



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147

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County aligns with national trends in new Census Bureau estimates

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Archuleta County increased from \$359,700 in 2014-2018 to \$451,400 in 2019-2023, according to newly released American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

That matches a trend seen nationally, according to the Census Bureau, with home values increasing 21.7 percent between the 2014-2018 ACS five-year estimates and the 2019-2023 ACS five-year estimates, going from a median of \$249,400 to \$303,400 (estimates from 2014-2018 are adjusted for inflation).

The counties with some of the largest dollar amount increases were Pitkin County, Colo. (\$758,800 to \$1,131,200); Teton County, Wyo. (\$1,007,200 to \$1,371,900); Dukes County, Mass. (\$812,400 to \$1,104,100); San Mateo (\$1,210,100 to \$1,494,500) and Santa Clara

■ See Census A8



There were no complaints about the mild winter weather from this buck, who was seen browsing for food downtown last weekend.

Photo courtesy Michael Pierce

County approves 2025 budget

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved three resolutions at a regular meeting held on Tuesday Dec. 17, adopting the county's 2025 budget, appropriating sums of money and setting county mill levies for 2025.

The three resolutions, along with the budget presentation, were originally on the BoCC's Dec. 10 meeting agenda, but were removed by unanimous approval of the BoCC.

During the Dec. 17 meeting, Finance Director Chad Eaton presented a summary of the county's 2025 budget, noting that a "conservative approach" was used.

Eaton mentioned that conservative assumptions were used in projecting property tax revenues.

"Of course, we had the reassessment last year, so we ... each year in the past two years have issued

■ See Budget A8

Tourism board talks sustainability, events

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

Members of the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board examined sustainability in both environmental and existential terms during their year-end meeting on Dec. 17, 2024, discussing ways to reduce waste during events and questioning how deeply their director should wade into those events' planning and organization.

Acknowledging the limited number of recycling options available to the community near the top of the

meeting, Tourism Director Jennifer Green outlined a potential collaboration with a local waste management company that would install 96-gallon recycling containers at gatherings with large amounts of cardboard and paper products.

"It's a very minimal fee for the events that have cans or have a large number of cardboard boxes," Green said, adding that the cost would be about \$55 an event — a "cost the tourism board would absorb."

"Now, that's not going to work for

■ See Tourism A8

Federal offices to close for national day of mourning

■ No postal service on Jan. 9

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

President Joe Biden has declared that Jan. 9 will be a national day of mourning, coinciding with the state funeral for President Jimmy Carter, who passed away on Dec. 29, 2024.

Carter, who served as the 39th president of the United States, was 100 years old.

Federal offices, including the U.S. Postal Service, will be closed in ob-

servance of the day, and flags are being flown at half staff for 30 days in honor of Carter.

With the postal closure, SUN subscribers will see a delay in receiving the Jan. 9 issue of The SUN in their mailboxes.

Additionally, delivery of The PREVIEW will be delayed.

However, those who receive the e-edition of The SUN will be able to access the paper digitally at www.PagosaSUN.com as normal on Jan. 9 and The SUN will be available throughout the community on newstands.

randi@pagosasun.com



Photos courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

A mountain lion population density study is underway between Pagosa Springs and Bayfield, with crews from Colorado Parks and Wildlife hoping to track and collar 25 adult lions across a 2,000-square-kilometer study area. Researchers are asking local landowners to contact the Durango field office with any reports of lion sightings or activity to assist with monitoring efforts.

State to study local mountain lion population

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

A multiyear effort to tally mountain lion populations across the Western Slope is underway between Pagosa Springs and Bayfield as Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) crews begin work to locate



and track adult lions throughout the region.

With a study area of more than 2,000 square kilometers — roughly 1,240 square miles — CPW biologists hope to equip 25 adult lions with tracking collars and ear tags this winter as part of an ongoing population density study that has

visited areas across Western Colorado since 2020.

"We have successfully gotten one collar out on a lion we were able to trap on a landowner's property closer to Bayfield," said CPW's John Livingston, public information officer for the Southwest Region.

He added, "We have some good partnerships with some private landowners, and we're also working with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe with their houndsmen. It is a pretty expansive study zone."

CPW estimates there are around 1,700 independent lions in the en-

■ See Study A8

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

New year's wishes

Somehow, a new year is already officially upon us.

Like many, we're looking at this year as a fresh start and an opportunity to improve things, including here at The SUN and as a community.

We've been reflecting on what happened in the community in 2024 as we work to compile the year in review, which you can read beginning this week. It's always interesting to look back and see what became a bigger story than anticipated in the community, what was less of a story than predicted, the numerous unexpected events and the projects undertaken. It also shows us a glimpse of how far we've come — or haven't come — as a community.

And 2025 is poised to be another year of growth and change in Archuleta County, with a number of big priorities and projects on the radars of local governments and other entities.

But there are some things we hope to be able to include when we compile the 2025 year in review, among them events and occurrences that show both increased transparency and ethics and decreased drama and conflict.

We'd like to see our local governmental entities make more of an effort to get along

and interact with more professionalism, namely the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District and San Juan Water Conservancy District.

We're not sure how hopeful we are on that front since the selling the Running Iron Ranch is already the matter of a court case, but we remain hopeful the court process will run smoothly and both sides can work together to come to a resolution that keeps in mind what matters: the people served by the districts and ensuring the future of our water, whatever that ends up looking like.

We also hope to see things run smoothly at the county and see resolutions reached in the multiple Archuleta County-related cases that are currently before the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission. We also hope that we're not reporting that new complaints related to local entities are filed.

The existing cases have cost tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars at a time when the county has a laundry list of needs, among them a new administration building.

It's important to note the Independent Ethics Commission has made no findings in any of the three cases and what has been put forth in the complaints are only allegations.

However, we hope to see our local elected officials and employees will carry out their duties in such a manner that no citizens or groups see fit to question the ethics or legality of their actions.

This is not too much to ask. We can, and should, do better. We have entrusted our money and the health of our community to these officials, and how they act has a direct effect on all of us. The less we have to deal with the conflict and drama, the more time we have to do those things that will help our community move forward and be stronger.

After the passing of President Jimmy Carter on Dec. 29, 2024, at the age of 100, we took some time to look back at some of the former president's many accomplishments. Carter, with his lifetime of service, leaves a big legacy, but we kept coming back to one quote in particular from his Nobel Peace Prize address in 2002.

The quote came from Carter's grade-school teacher, but we feel it is absolutely applicable as we move forward into a new year with new challenges, and we see why it stood the test of time for Carter: "We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles."

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 2, 1925

While thawing frozen pipes with gasoline at the McPhee sawmill last Friday, one of the huge water tanks caught fire and was destroyed causing a loss of from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Lawrence Sullenberger recently installed a fine new radio at his home at the sawmill near Juanita, and is now able to tune in on all stations of the North American continent. He has a fine antenna stretched across the canon, and as there are no other wires for miles around, a perfect reception is the result.

W.J. Nossaman, Samuel Houser and Jas. Fowler are engaged in prospect work, seeking the lower coal vein on the San Juan river above Turkey creek. They are driving a drift and have progressed about 50 feet, with a good indication of soon striking the coveted vein.

The school children can scarcely await Monday's arrival in order that they many again take their places in school after the two weeks' holiday vacation.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 30, 1949

The plan for reorganization of the school districts in Archuleta County as drawn up by the County Committee for Reorganization and approved by the State Commissioner of Education will be voted upon by the residents of the districts affected Monday, the 16th of January.

Chairman of the Committee, H. Ray Macht announced this week that polling places would be located at the following schools: Pagosa Springs, Upper Piedra School, the Chromo School, and the Lower Piedra School in District Number 14.

The plan drawn up by the Committee calls for the reorganization of all the districts in the county into one district. District No. 15 and United District 11 would be exempted as they are already joint districts with La Plata County. The Upper Piedra District, which is located in Hinsdale County would also be included in the Archuleta County plan.

It has been pointed out that this plan would result in increased benefits for all school students in the county by way of better schools. It would also lower the levies in some districts. It would, however, result in a material increase in taxes in other districts.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 2, 1975

Coldest morning of the winter was recorded on December 25th when the mercury dropped to 22 degrees below zero here in town. Towing chains and jumper cables were in big demand several mornings this week when the mercury slid to below zero readings. There have been several fender bender accidents, as well as several cars off in the ditch. Main highways are in good shape.

Four men were lodged in jail last Saturday morning after attempting to elude police officers who were investigating charges of disturbance and reckless driving. Town Police Officers Gallegos and Rivas pursued the men for eight miles before shooting out a rear tire to bring the vehicle to a stop. The four arrested face charges ranging from violation of the open container ordinance to resisting arrest and interfering with a police officer.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 30, 1999

The Archuleta County Year 2000 budget is officially adopted and pretty much set in stone for the coming year. That fact does not please all of the elected officials, however.

Tension has usually existed between the county commissioners and other elected officials because Colorado law makes the commissioners responsible for establishing budget limits, even for the other elected officials.

This year has been no exception. The county commissioners officially adopted the coming year's budget Dec. 14 at their regular meeting for that week.

Following the adoption, the other elected officials said they had not seen the final version before it was adopted, they complained about the process of budget adoption, and they complained of insufficient raises for their employees.

While explaining the budget, Commissioner Ken Fox noted that "department heads received the raises they requested."

County Clerk June Madrid is one of those elected officials.

"They said they gave all the salaries we requested," Madrid said. "What they didn't say was they told us we couldn't go over 2.9 percent on raises. Later on, when the excess revenue issue passed, I tried to go back and get more raises, but they told us no. Basically, they gave us what we asked for because we didn't know we could ask for more. I still have three employees at the poverty level, earning less than \$20,000 a year."



From the Dec. 12, 1968, Pagosa SUN — EARLY DAY LANDMARK — The Porfirio Martinez home, which burned last Friday night, is shown after the fire had been burning for almost 12 hours. The building was an early day landmark in the community, having housed the first high school in Pagosa Springs and what was then Conejos County. Many firemen remained on the scene for the whole time.

Archuleta County Commissioners		
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12/25	41	19	0.50	S	0.03
12/26	36	9	0.20	NA	0.02
12/27	36	24	0.10	NA	0.01
12/28	42	20	0.20	NA	0.04
12/29	51	14	0.00	NA	NA
12/30	46	15	0.00	NA	NA

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Letters

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

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

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

Historic anniversary

Dear Editor:
Next week, on January the 8th, we celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans which ended the War of 1812 with the British. That war was not popular at the time, and has

been treated negatively by American historians since, as a conflict that accomplished nothing and was a huge expense in money and men. I think that is an extremely short sighted view, especially now, with the advantage of hind sight.

When the Revolutionary War ended, most realized that Britain had received a bloody nose but had not given up on "the colonies" as they still called them. As soon as they could get away from the problems in Europe they would be back. They had no respect for this Country and abused us at every chance. President Madison finally had had enough, and convinced Congress to declare war.

The war produced many more defeats than victories for the young country, but there were two American victories that changed the course of history for the United States. The first was the Battle of Lake Erie. In

that battle, the young American Navy decisively defeated the British, capturing their entire fleet, including the Commodore. This was the worst naval defeat that the British had ever received and remains so to this day. The second defeat was at New Orleans. The British were soundly defeated by a rag tag army, hastily assembled and superbly led by Andrew Jackson. The British lost more than 1700 troops and these were more than just regulars, they were the cream of their army, fresh from the Napoleonic defeat. Their dead included seventy five officers, and the commanding General. This, compared to fewer than 100 Americans in total. It was a devastating defeat for the British.

Our historians have said that the Battle of New Orleans was meaningless, since unknown at the time, the armistice had been signed in Europe and nothing was changed as a re-

sult of the Battle. Again, this is very short sighted. Although the Treaty stated that there would be no border changes, the British had previously claimed that the Louisiana Purchase was invalid, because the French did not own it. Had the City fallen, the British intended to keep it, control the Mississippi, and cut the United States off from the lands to the west. In fact, the commanding General's wife had accompanied him, since he was to be the first Governor of their new Louisiana colony.

Even if the aftermath of those two Battles was lost on our historians, it was not lost on the British. Never again did they challenge us on land or sea, and as a direct result of the war, we were able to draw the northern line with British Canada just south of the Vancouver City limits.

So Happy New Year, and Happy Anniversary, America!
Dick Riethmiller

Investigations into election passwords leak complete

By Randi Pierce
Staff writer

On Dec. 20, 2024, Denver District Attorney Beth McCann announced that criminal charges will not be filed in connection with the publication of voting machine passwords on the Colorado Department of State website earlier this year.

"After an extensive investigation by prosecutors and investigators in my office, we have concluded that there were no criminal violations of the law regarding the publication of the voting machine passwords," McCann said via press release. "Based on everything we have learned, the passwords were published in error and not 'knowingly,' as required to prove a violation of C.R.S. 1-13-708(2), or 'knowingly, arbitrarily or capriciously,' as required to prove a violation of CRS 18-8-405(1). There is no indication that the passwords were published in an effort to influence the outcome of an election."

The press release notes the investigation took seven weeks and focused on possible violations of the two Colorado statutes.

The full investigative report is

available at <https://bit.ly/4gtW1H8>.

The investigation's findings come in addition to the findings of Baird Quinn LLC, which determined that the BIOS — Basic Input Output System — passwords contained in the hidden worksheets posted on the Department website were posted "mistakenly, unknowingly and unintentionally."

In November, Baird Quinn was engaged to conduct an independent investigation to determine how the posting happened, how it could be prevented in the future, and to present recommendations for improvement of department practices and procedures.

According to a press release, Baird Quinn was given full access to department personnel and documents to conduct its investigation. The investigation was supported by a company specializing in digital forensics for the purpose of providing expertise on metadata and other information associated with the specific files involved in the password posting.

The press release notes the investigation concluded that the BIOS passwords contained in the hidden worksheets posted on the Department website were posted "mistakenly, unknowingly and unintentionally."

The report also finds that "a series of inadvertent and unforeseen events led to the public disclosure of the BIOS passwords."

The report notes that, "The investigator finds that this unique set of circumstances would have been difficult to anticipate," and, "on an organizational level, the Secretary of State/CDOS consistently took significant and appropriate measures to

protect state information, including the BIOS passwords."

The report determined there was a policy failure to adequately "review the posted document to ensure that non-public information would not be disclosed."

The report furnished seven recommendations for the department to consider to minimize risk of any inadvertent disclosure in the future. They include:

- Instituting a policy prohibiting the use of "hide" functions for highly sensitive or confidential information within documents.

- Establishing a requirement that all passwords of any kind, whether they be individual user login credentials or password information such as the BIOS passwords, be kept only in a password safe unless an exception to that policy is granted in writing.

- Requiring better training on the data protection features of the computer software programs used on a daily basis, such as Microsoft Excel and Word.

- Updating the "Acceptable Use Computing Policy" (AUP) so the policy on the use of the password safe and the policy on creating and managing passwords are single, standalone policies rather than policies contained at various places within the User ID and

Password section of the AUP.

- Requiring employees to review its AUP policy every year and sign that they have reviewed the document.

- Creating a substantive review process for the Elections Division (and possibly other divisions) for web requests involving posting documents to the department website.

- Reviewing the transition and exit processes for departing employees whose responsibilities involve handling sensitive or confidential information.

The full Baird Quinn report is available at <https://bit.ly/4fyZxv>.

"The Department of State thanks Baird Quinn for their thorough review of this matter. We are committed to implementing their recommendations to ensure a situation like this never occurs again," said Secretary of State Jena Griswold via press release.

The Colorado Secretary of State's Office explains Colorado's elections are protected by multiple layers of physical and network security measures. All of Colorado's elections, including the recent General Election, are accurate and secure.

The fact sheet available at <https://bit.ly/49X7hZZ> explains the multiple layers of security, and how the Department of State verified the security and accuracy of the election.

Obituary

Frank G. Salerno

Frank G. Salerno passed away Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024, at home. He was 94 years old. Services will be held at a later date.

Frank was born June 12, 1930, to Salvatore F. Salerno and Bertha Sophie Dammier in Highland, N.Y. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He was married to Melba Salerno.

He is survived by his sister, Rose-ann Wade.

He is preceded in death by wife Melba, daughter Kathi, brothers Salvatore and Joseph Salerno, and parents Salvatore and Bertha Salerno.

Archuleta County Democratic Club to meet Jan. 13

By Lynn Frederick
Archuleta Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet for lunch at Coyote Moon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 13.

Ashley Wilson, head of the Archuleta County Public Health Department, will be the speaker.

Our county's health department is newly established, and it was a mammoth task to get it up and running after separating from San Juan Basin Public Health.

Please plan on coming to learn what services are available, which are being planned and to get answers to any questions about the state of public health in Archuleta County.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month. The club gives local Democrats the opportunity to meet with other Democrats and to hear speakers from the community, meet candidates for local and national offices, and hear about topics of timely interest. All are welcome to attend. Please plan on coming by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch.

