive resulted in 46 units of blood.

Whether that will result in 46 single transfusions, or multiple transfusions to patients in dire need, you are lifesavers.

That's a sobering thought, but it is true.

Be safe and warm, have a great Thanksgiving, and know you are very much appreciated.

Colorado State Patrol offers five ways to get your vehicle ready for winter

Colorado State Patrol

Predictions for Colorado's winter forecast anticipate a snowier-than-average season for many locations across the state, but we know there are no guarantees.

The mountains look more favorable for bringing residents and visitors "a classic winter wonderland."

Whether commuting on the Front Range or driving up to higher elevations, all Coloradans will likely experience some cold, wet and icy conditions over the next six months.

"The first few snow and ice events of every season can create some chaos on our roadways, especially if drivers aren't prepared," stated Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). "November was our peak 'winter-weather' month for crashes last year, with troopers responding to over 2,450 crashes. Now is the time for drivers to change their mindset and driving behaviors to match the road conditions."

Most of the crashes investigated by CSP last November were property damage (85 percent), causing thousands of drivers' headaches with the insurance process, costs, parts availability and repair shop workload.

"This is also the time of the year when we begin seeing more vehicles stuck or stopped on the side of the road unnecessarily," explained Packard. "If drivers don't take care of their vehicles and prepare them for winter, this is when it shows."

Five ways to get your vehicle winter ready

• Maintain your tires: The quality of your tires is paramount. All vehicles in Colorado must have adequate traction. Colorado defines acceptable tires as those with a tread depth of at least 3/16-inch, and which are rated for either "All weather" or "Mud and Snow." Remember, as the air temperature drops, tire pressure can decrease. Keep an eye on your tire pressure and fill them to reduce the risk of punctures, blowouts and reduced handling.

• Maintain your battery: Cold weather can strain your battery, so keep your battery fully charged. When possible, park in a warm or protected location (e.g., garage or sheltered spot), use a battery blanket and avoid short trips that don't allow enough time for your battery to charge fully.

• Check your fluids: Every fluid in your vehicle will help it perform better during colder months. Change your oil and filters, flush and refill coolant/antifreeze, and refill your windshield wiper fluid.

• Visibility is key: Don't wait until the first snowfall to get a snowbrush and scraper for your car. And now is the time to put on a fresh set of windshield wipers.

• Pack an emergency kit: Getting caught in a snowstorm doesn't just happen when traveling in the mountains. Whether you're sitting in a line due to a crash, waiting because a road is closed due to conditions, or sliding off and getting stuck, your kit may save your life. Be sure to have a first-aid kit, shovel, thermal blanket and snacks.

Winter is beautiful and a bit unpredictable in Colorado, but making sure your vehicle is ready ahead of the storm can go a long way.

CSP wants residents and visitors to be winter ready during our cold, snow and ice season.

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

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA
Hiring for the Ski Season:
November - April
Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:
- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski & Snowboard School Instructors
- Lynx & Wolf Pup Building Attendants
- Food & Beverage Staff
  Grill/Fry Cooks - Baker - Barista
- Snow Reporter/Guest Services
- Retail
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial & Building Maintenance

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF $20/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience
Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment
Send applications & resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

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(877) 542-7233
Anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family or your community.

Public Notices

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; 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)

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District (PPMID) Board of Directors for the calendar year 2027. The proposed budget is available for public inspection at 55 MILTON LANE ARBOLES, CO. Copies are also available upon request by email at PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or phone at (970 749-5968). The proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the PPMID board of directors to be held on December 14, 2026 at 55 Milton Lane, Arboles, Colorado at 6 PM. Any interested party may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto in writing at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget. Any objections may be submitted to the PPMID Board of Directors by email PIEDRAPARK@YAHOO.COM or letter P.O. Box 1609 Arboles,CO 81121.
Published November 26, December 3, and 10, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (324715)

Request for Proposal: The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are soliciting proposals from qualified firms and individuals to serve on an as-needed basis as a **Disaster Recovery Consultant** on behalf of the Town and Archuleta County. The selected firm or individual will provide specialized technical, administrative, and strategic support directly to the **Community Recovery Manager**. Please visit the Town's website at https://www.pagosasprings.co.gov/330/Purchasing—--Bids-RFPs for details and instructions on the request for proposal.
Published November 26 and December 3, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (324995)

The Town of Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall to amend the 2026 approved budget for the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District. Copies of the proposed budget amendments are available for public inspection on the Town website and in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.
Published November 26, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (324985)

The Town of Pagosa Springs Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall to amend the 2026 approved budget for the Town of Pagosa Springs. Copies of the proposed budget amendments are available for public inspection on the Town website and in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall.
Published November 26, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (324948)

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.*

Commissioners approve resolution supporting North Pagosa Trail extension project

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 17, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved Resolution 2026-87, supporting a grant application for funding from the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) trust fund and the North Pagosa Trail extension project.

According to the meeting's agenda, "This Resolution concerning the North Pagosa Trail Extension Project affirms that the [BoCC] has approved the sponsorship of this Colorado State Trails new construction grant application in partnership with the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA)."

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez indicated that the BoCC held multiple work sessions on the matter, one of which had to do with discussing the possibility of moving part of the trails "to facilitate better protection for some land owners."

He noted that is an ongoing consideration, "and they have engineered some options and ideas continuing forward."

Gonzalez explained that the request acknowledges that the county is going to sponsor the grant application, but that PLPOA is responsible for the funding of the project.

According to the resolution, the county, in partnership with PLPOA, has requested $172,097 from GOCO "to construct a non-motorized trail within the Pagosa Lakes."

The resolution notes that the PLPOA would provide the cash match for the grant.

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

The resolution also notes that PLPOA will be responsible for any long-term maintenance of the proposed trail project.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Recovery

■ Continued from front

ing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related funding and reimbursements, noting that the position might be needed for the next two to three years.

"So, our share would be approximately $35,000," Gonzalez added.

He also explained that the initial request to have the position put under the town, explaining, "There are some administrative reasons to do so."

He mentioned that the funding for the position largely comes from the Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund, "which could … count against our [Payment in Lieu of Taxes]."

Gonzalez added that is the reason for having the position put under the town, "just so that it gives us the best opportunity in receiving reimbursements from the state."

Commissioner John Ranson commented that he's "not a big fan" of the county funding another position with the town.

"We keep paying for people over there, and we don't have enough for ourselves," he said, adding, "We have our own needs."

Brown commented, "I think that if we do this, we need to have an agreement with the town that the county has an equal input in say."

Brown also mentioned that he appreciated the approach with the position, but commented that the damages in the county "arguably" far exceed damages elsewhere.

Brown also expressed the desire for the county to be included with this position's work.

Commissioner Veronica Medina mentioned that she had some concerns with the setup of the flood recovery manager position, suggesting that the position could be employed through the town, but have an office at one of the county's buildings.

Medina ultimately expressed support for the position given the amount of damage throughout the community.

"I think it is a good idea because … the county has been largely affected, and this is going to take a lot of energy to manage when we get the FEMA money," she said.

Brown then explained that the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) recently discussed the position and it was expressed that the town does not necessarily want to house the position, suggesting the position could fall under the PSCDC "as more of a nongovernmental group."

PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke explained that DOLA has specifically noted that it has more success with this option "when it's not housed under a government."

Lashbrooke also mentioned that the position would help both local governments and private citizens navigate "all the different grant pathways."

Ranson commented that he would prefer the position be housed under the PSCDC instead of the town.

He also expressed more frustration with a lack of communication between the entities.

"There needs to be some consistent and steady communication, especially with a position this important," he said.

In response to a question from Medina, Lashbrooke explained that the PSCDC is not able to cover the funding needed for the position, "but we could manage the employee as we do the [multijurisdicitional housing coordinator]."

She also noted that the employee would attend town and county meetings "to provide regular and timely updates."

Medina expressed some frustration with how the town and county have collaborated on the management of the multijurisdictional housing coordinator position, adding that the employee has done good work in the community, but "there hasn't been any communication with the BoCC when it comes to the housing coordinator."

She added, "I personally would feel more comfortable if it was housed under the town" with a county office.

Brown commented that the PSCDC would be a more "neutral ground," while also explaining that if he is the county representative on the PSCDC board again for the upcoming year, "maybe I need to pick up my game" with improving communication between the entities.

Brown also commented that with the grant funding provided for the position, what the county would receive in return "would far outweigh the cost of this position, in my opinion."

Medina commented that she would still prefer the position to be under the town and have a county office.

Gonzalez explained that because the position is being advertised through the town, the BoCC will not vote on approving the position, but that funds will be allocated to cover the $35,000 match in the county's 2027 budget.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Plea

■ Continued from front

vised or unsupervised.

Fay noted during the hearing he is skeptical of the appropriateness of unsupervised probation.

Through the plea, Alaniz also agrees to pay costs and fees, as well as restitution.

Fay indicated the county ordinance violation could mean a maximum $100 fine, while the criminal mischief charge, which includes between $1,000 and $2,000 in damage to real or personal property, could mean a fine of up to $1,000 and typically up to 364 days in jail.

According to the stipulated factual basis read by Fay as being part of the plea agreement, on or about Aug. 10, 2025, Alaniz unlawfully and knowingly maintained a fire at the residence of Ross Heirigs during a Stage 1 fire restriction.

Heirigs is also facing charges in relation to the fire.

According to the factual basis, Alaniz was at Heirigs' residence to help him clean his property from "debris, trash and garbage without compensation."

The factual basis continues that Alaniz started a fire in an "old and rusty" burn barrel on Heirig's property "with the consent and knowledge" of Heirigs.

It notes, as Fay read, that both maintained and added debris to the fire together, but that Heirigs "did not maintain any source of water or fire extinguisher at or near the burn barrel and that at the time there was no indication that Mr. Heirigs had undertaken any substantial steps to mitigate the risk of the fire on his property and that windy conditions were present."

It notes that by starting and maintaining the fire under those conditions Alaniz and Heirigs "disregarded a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the fire would spread beyond the burn barrel."

It notes the fire did spread to adjacent properties and became known as the Oak Fire.

"It was an accident," Alaniz stated during the proceedings.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2027.

Heirigs' next court date is set for mid-December.

The Oak Fire

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) announced via press release that on Aug. 17, 2025, at 5:46 p.m., deputies arrested two male suspects in connection with the Oak Fire started by an illegal burn at 152 Oak Drive in Aspen Springs.

The fire began at approximately 1:15 p.m. on Aug. 10, 2025.

"The burn was in violation of the Second Amended and Restated Ordinance no. 18-2017 for the regulation of open burning in the unincorporated areas of Archuleta County," an ACSO press release states.

The press release notes both suspects were arrested on multiple accounts of fourth-degree arson.

The press release notes the fire originated from a burn barrel and "quickly spread through the subdivision, spotting approximately a half a mile into a neighboring subdivision."

It adds that firefighting aerial resources and first responders managed to contain the fire at 75 acres the evening of Aug. 10.

The fire left some evacuated for about 70 hours, with others put under pre-evacuation notice for a portion of the incident.