For more information, email lyn-frederick1@gmail.com.

Informative.
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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.

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 weeks prior to the election.

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

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Business

Reminder: Community Award nominations due by Jan. 13

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

As we kick off an article for the start of 2025, we realize that Jan. 13 is just two weeks away.

That means that you have only two weeks to get your nominations in for the annual Community Awards honoring individuals, businesses and organizations in Archuleta County.

This is the time of year when we should take time to thank the people, businesses and organizations that make our community tick.

All year we attend functions that raise money for our nonprofit agencies so they can provide specialized services to our residents. All year there are hundreds of volunteers in our community who help make these events happen and serve on nonprofit boards. All year there are businesses that donate money, goods and services to organizations so the organization can be profitable.

Now it's time for you to look around at family members, friends, co-workers, places of business that you frequent and organizations that provide needed services and nominate them for one of the following awards: Citizen, Volunteer, Non-

Profit and Small Business of the Year.

In each of the categories, the person or business must have lived or been established in the community for three years. For the Volunteer and Citizen awards, the acts of service may not be a part of their regular work; it must be a volunteer activity. The big differential between the Volunteer and Citizen of the Year is in the Citizen category, the person or persons must have made a lasting impact on the community in one of the following categories: economic, cultural, philanthropic or lifestyle.

As for the Non-Profit or Small Business categories, these entities offer services or give back to the community constantly. They provide services that, without them, amenities and direct service needs in our community would suffer. In the Business of the Year category, the business needs to provide excellent customer service, offer employee benefits or perks, and give back to the community. There are so many businesses here that meet the criteria. Why not thank them by nominating them as a Small Business of the Year?

Nomination forms are available on the Chamber's website. Click on the graphic for Community Awards

on the Chamber's homepage. That link will take you to the various nomination forms. You can fill out that form or write the nomination on a separate piece of paper.

Nominations are due back to the Chamber by the close of business on Monday, Jan. 13.

The award nominees will be celebrated at our annual gala. This year the Chamber gala and Community Awards will be held on Feb. 7.

You won't want to miss this event. Think about putting a table together with colleagues or friends to enjoy the fun. More event information will be coming soon. Should you have any questions about the qualifications for any of the community award categories, please contact Mary Jo Coulehan at director@pagosachamber.com or (970) 264-2360.

Take a few minutes to say thank you; let's honor and celebrate those people and organizations that often we take for granted. We don't say thank you often enough. Let's do so now.

Chamber board voting

With the release of the names for the 2025 slate of Chamber Board candidates, there has certainly been a flurry of voting. Voting for these

individuals continues until Jan. 17.

Only Chamber member businesses are eligible to cast a ballot.

There is only one ballot per business. Should you have several people or departments in your business or organization, please make sure you collectively decide who to vote for.

Once a ballot is received, any subsequent ballots submitted on behalf of an already recorded business will be voided.

Should you have multiple businesses that are registered as Chamber members, each business will be allowed to cast one ballot.

You may vote for up to three candidates. Should you vote for more than three candidates, the whole ballot will be voided.

Our nominees this year are: Elizabeth Brewer, co-owner of Sage; Christina Gonzales, branch manager with RG Bank; Austin Marchand, owner of Rocky Mountain Balloon Adventures; Cindy Nobles, office manager for Build Pagosa; Tom Sottek, director of people and culture at The Springs Resort; and Rebecca Tenpenny, executive director for Pagosa Community Initiative.

Thank you for taking time to cast your ballot and elect representative for our business community.

Ute Mountain Ute, Southern Ute Indian tribes receive funding to support affordable housing initiatives

By Laura Lewis Marchino
Region 9 Economic Development District

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe were selected among a competitive field of applicants to each receive \$500,000 in grant funding from FHLBank Topeka's Native American Housing Initiatives (NAHI) Grants Program.

This funding will directly support critical housing projects addressing essential needs within these communities.

Cassie Alexander, vice president and senior loan officer, and Taryn Hight, vice president and mortgage loan officer, from First National Bank of Cortez, an FHLBank Topeka member, worked closely with both tribes and the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado to submit a successful application.

The funds will be used by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to rehabilitate homes in central Towaoc, focusing on health and safety improvements for families. This initiative aligns with the tribe's broader 2024 Community Housing and Master Plan, which includes substantial housing improvements and strategic community development.

"The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is most grateful to the Bank of Topeka for its housing improvement grant of \$500,000," said Bernadette Cuthair, director of development and planning. "This funding will help us leverage and additional \$600,000 from Prop 123 funding and will make a huge difference in the quality of lives for many of our members and their families."

"The Southern Ute Indian Tribe extends its sincere gratitude to FHLBank Topeka for this critical grant

funding," said Chairman Melvin J. Baker. "This investment will directly address the urgent need for home repairs among our tribal members, ensuring their homes are safe, healthy and secure. This grant, along with our existing programs, strengthens our commitment to providing a foundation for a thriving and resilient community."

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe will leverage its funding to expand its rehabilitation program, prioritizing urgent home maintenance needs for tribal members to ensure safe and sustainable living conditions.

Through the 2024 NAHI Grants Program, FHLBank Topeka granted more than \$5.3 million to Native American communities in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Jeff Kuzbel, president and CEO of FHLBank Topeka, noted, "We are proud to continue to support Na-

tive American communities with increased funding for housing and community development. The quality and depth of the proposals we received highlight the ongoing needs within Native American communities. We are honored to expand our commitment to help these important populations thrive."

For more information about the NAHI Grants Program, visit fhltopeka.com/nahi.

Colorado inflation ends year under national average

By Elyse Apel
The Center Square

Colorado reported a lower than average year-over-year change in prices in 2024, according to a new report from the state's Legislative Council Staff.

While the national average at the end of 2024 was 2.7 percent inflation, Colorado's was 2 percent. Colorado inflation was measured using prices in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan area.

Housing was the biggest reason for the difference in national and state inflation numbers. While nationally housing made up 1.8 percent of the contribution to inflation, in Colorado it made up just 0.4 percent.

That is down significantly from the peak in housing inflation in 2022, when overall inflation also peaked in Colorado at almost 10 percent year-over-year.

That could partly be due to a decrease in home prices in Denver in 2024, down 3 percent from 2022.

Still, Coloradans are seeing a significant overall rise in costs.

According to a report from the U.S. Senate's Joint Economic Com-

mittee, Colorado ranked No. 1 in the nation for increased costs compared to 2021.

"The average household in Colorado is paying \$1,332 more per month to purchase the same basket of goods and services as in January 2021," states the report. "Cumulatively, the average Colorado household has spent \$42,079 more due to inflation since January 2021."

Overall, unemployment rates are beginning to tick up, both nationally and in Colorado, the state's report

found. Down from the pandemic's 12 percent, Colorado's unemployment rate is currently 4.1 percent.

Government jobs had one of the highest gains year-over-year in 2024 from 2023 with a 4.1 percent increase. The only other tracked sectors that ranked higher were "mining and logging" and "other services."

Real personal income growth in Colorado (2.5 percent) was above the state's historical average of 1.7 percent, but lower than the national average of 2.8 percent.

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

2024 was an interesting year in Pagosa Country. There was no want for good news, bad news, controversial issues, and no lack of interesting news to keep SUN readers focused on local events, situations and personalities.

The SUN is taking a look back at some of those events, selected by SUN staff writers. This week, we look back at January, February and March.

January

• The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) opened its doors on Jan. 2, following the dissolution of San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) at the end of 2023.

The Archuleta County Water Quality Department followed, opening its doors on Jan. 5.

• On Jan. 4, the Archuleta County Board of Health held its first formal meeting, which included, among other business, the appointment of officers and the selection of Ashley Wilson as the permanent executive director for the ACPHD.

Wilson served as interim director prior to being unanimously voted to be in the role on a more permanent basis.

• The Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Lady Pirates basketball team started off the new year with two victories to extend its winning streak to six games. The two wins improved the Lady Pirates' overall record to 7-3.

• The PSHS Pirate boys' basketball team also started off the new year with two victories to extend its winning streak to eight games and improve its overall record to 9-1.

• The PSHS Pirate wrestling team returned to action after the holiday break by hosting the Rocky Mountain Duals on Jan. 5 and the Rocky Mountain Invitational tournament on Jan. 6.

The Pirates won the dual against Nucla on Jan. 5 and followed with a second-place finish at the Rocky Mountain Invitational the following day.

• Wolf Creek Ski Area picked up 29 inches of fresh powder in early January, bringing the season-to-date snowfall at the ski area up to 113 inches as of Jan. 8.

According to snoflo.org, the Wolf Creek summit, at an elevation of 11,000 feet, had a 48-inch snowpack (84 percent of normal), up from 56 percent of normal on Jan. 3.

• On Jan. 9, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) announced the death of Deputy William "Bill" Lucero.

According to a press release from Sheriff Mike Le Roux, Lucero was found deceased at his residence after a welfare check.

• The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard an update on recent broadband grant awards from Archuleta County Broadband Services Management Office Technical Manager Eric Hittle at its Jan. 9 work session.

Hittle explained that the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) had recently announced awardees for Advance Colorado Broadband Capital Projects Fund (CPF) grants and that two projects in Archuleta County that the BoCC provided letters of support for were awarded funding.

Hittle explained that Visionary Broadband was awarded funds to bring fiber to homes in the Lake Hatcher area and areas south of it to serve a total of 1,034 addresses. According to the CBO website, the award for the project was \$3,913,702, with Visionary providing \$1,304,568 in matching funds.

Clearnetworx was also awarded grant funding for a project including Pagosa Meadows units one through four, the Timber Ridge subdivision, the Alpha subdivision and some areas near the margins of these developments. According to the CBO, the project would build fiber to 561 households and involves \$6,104,736.70 in CPF grant fund supplemented with \$2,034,912.30 in matching funds from Clearnetworx.

Hittle explained that the cost for the project would be approximately \$3,000 an address and that the grants — along with a project by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to build fiber to the homes of 400 addresses in Arboles — would continue momentum on the build-out of fiber to area homes.

He highlighted that these projects would serve close to 3,000 homes overall, a third of the 9,000 homes that the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation estimated needed service in the area.

• On Jan. 11, staff from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) worked through the night in frigid temperatures to address a water leak impacting up to 676 homes in the Loma Linda and Holiday Acres areas.

• The PSHS Lady Pirate swim team swam back into action on Jan. 12 and

13 in Durango, taking part in a pair of meets to open the 2024 portion of their schedule.

According to coach Heather Miller, several Lady Pirate swimmers were tasked with taking on events challenging to them at the meets and stepped up to meet the challenge.

• The PSHS Pirate girls' wrestling division competed at the Lady Bronco Invitational on Jan. 13 in Kirtland, N.M., with four Lady Pirate wrestlers placing at the event.

"I really like their development in terms of their skill level," coach Dan Janowsky said of the first-year team. "They do practice as a girls' team, but they are in the same practice with the boys and they work really hard, and I think it's paying off for them. ... They've done some really good things. As I tell them often, they're pioneers blazing the trail for others."

• Lucero was remembered and honored on Jan. 16 during a final patrol procession.

The ACSO escorted Lucero and his family through Archuleta County, stopping to honor Lucero's time in the military and with several regional law enforcement agencies.

• The PSHS SkillsUSA team fared well during regional competition Jan. 19 in Durango, with several earning their way to the state competition in April.

Halle Munyon took first in Welding Sculpture. Logan Beach, Ethan Chavez-Skok, Tristan Frame and Sofia Talamante took first in Teamworks. Brodie Norton took second in Carpentry.

• The annual WinterFest celebration Jan. 19-21 featured the fun of the season, including sledding to ballooning, a community bonfire, dog parade and more.

• According to Miller, the Lady Pirate swim team did the unexpected when it bested Gunnison on Jan. 26 in Gunnison.

Pagosa scored 566, compared to Gunnison's 537.

• A Jan. 28 snowmobile accident claimed the life of a 50-year-old man from Texas.

According to a statement from the Mineral County Sheriff's Office, at 3:04 p.m. on Jan. 28, the Alamosa Regional Communication Center notified the office of a snowmobile accident involving a 50-year-old male from Texas.

The accident occurred about 2.5 miles up Quartz Creek.

"While the patient's friends and family were transporting him from the accident, out of the backcountry, he succumbed to injuries sustained during the accident," according to the statement.

• A two-vehicle crash the morning of Jan. 29 that involved a school bus left one in critical condition but expected to recover. Several elementary school children from the bus were taken to Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) for minor injuries, where they were treated and released.

According to a press release from Pagosa Springs Police Chief William Rockensock, "Initial information advised a white sport utility vehicle collided with an Archuleta County School District bus. The school bus was full of children and was off the roadway. The driver of the SUV was injured and entrapped in the vehicle."

The driver of the SUV, the release states, was a 54-year-old male who had to be extricated from the vehicle by Pagosa Fire Protection District personnel. He was transported to PSMC in critical condition and airlifted to a different hospital.

• A rock slide blocked U.S. 160 on Wolf Creek Pass on Jan. 29.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) responded to the blockage, which closed the highway from about 9 a.m. until late in the morning, at which point it was opened to one-lane, alternating traffic. The highway was fully reopened about 4:30 p.m. after CDOT geohazard engineers inspected the cliffs for further signs of rockfall and safety concerns.

• In late January, it was announced that PSHS student Marie Smith took first place in Ceramics and Glass in the Colorado Art Awards.

According to PSHS art teacher Kelly Lewis, Smith beat out thousands of entries, many from dedicated arts magnet schools.

February

• A new tradition may have started

on Feb. 1 when Pagosa Springs Middle School students and staff faced each other in a special basketball game.

The staff, coached by Junior Lister, edged out the Lady Pirate team 14-13 in the defensive affair.

The game was planned after the day's opponents, Miller Middle School, did not have as many teams as the Pirates, leaving one of the Pirate C teams without an opponent.

• The Pirate boys' wrestling team participated in the Intermountain League (IML) championship dual against Centauri in La Jara on Feb. 1, losing 51-24.

• The Lady Pirate swim team drew its season to a close Feb. 2 and 3 at the Western Slope Conference meet in Grand Junction.

Despite the team's season ending short of the state tournament, according to Miller, the conference meet was "spectacular" and the team's athletes logged their best times and saw "huge drops" in time.

The Lady Pirates finished 10th at the meet.

• At its Feb. 6 work session, the BoCC discussed propane delivery difficulties in the area with the sheriff.

Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that both she and Le Roux received phone calls on Feb. 5 regarding constituents having difficulty in receiving propane deliveries.

Le Roux commented that the delivery issues centered on a lack of drivers, not a lack of propane supply. The issue was reportedly affecting all the suppliers in the area.

• On Feb. 6, the Pagosa Springs Town Council voted unanimously in favor of a resolution canceling the April 2 municipal election.

Three at-large council member seats were supposed to be up for election. However, since only the three individuals currently holding those seats — Leonard Martinez, Mat deGraaf and Brooks Lindner — filed their candidate petitions by the Jan. 22 deadline, all three were automatically elected to additional four-year terms starting in April.

• At the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Community Conversation and Celebration on Feb. 9, numerous entities and individuals were honored for their contribution to the Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County community.

Winning the Citizen of the Year award was Bob and Robin Brobst. The Volunteer of the Year award went to Ken Rogers. The Small Business award went to FootPrints. The Pagosa Nordic Club was selected as the Non-Profit of the Year.

• The Lady Pirate girls' wrestling team competed at the Girls West Region 3 tournament on Feb. 9 and 10, with one Lady Pirate, Laykyn Baxstrom, advancing to the state wrestling tournament — the first ever Lady Pirate to do so.

The Lady Pirates took 18th at the tournament.

• On Feb. 13, the state of Colorado announced a panel to review applications and recommend finalists for appointment as the district attorney for the 6th Judicial District following the resignation of District Attorney Christian Champagne.

According to a press release from the state, Champagne would step down effective mid-March.

Champagne told The SUN he was leaving to pursue other opportunities.

• At the Feb. 13 regular meeting of the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education, the board heard about its 2023 audit from a presentation by Jessica Bogner, audit partner at Wall, Smith, Bateman.

According to the written audit report, the district received an unmodified audit opinion.

Bogner summarized the material weakness ASD received as an internal control deficiency.

According to the audit document, "The District's system of internal controls did not prevent or detect and correct financial misstatements," and the recommendation is that "the District should strengthen internal controls with adopted policies and procedures to include a review process of monthly and year-end reconciliations of balance sheet accounts to ensure accurate financial statement reporting. The District is converting to a new system in fiscal year 2024 and should ensure complete training to identify system capabilities and implement reconciliation procedures accordingly."

• The Pirate boys' basketball team clinched the league championship in mid-February with a win over the Bayfield Wolverines.

The team finished league play with a perfect 10-0 record in the IML.

The win also improved the Pirates' overall record to 21-1 and extended the team's winning streak to 21 games.

• The Lady Pirate basketball team also clinched the league title in mid-February.

At that point, the Lady Pirates' overall record stood at 18-4 and IML

record was 9-1.

• At its Feb. 15 meeting, the PAWSD Board of Directors voted to raise fees and rates for 2024 in accordance with the rate study by Stantec that the board approved at its Dec. 14, 2023, meeting.

The board voted to increase the monthly service charge per equivalent unit (EU) by 3 percent, going from \$31.44 in 2023 to \$32.38 in 2024.

The monthly service charge per EU for wastewater was voted to increase by 30 percent from \$32.80 in 2023 to \$42.64 in 2024.

Short-term rentals would be charged 140 percent of the wastewater rate, according to the fee schedule approved by the board.

The capital investment fee (CIF) for water increased from \$5,352.37 in 2023 to \$8,958, and the wastewater CIF increased from \$1,178.98 in 2023 to \$15,697 in 2024, according to the fee schedule.

Other fees, such as availability fees, dumping fees for septic haulers and water fill station fees also increased, with the increases matching the percentage increase in water rates for water-related fees and the percentage increase in wastewater rates for wastewater-related fees.

The new rates and fees took effect March 1.

• On Feb. 16, a mistrial was declared in the trial concerning allegations of homicide against Christopher Ross Maez, 56, of Pagosa Springs.

The mistrial was declared by 6th Judicial District Chief Judge Jeffrey Wilson following allegations of juror misconduct.

Proceedings related to the alleged misconduct were held by the court the morning of Feb. 16, with Wilson explaining there were allegations that one or more jurors had done research on the internet, potentially about aspects of the case, and had discussed it with other jurors, as well as looking up information related to "unanimous."

• In February, it was announced that Jayslynn Perea would represent the area as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, Mass., hosted by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists, June 26-28.

• It was also announced in February that remains located in Mineral County dating back to 1991 had been

■ See Review A6

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Review

Continued from A5

identified through work performed by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation cold case team and the Mineral County Sheriff's Office.

Using forensic investigative genetic genealogy, confirming with dental records and other investigative tools, the remains were identified as those of Steven Kenneth Risku (date of birth Aug. 16, 1957), of Indiana.

Risku's remains were located on Wolf Creek Pass in Mineral County in 1991.

In February, La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) announced that CEO Jessica Matlock had been hired as the CEO of PNGC Power, the sole operating generation and transmission cooperative in the Pacific Northwest.

Matlock was hired by LPEA's board of directors in the spring of 2019 and began her CEO tenure in the summer of 2019.

On Feb. 17, the Pirate boys' basketball team closed the regular season with a victory at home over the 3A Del Norte Tigers by a score of 59-38.

The win helped the Pirates enter the 4A state playoffs as the No. 4 seed.

Four Pirate wrestlers wrestled at the state tournament at Ball Arena in Denver on Feb. 15-17.

Luke Tressler took fourth place in the 138-pound weight class, Conner Kelly took sixth place in the 190-pound weight class and Harley Armijo took fifth in the 215-pound weight class. Samuel Kelly also received a medal for his victory in a Unified division match.

On Feb. 18, the bracket and seedings for the 4A girls' basketball playoffs were announced.

The Lady Pirates, as the league champion, automatically qualified for the bracket, which consisted of a 32-team field. After the league champions, the remainder of the bracket was filled, utilizing the final data from the Seeding and Selection Index.

The Lady Pirates earned the No. 5 seed and entered the tournament with a 19-4 record.

On Feb. 20, the BoCC approved requests for American Rescue Plan Act funding totaling \$665,730 from five local organizations: Archuleta Housing Corporation, Healthy Archuleta, A Safe Place in Pagosa Inc. (which does business as Aspen House and Aspen Services), Archuleta County Housing Authority and Southwest Housing Providers on behalf of Housing Solutions for the Southwest.

The Lady Pirates' first game in the playoffs was played at home on Feb. 20 against the No. 28 Manitou Springs Mustangs.

The Lady Pirates defeated the Mustangs 40-16.

The Pirate boys defeated the No. 29 Delta Panthers 59-45 in the first round of the playoffs on Feb. 21.

On Feb. 22, an ongoing disagreement between two local government entities came to a resolution when the town council voted to approve a certificate of occupancy for Archuleta County's justice facility on Harman Park Drive.

The building sits within the town limits, and, therefore, the town contended, should be subject to the town's Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). The county disagreed, stating case law supports that the county is not subject to the LUDC.

At the heart of the disagreement was the question of if the county was legally bound to abide by the town's LUDC, particularly a provision regarding the screening of rooftop appurtenances, such as mechanical equipment and antennas.

In April of 2023, the council approved a letter, authored by Town Attorney Bob Cole, spelling out the town's intention to "withhold a certificate of occupancy" for the building, unless the county "complies with all conditions" of the town's building code.

The council voted 4-2 to issue the certificate to make the issue a thing of the past.

In late February, long-time employee Shari Pierce was promoted to publisher of The Pagosa Springs SUN.

In February, discussions concerning the U.S. 160 reconstruction project — planned to start in the spring of 2024 — intensified, with a number of organizations and governmental bodies focusing on how to help residents, businesses and visitors navigate the two-year project.

In late February, PSHS demonstrated outstanding performance at the Future Business Leaders of America District 8 Leadership Conference. PSHS students secured 13 first-place awards, 12 second-place awards and eight third-place awards across various business and leadership categories.

The Lady Pirate basketball team punched its ticket to the Great 8 round of the 4A basketball playoffs by winning a nail-biter against the Eaton

Reds in second-round action on Feb. 23. The No. 5 Pirates defeated the No. 12 Reds by a score of 40-39.

The Pirates basketball team was also on its way to the Great 8 round after defeating the Holy Family Tigers in the second round. The No. 4 Pirates defeated the No. 13 Tigers 51-45 on Feb. 24.

On Feb. 26, Pagosa Peak Open School announced three finalists for its school director position: Emily Murphy, of Pagosa Springs; Brianna Kaiser, of Denver; and Brian Clyne, of Brownsville, Texas.

Angela Reali-Crossland, then the school's director, announced in December 2023 that she would not be renewing her contract at the end of its current term.

Murphy served as the school's assistant director.

In February, a number of PSHS wrestlers were named to the all-conference teams: Madisen Stretton and Baxstrom were named to the all-conference team for girls wrestling.

Four Pirate boys' wrestlers were named to the all-conference first team: Harley Armijo, Conner Kelly, Colton Lucero and Luke Tressler.

In a Feb. 28 press release circulated to customers, PAWSD announced that it would be closing its offices at 100 Lyn Ave. to the public on March 1 until further notice "per guidelines set forth by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency."

The PAWSD board had previously discussed a closure of the office due to concerns about security issues at the office and increased aggression directed by customers and members of the public toward staff.

A stabbing incident took place Feb. 28, with law enforcement officials looking for the suspect into early March.

Conflicts continued between the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and the PAWSD board over control of the Running Iron Ranch property at meetings early in the year, as well as over the three-way agreement between the entities and the Colorado Water Conservation Board concerning the management of the ranch — the proposed site for a reservoir.

The SJWCD also expressed concern over the PAWSD board holding conversations about the sale of the ranch.

March

Pagosa Springs Elementary School staff and students had reason to celebrate in February and early March. The school participated in the American Heart Association's (AHA) Kids Heart Challenge, with the school's heart heroes surpassing the school's \$14,000 goal by raising \$16,203.52. In addition to raising funds for the AHA, students also had the opportunity to learn hands-only CPR and how to keep their hearts healthy.

The school reported the top three classes for fundraising were Renea Smith's first-grade class with \$1,960.44, Scott Galabota's third-grade class with \$1,616.50 and Laura Frey's third-grade class with \$1,056.14. The top three students were Henry R. with \$1,235.73, Harper F. with \$1,085.76 and Amelia E. with \$602.98.

In a March 1 decision, the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission dismissed an ethics complaint brought by Archuleta County Attorney Todd Weaver against Liane Jollon, the former executive director of SJBPH.

The Aug. 29, 2023, complaint raised concerns about the ethics of the \$215,745 in emergency compensation payments that Jollon received between March 2020 and May 2023.

The Pirate boys' basketball team traveled to Denver to face the Colorado Academy Mustangs in quarterfinal action at the 4A basketball playoffs on March 2. The Mustangs defeated the Pirates by a score of 63-43 to end the Pirates' run at the state title and bring the team's season to a close.

The Pirates completed the year with an overall record of 24-2.

The Lady Pirates' run at the state title also ended with a loss on March 2, to the Resurrection Christian Cougars in quarterfinal action.

The Cougars defeated the Lady Pirates by a score of 53-44, but Pagosa was the only team in the Great 8 that kept the margin of defeat in the single digits.

The trip to the Great 8 capped off a 21-5 season for the Lady Pirates.

The driver of the SUV involved in the Jan. 29 crash that included a school bus was charged with careless driving causing bodily injury in early March.

The two-vehicle crash left the driver of the SUV, identified as Bret Smith, 54, of Pagosa Springs, in critical condition.

According to Rockensock, Smith "made the claim" he didn't remem-

ber the accident or what he was doing that may have caused it, but stated he believed he could have fallen asleep.

Archuleta County voters voted in line with the state as a whole in the March 5 presidential primary.

On the Democratic side, Joseph R. Biden Jr. was the top vote-getter in Archuleta County and Colorado, while Donald J. Trump received the most votes at both levels for the Republican ballot.

In early March, LPEA announced that Graham Smith would serve as interim CEO.

In a March letter to ASD staff and community, Holt announced that the district's finance director, Michael Hodgson, had submitted his resignation effective at the end of the current school year.

In the letter, Holt highlights Hodgson's contributions to the district, stating, "during his tenure, Mike has made significant contributions to our district, spearheading initiatives that have positively impacted our educational community. Under his leadership, we successfully passed two mill levy overrides, providing essential funding for vital programs and resources."

Holt also notes that Hodgson "played a pivotal role in implementing substantial salary increases for all staff members, recognizing their dedication and hard work."

The BoCC discussed potential locations and next steps for building a county administration building at its March 5 work session.

At the March 6 BoCC meeting, the BoCC voted to accept two grant awards from CDOT for the airport totaling \$187,000 in state funds.

Airport Manager Chris Torres explained that a geotechnical work grant would support core sampling of the airport runway to determine what future rehabilitation might be needed, while an automated weather observing system, or AWOS, grant would fund the replacement of the current weather monitoring system at the airport, which was outdated and difficult to find parts for.

According to the award letter documentation, the geotechnical grant includes \$75,000 in CDOT funding matched by \$8,334 in local funds, and the AWOS grant includes \$112,000 in CDOT funds matched by \$12,445 in local funds.

The PSHS Lady Pirate soccer team kicked off its season with a 10-0 victory over the Del Norte Tigers in Del Norte on March 7.

The Pirate baseball team opened its season on March 7, as well, playing three games in the Aztec tournament in Aztec, N.M. The team dropped its opening game to Aztec, but bounced back to defeat both Bosque and Page in the next two games.

At a March 7 work session, the PAWSD board discussed tightening the district's affordable housing policy, as well as approaches to supporting the increased cost of affordable housing fee waivers.

At a special meeting on the same date, the PAWSD board approved a response to the SJWCD's concerns about its Running Iron Ranch subcommittee.

In its response, the PAWSD board contended, among other things, that PAWSD has the sole discretion to sell the property.

On March 9, Biden signed into law a funding bill that included, among other things, \$1 million in congressionally directed spending for Build Pagosa's regional workforce career and technical training center.

On March 8, Sen. John Hickenlooper's office announced the funding was heading to Biden's desk and was part of \$88 million that was secured for Colorado communities in the bill.

"I think everyone on the board and everyone that has contributed to this is just absolutely thrilled that we get to move forward with this project," said Build Pagosa Director Will Ridlehoover.

In March, CDOT awarded \$250,000 in Revitalizing Main Streets funding to the Town of Pagosa Springs for a new sidewalk and parklet in front of Pagosa Springs Middle School.

The grant was spearheaded by the Pagosa Springs Main Street Program to leverage resources and vision with the town's Community Development Department.

The elementary Destination Imagination team from Pagosa Springs competed at the regional competition at Escalante Middle School in Durango on March 9. It competed against teams from Cortez, Durango and Dolores, and earned second place at the tournament.

On March 11, Tyler James Intermaggio, 39, of Pagosa Springs, entered guilty pleas in a pair of cases as part of deals.

Intermaggio pleaded guilty to criminal attempt to commit murder in the second degree and to criminal attempt to commit assault in the first

degree.

The plea to criminal attempt to commit murder in the second degree comes in a 2023 case in which two deputies responded to a call for service involving a disturbance between two male subjects.

According to an ACSO press release released following the Jan. 4, 2023, incident, "During the incident, one of the male subjects deployed a firearm and attempted to discharge the firearm at an ACSO Deputy. The second Deputy discharged their duty weapon at the male subject, neutralizing the immediate threat."

It further notes that deputies "provided lifesaving support immediately after the incident until medics arrived."

According to the plea deal, "On or about Jan. 4, 2023, in Archuleta County, Colorado, Tyler James Intermaggio knowingly attempted to cause the death of William Lucero. At the time, William Lucero was a peace officer engaged in the performance of his duties."

The plea deal came with a stipulated sentence of 20-24 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

After lengthy discussion through multiple regular board meetings and a work session held the week prior, the ASD Board of Education approved new graduation requirements for PSHS at a special meeting held March 12.

The new requirements were first proposed at the June 2023 regular board meeting and were revisited in the December 2023 and the February 2024 regular board meetings.

Concerned business owners and residents packed a meet-and-greet event on March 12. The subject of the event was the upcoming CDOT U.S. 160 reconstruction project through downtown Pagosa Springs.

The PAWSD board voted to expand CIF affordable housing waivers following presentations by the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) and Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County at its March 14 meeting.

Swan Solo (or Swanie) was the talk of the town in mid-March after it was spotted alongside a new companion in Pinon Lake. Many were hopeful Swan Solo had found a mate.

In March, Gov. Jared Polis appointed Sean P. Murray as the district

See Review A7



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A Reflection on Hot Springs Fest: Celebrating Community & Hot Springs

The Springs Resort

Hot Springs Fest 2024 was more than just a festival—it was a celebration of community, connection, and the healing power of Pagosa Springs' world-renowned waters. Held annually in November, this beloved three-day event marked its fifth anniversary with a vibrant lineup of activities and community collaborations that showcased everything wonderful about our town and its iconic hot springs.

This year's festival logo, designed by local graphic designer Abigail Karas through a Call to Artists, captured the spirit of Hot Springs Fest and highlighted the community's creative talent. The Pagosa Springs Town Council further celebrated this connection by declaring November as Hot Springs Month, honoring the vital role hot springs play in the town's culture and identity.

The 120 hot springs enthusiasts who participated enjoyed access to over 40 hot springs pools at all three local hot springs resorts: The Springs Resort, Healing Waters, and Overlook Hot Springs. From aqua yoga and contrast

bathing to a forest hike and restorative tea ceremonies, there was something for everyone. Locals enjoyed discounted tickets and free community events, ensuring everyone could enjoy the festival's inclusive spirit. This dedication to keeping the festival accessible to all locals will remain a cornerstone of future events.

The Robe Parade was a new event this year. After a Gratitude Ceremony at the Mother Spring, participants marched through downtown, all wearing the traditional hot springs "attire" - cozy robes. The procession was led by Native American drummer Jake Vicenti and his family. Local business owners, including Mayor Shari Pierce, were on hand to judge participants in three categories, with the grand prize winner receiving a full year of soaking at all three venues.

"Hot Springs Fest 2024 was such an amazing and unforgettable experience," said area visitor Mili Rodriguez. "This will now be [an]... annual trip. Everyone was so friendly!"

The festival also included live music from local bands Won-

derbread and Happy Campers, creating lively evenings that brought people together over shared tunes and good company. For those exploring beyond the pools, over a dozen local businesses from Riff Raff to Footprints, Pagosa Baking Company, and Hidden Track, offered exclusive discounts to festival participants, further embedding Hot Springs Fest into the town's broader community fabric.

This festival is quickly becoming a part of the culture and fabric of Pagosa Springs. It grows in size and popularity every year. It brings people together, emphasizes social wellness, and fosters community. This festival is a true gem, and it will surely continue to give both locals and visitors a chance to celebrate our town and our love for the hot springs. We can't wait to see how Hot Springs Fest evolves in 2025, and invite you to join us in 2025 for another incredible year.

For event inquiries, please reach out to Mary Cocke at mcocke@pagosahotspings.com to learn how you can be part of next year's celebration.

Contractor selected for airport snow removal

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

A new contractor has been selected to perform snow removal work at Archuleta County's Stevens Field airport, according to airport manager Chris Torres, who briefed the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on the matter during a work session held on Dec. 17, 2024.