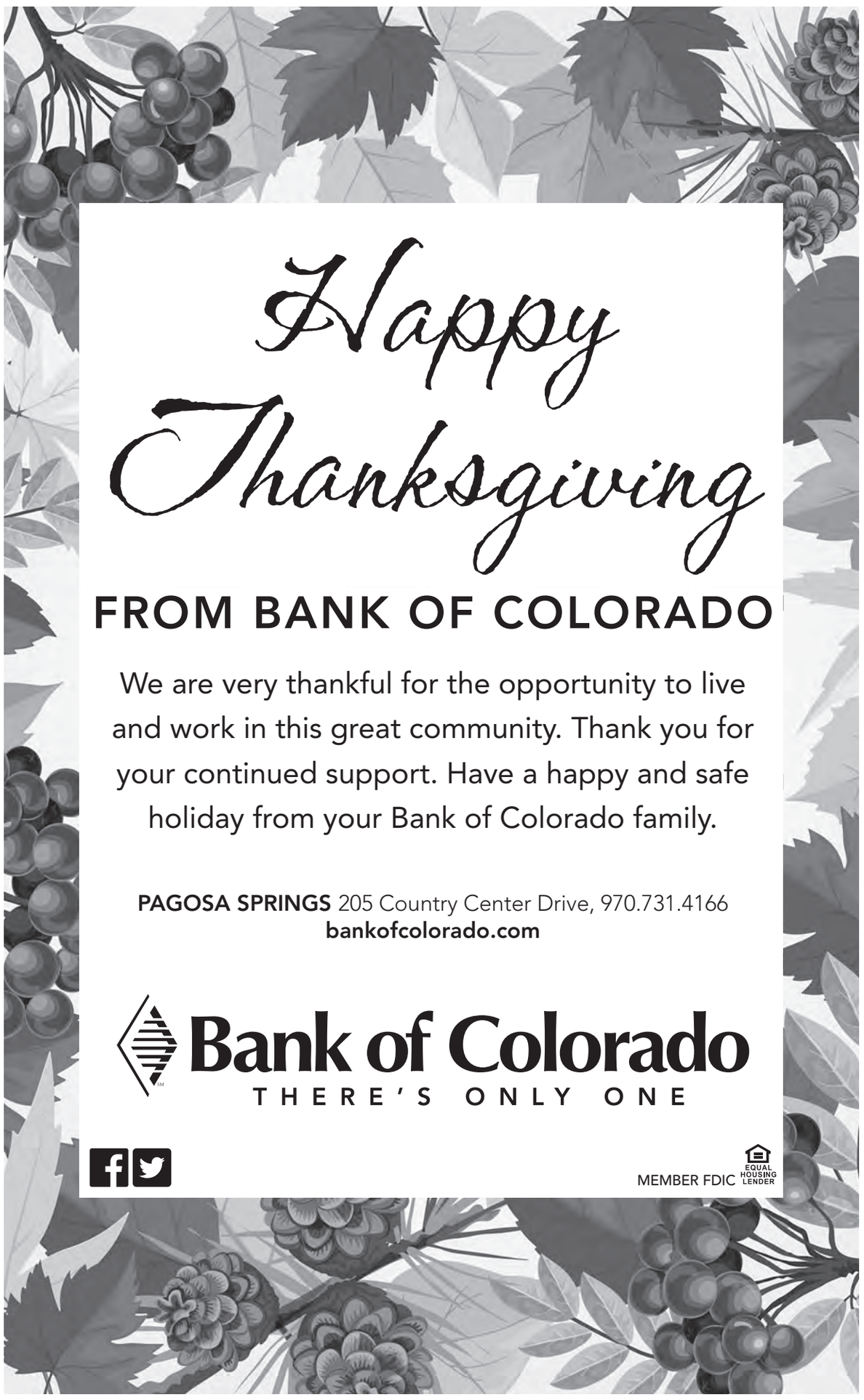
Charges related to the Oak Fire were originally filed against the two Archuleta County men on Aug. 27, 2025.

randi@pagosasun.com











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Christmas in Pagosa



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Lantern Dancer



Alpine Appliance



Healing Waters Resort & Spa



Photo courtesy Heidi Tanner

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir's annual series of three Christmas concerts is just around the corner, with the free concerts set for Dec. 11 at 7 p.m., Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

Live Performers

Thursday
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Retro Cats, 6 p.m.
Neon Mallard: Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Variety Express, 7 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Casey James Brooks, 5 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jacques Grant, 5 p.m.

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

Established 1909.
The Pagosa Springs SUN

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An old-fashioned celebration

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These businesses have worked hard to make this a magical shopping season for you!

THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN ENCOURAGES YOU TO SHOP AT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Pagosa Springs Community Choir to present annual Christmas concerts

By Heidi Tanner
Pagosa Springs Community Choir

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir's annual series of three Christmas concerts is just around the corner.

Mark your calendars for Dec. 11 at 7 p.m., Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir has presented these concerts for 20 plus years, and they are the choir's holiday gift to the Pagosa Community. The concerts are held in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium and admission is free.

The choir is blessed to have Dan Burch as our director once again this year. Burch has chosen a beautiful set of choral Christmas songs that will put a festive cap on your holiday activities, as well as beautiful and moving selections that bring the meaning of the Christmas season to light.

The choir is doubly blessed to have Venita Burch, Dan Burch's wife, as our accompanist. Venita Burch brings so much talent to our choir assisting with vocal coaching and whose tickling of the ivories is a joy to hear.

As previously mentioned, the concerts are free. We do ask for donations to cover our expenses and keep us operating from year to year. The choir is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and any donations given to us are tax deductible.

This year, we are fundraising not only for ourselves, but we are joining forces with the Pagosa Springs High School Music Department to raise funds to replace its choral risers. The current risers are more than 50 years old and are tattered and shabby and badly in need of replacement.

Leo Baughman, Pagosa SPrings High School music director, is working to raise funds to replace them.

The replacement cost is $12,000 and Baughman has currently raised $3,000. The high school and the Music Department have always supported the Pagosa Springs Com-

■ See Concerts on page 5

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Shop small, we are big enough to have a little of it all!

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Friday, Dec. 4

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Live music by Steven Blechschmidt
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Food provided by Gustoso

Advanced ticket sales $40 per person
Table reservations available

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Public Viewing and Voting
Dec. 3rd • noon-6 p.m.

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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with a grateful heart.

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Concert

■ continued from page 3

munity Choir, providing us with a cost-effective performance and rehearsal venue. The choir would like to give back.

To that end, the Pagosa Springs Community Choir Board of Directors has voted to give 50 percent of any donations we receive during the 2026 concert season after covering our expenses to the Pagosa Springs High School Music Department toward the replacement of their choral risers.

We would also like to mention that the choral risers would be available to the middle school and elementary school, along with other performance groups for their choir concerts, so the benefits of this new equipment will reach across the whole school district and to outside groups, such as the Pagosa Springs Community Choir. Your help with this fundraising campaign would be appreciated.

Please join us for a wonderful holiday concert that is sure to put a smile on your face.

Members of the Pagosa Springs Community Choir are looking forward to singing for you and brightening your holiday season.

Remember, you have three opportunities to hear the choir, which are Dec. 11 at 7 p.m., Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 4 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.



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Love Pagosa

A message from
The Pagosa Springs SUN

8th Annual PSMC Foundation

Wreath Silent Auction

A fundraiser to benefit
PSMC EMS Downtown Station Renovation

Bidding begins Thursday, November 19
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Our Savior Lutheran Church announces Christmas Festival

Our Savior Lutheran Church

On Dec. 19, Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSLC) will commence its Christmas Festival with a Christmas market that will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It will feature crafts, arts, and various products.

On Dec. 20, OSLC will hold an Advent service at 9 a.m.

On Dec. 21, it will hold a Santa's Workshop between 1 to 3 p.m. for children ages 5-11. There will be face painting, cookie decorating and other activities.

On Dec. 22 at 4:30 p.m., it will hold a Christmas Artisan Workshop featuring a Christmas water painting class and a sourdough bread instructional class. Please call the church to sign up for one of these classes (payment for a fee or materials may need to be brought).

On Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. there will be a feast provided for the community. There is no charge, but you will need to call the church to make reservations for your spot.

On Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service and a Divine service at 11 p.m.

On Dec. 25, there will be a Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m.

Please come and celebrate the miracle of Christmas with us. OSLC can be reached at (970) 731-4668.





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DECEMBER 6

Visit with Santa Claus & Read Stories with Mrs. Claus
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Christmas Specials
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Frequency Card **$29**
25% off daily general admission rate
Regularly $39 | Good for one year

Annual
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970-264-5910 | www.pshotsprings.com | 140 Hot Springs Blvd.
All special offers end December 31, 2026



MAIN STREET Bethlehem

This Christmas, visit Bethlehem in Pagosa Springs as the ancient city of Christ's birth comes alive.

DECEMBER 3, 4 & 5
6:00 –7:30 PM

Explore the busy streets of ancient Israel and meet the merchants and craftspeople of the marketplace. Savor the smells of fresh soup and hot bread, keeping your eye out for Roman soldiers and tax collectors.

Then follow the street to meet the weary couple and the special child who was the promised incarnation of God Himself, come to the world so that all who would place their faith in Him could enjoy eternal life and fellowship in His presence.

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Tips to foster creativity in young children

Special to The PREVIEW

Children have a lot of things competing for their attention. Life in the digital era is filled with distractions, and that can sometimes make it hard for parents looking to foster creativity in their kids. But finding ways to do just that can benefit kids in numerous ways, making this particular pursuit a worthwhile endeavor for families.

The International Society for Transforming Education notes that decades of research have linked creativity with an intrinsic motivation to learn.

In addition, a 2019 study from Gallup found that teachers who frequently made assignments that required students to think creatively were much more likely than other teachers to observe higher-order cognitive skills in their students. Such skills included problem-solving, critical thinking and retention, among other things.

Kids clearly have a lot to gain from engaging their creative side, and the following are some ways parents can foster an environment that encourages such pursuits:

• Make time for free play. Children growing up in the 2020s have no shortage of extracurricular activities at their disposal. Extracurricular activities like recreational and travel sports and dance can be great ways to get kids to embrace physical activity and for youngsters to learn about concepts like teamwork. But, sports practices and games and advanced level dance classes can take up a considerable amount of kids' time away from school. Parents looking to foster creativity in their children are urged to make time for free play. The American Psychological Association notes that unstructured play benefits kids emotionally, physically, mentally and socially. When engaged

■ See Creativity on next page



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Creativity

■ **continued from previous page**

in free play, kids engage and develop their imaginations, so parents are encouraged to schedule free play just like they do with structured activities.

• Let kids take the lead. When engaged in free play, children should be allowed to direct play. According to UNICEF, free play encourages kids to explore their world in their own way, which fosters their creativity. There is no wrong or right way for young children to play freely (though parents are urged to ensure play environments are safe and hazard-free), and allowing them to direct the activity will help them develop problem-solving skills.

• Let kids play alone from time to time. While play time provides a great opportunity for parents and children to build strong bonds, it's also beneficial for kids to enjoy some unstructured play without their moms and dads. When kids engage in unstructured play on their own, they learn to explore their world and gain awareness of it. Younger children engaging in solo free play also develop their motor skills and begin to understand the concept of cause and effect.

• Offer some insight if kids become frustrated. Young children can strengthen their problem-solving and critical thinking skills when engaging in free play, but parents also can offer some assistance if children begin to grow frustrated. If children encounter a problem they're struggling to solve, offer some clues so their frustration does not compel them to give up.

• Support older kids' creative pursuits, as well. It's not only especially young children who can benefit from engaging their creativity. A joint study from the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Adobe found that young people between the ages of 13 and 25 reported being more confident and motivated when presented with opportunities to express themselves creatively. Young people also reported feeling lower levels of stress and anxiety when given such opportunities. Parents can provide their older kids with chances to engage with music, writing, design or other creative pursuits.

Kids of all ages benefit from engaging their creative side. Parents can encourage them to do just that by fostering an environment in which such pursuits are enabled and valued.

Your source for community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

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!
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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.
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Hey, kids!

Send us your letter to Santa and his elves at the North Pole!
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Please include your first name and age on your letter.

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You can also email your letter to
editor@pagosasun.com
or drop it off at the Santa mailbox at 457 Lewis Street

The Pagosa Springs SUN



Young actors to learn alongside professional company in Thingamajig's 'Frog and Toad'

By Samantha Luck
Thingamajig Theatre Company

Anyone who has ever watched a child imitate a favorite character from a book or movie has probably had a glimpse of a young actor at work.

Children are remarkably observant when it comes to the peculiarities of a character, and often quite inventive about reproducing them.

This December, Thingamajig Theatre Company will give young performers an especially interesting opportunity to put those instincts to use when its professional company and its children's theater program take on two versions of the same Broadway musical.

"A Year with Frog and Toad," based on Arnold Lobel's beloved children's books, opens Dec. 11 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

While the professional production is running, participants in the Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre Winter Camp will prepare "A Year with Frog and Toad KIDS," a shorter adaptation of the musical. The professional actors will serve as the children's instructors, giving the young performers an opportunity to see their teachers portray the very characters they themselves are learning to play.

Returning to Thingamajig to direct the professional production is Andrew Barratt Lewis, whose considerable body of work with the company

■ See Actors on next page



Photo courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Young performers take the stage in Thingamajig Theatre Company's recent teen production of "The Addams Family Young@Part." This winter, the company's Whatchamawhozits Children's Theatre program will bring another beloved story to life with "A Year with Frog and Toad KIDS." Children ages 7 to 13 will learn from the professional actors performing the full-length musical, with their own production scheduled for Jan. 2-4, 2027, at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Registration for the winter theater camp is open now at pagosacenter.org.

Actors

■ continued from previous page

includes this summer's "Come From Away" and the previous holiday productions "A Christmas Carol" and "All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914."

A longtime favorite of Pagosa audiences, Lewis is particularly adept at working with ensembles, drawing performances from individual actors that contribute to a larger story. It is an approach well suited to "A Year with Frog and Toad," where the five-person cast must create an entire community of characters and will have the additional pleasure of introducing their work to the young actors in the camp.

For the children, the connection between the two productions promises to make the rehearsal room an interesting place. A young performer preparing to play Snail, for instance, can watch Trevor Brown tackle the peculiar challenge of making an extraordinarily slow creature into one of the most energetic musical characters in the show.