Torres explained that no bids were received at first, so he contacted two local contractors to see if they would be interested in bidding.

He noted that only one of those contractors submitted a bid, therefore making it a sole-bid contract.

The contract was awarded to Concrete Connection of Pagosa Springs, Torres indicated.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked, "Why do you need snow removal?" while mentioning the county recently purchased a new snowplow.

Torres indicated that he needs workers to operate the snow removal equipment, explaining that the county has its own snow removal equipment, but the airport staff only has himself and one other employee to assist with snow removal operations.

"I've got six pieces of equipment and I've got one guy that runs snow removal," Torres said. "We gotta have somebody to run it."

Torres mentioned, "we've always done it that way," noting it's necessary to hire out for snow removal operations, otherwise it would take too long

to clear the snow and open the airport with just him and one other county employee.

Medina asked if the contractor would be using the county's equipment.

Torres explained the contractor would use the county's equipment, along with its own equipment, but noted that the contractor only has trucks.

He mentioned that the airport does not clear snow simply by pushing it off to the side like on highways due to lights and other airport equipment that needs to be cleared and not damaged from blowing snow.

"We do everything inside the fence," Torres said, explaining that everything other than the fixed-base operator (FBO) parking lot is taken care of by the contractor.

"It's always operated that way," Commissioner Ronnie Maez said.

When asked about the cost of hiring a contractor by Commissioner Warren Brown, Torres indicated that it's a "time and material" job.

He explained that the contractor will send five workers and charge a rate of \$75 per hour when operating the county's equipment. If the contractor only uses its equipment then the rate is \$100 per hour, "which they hardly ever do."

Torres mentioned that when he first started at the airport 20 years ago, the county awarded a full bid and gave a "ton of money" to somebody whether they plowed once or 10 times during the year.

Brown commented that it is es-

entially more "cost effective" to hire a contractor and pay an hourly rate for services when they are performed, rather than commit to a full bid.

Brown noted that it'd be difficult for the county to hire an additional five employees to keep on year-round when there would not be much for them to do in the summer months.

"Yeah, that would not be cost effective at all," Torres said.

Torres estimated that when the county would award a full bid, it would pay approximately \$47,000 annually, regardless of the number of times snow removal was needed.

Now, the budget for snow removal is \$30,000 annually "and we don't use it," he said, noting that last year the airport spent approximately \$9,000 on snow-removal operations.

Maez commented that crews are plowing more often, and even in the middle of the night.

"We're plowing a lot more often because those planes are coming in at different hours of the day," Maez said.

The contract with Concrete Connections was unanimously approved by the BoCC during a regular meeting held later that day on Dec. 17, as part of the meeting's consent agenda.

Parking lot improvements

During the same meeting, the BoCC unanimously voted to approve the selection of Jviation to provide engineering design and construction management services for the paving of the FBO parking lot.

The matter was included as part of the consent agenda.

During the Dec. 17 work session, Torres explained that, per federal aviation guidelines, he contacted three companies for the paving project and only received one response, from Jviation.

"We're moving forward on it now," he said.

Torres indicated that the cost of the project won't be known until a bid is received from Jviation, possibly sometime in April.

clayton@pagosahun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Friday, Jan. 3

San Juan Water Conservancy District work session for strategic objective three. 3 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. Visit <https://www.sjwcd.org/> for Zoom option.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

tion, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners meeting. 1:30 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Pagosa Springs Town Council meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Pagosa Springs Sanitation Gen-

eral Improvement District special meeting. 5 p.m., Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

Thursday, Jan. 9

Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors meeting. 5 p.m., 100 Lyn Ave. or via Zoom. View on Zoom using meeting ID 882 7393 5489 and password 921441. For more information, visit pawsd.org.

Public meeting information should be sent to editor@pagosahun.com with "Public Meeting" in the subject line. The deadline is noon Monday each week prior to publication for that week's issue.

Review

Continued from A6

attorney for the 6th Judicial District. The appointment filled a vacancy created by the resignation of Champagne and became effective on March 16.

Lady Pirates Annie O'Donnell and Daveyann Snarr took part in the 2024 Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-State Basketball Games on March 17 in Aurora. The games honor the state's top senior athletes. O'Donnell and Snarr played on the 4A blue team, which was coached by Lady Pirate coach Sarah Osborn and assistant Emily Buikema.

At its March 18 meeting, the SJWCD board discussed a letter from PAWSO responding to a previous letter from the SJWCD.

SJWCD board members Charles Riehm and Bill Nobles volunteered to reach out to the PAWSO subcommittee and attempt to arrange a work session.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs announced a More Housing Now grant award on March 19 of \$1,919,200 to Archuleta County for infrastructure improvements in the Chris Mountain II and Trails subdivisions in the Pagosa Lakes area.

These funds were set to pay to upgrade existing roads, along with bringing in electric and broadband utilities, allowing for homes to be built on lots for the first time since the subdivisions were platted in the 1970s.

At its March 19 meeting, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) selected Civic Possible as the consultant to create the county's strategic plan.

The selection followed presentations by five finalists at the March 12 BoCC work session.

On March 21, the board of the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID), which also sits as the Pagosa Springs Town Council, voted to approve a new memorandum of understanding with PAWSO.

"This item will lay out the beginning of a road map for the future operations and maintenance of wastewater systems in our community," explains PSSGID agenda documentation on the matter.

The PAWSO board approved the agreement at its March 14 meeting.

On March 22, the Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors unanimously voted for Murphy, the school's current assistant director, to take the helm as school director following the departure of Reali-Crossland.

With a 9-3 vote, the LPEA Board of Directors voted March 25 to formally withdraw from the membership of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and filed its Notice of Intent to Withdraw at the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission in Washington, D.C., effective April 1, 2026.

This departure, according to the agency, will aid LPEA's efforts toward the advancement of affordable, clean energy initiatives, increasing resiliency and expanding local generation.

PSCDC staff, construction workers from contractor BWD and community partners held a ribbon-

cutting ceremony for the PSCDC's workforce housing project on March 25.

The project includes the construction of 10 workforce housing units in 2024 and also involves extensive grant-funded infrastructure and road improvements in the Trails and Chris Mountain Village II subdivisions.

The BoCC approved a \$300,000 grant for the PSCDC at a March 29 special meeting to cover construction contingency funds requested by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Division of Housing for a PSCDC affordable housing grant application.

At a March 26 BoCC work session, the board discussed the need for contingency funds and the formulation of deed restrictions for the PSCDC affordable housing project with PSCDC Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke.

A portion of the PSHS Pirate track and field team opened the season on March 30 at the Pine River Invitational in Bayfield, with the meet taking place over the Pirates' spring break.

That was followed by another meet on April 1 that featured only part of the team due to many being out for the Future Business Leaders of America state competition.

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Census

Continued from front
 (\$1,111,400 to \$1,382,800) counties in California; and Summit County, Utah (\$729,000 to \$1,000,400). Archuleta County also aligned with the national trend of an increase in homeownership. The total number of housing units in the county increased from 9,228 in the 2014-2018 estimates to 9,710 in the 2019-2023 estimates. Owner-occupied housing units increased from 74.6 percent in 2014-2018 to 77.5 percent in 2019-2023, while renter-occupied units decreased from 25.4 percent to 22.5 percent.

The 2019-2023 ACS five-year estimates show that more people owned homes than rented in 3,070 of the nation's 3,144 counties and county equivalents between 2019 and 2023. The number of occupied housing units in Archuleta County decreased from 61.4 percent to 60.8 percent in the 2019-2023 estimates. Vacant housing units increased from 38.6 percent to 39.2 percent. The rental vacancy rate decreased from 16.6 percent to 14.1 percent. The percentage of housing units with a mortgage decreased from 56.4 percent to 53.6 percent, while units

without a mortgage increased from 43.6 percent to 46.4 percent. The number of owner-occupied units without a mortgage also increased nationally, with the Census Bureau stating the figure increased between the two five-year periods by 3.9 million units, from 36.9 percent of owned homes in the 2014-2018 ACS estimates to 38.8 percent in the 2019-2023 ACS estimates. "The increase in the number of owned homes without a mortgage could partially explain why the median amount of income homeowners spent toward housing costs decreased from 18.3 percent to 17.5 percent,"

said Caroline Short, a survey statistician in the Census Bureau's Housing Statistics Branch. "Housing data also showed that 61.2 percent of owned homes had a mortgage. Moreover, the median ratio of income to housing costs for mortgaged homes decreased slightly from 21.6 percent to 20.9 percent. But the actual median dollar amount of monthly housing cost rose slightly from \$1,897 to \$1,902." For Archuleta County, the median selected monthly owner costs for a housing unit with a mortgage increased from \$1,636 to \$1,883. The median selected monthly owner costs for a housing unit went from \$514 to \$549. The gross median rent in Archuleta County increased from \$1,137 to \$1,409. Median gross rent (rent plus utilities) increased nationally by about \$100, from \$1,246 to \$1,348 per month. Many of the counties with the highest median gross rents were either in California (such as San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin and San Francisco counties), Virginia (such as Arlington, Loudoun and Fairfax counties) or New York (such as Nassau, Suffolk and New York counties). "The amount of income that goes toward housing costs has differed between renters and owners, with renters traditionally paying more of their income toward housing," the Census Bureau notes.

Income and poverty
 The U.S. median household income for the 2019-2023 ACS five-year period was \$78,538. Median household income in the United States, adjusted for inflation to 2023 dollars, increased 7 percent between the 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 periods. In Archuleta County, the median household income increased from \$61,781 in the 2014-2018 estimates to \$76,524 in the 2019-2023 estimates. Most counties, the Census Bureau notes, had a median household income lower than the national median (74.1 percent), while 13.2 percent had a median household income higher than the U.S. median. The mean, or average, household income in Archuleta County increased from \$84,795 to \$97,641. The per capita income for the county rose from \$37,779 in the 2014-2018 estimate to \$43,049 in the 2019-2023 estimate. The newer five-year estimate notes that the percentage of families whose income in the past 12 months was below the poverty level was 4.8 percent, down from 7.4 percent in the previous five-year estimate. The percentage for all people in the county dropped from 10.7 percent to 8.3 percent. The overall U.S. poverty rate for the 2019-2023 period was 12.4 percent, down from 14.1 percent in 2014-2018. Poverty rates decreased in 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico compared to 2014-2018. In 2019-2023, child poverty rates decreased in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico compared

to 2014-2018. For those age 65 and older, poverty rates increased in 42 states and decreased in one state (Idaho) compared to 2014-2018. Poverty rates for those 65 and older in Archuleta County increased from 5.2 percent to 9.0 percent. The data further shows a drop from 17.3 percent to 1.0 percent for "Related children of the householder under 5 years." **Population** Archuleta County's population in the 2019-2023 estimates is 13,730, up from 12,908 in the previous estimates. The Census Bureau's population estimate as of July 2023 is 14,189. Archuleta County's median age increased from 50.6 to 52.2 between the two ACS estimates. On Dec. 30, 2024, the Census Bureau estimated the U.S. population would reach 341,145,670 at midnight EST, on Jan. 1, 2025. That represents an increase of 2,640,171 (0.78 percent) from Jan. 1, 2024, and 9,696,329 (2.93 percent) from Census Day (April 1) 2020. In January 2025, the United States is expected to experience one birth every 9.0 seconds and one death every 9.4 seconds. Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 23.2 seconds. The combination of births, deaths and net international migration increases the U.S. population by one person every 21.2 seconds. The projected world population on Jan. 1, 2025, was 8,092,034,511, an increase of 71,178,087 (0.89 percent) from New Year's Day 2024. During January 2025, 4.2 births and 2.0 deaths are expected worldwide every second. randi@pagosahun.com

Tourism

Continued from front
 most of our events," she continued, pointing to events with heavy beverage consumption that end with stacks of single-use plastic cups heading to the county landfill. To combat some of that waste, "We could get Pagosa-branded, hard plastic cups, or aluminum ... that we buy and then hand out to event organizers at no charge," said Green, who ventured that imbibers could reuse their cups for multiple trips to the beverage cart. "I do see the recycling aspect, or environmentally friendly [aspect], could be a selling point for our efforts, but also a selling point for the events themselves," she said. Green proposed purchasing about 25,000 cups to distribute, with costs dependent on the materials. Branded aluminum souvenirs, she figured, would start at around \$2.50 a cup. "We can try to make them unique so that people want to keep them and just don't toss them in the trash cans," Green said. She added, "If you want me to investigate this further, I'll bring you a budget and options during the February meeting and I will reach out to some event organizers that deal with kegs." Her suggestion was met with support from around the room as board members agreed the tourism board should be a model for responsible use of the outdoors.

The question of sustainability continued to figure prominently as board members pivoted to discuss Green's role in planning and organizing seasonal community events, weighing valuable staff time and the other priorities set for her office. "I went over what it takes for staff to organize these events," Green noted, describing the conundrum her office faces as it attempts to preserve community staples like Old Fashioned Christmas while balancing everyday workloads and tasks. "If we cancel some of these now-beloved community events, I am concerned about the backlash that's going to happen. I also see the events that are being canceled around the community," she said, pointing to the recently "paused" Four Corners Folk Festival. She added, "We are losing large events that have been critical and really a staple of the community. With that said, if you guys don't want staff to organize these events, I do feel like it's in our best interest to work to try to find other event organizers to take them over." Green pointed to the Halloween Hootenanny and Old Fashioned Christmas as two examples that might benefit from event organizers outside of her office. "Here we are in December. We have time to actually [identify] other entities that could take over these events," Green said. "I can draft an

RFP [request for proposals] and take it before town council." She added, "We could give event organizers in the bidding process an opportunity to show us how they would structure the event, where they could generate revenue from the event in addition to funds from the tourism board, as well." That idea seemed to gain traction with the board, as several members voiced agreement that the role of the board is to fund and support events — not necessarily organize them, too. "Two years ago ... I asked the board at the time, if you want us to focus on events, it takes work away from everything else we know we need to be doing," Green explained. She continued, "The last three, four years, my staff's time has been spread out across so many different tasks." She then asked, "What is best use of staff's time, and where can we be most impactful?" The board's answer was roundly supportive of Green's office retaining organizational control over the annual holiday lighting tour and contest as well as the Big Spring Clean, with openness to searching for additional hands to take over the Hootenanny and community Christmas celebrations. Due to scheduling considerations, the tourism board is next set to meet on Feb. 5. garrett@pagosahun.com

Budget
Continued from front
 a refund to stay within our TABOR limits," Eaton said. He also mentioned that sales tax projections include a 1 percent increase in comparison to 2024 numbers. Eaton explained that, overall, the 2025 budget averages around a 2 percent increase with the exception of certain line items. The budget includes a 2.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment and a maximum of a 1.5 percent merit increase, Eaton noted. He went on to give a breakdown of employee positions being added to the county for 2025, noting there are five new full-time positions. Eaton explained that a new mechanic position will be filled once the county's new transit facility is completed, which is expected to be done in the spring of 2025. Eaton also commented that a new

part-time bus driver position has also been approved. He explained that an additional accountant will be added, as well, to help serve the needs of the Department of Human Services and the Public Health Department, "because it is growing." The Public Health Department will also have two additional part-time nurse positions, which will also help "offset" the jail medical work that the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office currently contracts out, he mentioned, also noting that two part-time health navigator positions will be added, as well. The county coroner will also be moving from a part-time position to a full-time position, Eaton noted. **Revenues and expenditures** "The general fund is balanced. Expenses are not higher than appropriated fund balances for the fiscal year," Eaton said. According to Resolution 2024-87, total revenues across 11 of the county's funds for 2025 is listed at \$500,396,872.88 and total expenditures is listed at \$451,615,502.95. There are a total of 12 funds listed on the resolutions, including the Fairfield Settlement Fund, which does not have any dollar amount listed for either revenues nor expenditures. The General Fund is equally balanced with \$29,62,124.15 listed for both expenditures and revenues. The Road and Bridge Fund is the second largest of the county's funds with \$7,910,102.32 listed for revenues and \$10,064,353.17 for expenditures. The Human Services Fund has \$3,724,459 in revenues and \$2,531,138.38 listed in expenditures. **See Budget A9**