In rehearsal, the child can ask Brown about the choices he made, experiment with movement and timing, and ultimately find a way of playing Snail that belongs to the young actor. There is considerable value in seeing how a professional approaches a role, particularly when the next step is to discover how differently the same character might be played.

The camp is open to children ages 7 to 13 and will focus on acting, singing and dancing through theater games and rehearsals.

An audition workshop will take place Dec. 12 from 3 to 4 p.m. Participants will receive their scripts and learn about the audition process while helping the instructors determine casting. Children unable to attend the workshop may submit a video audition, and audition songs will be sent to families in advance.

Regular camp rehearsals are scheduled for Dec. 19-23 and 27-30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a final rehearsal Jan. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. The children will present five performances of their musical: 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 a single cast, and space is particularly limited this year. Registration is $410 per child, with a sibling rate of $385, including fees. Complete information and registration are available at pagosacenter.org under Classes and Camps.

A year with two old friends

The professional production features Cameron Vargas as Frog and Tim Moore as Toad, with Trevor Brown appearing as Snail and other woodland inhabitants. Samantha Luck will play Turtle and Sydney Hoel will play Mouse, with both actresses also appearing in additional roles.

Vargas and Moore recently shared the Thingamajig stage in "The Shark Is Broken," portraying actors Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw. Their new characters have a considerably happier relationship, although Toad's various worries provide Frog with a fair amount of work.

With music by Robert Reale and book and lyrics by Willie Reale, "A Year with Frog and Toad" was nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The show follows Lobel's two friends through the changing seasons, finding its adventures in gardens, swimming holes, kitchens and snowy hillsides. Toad is forever getting himself into situations that require a little help from Frog, whose patience is one of the great pleasures of the stories.

The musical's jazz-inflected score gives these small episodes an expansive musical life while preserving much of Lobel's original humor.

For parents and grandparents familiar with the books, the production offers the pleasure of introducing a younger generation to characters that may have been part of their own childhoods.

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

The holidays at the arts center

Thingamajig's annual "A Merry Little Christmas Concert" will take place Monday, Dec. 21.

■ See Actors on next page

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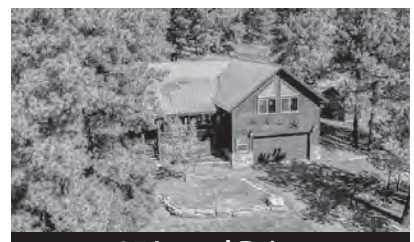

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Preview Calendar

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

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 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

■ **See Calendar on next page**

Actors

■ **continued from previous page**

Following Christmas, the company welcomes back longtime director and actress Melissa Firlit with "Dirty Dancer," her original one-woman parody of "Dirty Dancing," which was presented at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Firlit takes audiences back to the summer of 1963 at Kellerman's Resort, portraying every character from the 1987 film through physical comedy, audience participation and its familiar soundtrack.

The production will take the place of "Who's Holiday!," announced this summer as part of Thingamajig's winter season.

A new family scheduling conflict prevents Ivy King from appearing in the Christmas comedy this year, and the company hopes to revisit the production in the future to showcase King's considerable talents as a grown-up Cindy Lou Who.

"Dirty Dancer" will be presented Dec. 29 and 30 and Jan. 2 and 3, 2027. Season ticket holders may use their tickets for "Who's Holiday!" to attend the replacement production.

As Thanksgiving arrives, all of us at Thingamajig are especially grateful for the community that has supported the arts center throughout an unusually difficult autumn. There is still much work to be done following the recent flooding, both at the arts center and across Pagosa Springs.

We look forward to the coming weeks and to sharing the theater with our friends and neighbors, particularly the children whose work onstage will help us welcome the new year.

Tickets, camp registration and additional information are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-7469.

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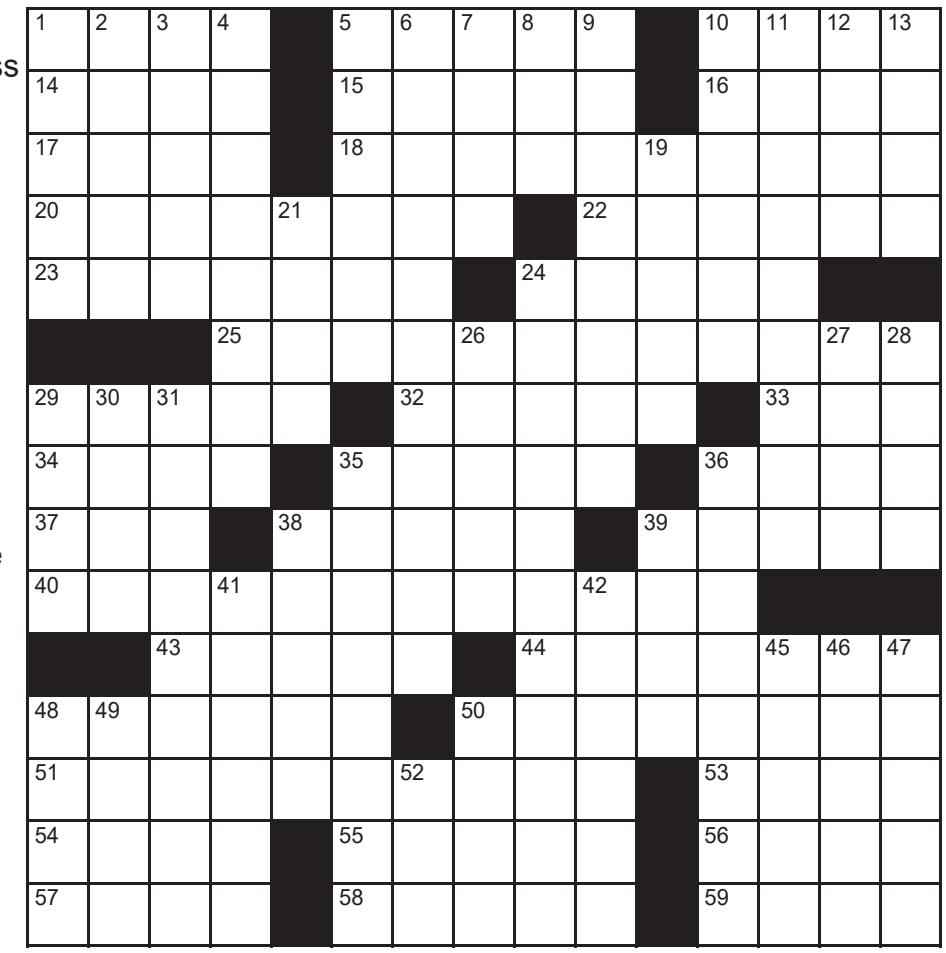
The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 Mumbai princess
5 Banded rock
10 Drove 80 in a 60, say
14 Freudian topics
15 Linus' younger brother
16 Wiggle room
17 Showbiz "grand slam"
18 Locomotive locale
20 Source of some salmon
22 Imitated a hot dog?
23 Apparent
24 Second longest African river
25 IQ part
29 Cicero, for one
32 Bank offerings
33 Charge carrier
34 ___ even keel
35 Kirsten of 2024's "Civil War"
36 Melville's "Billy ___"
37 1983 Michael Jackson hit
38 Treasure map distances
39 Zillow listings
40 Kind of affair
43 "The Dance Class" painter
44 Had a lavish meal
48 Sailor's duffel
50 Heartbeat phase
51 Resistances to diseases
53 Rock's Clapton
54 In a frenzy
55 ____ plume: pen name
56 Pro ___ (in proportion)
57 Lion's locks
58 Daly's TV co-star
59 Author Silverstein

DOWN

1 Snorkeling sites
2 Texas A & M athlete
3 Lethal loop
4 Ancient Greek games
5 Out-and-out
6 "Star Wars" creator
7 Lily plant
8 Winery cask
9 Terminus
10 Freeload
11 Radioactive element
12 Ill at ___
13 Turned blue, maybe
19 Puts up, as drapes
21 Huck of fiction
24 Job ads, e.g.
26 Solitary sort
27 The "C" in UPC
28 They may be split
29 Tug-of-war need
30 Black gemstone
31 Odysseus portrayer of 2026
35 Harmful
36 Gives support to
38 Like some rituals
39 Lukas of "Inception"
41 Chastise
42 Makes fun of
45 Bar mitzvah reading
46 Upper crust
47 Model stick-on
48 Thailand, once
49 Actress Stone
50 FDR's coin
52 Ohio airport code

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

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.

Holiday Bass Wood Ornaments: Creative Craft Workshop for Adults. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Decorate or design your own ornament with color, paint and/or the new makerspace Cricut machine.

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County Open House. 5-7 p.m., 100 Mansions Circle. See a finished house, learn more about the organization's work and more.

Thursday, Dec. 3

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.

Festival of Trees: Public Viewing and Voting. Noon-6 p.m., Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Vote for your favorite tree while enjoying cookies, hot cocoa and coffee. Meet and take pictures with Santa 4-6 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County Open House. Noon-2 p.m., 100 Mansions Circle. See a finished house, learn more about the organization's work and more.

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.

Friday, Dec. 4

Motivational Interviewing Training. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Healthy Archuleta invites local professionals to participate in a full-day training. For more information or to register, email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Baby Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join for stories, songs and giggles. Stay and play after storytime and connect with fellow caregivers. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email melanie.jonason@att.net.

Archuleta Seniors Inc. Christmas Pine Cone Crafting Event. 2 p.m., Senior Center.

Crafternoon: Slime Making. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 3-5 with caregivers. Learn how to make your own goopy concoction.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-5:45 p.m., Sisson Library. Join a community of local musicians who play for fun and learning. Jams are every other Friday.

Festival of Trees. 5:30 p.m., Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enjoy live music, door prizes, food and more at the 20th annual Festival of Trees. The live tree auction will take place at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are $40 per person. For more information, call (970) 264-4152.

Saturday, Dec. 5

LEGO Build: Cities. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Use the library's collection of LEGO bricks to create marvelous creations.

Brunch with Santa. Noon-2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Families are welcome to enjoy a warm breakfast, festive activities and a chance for children to meet Santa. Hosted by the Pagosa Springs High School National Honor Society. For more information or to RSVP, email ddeguise@pagosa.k12.co.us.





Get cozy with the Three Sisters: November Colorado Proud Recipe of the Month

Colorado Department of Agriculture

As the weather cools down, the days get shorter, and the anticipation of snow grows, it's time for slow cooking and cozy meals.

This month, we are celebrating Native American Heritage Month and the hearty late harvest season by highlighting an agricultural tradition rooted right here in the Southwest: the trio known as the "Three Sisters."

Native Americans throughout North America planted corn, beans and squash together in companion gardens where each plant supports the other and can be cooked together for a satisfying, balanced meal.

This recipe is from Bow & Arrow Brand, a company owned and operated by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Towaoc. The recipe highlights its cornmeal grown and milled right here in Southwest Colorado, paired with savory, garlic-and-herb simmered beans and tender roasted butternut squash.

The day-before preparation is really what makes this trio sing: soak the black-eyed peas and chill the polenta overnight so it firms into neat, skillet-ready squares. Dish up crisp, golden slices alongside savory simmered beans and tender caramelized squash, pour yourself a local beverage and settle into a fireside-worthy traditionally Indigenous meal.

Three Sisters Plate

Shared by Bow and Arrow Brand

Yield: 4 servings

Prep time: 20 minutes (plus chilling and soaking)

Cook time: 45 minutes

Ingredients

Sister Corn:

1 cup cornmeal

3 cups water

1 teaspoon sea salt

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons non-virgin coconut oil

Sister Beans:

1 cup black-eyed peas, ideally soaked overnight in plenty of water to cover

3 cups water

1 bay leaf

4 teaspoons fresh lime juice

2 large cloves garlic, minced or pressed

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon dried rosemary

Sister Squash:

1 medium butternut squash (approximately 8 ounces)

Coconut oil spray

2 tablespoons agave nectar

1 teaspoon dried rosemary

Salt, to taste

Directions

The corn: Place the cornmeal and water in a medium pot and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low and whisk frequently until very thick, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and whisk in salt and black pepper. To make the polenta, spread and press evenly into an 8x11.5-inch baking dish, smoothing out the top. Chill in the refrigerator for several hours or overnight.

The beans: Soak the beans overnight in cold water. Drain the soaked beans (if unsoaked, cooking will take slightly longer). Place in a large pot with 3 cups of fresh water and the bay leaf. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer until tender (about 45–60 minutes; or cook in a pressure cooker for 10–15 minutes). Once tender, drain any excess water and stir in the lime juice, garlic, dried rosemary and salt. Set aside.

The squash: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Mist a baking sheet with coconut oil spray. Trim ends from the squash, cut in half lengthwise, and scoop out seeds and pulp (reserve seeds if roasting is desired). Slice halves horizontally into 1/2-inch thick half-moons. Arrange flat on the baking sheet, spray tops lightly with coconut oil, drizzle evenly with agave nectar, and season with rosemary and salt. Bake for 15 minutes, flip slices and bake another 15 minutes until tender and caramelized.

Pan-fry the polenta: Slice the chilled polenta into 3-inch squares. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat with 1 tablespoon of coconut oil. Pan-fry the squares for about 5 minutes per side until golden and crisp, working in batches and adding the remaining oil for the second batch.

(Optional) roasted squash seeds: Rinse reserved squash seeds thoroughly in a strainer, toss with a touch of oil, salt and garlic powder, and roast at 400 degrees F for about 20 minutes (stirring halfway) until golden and crunchy.

To serve: Plate the crispy browned polenta squares alongside the warm seasoned beans and roasted butternut squash slices. Garnish with the roasted squash seeds if desired, and enjoy.

Pairing perfection

We recommend the 2023 Chambourcin from in Palisade. This dry wine is very smooth, with a medium body and notes of roasted blackberry, boysenberry and plum and an earthy complexity.

This wine won double gold at both the 2025 Colorado Governor's Cup and the 2026 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition.

Non-alcoholic cocktail: Smoked Raspberry and Sage Shrub Spritz

To mirror the dark fruit notes and earthy complexity of the recommended Chambourcin wine — while cutting through the richness of the fried polenta, garlic-lime black-eyed peas and caramelized butternut squash — this mocktail balances tartness, subtle sweetness and woodsy botanicals.

Ingredients

Yield: 1 drink

1.5 ounces raspberry syrup

0.75 ounces freshly squeezed lime juice (complements the lime in the beans)

2 ounces pure unsweetened tart cherry or pomegranate juice (provides the deep, tannic body typical of red wine)

3-4 ounces sparkling water or club soda

Garnish: Fresh sage leaf (lightly clapped to release oils) and 2 fresh or frozen blackberries

Raspberry-sage base:

1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries

0.5 cup agave nectar (echoing the agave in the roasted squash)

0.5 cup water

4-5 fresh sage leaves

Optional for wine-like acidity: 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar

Directions

Make the raspberry-sage base:

■ **See Recipe on next page**

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LOVE PAGOSA

Healthy Archuleta to offer full-day motivational interviewing training for local professionals

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta invites local professionals to participate in a full-day motivational interviewing (MI) training on Friday, Dec. 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening professional development opportunities and building local capacity to support community health and well-being.

As Archuleta County continues to navigate the challenges brought about by the recent historic flooding, including disruptions to transportation and connections with neighboring communities, the importance of having access to local resources, expertise and professional learning opportunities has become even more evident.

At times like these, we are especially grateful for the capacity within our community to bring people together, share knowledge and offer meaningful professional development opportunities without requiring participants to travel outside the county.

MI is an evidence-based, person-centered approach to communication that helps individuals explore their own motivations for change. Rather than directing or persuading someone to make a particular decision, MI emphasizes listening, empathy, collaboration and supporting individuals in identifying their own goals and pathways forward.

These skills are valuable across a wide range of professions, including health care, public health, mental and behavioral health, education, social services, youth development, and other community-based programs. Whether working with individuals navigating health concerns, families facing difficult circumstances, or young people making important decisions, MI offers practical tools for building trust, strengthening relationships and supporting positive change.

Through its ongoing partnerships and community initiatives, Healthy Archuleta recognizes that investing in the skills and knowledge of local professionals is an important part of strengthening the systems that serve our residents. Creating opportunities for professionals from different organizations and sectors to learn together also supports collaboration, shared understanding and more coordinated approaches to meeting

■ See Training on next page

Recipe

■ continued from previous page

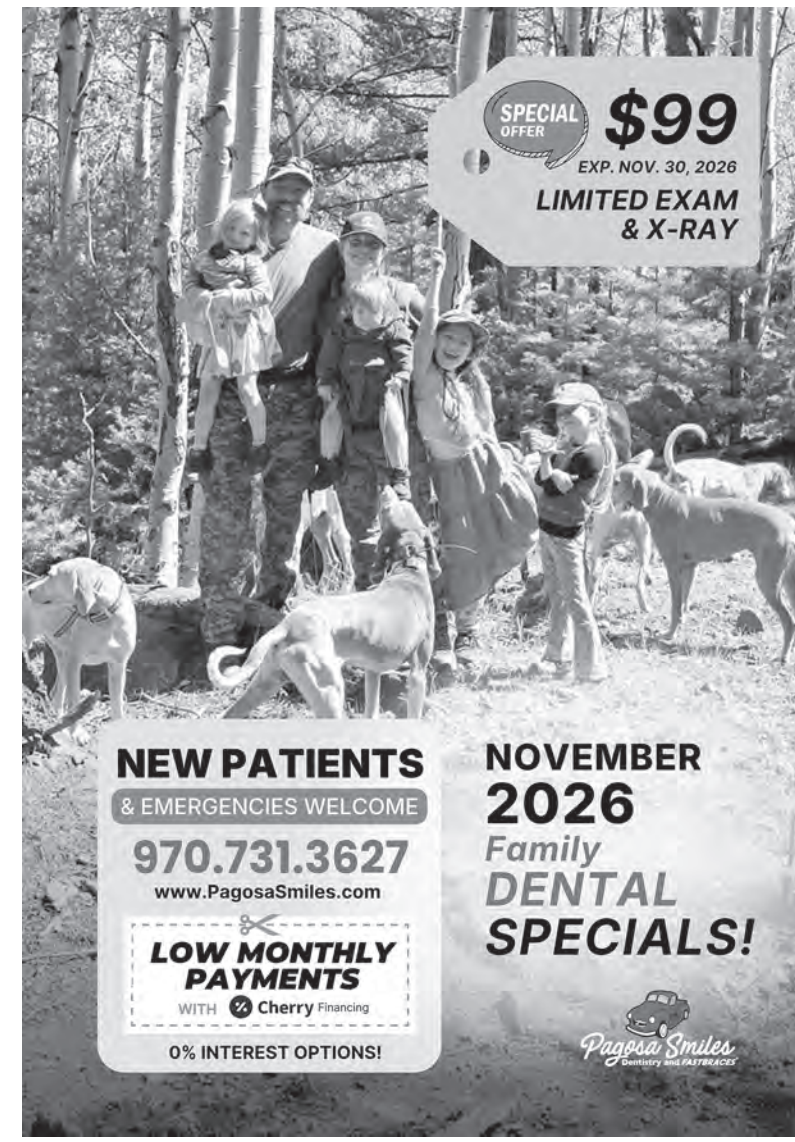
Combine raspberries, water, agave nectar and sage leaves in a small saucepan. Simmer over medium-low heat for 6-8 minutes, gently mashing the berries to release their juices. Remove from heat, stir in the apple cider vinegar (if using), let cool and strain out solids through a fine-mesh sieve.

Mix the drink: In a cocktail shaker or mixing glass filled with ice, combine 1.5 oz of the raspberry-sage base, the tart cherry (or pomegranate) juice, and the fresh lime juice. Stir well until thoroughly chilled.

Serve: Strain into a lowball glass or stemless wine glass over fresh ice.

Top and garnish: Top with sparkling water and give it a gentle stir. Garnish with a fresh sage leaf and skewered blackberries.

Visit ColoradoProud.com for more recipes.





The trickle-down benefits of supporting small businesses

Special to The PREVIEW

Small businesses dominate the commercial landscape. Whenever a person chooses to dine at a neighborhood restaurant, work with an independent contractor or visit a local clothing shop, they are participating in a practice that goes beyond any single transaction. Supporting small businesses creates an economic ripple that benefits consumers, workers and even entire communities.

Supporting small businesses leads to the "local multiplier effect."

According to research by the American Independent Business Alliance, approximately $53 of every $100 spent at an independent local business stays in the local economy, compared to less than $14 spent at a national chain. This is because small businesses prioritize local suppliers, utilize community services and re-invest their profits locally. This continuous circulation of money directly funds communities through tax revenue that funds local infrastructure projects, public schools and emergency services.

Small businesses also are essential for job growth and employment stability.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) indicates that small businesses make up 99.9 percent of all American enterprises, employing around 60 million workers, or nearly half of the private-sector workforce.

Small businesses also generate nearly two out of every three new private-sector jobs, states the SBA. By supporting these companies, consumers can help preserve existing jobs and create new opportunities for local job seekers, many of whom are young people or second-chance workers who find their first breaks at independent establishments.

Beyond the financial benefits, local businesses foster innovation and help communities develop character.

Unlike large corporations that tend to be cookie-cutter and rely on standardization, independent businesses adapt easily to the unique preferences of the areas where they are located. This helps to cultivate distinct neighborhood identities. Ordinary streets downtown can transform into walkable town centers.

According to OneDigital, groupings of local businesses in neighborhoods correlates with stronger civic engagement, higher rates of charitable giving and greater overall community resilience when the economy falters.

Small businesses owners rely heavily on long-term relationships and word of mouth. This means that these business owners (and their employees) will be compelled to deliver superior customer support, accountability and a specialized expertise that cannot be matched by huge corporations. This personalized service will bring customers back time and again.

Supporting small businesses is a direct investment in the community. Every dollar spent at an independent business provides benefits for people who call that neighborhood home.

Training

■ continued from previous page

community needs.

The Dec. 4 training is part of Healthy Archuleta's broader efforts to support a connected, knowledgeable and responsive local workforce. Particularly during periods of disruption and recovery, strengthening our collective capacity to serve residents is an investment in the long-term resilience of our community.

For more information or to register, please email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Healthy Archuleta welcomes the opportunity to continue bringing professional learning experiences to Archuleta County and strengthening the relationships, skills and resources that help our community thrive.

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2026 Flood Relief Application

Housing assistance is available to qualified applicants whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed by 2026 Colorado Flooding and applies toward **one** of the following options:

- Monthly mortgage expense for the primary residence
- Rental cost due to displacement from the primary residence resulting from the Flooding Disaster.

Relief assistance is limited to a maximum of $1,000 per household.

Deadline for application submission is **January 15, 2027.**

Please note this assistance is for **housing relief only;** other expenses including second mortgages (home equity lines or loans), clothing, appliances, equipment, vehicle purchase, rental or repair and or mileage are ineligible for reimbursement under this program.

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Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the ruby-crowned kinglet.

Kinglets are tiny birds, even smaller than some types of hummingbirds. Two species of kinglets live here, the ruby-crowned and the golden-crowned. Neither are very colorful birds, but their actions are anything but subdued. They don't ever seem to calm down, foraging almost frantically and constantly flicking their wings.

The diminutive ruby-crowned kinglets are olive green overall with prominent white eyerings and a white wingbar with black underneath. The ruby crown of feathers worn by males is usually hidden but raises up when he is agitated or excited. His jumbled, bubbly song in summer starts out soft and high-pitched before shifting to a loud ending that seems out of proportion to the size of the bird.