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Study

Continued from front
 tire Southwest Region and about 100 within the current study area, which extends from Pagosa Springs to Bayfield and southward to just north of the New Mexico border. Between now and March, the local study will aim to collar and tag 25 lions that will later be monitored from trail cameras and compared against non-tagged lions passing through the territory. "That usually gives us a pretty good idea of how many lions are out there on the landscape," Livingston said. "Plus, the GPS collars will give us data that shows us more of what their territory is and ... what their overall range is." Mountain lion ranges can vary from 10 to 370 square miles, according to CPW, with females and kittens

claiming the smallest areas and adult males occupying the largest. Livingston noted that researchers working in the study area between Pagosa Springs and Bayfield are hoping for additional snowfall in the coming weeks to help track the animals' prints and wider movements across the area. Until then, the state is asking local landowners to report any sightings or evidence of lion activity to the CPW's Durango office at (970) 247-0855. "If landowners see a dead deer show up on their property or what looks like a mountain lion cache," Livingston said, noting the animals' practice of concealing a recent kill with sticks and leaves for later consumption, "we really encourage them to contact CPW and let us know about that. We'll be able to go out and work

with the landowner and maybe set a camera or a trap and try to use that fresh kill as a way to trap that lion and get a collar out on it." According to CPW, results from the planned three-year study will allow the state to test earlier population models and better manage mountain lion populations across the Western Slope. "It just really helps us make more informed management decisions when it comes to setting harvest limits for hunting season and everything else like that," Livingston said. "The better math and science we get just really helps inform those management decisions. The public can really help us out in a study like this by giving us any of that information they see." garrett@pagosahun.com

Budget

Continued from front
 a refund to stay within our TABOR limits," Eaton said. He also mentioned that sales tax projections include a 1 percent increase in comparison to 2024 numbers. Eaton explained that, overall, the 2025 budget averages around a 2 percent increase with the exception of certain line items. The budget includes a 2.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment and a maximum of a 1.5 percent merit increase, Eaton noted. He went on to give a breakdown of employee positions being added to the county for 2025, noting there are five new full-time positions. Eaton explained that a new mechanic position will be filled once the county's new transit facility is completed, which is expected to be done in the spring of 2025. Eaton also commented that a new

part-time bus driver position has also been approved. He explained that an additional accountant will be added, as well, to help serve the needs of the Department of Human Services and the Public Health Department, "because it is growing." The Public Health Department will also have two additional part-time nurse positions, which will also help "offset" the jail medical work that the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office currently contracts out, he mentioned, also noting that two part-time health navigator positions will be added, as well. The county coroner will also be moving from a part-time position to a full-time position, Eaton noted. **Revenues and expenditures** "The general fund is balanced. Expenses are not higher than appropriated fund balances for the fiscal year," Eaton said. According to Resolution 2024-87, total revenues across 11 of the county's funds for 2025 is listed at \$500,396,872.88 and total expenditures is listed at \$451,615,502.95. There are a total of 12 funds listed on the resolutions, including the Fairfield Settlement Fund, which does not have any dollar amount listed for either revenues nor expenditures. The General Fund is equally balanced with \$29,62,124.15 listed for both expenditures and revenues. The Road and Bridge Fund is the second largest of the county's funds with \$7,910,102.32 listed for revenues and \$10,064,353.17 for expenditures. The Human Services Fund has \$3,724,459 in revenues and \$2,531,138.38 listed in expenditures. **See Budget A9**

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County approves funding for new transfer station design

■ Portion of South Pagosa Boulevard to be redesigned

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Archuleta County is planning to relocate its transfer station to a new site in Cloman Industrial Park, with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approving \$37,000 to continue the design of the new transfer station.

The BoCC voted unanimously during a regular meeting held on Dec. 17, 2024, to approve a bid received from Reynolds Ash + Associates (RAA) to perform the work.

According to the bid, "The project will consist of providing you with stamped architectural, structural and civil engineering drawings for a new recycling center for Archuleta County."

Public Works Director Mike Torres briefed the BoCC on the matter earlier the same day during a work session.

He explained the county received two bids, one from RAA and one from Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH).

"I am here this morning to discuss the continuation and design for the relocation of the transfer station," Torres stated.

Torres indicated that the bid received from SEH was "significantly higher" than the bid received from RAA.

Commissioner Veronica Medina asked if both companies were asked to bid on the same scope of work, to which Torres explained that the same information was requested from both companies.

Torres added that SEH was providing "a little bit more" in terms of services offered and that it would be possible to remove certain line items from its bid, but that he gave both companies "the same scope of work and requested the same documentation from both of them."

Torres indicated the bid received from SEH came in around \$96,000.

During the work session, Torres explained that he took it upon himself to try and come up with a design that meets the county's needs and is similar to other transfer stations around the country, noting that by doing so the work from the architect and engineer will be minimal.

"I would like to kind of keep it how it is so the architect and engineer will be doing minimal work," he said.

He went on to explain the project will carry on in sections over the next couple of years, but that "this year we did want to move forward with the design."

Torres indicated that in 2025 the plan is to prepare the ground for concrete and utility work, and, depending on funding, construction may also be able to start and carry over into 2026.

Commissioner Ronnie Maez asked if the design would be at the current transfer station location, with Torres indicating that the design



Recycling Center to be located in this vicinity

Construction of a new county transfer station located on a 28-acre property in Cloman Industrial Park may begin in 2025.

will be for a new location on county-owned property in Cloman Park, "across from the Humane Society."

According to the bid from RAA, "The building will be a 1,600-1,800 [square foot] steel structure featuring a small office. The site is approximately 28.75 acres."

The bid also notes that the north-west corner of the property will be primarily used for recycling operations.

South Pagosa Boulevard

Also during the Dec. 17, 2024, meeting, the BoCC also unanimously approved a blanket purchase order with Davis Engineering Services to continue the design and engineering of South Pagosa Boulevard.

According to the Dec. 17 meeting agenda, "One mile of South Pagosa Boulevard will be reconstructed from the town limit to Cameron Place."

The contract notes that design and engineering services shall not exceed \$109,135.

Torres also briefed the BoCC on the matter during a work session earlier that day, at which he explained that the county will be performing a

survey of the road valued at \$20,635, which will be reimbursed to the county from Davis Engineering out of the total cost.

Torres explained that the \$20,535 will come from the county's 2024 budget.

He also indicated that design work for North Pagosa Boulevard was originally included in his schedule; however, Medina noted that it was removed from the 2025 budget.

"And South Pagosa's in dire need," Maez added, noting that the county performed hot mill work on South Pagosa Boulevard from Cameron Place to Meadows Drive in 2023.

Maez asked if South Pagosa Boulevard has ever been addressed in terms of a redesign, with Torres replying that he was unsure.

Torres went on to mention that Davis Engineering will be providing geotechnical work, fixing base issues and "addressing whatever needs."

Maez added that there has been patchwork done on South Pagosa, but other than that, "the road hasn't had anything."

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Budget

■ Continued from A8

debt service in the Solid Waste Fund. The Resolution also states that the BoCC "previously adopted the annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Law, on December 10 th, 2024."

The budget was approved at the Dec. 17 BoCC meeting. According to Resolution 2024 - 89, "the amount of money necessary to balance the budget for general operating purposes from property tax revenue is \$ 7,490,611" and that the county is "required to temporarily lower the operating mill levy to render a refund for \$2,573,206."

The resolution also indicates the 2024 valuation assessment for Archuleta County, certified by the county assessor, is \$598,419,940.

According to the resolution attached in the meeting's agenda, the BoCC "has adopted the annual budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Law, on December 10, 2024."

Wage increases

The BoCC unanimously approved wage increases for staff members in

the county's Road and Bridge and Solid Waste departments during a regular meeting held on Dec. 10.

The increase for Road and Bridge staff is 5 percent, or an additional \$72,000 annually overall that will provide raises to 19 employees.

The increase for Solid Waste staff is 10 percent, increasing the annual budget by \$47,994.24 while providing raises for 10 employees.

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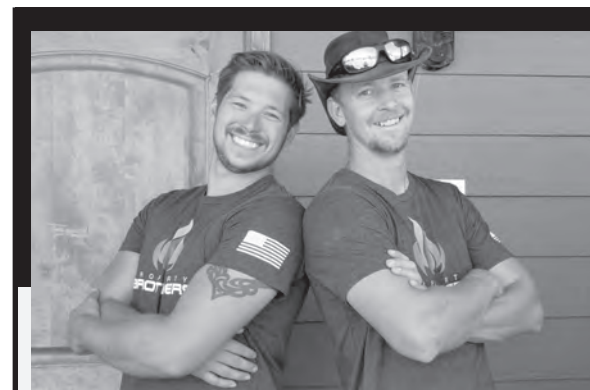
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Photo courtesy Wolf Creek Ski Area

Kiley Braun recorded the fastest time among the girls aged 3-12 at the 85th Winter Bonus Fun Race at Wolf Creek Ski Area on Dec. 21, 2024, with a time of 33.11 seconds.



Photo courtesy Wolf Creek Ski Area

Ethan Bergdolt was the fastest skier of the day at the 85th Winter Bonus Fun Race at Wolf Creek Ski Area on Dec. 21, 2024, logging a time of 26.84 seconds.

85th Winter Bonus Fun Race results announced

Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area hosted the thrilling 85th Winter Bonus Fun Race on Dec. 21, 2024.

The event drew an impressive field of 59 racers, with participants traveling from near and far, including Rockwell, Fairfax, San Diego and beyond.

The course was expertly groomed, and the crisp morning sunshine created perfect, soft conditions for racing.

It was a fantastic day on the mountain, combining fierce competition with plenty of festive spirit.

Racers from various regions brought impressive performances to the race. The overall winner of the day, Ethan Bergdolt, from Pagosa

Springs, came in with a race time of 26.84 seconds. Second place went to Tate McAnelly, from Flower Mound, Texas, in the Boys' 18-20 division with a time of 27.09 seconds. Jeff Forney, competing in the Men's 41-50 group, secured third overall with a time of 27.56 seconds.

Among the girls aged 3-12, Kiley Braun, from Pagosa Springs, led the pack with a fantastic time of 33.11 seconds.

For the women aged 13 and up, Maxine Long, of Pagosa Springs, claimed the top spot with a time of 29.15 seconds in the Girls' 15-17 group.

Among the boys aged 3-12, Alden Soden, of Pagosa Springs, delivered an outstanding performance with a

time of 30.21 seconds.

Among the men aged 13 and up, Bergdolt excelled in the Boys' 18-20 category with a time of 26.84 seconds.

The men's races saw some of the closest finishes of the day.

In the Men's 41-50 category, Jeff Forney narrowly edged out Scott Burkett by just 0.22 seconds, with their times coming in at 27.56 and 27.78 seconds, respectively.

Another thrilling contest was in the Men's 61-70 division, where Todd Lowen claimed gold with a time of 27.75 seconds, just 0.45 seconds ahead of Davey Pitcher, who clocked in at 28.20 seconds.

Among the women, the Ladies' 51-60 group featured a close battle for gold. Fulvia Lowe, of South Fork,

secured first place with a time of 30.47 seconds, while Rachel McGaffin, of Rockwell, Texas, came in second at 30.92 seconds, a difference of only 0.45 seconds.

Looking ahead, the excitement continues at Wolf Creek Ski Area with a packed schedule of upcoming events. Join us on Jan. 5 and 12 for more Fun Race Series action, and don't miss the special Groundhog Day Race on Feb. 2. On Feb. 9, we celebrate the 85th Anniversary Fun Race, followed by the Presidents Day Race on Feb. 16.

Races are open to all ages and abilities, with 14 age brackets ranging from 3 to 70 and older.

Registration is free with the purchase of a lift ticket and takes place at Raven's Nest from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on race days. Racers can also sign up at the top of the course until 12:30 p.m. Awards for each race will be held at 3 p.m. on the Sundeck, with medals for gold, silver and bronze finishers.

Check out more details at wolfcreekski.com and get ready for another fantastic season of racing.

Race results can be found at wolfcreekski.com

SWIMMING

Lady Pirates set to dive back into competition Jan. 7

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team will dive back into action for the 2025 portion of its schedule on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Action is set to begin at 4 p.m. at Adams State University, with Sargent High School serving as the competition's host.

The meet will be the fourth of the season for the Lady Pirates, with coach Heather Miller previously noting, "Big areas we will work on in the next few weeks is stretching out more on sprint freestyle and continuing to build endurance and speed."

She later noted the team would also be working on starts and turns before diving back into action next week following a number of disqualifi-

cations at the team's final meet of 2024.

The team is heading into the 2025 portion of its schedule with one state qualification in the books: The 200-yard medley relay team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman qualified at the team's first meet of the season after logging a time of 2 minutes, 19.49 seconds.

State is scheduled for Feb. 7 and 8.

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates look to extend momentum at Holy Family Invite

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team will look to extend its winning season this weekend at the Holy Family Invite in Broomfield, where the squad is scheduled to face their hosts on Friday, Jan. 3, and Kent Denver on Saturday, Jan. 4.

The Lady Pirates enter the tournament with an overall 4-1 record and on the back of two consecutive wins against 5A squads at the Black Canyon Classic in mid-December.

Reflecting on the team's play there, coach Sarah Osborn praised

her players' resilience and intensity, and, in an email to The SUN, notes the team's impressive rebound after absorbing its first loss of the season on Dec. 19, 2024.

"The team was able to learn from the night before and came out... ready to go," she writes. "The intensity from our team never dropped no matter what 5 [players] were on the floor."

Osborn indicated she is hoping the Lady Pirates keep that fiery spirit alive as the team heads to Broomfield, where it's scheduled to face Holy Family at 6 p.m. on Friday and Kent Denver at noon on Saturday.

Holy Family stands at 3-1 on the season; Kent Denver is 3-5.

Statistical comparisons compiled on MaxPreps show Holy Family with a slight edge heading into Friday night's game, with the Tigers averaging 54.8 points per game to the Lady Pirates' 49.6. The Tigers also hold slim advantages in rebounds, assists and steals.

Pagosa has a statistical edge over Kent Denver, with wide advantages in points per game (49.6 to 25.5), rebounds (27 to 20.3), assists (11.4 to 5.6) and steals (15.2 to 2.6).

Local fans can next catch the Lady Pirates at home when they host 2A Sanford at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 7.

The Mustangs are 7-2 on the season.

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The Blotter

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Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
 Dec. 17 — Theft-\$750 to \$2,000 other (includes gas), Pony Place.
 Dec. 17 — Theft, criminal mischief, third-degree criminal trespass, County Road 500.
 Dec. 17 — Warrant arrest, Navajo Trail Drive.
 Dec. 17 — Warrant arrest, Country Center Drive.
 Dec. 17 — Death investigation, Harman Avenue.
 Dec. 17 — Warrant arrest, warrant arrest, U.S. 84.
 Dec. 17 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, careless driving, County Road 119.
 Dec. 18 — Violation of protection order-criminal, U.S. 160.
 Dec. 18 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.
 Dec. 18 — Prohibited use of weapons, assault in the third degree, felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, reckless endangerment, false imprisonment, child abuse, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, attempt to influence public servant, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Midiron Ave.
 Dec. 19 — Driving under restraint, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.
 Dec. 19 — obstructing police officer/police animal/fireman, careless driving, U.S. 160.
 Dec. 20 — Criminal attempt to commit, first-degree criminal trespass felony, violation of protection order-criminal, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, attempt to influence public servant, disorderly conduct-petty offense, pedestrian-drunken on highway, Pagosa Street.
 Dec. 21 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule III, IV or V, North Pagosa Boulevard.
 Dec. 21 — Agency assist, Talisman Drive.
 Dec. 22 — Dog at large, Port Avenue.
 Dec. 22 — Theft-less than \$50 other (includes gas), third-degree criminal trespass, San Marcial Place.
 Dec. 23 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, driving under

the influence of alcohol, no insurance-owner, U.S. 160.
 Dec. 24 — Lost and found, South Pagosa Boulevard.
 Dec. 24 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule III, IV or V, third-degree criminal trespass, littering, Woodridge Circle.
 Dec. 24 — Harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, Harvard Avenue.
 Dec. 25 — Warrant arrest, Eagle Drive.
 Dec. 26 — Death investigation, Garnet Court.
 Dec. 26 — Death investigation, Mary's Court.
 Dec. 26 — Violation of a protection order-criminal, Carefree Place.
 Dec. 26 — Agency assist, Village Drive.
 Dec. 27 — Information only, Talisman Drive.
 Dec. 27 — Warrant arrest, Seminole Drive.
Pagosa Springs Police Department
 Dec. 15 — Death investigation, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 15 — Careless driving, owner operated vehicle or permitted vehicle to be operated without insurance, East Pagosa Street.
 Dec. 15 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, Apple Street.
 Dec. 16 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks a person, San Juan Street.
 Dec. 17 — Unlawful sexual contact-fondling, West U.S. 160.
 Dec. 18 — Unlawful sexual contact-other, Eaton Drive.
 Dec. 18 — Public assist, Harman Park Drive.
 Dec. 18 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Eagle Drive.
 Dec. 18 — Violation of protection order-criminal, South 9th Street.
 Dec. 19 — Hit and run failed to remain on scene of accident-damage only, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 19 — Following too closely, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 19 — Vehicle accident no injuries, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 19 — Death investigation, North 5th Street.
 Dec. 19 — Information only, South 9th Street.
 Dec. 20 — Warrant arrest, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 20 — Owner/custodian allowed animal to run at large, Pinon

Causeway.
 Dec. 20 — Agency assist, Pagosa Street.
 Dec. 21 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, South 7th Street.
 Dec. 21 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, Talisman Drive.
 Dec. 21 — Disturbance, Talisman Drive.
 Dec. 23 — Careless driving, failed to notify police of accident, San Juan Street.
 Dec. 23 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, trespass warning, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 23 — Warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 23 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 26 — Violation of protection order-criminal, warrant arrest, Village Drive.
 Dec. 27 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 27 — Shoplifting, departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.
 Dec. 27 — Restraining order violation, South 9th Street.
 Dec. 28 — **Violation of protection order-criminal**, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 Dec. 28 — Agency assist, East Pagosa Street.
Pagosa Springs Municipal Court:
 Judge Anthony D. Edwards
 Dec. 17 — Justin Apodaca, theft, 10 days incarceration.
Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
 Dec. 16 — Kourtney N. Kane, speeding 6-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.
 Dec. 17 — James Patrick Blitz, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
 Dec. 18 — Caleb K. Varzeas, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.
 Dec. 18 — Scott M. Avery, speeding 1-4 over limit, fines and costs — \$83.50.
 Dec. 18 — Elena Julianna Lucero, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
 Dec. 18 — Laura Lee Martinez, driver under restraint, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$277.50.
 Dec. 18 — Juan Luis Lopez Rios, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs

— \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Richard A. Lapin, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 Dec. 18 — Arriaga Manuel Jarquin, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Nicole Margarette Jacobs, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.
 Dec. 18 — Juan L. Guzman, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 Dec. 18 — Wayne Alan Emmott, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
 Dec. 18 — Cody Alan Delgarito, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Cody S. Walker, following too closely, signaling violation, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Judith Ellen Rector, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Renissa K. Ramos, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.
 Dec. 18 — Leticia R. Rambo, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 Dec. 18 — Abigail Lee Peters, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Raymond Glenn Pacheco, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Jose L. Micias, driver's license-driving without, head lamp equipment-improper, fines and costs — \$129.50.
 Dec. 18 — Julio Francisco Muniz, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
 Dec. 18 — Shyla Shine Dedios, driving under restraint, license plate not automatically readable, fines and costs — \$315.50.
 Dec. 18 — Shyla Shine Dedios, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — AJ Blaze Connors, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.
 Dec. 18 — Selena Chavez, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
 Dec. 18 — Luis R. Campos Coa, driving under restraint, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$277.50.
 Dec. 18 — Jay Dylan Altenburg, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
 ■ See Blotter A13

State Patrol responds to pair of crashes on Yellowjacket Pass

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) recently responded to a pair of incidents in the area of Yellowjacket Pass, with one closing the road for hours and the other resulting in serious injury.