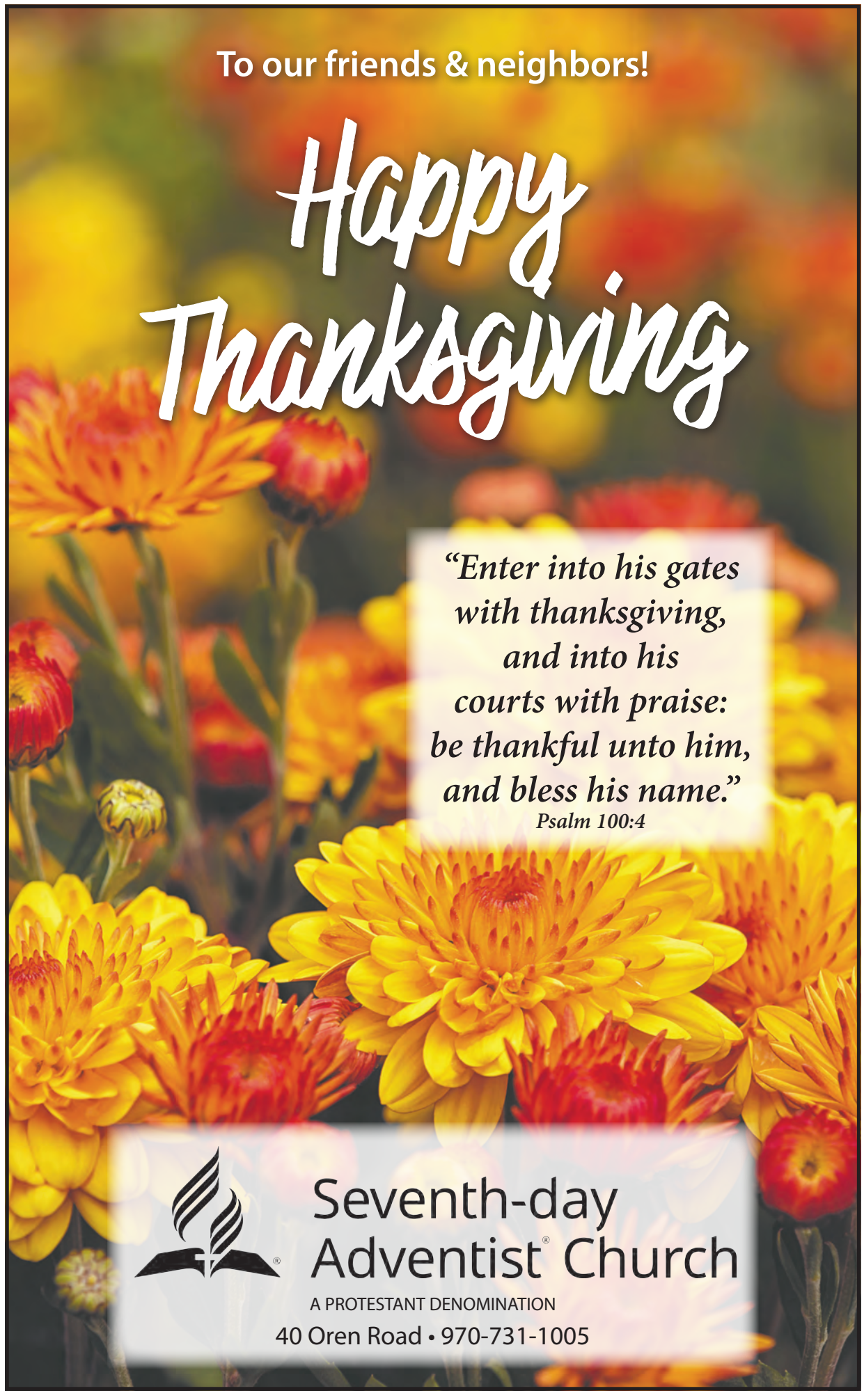
The summer breeding range of the ruby-crowned kinglet includes most of Canada and Alaska and dips down into western mountain ranges. In this season it prefers older, taller, denser stands of spruce-fir forests. Our Audubon chapter summer bird surveys on Jackson Mountain demonstrated this preference in habitat types. Their inaccessible nests, high and hidden in conifers, have provided little opportunity to study this bird's breeding biology. It is known, however, that a female lays up to 12 eggs, a clutch that can weigh as much as she does.

As winter approaches, this kinglet moves out of the tall conifers into low woods and streamside thickets. It's amazing that a bird that mainly eats insects can spend the winter in areas where few other insect eaters can survive. The ruby-crowned kinglet locates food while pecking at bark in trees and hovering to glean insects, spiders and eggs from leaves and needles. They can find food so small that other birds don't want it or can't find it. In order to stay warm and replenish energy stores, they must eat constantly. They aren't really attracted to seed feeders, but can show up to eat suet.

Exceptionally harsh winters may take a toll on numbers, but ruby-crowned kinglet populations seem stable, with the species widespread and common.

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





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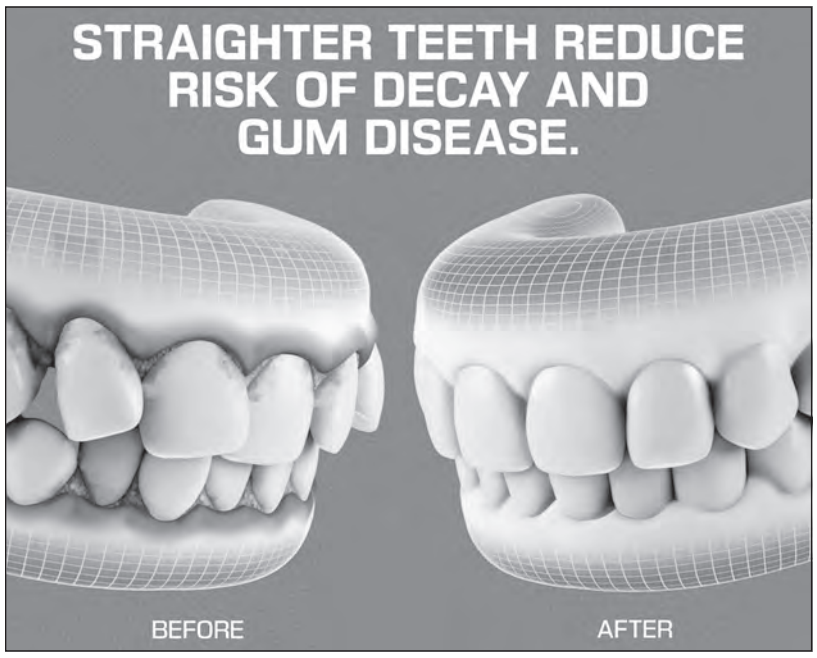

Illustration courtesy Black Diamond Dental

Black Diamond Dental offers Invisalign treatment to help patients achieve straighter, healthier-looking smiles with clear, comfortable and removable aligners.

Black Diamond Dental offers Black Friday savings on Invisalign

By Allison Brown

A straighter smile could be closer than you think. Black Diamond Dental is making it easier for patients to explore Invisalign this holiday season with a special Black Friday offer of 50% off treatment.

Led by Dr. Justin Nylund, DDS, Black Diamond Dental offers Invisalign as a discreet alternative to traditional metal braces. Rather than using brackets and wires, the treatment relies on a series of custom-made, clear plastic aligners that gradually move teeth into better positions.

Because the aligners are transparent, they are generally less noticeable than conventional braces. They are also removable, allowing patients to take them out when eating, brushing and flossing. This flexibility means fewer food restrictions and makes maintaining everyday oral hygiene easier.

Invisalign can help address several common concerns, including crowded teeth, gaps, shifting teeth and certain bite issues. However, treatment is not right for everyone. A consultation with Dr. Nylund allows the dental team to evaluate each patient's teeth, gums and smile goals to determine whether clear aligners are an appropriate option.

Successful treatment also depends on consistency. Patients typically need to wear their aligners 20 to 22 hours a day, changing to the next set according to their provider's instructions. Regular checkups help ensure teeth are moving as planned.

For those who have been considering a straighter smile but have put off treatment, Black Diamond Dental's Black Friday special offers an opportunity to take the next step while saving 50% on Invisalign.

Whether you're interested in correcting crowding, closing gaps or simply feeling more confident about your smile, the team at Black Diamond Dental can help you explore your options.

For more information, call Black Diamond Dental at 970-398-2398 or visit blackdiamonddds.com.

Black Diamond Dental is part of The Pagosa Springs SUN Community Connect sponsored content program.





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Step back in time with Main Street Bethlehem Dec. 3-5

Centerpoint Church

Main Street Bethlehem will return to Centerpoint Church, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, Dec. 3, 4 and 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Free to the public, appropriate for all ages, this is a great way to begin your Christmas season with family and friends.

It has been a long season with more hardships than any of us were prepared for — first the fires, and now the floods. Fear, uncertainty, anxiety and then loss — some irreplaceable, some just stuff, but will still be very hard to replace.

The work never ends, but just seems to pile up with quickly approaching deadlines, and winter is knocking at the door. It all seems overwhelming when considered all together, so we choose rather to take it in small bites, a piece at a time.

Time off seems impossible — too much to do, too little time left to do it in.

The human spirit is a marvelous thing — that same spirit that you have witnessed all around you these past weeks as neighbors are helping neighbors, friends are helping friends, and everyone is caring for those around them while suffering the same disaster in their own lives.

But even the strongest of human determination wears thin and runs out of gas at some point and needs replenishing — quiet moments here and there, time for reflection, reading, prayer.

There are times in each of our lives when our circumstances force us to consider that we cannot do this alone; we cannot meet the disappointing challenges with human help alone. This may be a difficult realization, but it is the first step in considering that perhaps our circumstances are pointing to the truth that a loving God stands ready to step into our life with help, hope, encouragement to carry on and the promise "that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8.28).

Maybe for you it's a bit too early to see any good in what has just happened, but while we are busy trying to put our lives back together, the time we have left on earth is slipping away.

There's a question still waiting to be answered, a question much more important than all the questions you are focusing on right now — and the only question that determines where you will spend your eternity.

Though we do not believe that God causes these disasters, we do believe that He often uses them to usher us into a season of life where we are more sensitive to His voice, His promptings, His invitation to deal with that one unanswered question.

That question that we are prone to dismiss quickly without serious thought, while quickly returning to the tyranny of the urgent. Such is life in difficult times — and yet difficult times are often when God speaks the loudest to get our attention above the deafening noise all around us.

May I offer a suggestion?

Though you do not have the time, take the time anyway to listen for His voice, pick up your Bible and read John chapter 3; listen to Jesus as He explains to Nicodemus what is really most important.

And since you need a break from your home and property — your worksite for the past few weeks — pick a night and spend an hour walking through the streets of Bethlehem, visiting with shop owners, shepherds and even Roman soldiers.

Immerse yourself in first century Israel — the simplicity, the poverty, the harsh reality of way more needs than money just to survive. But, even in spite of the overwhelming frustration, there was hope — hope for the present and hope for the future. The Messiah is here.

The long-promised Savior is come and is right now in the manger in Bethlehem.

You might even meet someone with whom you can ask a question or two that are heaviest on your heart. You might find the hope that has slipped through your fingers recently, threatening to never come back. You might hear the truth in a way that you have never heard it before, a way that resonates within your heart in a way that you never imagined possible.

You might even answer that long-neglected question that everyone must answer before death — "What will you do with this baby, Jesus the Christ, who died for the sins of the world?" — and find the peace and assurance that you have been longing for.

You never know. This could be the year — unless you put it off again. We invite you to join us at Main Street Bethlehem, bring your fears and anxieties, lay them before the King, and allow Him to adopt you into His family for now and eternity.

We'll see you in Bethlehem.

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When the scenic view has a neighbor in it

By Douglas Vandergraph
Special to The PREVIEW

A Matter of Faith

People notice the beauty of the mountains around Pagosa Springs. They remember the river, the changing seasons and the sense of space that draws visitors to Archuleta County. Natural beauty is a gift, but it can also distract us from a quieter question: How are the people who live beside that view doing today?

A community is not simply a place to admire. It is a place where human lives are unfolding, often in circumstances we cannot see.

Someone working long hours may struggle to find time for a neighbor. A newcomer may know the landmarks but not a single person to call when a problem arrives. A longtime resident may watch the town change and wonder whether there is still room for their story.

Christian scripture offers an answer rooted in attention rather than nostalgia. In Mark 10, Jesus stops when a blind man calls out from the crowd. Other voices want the man to be silent. Jesus listens and asks what he wants. The question is simple, but it refuses to treat a person as an interruption.

That approach has meaning in a place where locals, workers and visitors cross paths every day. We can slow down enough to listen before making assumptions. We can ask a struggling neighbor what assistance would actually help. We can welcome a new family without pretending that belonging happens after a single introduction.

None of this requires us to diminish the joy of our surroundings. The mountains remain beautiful. The river still deserves our care. Yet a spectacular landscape does not measure whether a resident feels noticed, respected or safe.

The most durable kind of hometown pride makes room for people whose struggles are not photogenic and whose stories do not fit on a postcard.

As the seasons change in Pagosa Country, let us enjoy what is remarkable about this place and be equally attentive to what is ordinary: the person waiting in line, the worker closing up late, the neighbor who might appreciate a conversation. Love of place is strongest when it becomes love of people.

This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to editor@pagosasun.com.

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.

Christmas Party Clubs to brings holiday fun, message of Jesus

By Kim Lund
Child Evangelism Fellowship

The Christmas season is a time for celebration, and Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) is inviting families throughout the Pagosa Springs community to join in the fun at this year's Christmas Party Club events.

With multiple gatherings planned throughout December, elementary-aged children will have opportunities to enjoy games, crafts, treats and fun while discovering the greatest gift of all — Jesus Christ.

Christmas Party Club events will be held at several locations throughout the community, including local churches, schools and the Ruby Sisson Library. Special preschool events will also be offered at Pagosa Bible Church.

The December schedule includes:

• Dec. 2 and 9: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Preschool Program (Kids Kare), Pagosa Bible Church.

• Dec. 5: 10 a.m. to noon: Ruby Sisson Library.

• Dec. 6: 10 a.m. to noon, Restoration Fellowship.

• Dec. 11: 1:15 to 3:15 p.m., Good News Club at Pagosa Springs Elementary School.

• Dec. 11: 1:30 to 3 p.m., Centerpoint Church.

• Dec. 11: 1:30 to 3 p.m., JYC at Pagosa Springs Middle School.

• Dec. 13 : 9:30–10:45 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church.