According to Trooper Sherri Mendez, CSP troopers responded to a crash at milepost 114 on U.S. 160 at 6:05 a.m. on Dec. 21.

In an email to *The Sun*, Mendez reports a single semi was involved in the crash.

Additional information on how the crash occurred was not available by press time Tuesday, but Mendez reports the driver complained of injury, but was not transported to the hospital.

She adds the semi's saddle tank was leaking and a hazmat team re-

sponded.

The roadway was closed at 11:48 a.m. and reopened at 2:51 p.m., Mendez reports.

Another crash took place on Dec. 23.

According to Mendez, the CSP responded to a single-vehicle crash on eastbound U.S. 160 at milepost 117.

She adds a "Ford F150 left the right side of the roadway, traveled down an embankment, and struck several large rocks. The Ford F150 went airborne, rotated, and rolled over."

The driver, a 42-year-old male out of Bayfield, was transported to the hospital by ambulance, she notes, adding the driver had serious bodily injury.

No additional details were available as of press time Tuesday.

randi@pagosasun.com

Veterans Crisis Line

free, confidential support to veterans in crisis, as well as their family and friends 24/7/365.
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 or text 838255

HUD Publisher's Notice



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Public Notices

PAGOSA AREA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON CHANGES TO WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE CHARGES SCHEDULED FOR 5PM ON FEBRUARY 13, 2025 AT THE PAWSD DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATED AT 100 LYN AVE, PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

At a Board Meeting on December 14, 2023, the Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors approved the findings of the 2023 Water and Wastewater Rate Study performed by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. The following rate changes, including but not limited to, will be considered for implementation on February 13, 2025:

WATER CHARGES

The recommended changes to the minimum monthly water service charge per equivalent unit (E.U.) and to the volumetric charges include an increase of 3% annually through 2031 and will equate to a 27% cumulative increase over the 8-year period.

Monthly Service Charge (per E.U.)	increase from \$32.38 to \$33.35
Volume Charge:	
2,001-8,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$5.81 to \$5.98
8,001-20,000 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$11.63 to \$11.98
Over 20,001 gallons usage (rate per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$14.60 to \$15.04
Water Fill Station Charge (per 1,000 gallons)	increase from \$12.55 to \$12.93
Water Availability of Service	increase from \$14.73 to \$15.17

WASTEWATER CHARGES

The Rate Study recommended changes to monthly wastewater service charges included an initial 30% annual rate increase in 2024. A 10% rate increase has been implemented in 2025 and the following years will be recalculated and scheduled beginning in 2026.

Monthly Service Charge (per E.U.)	increase from \$42.64 to \$46.90
Short Term Rental Monthly Service Charge (per E.U.)	increase from \$59.70 to \$65.66
Wastewater Availability of Service	increase from \$16.25 to \$21.13
Wastewater Hauler Charge (rate per 100 gallons)	increase from \$17.26 to \$22.44

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FEES

Capital Investment Fees for Water	increase from \$8,958 to \$9,227
Capital Investment Fees for Wastewater	increase from \$15,697 to \$16,168

The Water and Wastewater Rate Study can be found at <https://www.pawsd.org/district-business/financial-information/>.

For assistance regarding how these proposed rate changes could affect your water bill, please call the District office - 970-731-2691. A staff member will be able to complete a comparison based upon your individual account information and historical usage.

Published January 2, 2025 in The Pagosa Springs SUN. (254159)

COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2024-008

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Debt of Trust: On October 22, 2024, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Debt of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s)
 Kirk J. Chippa
 Original Beneficiary(ies)
 United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture
 Current Holder of Evidence of Debt
 United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture
 Date of Deed of Trust
 October 13, 2005
 County of Recording
 Archuleta
 Recording Date of Deed of Trust
 October 13, 2005
 Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/ Page No.)
 20510839
 Original Principal Amount
 \$122,865.00
 Outstanding Principal Balance
 \$90,886.83

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to make timely payments as required under the Evidence of Debt and Deed of Trust

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

Lot 6, Pagosa Overlook, a Planned Unit Development Phase One & Future Development Phase Two, Lot 6X Block 53 and 54, according to the plat thereof filed August 31, 2005, as Reception No. 20509150, in the office of the Clerk and Recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado.

Purported common address: 454 South Seventh Street, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN OF THE DEED OF TRUST.

NOTICE OF SALE

The current holder of the Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, described herein, has filed Notice of Election and Demand for sale as provided by law and in said Deed of Trust.

THEREFORE, Notice is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 02/20/2025, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 449 San Juan St. Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s) heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 12/26/2024
 Last Publication 1/23/2025
 Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
 DATE: 10/22/2024

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
 By: Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
 The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is:
 Amanda Ferguson #44893
 Hallert, Watkins & Mann, P.C. 355 Union Blvd. Ste 250, Lakewood, CO 80228 (303) 274-0155
 Attorney File # CO23617
 The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided

may be used for that purpose.
 ©Public Trustees' Association of Colorado Revised 1/2015
 Published December 26, 2024 and January 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (253345)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO
 Court Address:
 Archuleta County District Court
 PO Box 148
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Case Number: 2024CV030063
 Div.: 3
 Plaintiff: PAGOSA LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
 v.
 Defendants: KAREN L. CLARK; THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF KAREN L. CLARK
 Attorneys for Plaintiff:
 ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
 Hal R. Kyles, #23891
 1445 Market St., Suite 350
 Denver, Colorado 80202
 Phone Number: (720) 221-9780
 Matter ID #1019.1177

SUMMONS (BY PUBLICATION)
 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the plaintiff filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after the service of this Summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action of foreclosure pursuant to Rule 105, C.R.C.P. to the real property situate in Pagosa Springs, Colorado more particularly described as Subdivision: PAGOSA VISTA Lot. 592 AND Lot 593 PV Sec. 19 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W PV DOES NOT INCLUDE MH #990012350892 DEED: Lot 592-593, Pagosa Vista, according to the plat filed in the office of the clerk and recorder, Archuleta County, Colorado.

Dated: December 9, 2024.
 ORTEN CAVANAGH HOLMES & HUNT, LLC
 By: /s/Hal R. Kyles
 Hal R. Kyles, #23891

This Summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4(g), Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.
 Published December 19 & 26, 2024, January 2, 9, & 16, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (253284)

Notice of Annual Meeting of
 Pine River Irrigation District
 Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the PINE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT will be held at the Bayfield High School Performing Arts Auditorium (South Entrance) 800 County Road 501, Bayfield, CO 81122 on Saturday January 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Sign in will start at 12:30 p.m. As is procedure at such a meeting, one director will be elected for a 3-year term and any other business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.
 Published December 26, 2024, January 2, 9, & 16, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (253656)

PUBLIC HEARING
 The Town of Pagosa Springs Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall to amend the 2024 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 January 2, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (254384)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Estate of Lynn Diane Sutton AKA Lynzie Sutton (Deceased)
 No. 2024PR30072
 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the undersigned or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado, on or before June 1st 2025, or said claims may be forever barred.
 Erika Szombathy
 Personal Representative
 195 Elgin Woods Lane
 Elgin, Texas 78621
 Published January 2, 9, and 16 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (253933)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Estate of Thomas Artzberger
 Case Number 2024 PR 30075
 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before April 26, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.
 Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
 190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Published December 26, 2024 and January 2 and 9, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (253920)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Estate of Ettore Aloisio, Jr., Deceased
 Case Number 24 PR 30071
 All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before April 19, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.
 Cathy A. Aloisio, Personal Representative
 633 Tangier Court
 Oceanside, CA 92057
 Published December 19 & 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (253311)

Legal advertising

Deadline:
Friday 4 p.m.*

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.

Outdoors



Photo courtesy United States Forest Service

La Plata Electric Association Inc. (LPEA) received a power pole mitigation grant from the Eagle In-Lieu Fee Program. LPEA plans to use the grant to implement eagle electrocution mitigation measures on 100 high-risk distribution power poles, ensuring that industry standards for “avian-friendly” criteria are met.

LPEA awarded federal grant to protect eagles and upgrade high-risk power poles

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association Inc. (LPEA) is the proud recipient of a power pole mitigation grant from the Eagle In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program.

Authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2018, the Eagle ILF Program is the first of its kind operating under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

LPEA plans to use the grant to implement eagle electrocution miti-

gation measures on 100 high-risk distribution power poles, ensuring that industry standards for “avian-friendly” criteria are met.

In most cases, LPEA’s mitigation efforts will involve retrofitting existing power poles to provide 60 inches of horizontal clearance and 40 inches of vertical clearance, significantly reducing the risk of electrocution for eagles and other wildlife. This initiative not only safeguards local eagle populations, but also reduces power outages

and wildfire risks.

“This grant underscores LPEA’s commitment to environmental sustainability and providing dependable power to our communities,” said Chris Hansen, CEO of LPEA. “By protecting wildlife and reducing risks to eagles on our power poles, we are prioritizing both the well-being of our environment and the reliability of our service.”

Operators of wind turbines or other infrastructure posing a risk of eagle mortality can seek an incidental take permit

from the USFWS and may purchase credits from the Eagle ILF Program. Credit fees support critical mitigation efforts, such as the work LPEA will undertake with this grant, that compensate for unintentional, or incidental, eagle mortality on permitted infrastructure.

The exact value of the grant will be determined once the scope of work is finalized.

LPEA will collaborate with Eagle Electrocutation Solutions, the Fort Collins-based operator of the Eagle ILF Program, to complete the project in 2025.

To learn more about LPEA’s efforts to protect wildlife and ensure reliable power for our community, please visit lpea.coop.

Interior Department finalizes framework for future of solar development on public lands in 11 Western states

U.S. Department of the Interior

On Dec. 20, 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced an updated Western Solar Plan to help guide efficient and environmentally responsible solar energy permitting on public lands across the West.

The plan will guide the siting of solar energy proposals in areas with fewer resource conflicts, advance the nation’s growing clean energy economy, help lower energy costs for consumers, create good-paying jobs, tackle the climate crisis and advance clean air and environmental justice priorities in support of the goal of achieving a 100-percent clean electricity grid by 2035.

“Under the Biden-Harris administration, the Interior Department has moved at the pace needed to meet the moment and swiftly grow a robust and sustainable clean energy economy while protecting precious resources in America’s public lands. With an updated Western Solar Plan, created with extensive input from the public, the department will ensure the responsible development of solar energy across the West for decades to come,” said Secretary Deb Haaland.

“Solar energy is an affordable and fast-growing component of the nation’s modern power supply and is helping the United States build a strong and resilient clean energy economy. The updated Western Solar Plan will ensure that solar project permitting is more efficient and offers clarity for project developers while maintaining flexibility to adapt to local needs and concerns,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

for Land and Minerals Management Dr. Steve Feldgus.

The department’s clean energy work on public lands is guided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Since January 2021, the BLM has approved 45 renewable energy projects on public lands and exceeded the goal to permit 25 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2025.

Overall, the BLM has permitted clean energy projects on public lands with a total capacity of more than 33 gigawatts — enough to power more than 15 million homes.

This year, the BLM also issued a final renewable energy rule that will lower consumer energy costs and the cost of developing solar and wind projects, improve project application processes, create jobs, and incentivize developers to continue responsibly developing solar and wind projects on public lands.

The updated Western Solar Plan, developed with substantial public input, builds on this momentum to guide BLM’s management of solar energy proposals and projects on public lands.

The plan updates the 2012 Western Solar Plan, which covered six southwestern states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah, to include Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

The updated plan uses lessons learned and best practices to guide a strategy for the West — identifying lands near transmission lines and previously disturbed lands as available while excluding sensitive areas like specially protected lands,

lands containing important cultural resources and critical wildlife habitat. Siting projects away from areas where they may conflict with other resources and uses will help ensure responsible development, speed the permitting process, and provide greater predictability to the solar energy industry.

The updated Western Solar Plan identifies the availability of more than 31 million acres of public lands across the 11 Western states for utility-scale solar project applications; however, only approximately 700,000 of those acres are anticipated to be developed by 2045 to meet projected demand. The larger available area allows for greater flexibility in considering solar proposals.

No solar projects are authorized through this planning effort; all individual proposed projects must still undergo site-specific environmental review with opportunity for public comment before a decision is made on whether to approve them.

Approval of the updated Western Solar Plan follows a draft plan published in January 2024 and a proposed plan published in August 2024, reflecting input received from a wide range of stakeholders, governments and other interested parties along the way. The proposed plan was subject to a 30-day public protest period and 60-day governor’s consistency review before the BLM made the decision to approve the plan.

For more information on the updated Western Solar Plan, visit the Federal Register Notice webpage or visit the project’s National NEPA Project Register (ePlanning) website.

The Blotter

Continued from A12 and costs — \$161.50.

Dec. 18 — Sarah Ann Wells, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Dec. 18 — Steven M. Weed, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Dec. 18 — Loudine Wanoskia, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Dec. 18 — Amber Dawn Garcia, driving under the influence, five days jail suspended imposition, 24 hours community service, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,320.50.

Dec. 18 — Jude P. Lindberg, driving under the influence, 48 hours community service, six days electronic surveillance, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,320.50.

Dec. 18 — Jay Dylan Altenburg, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines

and costs — \$161.50.

Dec. 18 — Jason Schillinger, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Dec. 18 — Savannah Dolores Gurule, violation P/O-civil, fines and costs — \$269.50.

Dec. 18 — Rafael Angel Gregorio, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.

Dec. 19 — Orlanda Annabell Aragon, driving under the influence-with prior, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, two years probation, fines and costs — \$1,940.50.

Dec. 19 — Roger B. Chee, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Dec. 19 — Don Morris Alexander, violation P/O-criminal, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$869.50.

Dec. 19 — Victoria Marcella Galvan, obstructing a peace officer, fines and costs — \$26.

Dec. 19 — Victoria Marcella Galvan, violation P/O-criminal, fines and costs — \$26.

Dec. 19 — Duece A. Martinez, no insurance-driver, 85 days jail, fines and costs — \$794.50.

Dec. 19 — Duece Anjelus Martinez, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 85 days jail, fines and costs — \$224.50.

Dec. 23 — Mary E. Bond, speeding 509 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay
No report.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson
No report.

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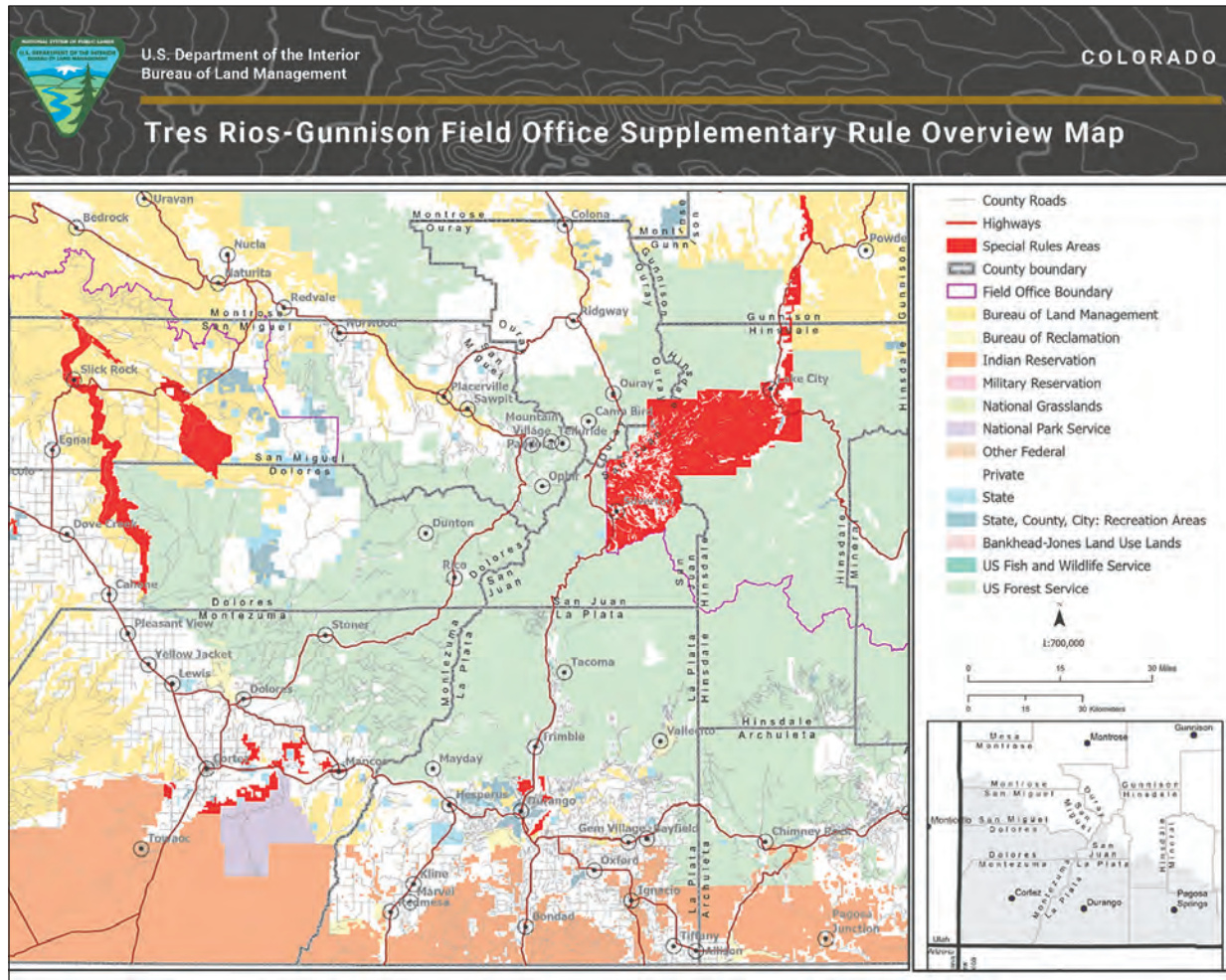
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Map courtesy Bureau of Land Management

A map shows areas (in red) of the Bureau of Land Management's Tres Rios and Gunnison field offices where a supplementary rule pertaining to motorized and nonmotorized travel, day-use areas, camping and seasonal wildlife habitat will apply.

BLM implements recreation decisions for Tres Rios, Gunnison field office public lands

By D. Maggie Magee
Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has finalized a supplementary rule implementing decisions pertaining to motorized and non-motorized travel, day-use areas, camping and seasonal wildlife habitat in the Tres Rios Field Office and the Silverton area of the Gunnison Field Office.

The rule applies to BLM-managed public lands in Archuleta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties, excluding public lands within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Growing visitation to public lands in Southwest Colorado has increased

pressure on critical winter wildlife habitat, recreation destinations, archaeological sites and other resources.

Establishment of the rule will enable the BLM to implement and make enforceable regulatory decisions in the 2015 Tres Rios Field Office Resource Management Plan, as well as the 1990 Dolores River Corridor Management Plan, the 2010 Alpine Triangle Recreation Area Management Plan, the 2020 Tres Rios Field Office Transportation and Access Plan for Travel Area 1, and the 2020 Silverton Travel Management Plan.

These measures respond to growing visitation by restricting certain activities and defining allowable uses in special management areas to provide

for visitor health and safety, protect wildlife, and prevent degradation of natural and cultural resources.

"The BLM worked closely with the local communities to develop plans with a shared vision for managing a wide range of public land resources and resource uses," said BLM Southwest District Manager Stephanie McCormick. "This supplementary rule implements decisions that support the unique quality of life enjoyed by our Southwest Colorado communities."

A notice of final supplementary rule was published in the Dec. 19, 2024, Federal Register.

For more information or for questions about the rule, please contact BLM Supervisory Staff Ranger Tyler Fouss at (970) 882-1120.

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Dr. Jen Hurst, AuD

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PREVIEW photo/Randi Pierce

January 2, 2025

San Juan Stargazers to meet Jan. 9

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The San Juan Stargazers' January program will include a member-participation activity that can be prepared during the social hour and a video lesson on how the planets of our solar system are organized.

The January monthly meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be on Thursday, Jan. 9, one week later than usual due to the closeness of New Year's Day. We will meet at the regular time of 6 p.m. for our social hour and final Christmas cookie feast or with whatever you bring to share. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

We will meet at our regular location — the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street. Please use the convenient parking lot and side door that leads into the kitchen and fellowship hall. We keep the front doors locked.

Club activities

In January, February and March of this year, we will be doing something new at our monthly meetings.

As a club, we encourage our membership to work in the areas of personal growth, increased participation and to expand our knowledge of the universe. We will be doing all three.

Many people started preparing at the December meeting, but if you didn't, you can still "throw something together" during the 6 p.m. social time. Ask Joan and she will help you.

Space mysteries calendars available

There is only one deep space mysteries calendar left with six photos taken with the James Webb Space Telescope.

Don't look at this as a regular calendar because it is actually an update on the latest astronomical discover-

ies in our universe. It is an amazing educational experience.

About

If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine, which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per family.

You can join the club at any of our events or you can join using PayPal on our website, sanjuanstargazers.org.

Check out our continuously changing website with new information and spectacular photos. We can be your connection to our extraordinary universe.

Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group to meet virtually Jan. 7

By Dion Hollenbeck

Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group

The Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Our group consists of survivors of prostate cancer and men who have been diagnosed with prostate issues, including BPH and cancer.

We discuss experiences with resources, diagnosis and treatments for the disease. Anyone is welcome.

For more information and a Zoom invite, please contact prostategroup-dro@gmail.com.

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Recycle your Christmas trees

By Mary Jo Coulehan
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

With the holidays coming to a close, what to do with those beautifully decorated Christmas trees and pine boughs? Recycle them.

Please bring your real trees — absent of ornaments and other decoratives — and pine boughs to the Archuleta County Fairgrounds where they will be used as fuel for the upcoming WinterFest Bonfire that will be held on Jan. 17.

There already is a pile of trees and

signage indicating where to drop off your trees. Please do not drop off fake or "manufactured" trees or any other materials. The drop off is close to the U.S. 84 entrance, so access, drop-off and exiting the Fairground should be very simple, even in the snow, as the access area will be plowed.

We hope that we will collect a large number of real trees this year to make the WinterFest Bonfire even bigger than last year.

This is the only location in the community accepting trees to be recycled. Questions can be directed to the Chamber at (970) 264-2360.

Live Performers

Thursday
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

Tuesday
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Bluegrass Cadillac, 5 p.m.

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End of Life Education group announces first meeting of 2025

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

On Thursday, Jan. 16, at 1 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street, the End of Life Education group will begin meeting again after a brief holiday break.

There is so much to learn about this topic. Most people plan and prepare for everything they do in life. Since few people know when they will die, death is something we seldom prepare for and certainly we don't want to even think about.

But, like all the things that we prepare for which usually turn out pretty well, perhaps this taboo and unpleasant subject might turn out better if we face it, acknowledge it and prepare for it. Such a change in attitude certainly can't hurt anything. Many cultures may be living life better with a different attitude. It is not like not thinking about death keeps it from happening. It is the only certainty in life.

This End of Life Education group wants to try something new, different and, perhaps, better. The group has met about 11 times. We have learned so much, but we have not had time for many discussions.

During this second group of meetings, beginning Jan. 16, we will have

more discussions and sharing of feelings and ideas. I will be honest with you that I am not presenting a program that I am an expert on. I don't think there are many death experts. Like with life, we are all muddling through. This is an experiment.

We are going to have a change in program format with showing one of

many, many available films. I hope you will make suggestions. Then the film will be followed by a group discussion. We may break up into smaller groups. This is all evolving and anyone with input is welcome to share it. We want to have more group participation.

I hope you will join us.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to meet Jan. 4

By Carolyn Paschal
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society (PPGS) will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, Jan. 4.

We will meet from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St., in the fellowship hall.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a work session to plan topics for our 2025 programs.

The genealogical society meets on the first Saturday of each month. It hosts guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to genealogy and history, including the rich history of our area.

If you are a member, or would be interested in joining our group, please plan to attend to express your desires for upcoming meeting program topics and modes of presentation.

If you cannot attend in person, this will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and Zoom.

For a Zoom link, or more information, contact Carolyn Paschal at carolynpaschal@gmail.com.

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Healthy Archuleta invites more community involvement in new year

Healthy Archuleta

Our team at Healthy Archuleta wishes everyone a healthy and happy new year. At Healthy Archuleta, we have lots of exciting new projects to look forward to this year.

Last summer, we were awarded four new grants that we will be implementing in 2025. These grants focus on expanding equitable food access and behavioral/mental health services.

Related to the local food system, we will begin planning for a food hub in Archuleta County. The goal of this food hub is to expand fresh and healthy food access to the underserved populations in Archuleta County by strengthening our local food supply chain. The long-term vision for this food hub is for it to become self-sustaining and foster local food sovereignty that improves access to local foods. We will start the work for the food hub this year by bringing a group of individuals to-

gether to establish a Food Hub Community Learning and Leadership Circle to start the planning process.

In 2025, we will also be focusing on efforts to make behavioral and mental health services more accessible to our monolingual Spanish-speaking community. This effort looks to expand access to Spanish-speaking mental health providers through telehealth and in-person appointments via a comprehensive referral system.

As part of this effort, we will also be working with community health workers/navigators/advocates to expand access to resources and training opportunities to increase our bilingual mental health workforce and provide cultural competency training to primary care, and behavioral and mental health care providers.

Our hope is that these efforts will help our community be more equitable and healthier, but we can't do this alone. If you are interested in learning more about any of these projects,

you can email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Visit us on our social media pages and check out our website, www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org, for events and happenings in 2025. We hope everyone has a happy and healthy new year and that you will consider getting involved in our work.

Holiday Church Events

All events listed in the holiday church events calendar are free of charge. Submit events to editor@pagosasun.com.

Sunday, Jan. 5

Epiphany Service. 8 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Celebrate the end of the Christmas season as we gather for worship, remembering the journey of the Magi, and considering our own dreams and callings.

Burning Bowl and Intentions Ceremony. 11 a.m., SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center, 3505 W. U.S. 160.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Spiritual topics are discussed every Tuesday at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center.

Upcoming events

Jan. 5, 2025, 11 a.m.: Burning Bowl and Intentions Ceremony with Shayla Azriel. A love donation will be accepted.

Jan. 7, 2025, 5 p.m.: Illuminations presentations.

Jan. 8, 2025, noon: Health and wellness presentation with Azriel.

About us

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths

to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

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

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 3505 W. U.S. 160, on the second floor of the Pagosa Lodge (elevator available). Obtain information by joining us; emailing pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com; mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.



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Community United Methodist Church to begin seminar series Jan. 9

Community United Methodist Church

Are you ready to make 2025 your best year ever? It all starts with your mindset.

Join Chris Mott for a fun, free interactive workshop. The class will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St.

If you've ever wished for the opportunity to start over, to wipe the slate clean or start with a blank canvas, then let this workshop be your guide. Or, if you just need some tips on how to lead a more fulfilling life, then please plan to attend this life-changing workshop.

Mott is an internationally renowned author, coach and trainer, and has spent the last three decades dedicated to the empowerment and happiness of others.

"You can and should become the masterpiece that God intended you to be," said Mott.

His coaching methods give you the tools to maximize your personal and spiritual gifts. He will teach you to recognize and remove the speed bumps in your life that keep you from being your best self.

"I love our community, and I love Pagosans," said Mott.

His philosophy is a rising tide lifts all boats, so he wants to help empower our local residents so that they in turn can build a better community here for all.

"It all starts with life/work balance. Most people get that wrong — you've got to put the quality of your own life before work to truly achieve a joy-filled balance in life," he said.

This workshop is funded by a grant from the Abundant Health Ministry of the United Methodist Church. All

are welcome.

Future seminars include:

- Feb. 13, 12:30 to 2 p.m.: Emotional health with Cheri Minnier-Wells, LPC, speaking on "Matters of the Heart: How to Lower Stress and Find Peace in Your Life."

- March 13, 12:30 to 2 p.m.: Physical Health with Sarah Riehm, certified fitness and mindfulness coach, speaking on "The Six Keys to Longevity: Breathing, Posture, Agility, Flexibility, Balance and Strength."

- April 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m.: Environmental health with Nobel-winning scientist Dr. Terry Root speaking on "Climate Change: Our Power, Our Planet" celebrating this year's Earth Day theme.

- May 8, 6 to 7:30 p.m.: Spiritual health with the Rev. Debra Huffman, M.Div., speaking on "Nurture Your Spirit: Your Journey to Enhancing Spiritual Wellness."

- June 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m.: Abundant health with Chuck and Sarah Riehm speaking on "Blue Zones: Nine Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who Have Lived the Longest."

Unitarian Universalists to offer service on 'Meditation as Social Justice'

By Dan Dempster

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

What if everyone in the world was enlightened but you, and you were the last to know? What if everyone was your teacher, playing a part for the sole purpose of waking you up? What if instead of reacting, you took a moment to ask yourself, "What's really going on here? What am I supposed to learn?" Your life would change in an instant.

Turn it another way. Everyone is going through something. Everybody, without exception, is fighting a battle we know nothing about. Every being on this planet is only struggling to find happiness and to avoid suffering. When we understand this, we can relate to everyone. We will treat them differently, paying attention without fear or judgment.

When we pay full attention to someone, no matter how casual the encounter, they feel seen. They have no idea what happened, just that something did. It's called awareness, and they feel noticed. Noticed, they feel valued. Valued, they feel respected. Respected, they feel satisfied. Satisfied, they feel happy. The greatest gift we can give anyone is our fully awakened presence. That is the point of Buddhist practice.

Practicing meditation is a powerful antidote to anger, fear and sadness. We practice with safe, abstract visualization, which involves no judgment or storytelling, only the acknowledgment of suffering and the active intention to remove that suffering and bring peace. We do this for people we like, for those we don't and for those to whom we are indifferent. With practice, we learn to be comfortable bringing the same

focused attention to every encounter. It's transformative.

All are welcome on Sunday, Jan. 5, at 10:30 a.m. for our Sunday service with the theme of "Meditation as Social Justice" given by Dan Dempster, who states you do not need to be Buddhist to benefit from these beautiful, authentic practices. Just bring a kind heart and an open mind. We can even help you to find those. Join us.

Dempster is a certified meditation instructor and Buddhist teacher, authorized by Lama Migmar, Harvard Buddhist chaplain and his teacher for more than 18 years.

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 12, we will offer weekly meditation practice from 9 to 9:40 a.m. every Sunday, with additional Dharma talks at 10:15 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is located at Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. You can also join us in person or through our offered Zoom services. Visit our website, www.pagosauu.org, to find our current newsletter and a link to join the online service.

Our motto is to "Grow Your Spirit - Make Friends - Do Good Works," and we invite you to join us on this journey.

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Stay true to yourself

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist



Does anyone remember the old Victoria Magazine? In the '80s, I could hardly wait for the next issue. Every word, watercolor and poem drew me in. The vintage handwriting, the soft pastel watercolors were headers for each article. A line or two from a favorite poem graced the pages around its content. I spent hours looking, reading and storing the monthly issues in a safe place. The heart of the magazine matched mine. It was perfect.