• Dec. 15: 2 to 3:30 p.m., Pagosa Valor Academy.

• Dec. 29: 10 a.m. to noon, Ruby Sisson Library.

Christmas Party Club is designed to provide a welcoming, fun environment where children can make friends, enjoy seasonal activities and hear the wonderful story of God's love through the birth of Jesus.

All are welcome. Families are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to celebrate Christmas, make special memories and discover the true meaning of the season.

All children are welcome to participate in any event regardless of previous participation.

Christmas Party Club is sponsored by CEF, an organization dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with children. Questions? Contact Connie Porter at (303) 901-5290 or Kim Lund at (308) 665-5973.

988 Lifeline

Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our counselors are here for you.

You are not alone. 988 for help.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

ANSWER:

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

Archuleta Seniors Inc. offers Thanksgiving message

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Senior News

On this Thanksgiving Day, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (AS) would like to extend warm wishes for a happy and blessed Thanksgiving to everyone in our Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County community.

This year, the holiday may feel a little different as our community continues to deal with the challenges and aftermath of the recent flooding.

Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected, including families, businesses and neighbors who are working hard to recover and rebuild.

While the floods have brought unexpected hardships, they have also reminded us of the importance of coming together, supporting one another and showing compassion during difficult times.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what we are grateful for, and, at ASI, we are especially thankful for our wonderful seniors, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, community partners, board members and staff who make our mission possible every day.

We are reminded that even during challenging times, the strength of a community is found in the kindness and generosity of its people.

From our ASI family to yours, we wish everyone a safe, peaceful, and happy Thanksgiving. May your holiday be filled with gratitude, hope, friendship and the comfort of knowing that we are stronger when we stand together.

Holiday closures

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

In December, ASI will be closed on Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 24 and 25, and New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2027.

No meals or services will be provided on those days.

Christmas pine cone crafting event

ASI will host a Christmas pine cone crafting event on Friday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m.

This event is made possible through the generous donation of craft supplies by Amy McGuire and family.

Christmas Party

Order lunch and join us on Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

■ See Senior on page 23

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kids' corner

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Garnish missing from stuffing 2. Extra slice of turkey 3. Missing knife 4. Pie in place of cranberries

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOV 25

1833: A massive undersea earthquake rocks Sumatra.

1915: Albert Einstein presents the field equations of general relativity.

1963: The state funeral of John F. Kennedy takes place and the President is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

World FACT:

This country celebrates Thanksgiving in October.

Answer: Canada

NEW WORD

GRATITUDE

the quality of being thankful

"How they say that in..."

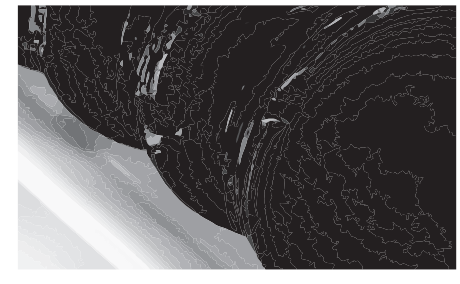
English: Turkey
Spanish: Pavo
Italian: Tacchino
French: Dindon
German: Truthahn

Did You KNOW?

Pumpkin pie is a popular dessert served on Thanksgiving. Apple pie also is popular on this beloved holiday.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Cranberry sauce

Senior

■ continued from page 21

instructor, Roberta Strickland.

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

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

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

Tai chi

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

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

Bingo

The next date for bingo is Dec. 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

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. 26 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 27 — Closed for Thanksgiving.

Monday, Nov. 30 — Salmon with tangy butter sauce, green beans, roasted red potatoes, garden salad, fruit, hazelnut beignets and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 1 — Eggplant Parmesan, asparagus, garden salad, fruit, pecan pie and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 2 — Pork tenderloin with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, creamed spinach, garden salad, fruit, tapioca pudding and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 3 — Harvest chicken salad, broccoli salad, garden salad, fruit, orange blossom muffin and milk.

Friday, Dec. 4 — Beef and rice stuffed bell peppers, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt, and milk.

Meals on Wheels

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

Text reservations

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

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

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

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

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

Medicare assistance by appointment

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

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

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970-398-2398

"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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www.blackdiamonddds.com

BLACK DIAMOND DENTAL PAGOSA SPRINGS

The 'never' we never saw coming

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Artist's Lane

Everyone is working to gain back some semblance of what they lost. There is no time to sit down and cry.

Have you ever said, "Never," and you ended up eating your words and living in what you said you would never do?

Our family, three of the 168 evacuees, who are living away from our homes not knowing the day we might return, is stuck in an unresolved limbo state. Some do not have a house to return to. Some of us wonder how long it will take to make our home livable again and move back into normal. Many of us might have been stretched beyond what we thought we could handle.

Some of us could be moving into a new normal, where we no longer have the independence we once enjoyed. But, like a rubber band, we've been pulled in ways we wouldn't have thought possible, but have received blessings we never thought possible.

Our son is working on our two houses damaged in the flood and dealing with mold in our crawlspace. He has torn off wet Sheetrock and removed silt out of the walls of his home. Like so many, he is overwhelmed by the damage and the work in front of him, but also by the generosity of everyone who has offered to help. We would have missed the giving spirit of strangers and local town people.

Being independent, I said to my family years ago, I want to live out my days in my own home, and please don't take me to an assistant living facility. Well, I am so grateful that I am living with my family and my "never" doesn't hurt as badly as I thought it would. In fact, it has been a blessing.

I said not too long ago to my children, "I don't like being around old and needy people. I can't handle their tears and sadness. Do you feel the same way?"

My daughter laughed, my son-in-law chuckled, "That's a loaded question. The old and needy are living with us."

I laughed, "There is a difference between being needy and having needs. Needy people can't get back on their feet. Life is too hard for them. People who have needs are grateful for the lift up and are willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work."

The people of Pagosa, watching their homes float down the river, are probably like us. Insurance companies wouldn't sell us flood insurance; we didn't qualify. We worked the property, planted flowers and trees, built our little heaven on earth and were content with the simple lives we had carved out for ourselves.

Most people are independent. They are willing to work for what they have and pay their own way. They might have never taken a handout. I have a feeling that the 168 who are dealing with financial loss and lost homes are actually thankful for all the handouts and goodwill others provide.

Some of us, living with family or generous friends, are living in someone else's space, on their schedule, and the way they run their household. We are used to being comfortable in our own homes. We like our own chair, television programs — the volume turned up louder than usual — and being our own boss. We have enjoyed those little habits that we have.

With an advanced stage of dementia, my Sweet Al doesn't know what has happened and repeats, "I want to go to my house."

My son said with a genuine shake of his head, "I don't think Daddy will be returning to his home."

Laughingly, our children have always warned me, as long as I wasn't difficult, I could live with them, but if I was, it was Shady Pines. Wow. Talk about pressure.

When we built our home, we were thrilled to have the river running in the back of our property. We believed we built high enough, far enough, that we would never worry about flooding. Another never we didn't see coming.

When we built our home, raised our children in an untamed country, pristine in its original condition, we never thought the river would be so wild and free, destroying everything in its path. Once again we live in an untamed country.

Everyone is working to gain back some semblance of what they lost. There is no time to sit down and cry.

The pile of throw-aways is getting larger as we wait for a roll-off dumpster. Some of our things are outside waiting for everything to dry.

This "never" we never saw coming could come again when we least expect it in the form of snow and a severe winter. Would we live anywhere else? No, never.

Final brushstroke: We've given up some of our comforts and a routine life, maybe never to return to what we had, but we are still being blessed by caring people.

Share your stories with me at bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

Pagosa Community Initiative offers thanks for, outlines community support

By Rebecca Tenpenny
Pagosa Community Initiative

This Thanksgiving season, I find myself more grateful than I have ever been to call Pagosa Springs home.

This community has shown its incredibly giving and kind heart lately, and that must be recognized.

On behalf of myself, our staff and the entire team at Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI), I want to express our deepest gratitude to the people of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County, and the countless individuals who may not live here but love this community just as much as we do.

This year has brought its share of challenges, and the recent flooding has tested our community in ways none of us could have anticipated.

Families have experienced devastating losses, unexpected financial burdens and tremendous uncertainty. But, through it all, I have witnessed something that has left me both humbled and incredibly proud: an overwhelming willingness to help one another.

The generosity we have seen throughout the flood relief efforts has been nothing short of remarkable.

Local businesses have organized their own fundraisers, donated proceeds from special sales, created giving campaigns and found countless creative ways to support families impacted by the flooding. Individuals have stepped forward with donations, supplies, volunteer hours and offers to help in whatever way they can. People who have visited Pagosa Springs, fallen in love with our little mountain town and carried a piece of it home with them have reached out from near and far to contribute.

Some donations have been large,

■ See Support next page

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Support

■ continued from previous page

others small, but every single one represents someone making the choice to care about another person. That is something we will never take for granted at PCI.

Because of this generosity, PCI has already been able to provide flood relief assistance to more than 300 individuals representing 119 households.

These numbers represent families who can begin to recover, parents who have one less thing to worry about, and neighbors who know they haven't been forgotten.

The recovery process is far from over, but because of the people who have supported these efforts, we can continue walking alongside families as they navigate the difficult road ahead.

I also want to recognize the many other incredible organizations, nonprofits, churches, businesses, and community groups that have stepped up to support our neighbors during this time.

There are too many to name, and I can't even try. So many have worked tirelessly to provide temporary and long-term housing solutions, financial assistance, essential supplies, food, clothing, cleanup efforts and countless other resources.

The work being done throughout our community extends far beyond PCI, and I am so grateful to be surrounded by organizations and individuals who share the same commitment to helping families recover. No single organization could meet all of the needs our community is facing, and it has been inspiring to see so many groups bring their own resources, strengths and compassion to the table.

To everyone working behind the scenes, coordinating services, gathering donations, opening doors and finding solutions for families, please know that your efforts are seen and deeply appreciated. We are fortunate to have so many people and organizations willing to work together for the good of our community.

While flood relief has understandably been a major focus in recent weeks, I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the incredible support our community has shown PCI throughout the entire year.

Because of generous donors, community partners, volunteers and supporters, we were able to provide back-to-school supplies to 152 children this year, helping them begin the school year with the tools they needed to feel prepared and confident.

Last year's holiday toy drive brought gifts to 325 children, and we anticipate serving even more this holiday season.

Our free after-school programs currently serve 232 unduplicated students, providing safe, engaging spaces where children can learn, build friendships, explore their interests and connect with caring adults. Alongside these programs, our Family Resource Center continues helping families navigate challenges, access essential resources and find support when they need it most.

None of this happens without the people who believe in what we do.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Board of Directors. Our board members give so much more than their time. They continuously advocate for PCI, introduce us to new supporters, connect us with valuable community resources and help open doors that allow us to better serve local families.

And to our PCI staff, I want to say how proud I am to work alongside you. This year, and particularly these past several weeks, has asked a great deal of our team. They have taken on new responsibilities, worked through unexpected challenges, and continued showing up for families with compassion, patience and determination. Even while responding to the immediate needs created by the floods, they have worked tirelessly to ensure that our regular programs and services continue.

One of the things I love most about Pagosa is that when someone needs help, people don't just ask what should be done. They ask what they can do. We've seen that spirit in business owners, retirees, families, visitors, volunteers and children who have found their own ways to give. We've seen it in people who have never met the families they're helping and may never know the impact their generosity has made.

As the director of PCI, I have the privilege of seeing that impact firsthand. I see the relief when a family learns that help is available. I see the excitement of children participating in programs they might not otherwise have access to. I see what happens when people are given the support and encouragement they need to move forward.

I wish every person who has contributed to PCI could see those moments, too.

This Thanksgiving, I know that many families in our community are still facing difficult circumstances. There is still a tremendous amount of work ahead of us, and we know the needs will continue long after the immediate attention surrounding the floods has faded. But I am incredibly thankful that we live in a place where so many people are willing to share the responsibility of caring for one another.

To every person who has donated, volunteered, organized a fundraiser, shared our requests for help, connected us with resources, supported our programs or simply encouraged our team along the way: Thank you.

Thank you for trusting PCI to put your generosity to work. Thank you for believing in our mission and in the families we serve. And thank you for reminding us, time and again, what makes this community so special.

From all of us at PCI, we wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and meaningful Thanksgiving. We are deeply grateful to be part of this community, and even more grateful for the opportunity to serve it.



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GEOGRAPHY WORD SEARCH

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

ARCHIPELAGO
ATOLL
BASIN
BAYOU
CANYON
CARTOGRAPHY
DELTA
EQUATOR
ESTUARY
FJORD
GEODESY
GLACIER
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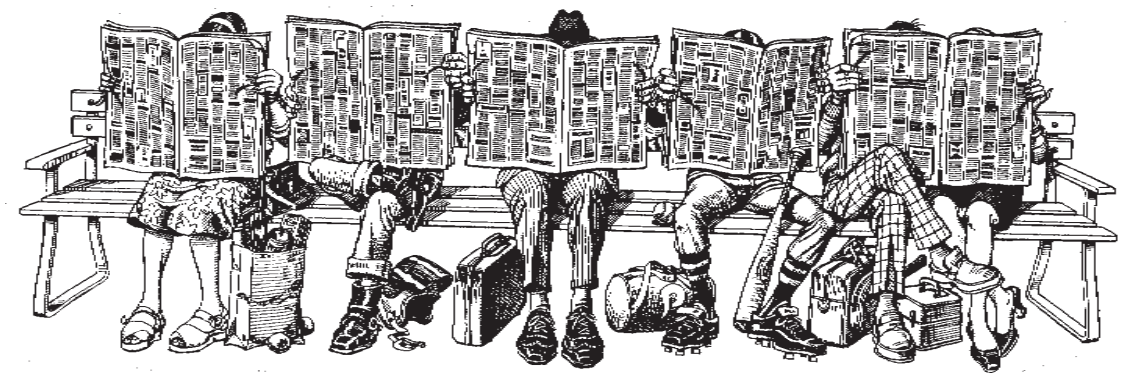

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Pagosa is a symbol of resilience and hope

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

2026 will go down in history as a tumultuous time for Pagosa Springs.

Together we endured drought, fire, and floods, all in the same year, back to back without much time to regroup. People lost their homes. We lost our beloved museum and many of the artifacts that reminded us of our deep history in this valley.

Weeks after the latest flood, we are still rebuilding roads and cleaning off side streets. With winter looming, we race toward enough stability to power us through till spring.

Surely in the face of so much tragedy we could have been defeated. But that's not what we've seen. In the midst of the devastation, there shines a glimmer of hope, fostered by the shared love for our mountain home. It will take time to rebuild, but I have every confidence that this community will rebound even stronger than before.

2026 will also be recorded as a year of new beginnings for us. In the midst of all the trauma, Pagosa planted new seeds of hope. It built a new library and it voted to build a new school. Together, these community institutions will serve generations to come, nurturing strong minds and helping to build a resilient community where everyone can reach their potential.

Pagosa invested in the future when so much was uncertain. It invested in hope.

Novelist James Patterson holds a deep love for teachers and the power of education. His foundation gives millions of dollars each year to classrooms and school libraries across the country.

This month he released "Thank You, Teachers: True Stories from America's Teachers, Our Last Line of Defense and Our First Line of Hope," a collection of true stories to recognize the people building a hopeful future for children everywhere.

Patterson understands how good teachers, strong schools and vibrant libraries shape a community for the better.

As we rebuild after the storm, let us keep our focus on the shining hope of our new schools and library. The future of Pagosa is bright, indeed, and its people are wise and resilient.

Winter Reading Program to begin Dec. 1

This winter, let's cozy up with a good book and dive into a new reading routine together.

The library is challenging you to read every day (as much as you're able to) between Dec. 1, 2026, and Jan. 2, 2027.

Collect winter-themed badges as you keep your reading streak going and earn some milestone prizes at 10 days, 21 days and completion for at least 28 of the 32-day challenge.

Readers can track their reading through the online platform, Beanstack, the same app you used for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Library News

Readers may also choose to track your reading offline through paper logs that can be picked up from the library.

Registration kicked off Nov. 5 online (www.pagosalibrary.org/winter-reading-program) and at the library. Participants can begin tracking on Dec. 1.

In Beanstack, you can start by registering yourself or a family member. If you have already registered for a past challenge, just sign in. Please register for the challenge that corresponds with your age group as the daily reading goals are different. You can register for offline participation at the library or call (970) 264-2209 for additional details.

The Winter Reading Challenge is for all ages. Don't be left out. Register today.

New titles ready for checkout

New nonfiction

• "Beyond the Pink: Navigating Life, Health, and Breast Cancer," by Eleonora Teplinksy, M.D., is a comprehensive, compassionate guide to the post-diagnosis and treatment phase of breast cancer and the psychological adjustment needed as a survivor.

• Historian Sondra Jones charts the history of the tribe that inhabited this corner of the Southwest, from prehistoric times to present day, in "Being and Becoming Ute: The Story of an American Indian People."

• "The Invisible List: A Road Map for Finally Tracking What Matters Most," by civic entrepreneur Ravi Gupta, encourages us to abandon the burnout from a high-achieving life and follow one passion, every year.

New fiction

• "The Year of the Wind," by Peruvian writer Karina Pacheo Medrano, now translated into English, follows protagonist Nina as she returns to Peru to track the true story behind her cousin's radicalization with the Shining Path rebels in the Andes mountains outside Cusco.

• "She Waits Where Shadows Gather" is by Michelle Tang. After a brutal car crash leaves protagonist Carlos trapped in his own body, the spirits in his ancestral home watch, listen and speak to Carlos in a voice only he can hear.

• "The Hollow" is by Michael Connelly (Bosch Novel #26). LAPD detective Harry Bosch learns that his half-brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, has tracked down a $400,000 settlement payout Harry is owed from a massive class-action lawsuit. But Harry doesn't want the money. He wants justice.

New in large print

• James Patterson pens a collection of true stories from the classroom in "Thank You, Teachers: True Stories from America's Teachers, Our Last Line of Defense and Our First Line of Hope."

• "Family of Spies: A World War II Story of Nazi Espionage, Betrayal, and the Secret History Behind Pearl Harbor," by Christina Kuehn, tells the story of her family's secret involvement in the Nazi's war campaign.

• "Home for the Homicides," book one in the new Holly and Mark mystery series from bestselling authors Elle Cosimano and Hanna Morrissey, is described as "a punchy, holiday-themed romantic suspense novel where two rival special agents on thin ice are sent to a crime-free, Christmas-obsessed town."

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

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

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

The library will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Nov. 26 through Nov. 29. Don't find yourself short of good books. Stop in and stock up soon.

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MISCELLANEOUS



Meet Speckles!

This sweet 1-year-old male is ready for a home. He's very friendly and wants to be with people all the time. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.



Meet Marlee!

This sweet adult male has a mellow personality and is ready for a home of his own. Marlee is shy at first but very sweet once he's comfortable. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

GREAT MASSAGE PRICES
All Massages include a Soak!
OVERLOOK HOT SPRNGS SPA
Downtown Pagosa 264-4040

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE OF A CHANGE IN THE TARIFFS OF LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

You are hereby notified that the above-named Cooperative has made the following changes in its tariffs, which will become effective January 1, 2027, following approval by the LPEA Board of Directors at its regular meeting on December 16, 2026.

The proposed changes result in an overall average increase of 6.9%. This adjustment reflects rising operational costs, including fuel, materials, labor, and infrastructure maintenance.

The average residential, commercial, and industrial member will see an increase of about 6.9% on their monthly bill.

Specific changes include modifications to the base charges, peak power charges and energy charges for residential, commercial and industrial members.

The proposed and present tariff provisions are available for examination on the cooperative's website at lpea.coop/rates and at each business office of the Cooperative:
45 Stewart St., Durango, CO
603 S 8th St., Pagosa Springs, CO

Anyone who desires to submit comments about the changes shall file a written comment with the Cooperative at 45 Stewart Street, Durango, Colorado, 81303, or by email to comments@lpea.coop, on or before December 12, 2026. The LPEA Board of Directors will consider the written comments at its December meeting. The changes ultimately authorized may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect.

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.

STEVE'S MIDCENTURY MODERN FURNITURE and Decor now open. Official opening date of Nov. 27 Black Friday, 11a.m.- 5p.m. 298 Bastille Dr, Unit B4. Look for display ad in next week's paper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

SERVICES

ACCEPTING BIDS FOR SNOW REMOVAL. We are currently accepting bids for snow removal services at Seeds of Learning for the upcoming winter season. Services needed: Snow plowing in the front and side parking lots. Sidewalk and walkway clearing in both the front and back of the school. Salting/ deicing sidewalks and walkways. Service after snowfall and icy conditions. Please submit your bid by December 1, 2026, including pricing, availability, proof of insurance, and references. For property details or to submit a bid, contact Emily Martinez at (970)264-5513 or email seedsoflearning@growingseeds.org.

ASPENGLOW LANDSCAPING/ YARD MAINTENANCE/ YARD CLEANUP. Mowing, trimming, raking and tree trimming. Tractor available for planting and landscaping. (970)946-2061.

ASPHALT PAVING AND SEAL COATING. Driveways, parking lots, subdivisions. Local references, high quality, competitive rates. Icon Development Company, Inc. 30 -plus years experience. Call or text, (602)448-4936.

CHIMNEY CLEANING, dryer vent cleaning- 25+ years. Courteous reliable service. Free quotes. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543.

DRIVEWAY SEALING — 7 -year product. Prep, pressure wash, crack seal and touch up. Free estimates, local and trusted. **INTEGRATED** Home Services, LLC. Call /text, **(970)731-3558.**

FULLER HANDYMAN SERVICES — Home repairs. Painting, drywall, carpentry, electrical /plumbing fixtures and more. Call or text Jeff (928)242-6756.

KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

LOCAL MOVING SERVICES. Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

NEED HELP WITH A PROJECT? Moving? Packing and unpacking. Organizing and decluttering. Something else? Call Marlene, (719)850-3055.

PREMIUM PEAK CLEANING. $150 for 4 hours of cleaning. Call (970)902-3145.

SERVICES

Exterior & Interior Painting
Exterior Staining
Dock Staining
Drywall Texture
Drywall Repair
Roof Repairs
Fire Mitigation
Gravel Driveways
STAINING & PAINTING LLC
House Power Washing
Epoxy Garage Floor Coatings
Patrick 970-946-9571

INTERMOUNTAIN HANDYMAN
Todd Mykleby
806-789-0288
Free Estimates
Reliable, Trustworthy, Local


Half a Tandem Truck
Half the Tandem Cost
Local Pagosa Delivery
7 Tons || 10 Yards
J R Truck
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Call Dan • (970) 582-0006

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BWD
(970) 731-9700

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Maintenance
High Meadows Properties, LLC
Call today (970) 403-2263

Kitchen Deep Cleaning Now Offered!
Pagosa SPARKLES
Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners For All Your Housekeeping & Window Cleaning Needs
Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446

The Water Runner
Certified Bulk Potable Water Delivery
Cistern Deep Cleaning
You call, we haul! Since 1999
(970) 731-5022
Chadd Carnley, owner

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100 Classifieds (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

SERVICES

Blueprints
Have your plans drawn now.
Don't wait!
Be ready to start your house, barn, garage or deck on time.
Call Rick
946-1737

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Exterior & Interior
Staining & Painting
35 years experience
Call Rick
(970) 946-1737

massage
Rebecca Cortez, LMT
970-582-9133

New Construction
Remodeling • Houses
Garages • Barns • Decks
References
Plans drawn & submitted
Call Rick
(970) 946-1737

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www.pagosafireplaces.com

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ALL SIZE UNITS AVAILABLE
STORAGE UNITS ARE DRY



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We deliver!
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PagosaSpringsStorage.com

RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and $3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

STORAGE SPECIALS, ALL SIZES. We also deliver cargo containers. Buy, rent, rent to own. Pagosa Springs Storage. (970)731-0007.

TREE & CLEAR LLC. Tree removal, pruning and mitigation. Certified and insured. Call (720)666-5761.

SERVICES

WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience **REFLECTIONS** Window Cleaning. **(480)892-1999** -FREE estimates.

WORRIED ABOUT AI, SCAMS, hackers? We'll help secure your online accounts, email, passwords, devices, networks, teach best practices to stop scammers in their track. Certified, professional, community roots. CyberSafe Pagosa: (970)237-2205.

HEALTH

UNWINDING WITH KARLI offers myofascial unwinding massage, in her home, downtown Pagosa, or yours. Text or leave a mesaage. (970)880-0981.

HELP WANTED

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVER, HOUSE CLEANER, experienced, calm, caring, compassionate to work irregular, part- time schedule, east of town. (970)264-5564, (970)398-6165.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES IS HIRING. Full time, full slate of homes for steady work through all seasons. You won't hear "I'll call you when I need you" from us – we work hard to create reliable jobs in construction. Seeking exterior carpentry/ framing crew that are consistent, team oriented and motivated by incentives to add to an already strong team. Starting pay ranging from $22-$30 hourly depending on experience/ skill level. PTO and paid holidays. Send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com or drop by our office at 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application.

COLORADO ROCK & DIRT EXCAVATION is expanding our team. We are looking for experienced Heavy Equipment Operators. We offer competitive pay, health insurance, 401K and PTO. Please email a resume to coloradorock08@gmail.com or contact the office at (970)264-3478.

FULL- TIME/YEAR- ROUND: general ranch work, snow shoveling, and light tractor work. Please send resume to: frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

JONES MECHANICAL. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED but will train right person. Excellent opportunity to learn the HVAC trade. (970)731-3046.

LIKE GUNS OR GUITARS? Come sell them for us. The San Juan Trading Post is looking for a sales person. Computer literacy and ability to lift 45 lbs. is required. Starting at $18/ hour, full or part -time. Stop by in person at 635 San Juan St.

CLASSIFIED ORDERS

Clip & bring with check or credit card number to The SUN office, 457 Lewis Street
To place ad by phone, call (970) 264-2100
Classified ads may be emailed to classads@pagosasun.com
Or, place your ad online at PagosaSUN.com
Payment must be received by the deadline.
Classified deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.
(Earlier deadlines for holidays.)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Category: _____
Ad: _____

Please run ad _____ consecutive weeks
(The Pagosa Springs SUN is published once a week on Thursdays.)
Charge for line ads — 20 word minimum
1st week: 60¢ per word
2nd week and every consecutive week after, no changes: 30¢ per word
$ _____ is enclosed. ($12 minimum)
Visa/Mastercard/American Express/Discover accepted.
Credit card number _____
Expiration date _____ CVV _____
Signature _____

Classified Categories

Announcements
Autos
Business Opportunity
Commercial for Rent
Commercial Property
Condos
For Sale
Health
Help Wanted
Homes for Sale
Land/Building Sites
Livestock
Lost and Found
Miscellaneous
Mobile Homes
Open House
Personals
Pets
Ranches
Recreational Vehicles
Residential Rentals
Services
Timeshares
Vacation Rentals
Wanted
Yard Sales

(970) 264-2100 Classifieds (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

NOW HIRING

The Town of Pagosa Springs
is accepting applications for a:

Community Recovery Manager

Lead the Resilience and
Long-Term Recovery of Our Community.

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are seeking a dynamic, strategic leader to serve as our joint Community Recovery Manager.

In this pivotal dual-jurisdiction role, you will spearhead long-term disaster recovery and build a more resilient future for our residents, businesses, and natural landscapes.

To apply:
https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pagosasprings

LOVE PAGOSA #LOVEPAGOSA

HELP WANTED

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

Hiring for the Ski Season:
November - April
Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski & Snowboard School Instructors
- Lynx & Wolf Pup Building Attendants
- Food & Beverage Staff
  Grill/Fry Cooks - Baker - Barista
- Snow Reporter/Guest Services
- Retail
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial & Building Maintenance

ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF $20/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience

Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment

Send applications & resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

LINE COOK POSITION OPEN The Keyah Grande Guest House is hiring a part-time line cook ($20/ hour) for our new fine dining restaurant. Experience preferred. Email your resume and references to theguesthouse@keyahgrande.com.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING — CDL DRIVER. $26–$29 per hour, DOE. $500 sign -on bonus, $250 at hire, $250 after 6 months. Full-time, year -round position. Must possess a valid CDL, safe driving record, and strong work ethic. Apply today at Elite Recycling and Disposal, 250 Industrial Circle, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS and The Green House are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer sales bonuses, product sampling, employee discounts, paid sick leave, and comprehensive on-site training. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required, when hired. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

HELP WANTED

PART -TIME MAINTENANCE /GROUNDS. Hands-on position includes general maintenance, groundskeeping, and an early-morning pool cleaning rotation. 20-25 hours /week. Experience with tools is a plus, but we're happy to train someone with a strong work ethic and willingness to learn. More details at pshotsprings.com. Submit application /resume at Healing Waters Resort & Spa,140 Hot Springs Blvd., or email sales@pshotsprings.com. Subject: Maintenance.

SUBWAY IS HIRING. Enjoy working in a fun environment with a great team? Earn a strong hourly wage with tips while serving our wonderful community. Apply online at subway.com, or in person.

AUTOS

2005 DODGE RAM 2500 5.9 diesel. 164K miles. Second owner. New batteries, windshield. Great condition. Asking 10,500. (970)946-5548.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

PagosaSUN.com

Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

>> Place Your Classified Ad

All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

(970) 264-2100 Classifieds (970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

FOR SALE

4 SET TIRES COOPER DISCOVERER 275/60R20 AT3 S4. Good tread. $480 (970)946-0305, leave message.

4 TIRES BRIDGESTONE DUELER HL. 275/55R/20 M&S. Only 16,000 miles. $50 each OBO. (970)946-6432.

BEAUTIFUL L- SHAPED gray sectional couch. New, $900. (970)846-5850.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up $255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

NEED FIREWOOD? Get a HUGE dump truck load split and delivered for $600! Pine mix. Guaranteed full cords. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

SELLERS BEWARE: Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

TURNKEY 2014 POLARIS RZR XP 1000. 2-seater with Lumna trailer set up for emergency response, rough terrain, and high- water or storm preparedness. Clean title, garage- kept, 4400 miles. Many extras. Great emergency and recovery setup. Winch and Recovery: Heavy- duty winch for clearing storm debris and self-recovery. Lighting: LED lighting for night operations. Tires: High- clearance suspension with aggressive off- road treads for emergency travel. Reduced to $13,000 (RZR and Trailer). Text: (702)371-0672, (702)524-8883.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL STORAGE/ HOBBY GARAGE/ Office Space. Approximately 1800 sq. ft. One bathroom. 14 ft. x 10 ft. garage door/ high ceilings. Radiant floor heating/ finished drywall interior. $1800 a month/ $1800 deposit. 218 Hopi Drive, Pagosa Springs. Call or text (903)327-3345.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE AVAILABLE. Liberty Theatre building. Main Street access, parking, AC, fiber Internet, Eastern Range and river views, keyless entry. Call Anna, (970)398-1271.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

Office Space for Lease in Pagosa Springs

Newly remodeled space in the First Southwest Bank building, conveniently located off Highway 160. Suites ranging from 160 to 1,585 square feet — perfect for solo professionals or growing teams.

- Flexible suite sizes to fit your business
- Shared conference room access
- Break room and restrooms
- Large on-site parking lot
- Prime, high-visibility Hwy 160 location



Contact Melanie Russek for leasing details and availability.
melanie.russek@fswb.com
866-641-3792

FLEXIBLE COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL 1,000 sq. ft. space on the western side of Pagosa Springs available January 1. Comes with overhead garage door, side door, and bathroom. It will be delivered as a shell space ready to be customized. Tenants in compound include building trades, personal training, UPS, light manufacturing and artists. Rent is $1,050/ month. Please contact Jessica at raswheeler@gmail.com.

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.

LARGE COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park. 112 acre lot— $995 /month. and 1.27 acre lot— $750 /month. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities are located at the street. Tenant must verify end use with the county. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

PAGOSA SECURE STORAGE- 80 Bastille Drive. Offering "Smokin Deals" on all units. Temperature Controlled Units available. Managed by Team Pagosa Realty (970)731-8599 Call today for availability.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from $465-$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

SMALL WAREHOUSE NEAR DOWNTOWN. 10x15 with garage door and electricity included. $100/ month. Michael C. Branch. (970)769-2036.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

TWO ADJOINING OFFICES DOWNTOWN Upstairs. Rent one or both. $350 per month per office. Includes utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM 2 BATHROOM country home. 7 miles west of Pagosa. Utilities and water renter's expense. No smoking. $1800/ month. (970)398-0303.

BASEMENT STUDIO APARTMENT. Downtown, river view/ walk, furnished. $1000 rent, $1000 deposit. Utilities included. No smokers, no pets. (970)264-6797.

BEAUTIFUL BRAND NEW DUPLEX units A and B. Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1 car garage units. Bonus office or den area. Pets allowed. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or teampagosa.com.

DOWNTOWN PAGOSA RENTALS–One and Two Bedrooms Available. Walking distance to shops and restaurants in old downtown. (720)470-2653.

PagosaSUN.com

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.

FURNISHED ADORABLE LOFT bedroom condo. Centrally located. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

LONG- TERM RENTAL: 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom house. Approved pets allowed. Nice neighborhood, conveniently located with a fenced yard. Call (580)651-2288 for details and an application.

NEWER ENERGY EFFICIENT DUPLEX. Available December 1 - 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1 car garage, granite counters, stainless appliances, water and sewer included. $1,800/ month with washer/ dryer in unit $1,700/ month without washer/ dryer in unit. No pets. Background and credit check; $40 application fee. 1 year lease. First month and security deposit due at lease signing. Call Ron (970)946-5010.

ONE BEDROOM WITH LOFT. Large deck, fenced yard, heating sources: wood stove, ETS heating unit, all appliances. $1500/ month. First month's rent, full security deposit, half of last month's rent. Please leave a message. (970)731-2010.

PARTIALLY FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM 1.5 BATH condo near Lake Pagosa. Available NOW. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

PRIVATE 2 BEDROOM AND LOFT, 2 bathroom home on 5 peaceful acres minutes from town. 1,240 sq. ft., partially furnished, easy public paved- road access. 2401 Meadows. $2,200 /month. Call (719)510-1984.

SHERPA REAL ESTATE is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals or stop by one of our two locations.

SPACIOUS 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT in downtown with beautiful views. Rent $1181. Large floor plan, affordable living through tax credit program. Income and eligibility requirements apply. hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

SWEET PARTIALLY FURNISHED 3 bedroom 1 bathroom home in downtown Pagosa on Mesa Heights. Available around 12/10/26. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATHROOM, 1 car garage townhome in Whispering Pines. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM 2 BATHROOM 2 car garage home. Pets approved. Available 12/10/26. Call for viewing times. Team Pagosa (970731-8599.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM 2 BATHROOM home with a large carport. In Holiday Acres. Currently Occupied. Available around 1/15/27. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

UNFURNISHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH 1 car garage home. 1 pet allowed. Call for more information. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com.

UNFURNISHED BEDROOM LOFT and 1 bathroom upstairs condo. Currently occupied. Available 12/10/26. Team Pagosa- (970)731-8599.

UNFURNISHED EXTRA SMALL STUDIO. Utilities paid. Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. Available NOW.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying *or* Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672

JANN C PITCHER REAL ESTATE

MarcieLewis.com

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.0 ACRE, 2RVS, compact garage, water well, 3- bedroom septic installed, power, satellite internet, 5 minutes from highway. No HOA. Call Deborah, (970)903-2817, deb@archuletaproperties.com.

WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

100 years ago this month: historical events from November 1926

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of November has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in November 1926:

• The American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AT&T) completes the sale of its subsidiary, the Broadcasting Company of America (BCA), on Nov. 1. The sale marks the departure of AT&T from the radio industry.

• On Nov. 2, French pediatrician Gaston Variot warns young women to avoid dancing the Charleston. Variot claims the movements of the dance could jeopardize young women's ability to have children.

• Marshal Józef Pilsudski decrees a press gag law in Poland on Nov. 7. The law forbids the publication of news that could cause a public demonstration or rumors that could ridicule or criticize government officials and judges.

• George Gershwin's musical "Oh, Kay!" opens on Broadway on November. 8. The play introduces the song "Someone to Watch Over Me."

• A total of 123 opposition party members lose their seats in the 535-seat Italian Parliament on Nov. 9. Arrest warrants are issued for each opposition party member, who were expelled for their boycott of the Fascist-dominated Parliament.

• Princeton University severs athletic relations with Harvard University on Nov. 10. A formal letter from Princeton cites a lack of goodwill between undergraduates at each university as the motivation behind the decision.

• The United States Number Highway System is established on Nov. 11.

• The Shelton Brothers Gang uses a biplane in an effort to bomb the hideout of rival gangster Charles Birger near Marion, Ill., on Nov. 12. The bombing effort accomplishes little more than blowing up a pit used for cock fighting on the site of the hideout.

• A short story by P.L. Travers titled "Mary Poppins and the Match Man" appears in a New Zealand newspaper on Nov. 13. Travers later writes a series of books about Mary Poppins, and the character eventually inspires a popular musical film.

• The Balfour Declaration is unanimously approved by prime ministers throughout the British Empire on Nov. 15. The declaration endorses the creation of a Jewish nation in the British mandate of Palestine.

• Sakichi Toyoda founds the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works Ltd., on Nov. 18. The company is the forerunner of the Toyota Motor Corporation, which would begin manufacturing automobiles in 1937.

• The silent film "The Great Gatsby" is released on Nov. 21. It is the first film adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel of the same name.

• Norwegian chemical engineer Erik Rotheim receives the first patent for an aerosol spray dispenser on Nov. 23.

• Roughly 111,000 spectators gather to watch the Army-Navy game at Soldier Field in Chicago on Nov. 27. It is the only time the game, which ends in a 21-21 tie, is played at Soldier Field.

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Questions may be directed to
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PENNIE DECLARK
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