But then, in the '90s, I noticed a change. Words on the front cover came from the computer in bold block font. It had a slick, polished look. The watercolors and poetry disappeared. The magazine became full of advertisements. I'd scan through it, flipping pages in disappointment, and it ended up in my wastepaper basket.

What in the world happened? They did not stay true to themselves. Did some young kid with graphic skills and new ideas become the editor in charge? Was it about money? Did they forget the readers? Did they lose respect for what was birthed in the magazine?

We live in a state of flux and change is inevitable. Some changes are good and some aren't.

I learned what God began in me was a good thing. That was the day I started liking, knowing and understanding how God put me together. All the things I rejected about me were my greatest assets to grow in grace. I stopped apologizing for myself and saw his purpose to accomplish what he intended me to be. I embraced God and I embraced me. God knows what He's doing.

I see that old Victoria Magazine as a metaphor, with the homespun look, the heart of home, family and allowing the artists who love beautiful things to grace their pages. I invited artists and writers into my home and gave them a gallery wall to show their craft.

Years ago, in an art class, the lesson was about flux. The teacher instructed the art students to take six sheets of paper and a supply of brushes and watercolors. We were to go into the woods and find a comfortable place to sit and find a scene we wanted to paint. We would set up our palette and stay there, painting the same subject over and over again.

Finding the perfect rock to sit on, I sat near a running creek and large, standing trees. The water moved slowly in the creek. Swirling leaves dodged the fixed stones. During the day, the weather changed — sunlight turned into shadows, a slight breeze whipped around into a strong wind and returned to calm. Then the afternoon rain came. I placed a plastic

Excited over this word flux, I described my life to a friend as "a life of spiritual influx." I could even use this word as a title for a book.

rain jacket over my watercolor paper and myself and waited. Then I began painting again.

In five hours I executed the same subject multiple times. Each painting became freer. I took more creative license. The subject's mood changed with the weather. Six paintings, placed side by side, showed the identical trees, rocks and creek, but with different renderings.

I was fascinated with this lesson on flux. The subject remained true to itself as it changed. I saw my spiritual life as an influx of growth. Even though I stayed on the Lower Blanco, I transformed internally and upwardly. I never lost who I was.

Excited over this word flux, I described my life to a friend as "a life of spiritual influx." I could even use this word as a title for a book. My friend said, "Influx sounds like a digestive problem. It could mean a flowing of fluid such as diarrhea or dysentery."

Oh, heaven forbid. No. No. No.

My life has been in an upward change as I have understood this spiritual journey. I have been tweaked, stretched, brought low and high, and each time it has become clearer to me who I am in this book called life. I am still the same person that stepped onto this barren land on the Lower Blanco in 1965, hauling water from the Blanco River, but I have grown spiritually to a better me.

Life has rushed in and there is a state of fluctuation around us, yet the Lord has so generously blessed us without losing the original idea.

He wants us to be mindful of who He created us to be. Without Him, we could lose who He says we are.

God is pleased to tell us through David's words, "... I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well ... Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." — Psalms 139:14-16 (NKJV).

Final brushstroke: The editor didn't nurture the magazine's original idea. Thoughtlessly trying to do what they thought was better, they lost readers like me. No longer did I dream and create in my mind beautiful and lovely things as I sucked the sweet nectar from each page. I loved that magazine in its originality. It fed the creative soul in me. They didn't stay true to themselves as the influx of life took over. A tip for all of us, we are perfect just the way God made us.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com.

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Library

■ continued from previous page
minimum skill level needed.

Note this group now meets twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Family storytimes

Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. join a free educational hour of reading, singing and free play to build early literacy skills.

Elementary tutoring sessions

Children ages 6-11 are welcome at these free sessions on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. where they will build essential skills in core subjects. Preregistration is required.

Dungeons and Dragons

Next Thursday, Jan. 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

Writers Guild

Every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m., the Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for opportunities, support, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

ESL classes

Free in-person evening classes take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 4 to 5 p.m. reserved for beginners, 5 to 6 p.m. for intermediate and 6 to 7 p.m. for advanced students. Please help us share the word about these classes.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays. Judy helps you with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets, and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources.

No appointment is needed for these drop-in sessions, but please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. No appointment is necessary.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly events calendars at the library so you don't miss any of the free activities available to you and your family.

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CloudLibrary has a wide variety of downloadable e-books and audiobooks for all ages. To access this free digital collection, download the cloudLibrary app, answer a few simple questions, select AspenCat Union Catalog for the name of your

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Nonfiction books on CD

"Four Thousand Paws" by trail veterinarian Lee Morgan tells about the iconic Iditarod sled race dogs and how they are cared for. "A World on the Wing" by Scott Weidensaul explores the miracle of birds' migrations. "A Walk in the Park" by Kevin Fedarko is the true story of a spectacular misadventure in the Grand Canyon.

Novels on CD

"Desolation Code" by Graham Brown is a Clive Cussler Numa Files adventure. "A Tempest of Desire" by Lorraine Heath is the latest in the Scandalous Gentlemen of St. James romance series. "A Monsoon Rising" by Thea Guanzon is a Southeast Asian-inspired fantasy romance. "The French Winemaker's Daughter" by Loretta Ellsworth follows a valuable bottle of wine across several generations. "Pick-up" by Nora Dahlia is a rom-com. "The Shadowed Land" by Signe Pike is an Arthurian saga set in early medieval Scotland.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"Murder Island" by James Patterson and Brian Sitts features professor turned crime fighter Doc Savage. "Tom Clancy Defense Protocol" by Andrews B. Wilson is a Jack Ryan adventure. "The Waiting" by Michael Connelly is a Ballard and Bosch mystery. "Truth and Claw" by Craig Johnson is a Walt Longmire and Henry Standing Bear mystery.

Other novels

"A Christmas Duet" by Debbie Macomber is a romance. "Behind You is the Sea" by Susan Muaddi Darraj gives voice to the diverse residents of a Palestine American community in Baltimore. "Prophet Song" by Paul Lynch, winner of the 2023 Brooker Prize, explores the horror of Ireland's secret police from a mother's point of view. "Medicine Walk" by Richard Wagamese brings an estranged father and son together after many years of absence and neglect. "Water Finds a Way" by Meghan Perry follows a woman released from prison who returns to the only town where she felt safe.

Material donations

Thanks to George Neill, Nancy Cole, and Joanne and Victor Lucariello for their generous monetary donations. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation this month through the Colorado Gives campaign. And, thanks to our anonymous donors for their donations of

high-quality used books.

When we are open, material donations are accepted for the Friends of the Library at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

Guidelines for donations: Yes to popular fiction books published in 2013 or later, nonfiction books published 2018 or later, and children's and young adult books — all in excellent condition, please. No to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes; textbooks, outdated travel books or reference books because they do not sell. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints.

Quotable quote

"This year, be structured enough for success and achievement and flexible enough for creativity and fun." — Taylor Duvall, writer, poet, editor, musician and book publisher.

Website

For more information on library books, services and programs — and to reserve books, e-books, books on CD and DVDs from the comfort of your home — please visit our website at <https://pagosalibrary.org>.



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Free brain fitness and mobility program to start Jan. 13

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Join us, starting on Monday, Jan. 13, and running through March 3, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at your Pagosa Senior Center for a free six-week new Ageless Grace exercise program, taught by Judy, a trained facilitator who will support and help you learn gentle movements to enhance brain health and mobility.

We will spend 30 minutes in a chair exercising and stimulating five areas of our brain functioning. Yes, it is possible to strengthen our neural connections even as we age.

Anyone age 21 and older is invited and encouraged to participate in this program. It is a cutting-edge brain fitness program based on neuroplasticity that activates all five functions of the brain — strategic planning, memory/recall, analytical thinking, creativity and imagination, kinesthetic learning — and simultaneously addresses all 21 physical skills needed for lifelong optimal health functioning.

To watch a Ted Talk on “Ageless Grace,” go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXTPtLgtH60>.

Emotional Freedom Technique sessions

Join us at the Senior Center the second Wednesday of each month to participate in the popular, ongoing “Tapping” class (also known as EFT, or Emotional Freedom Technique) from 10 to 11 a.m. that is free and open to all ages and walks of life.

The next session is Jan. 8.

The first half of the class is learning or reviewing the technique, and the second half of the hour is practicing the technique and answering questions.

This is a supportive, fun and informative class taught by Judith Newman, LPC, who has been in private practice for 23 years.

EFT is an evidence-based, self-regulating technique using acupressure trigger points as well as elements from other therapeutic practices. Extensive research shows EFT to be effective in lowering both psychological and physical symptoms of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, stress and more.

This technique is easy to learn and then use any time you want to lower your anxiety, gain clarity about emotional challenges and increase your ability to work with difficult transitions in your life.

Join the class and improve your well-being; meet new people in the community; support yourself and others while learning a powerful, helpful tool; find new ways to deal with insomnia, stress and change.

For more information or questions, please contact Newman at (505) 577-0194 or ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

For more than 50 years, the Senior

Senior News

Center (established in 1971)/ASI (established in 2013) has been meeting the social and nutritional needs of older adults (age 60 and better) in our community.

We serve thousands of nutritious meals annually in Archuleta County, and volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels and friendly visits/wellness checks to homebound older adults.

We depend on more than 55 volunteers annually to help us serve and deliver meals and provide other wrap-around services.

The cost of each meal is \$10.50, but we only ask for a suggested donation of \$6 per meal. Meal recipients are asked to contribute what they can afford, and no one is ever turned down.

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday. Participants must be at home to receive meals. Meals will not be left.

Meals on Wheels volunteers receive background checks and training prior to delivery. Typically a volunteer shift is one day a week from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. depending on the size of the route. Staff works closely with volunteers to allow for periodic breaks.

If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application. Questions? Please call ASI at (970) 264-2167.

Healthy aging and yoga therapy classes

The Healthy Aging Yoga Series continues to be offered in person at the Senior Center on Mondays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

It is structured by therapeutic yoga tools and techniques with chair movement, standing stretches, gentle postures, breathing practices and reflective meditative moments.

Monthly themes for the series include topics such as sustainable strength for healthy aging individuals, brain health, heart and cardiovascular health, mental and emotional well-being, community connections, and stress management, to name a few.

Classes will be educational for participants to utilize practices in daily life and are meant for all levels of experience with yoga.

Mats and chairs will be provided at the Senior Center. Some blocks and Therabands are available, too. The addition of yoga props is always welcomed.

We request that individuals new to the series arrive early for intake inquiries and to please communicate with our instructor, Kimberly Anderson, directly by email at zinkgraf@gmail.com.

Stretching and mobility class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday this fall and winter from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for older adults (age 55 and up) 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

■ See Senior on next page

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NOTE: HELMET STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

T'ai Chi Chih

The Senior Center offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life. Meet in the Senior Center dining hall.

T'ai Chi Chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this practice.

All classes will be free for older adults (age 60 and better) and will last approximately one hour.

No special clothing or equipment is required.

For more information, call (970) 264-2167.

Senior Conversations

Join us Mondays at 1:15 p.m. for a series of Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn.

Salmansohn brings to our 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 living within the Archuleta community for friendship and togetherness.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, is 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.

Scrapbooking Club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking Club holds monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at the Senior Center.

It meets each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to be creative, share ideas, connect with friends, learn new techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together.

Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive notifications each month of the upcoming meeting along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join us at the Silver Fox's Den, aka the Community Cafe, in person for daily hot/cold meals Mondays through Thursdays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is open to all. Pickup is available all week.

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.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays.

Community Cafe menu

Thursday, Jan. 2 — Thai chicken with peanut sauce, sugar snap peas, quinoa brown rice, green salad, fortune cookies and milk.

Friday, Jan. 3 — Navy bean and bacon soup, focaccia bread, blueberry cobbler, green salad, muffin and milk.

Monday, Jan. 6 — Herb roasted chicken, broccoli hollandaise, garden salad, cottage cheese, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 7 — Beef Frito pie, green beans, cornbread, garden salad, fruit, brownies and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 8 — Grilled turkey, Swiss and tomato sandwich on sourdough, sweet potato fries, garden salad, fruit, fig bars, and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 9 — Vegetarian lentil chili, sauteed zucchini, biscuit, garden salad, fruit, carrot cake and milk.

Friday, Jan. 10 — Sliced ham steak with cherry sauce, scalloped potatoes, garden salad, fruit, sunrise muffin and milk.

Grab-N-Go meals

Dine-in and Grab-N-Go meal reservations and cancellations are

required. Please call or text by 9 a.m. the morning of the day you want to pickup a meal. A suggested donation of \$6 helps to sustain our program. For ages 59 and younger, the cost is \$10.50. No one will be turned away for their inability to donate. Please call or text us at (970) 264-2167 to make a reservation.

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. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167.

Mobile food pantry service

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry should contact the MET to schedule a ride with its para-transit service. For more information, contact Lavonne at (970) 264-2250.

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.

Texting services are available for dine-in meal reservations, Grab-N-Go meals and Meals on Wheels recipients.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make

matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Medicare call 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) 264-0501, ext 2.

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing

■ **See Senior on next page**

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Replacing yearly resolutions with daily declarations

By Shanna Robb
PREVIEW Columnist

My father died on Sept. 15, 2013. Waiting for him to “declare himself,” as the neurologist described his comatose state, was the most exhausting experience in my life.

As I dodged an onslaught of emotions and selfishly begged for more time with him, I had to face reality. Time was running out and I needed to surrender.

I had not anticipated the lasting impact my father’s coma would have on me. Attached to tubes and monitors, despite the constant noise echoing through the hospital corridors, there was a deep-seated peace on his face.

Desperate for a glimpse inside my father’s mind, I squeezed my eyes shut and started negotiating with God. My struggle transitioned into prayer. I prayed that my father was encountering a place void of pain, anxiety, uncertainty and war. Heaven on earth, so to speak.

Even in his unconscious state, I felt my father’s love. As he hovered between two worlds, God gifted me time to stumble. I was bombarded by a flurry of questions that forced me to scrutinize my own “declaration.”

“Am I deliberately approaching each day or am I wasting the time I have been gifted?”

“Am I accepting the will of God without requiring full understanding? Am I allowing anxiety to overshadow the blessings laid before me? Am I distracted by the chatter of this world? If I died tonight, am I prepared?”

As the onslaught of questions

A Matter of Faith

ricocheted inside my head, I watched the hospital staff tend to his unresponsive body. I envied their silent confidence.

I wondered if my lack of peace was hindering my ability to be present. I wondered if the medical team was confident because they accepted their limitations. I wondered, if I took my father’s place in the hospital bed, what words of wisdom he would say.

As 2025 presents new possibilities, I find myself thinking about the way my father approached life and the watermark he left on those who knew him.

I do not remember my father making New Year’s resolutions. Instead of making resolutions, I believe that he followed the words found in Matthew 6:34: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

He was at peace because he was in the moment and trusted God’s plan for his life.


There was no need for New Year’s resolutions because he declared himself daily to his family, to his friends, to his country and to his God. He loved life, didn’t allow cancer to be his identity and was not burdened by regret.

As I enter the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope and reminisce on my father’s legacy, the words of St. Augustine offer a formula on how to replace

New Year’s resolutions with a daily declaration. Simply stated, “Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.”

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.

Trinity Anglican Church



The wise men came from the East following the star and found the young child, Jesus. They fell down and worshiped him. Their gifts to him were gold, frankincense and myrrh.

246 Harman Park Dr.
trinityanglicanchurch.org



Rendering courtesy Reynolds, Ash and Associates, photos courtesy Jeff Laydon

Senior

■ continued from previous page
structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 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.

Bridge

The longest-played bridge game in Archuleta County takes place 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 at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds of playing until the final round is reached — some two to three

hours later.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has multiple vacant positions open. The 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.

Support the Senior Center

Please support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to some of the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

You may mail your donation to P.O. BOX 3444, Pagosa Springs CO 81147, or please visit our website: <http://www.psseniors.org/> (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. For more information about ASI, please visit <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

This holiday season we thank
our community for investing in your
Ruby Sisson Library through our
Mountains of Opportunity building campaign.

You are incredible. You are changing lives.



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Mountains of Opportunity

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a community can do to benefit its people.”

~Andrew Carnegie, industrialist and philanthropist

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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Jan. 2

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 will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Friday, Jan. 3

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Cookie Decorating. 1-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for some tasty fun. Sugar cookies and standard frosting will be provided.

Teen/Tween Murder Mystery. 3-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Everyone is a suspect. Solve the clues to discover who the real murderer is. Registration is required.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church. A short business meeting will be followed by a work session to plan topics for 2025 programs. For more information or a Zoom link, contact Carolyn Paschal at carolynpaschal@gmail.com.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build.

'Frozen KIDS.' Noon, Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

'Frozen KIDS.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Jan. 4

'Frozen KIDS.' Noon, Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

'Frozen KIDS.' 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, Jan. 6

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

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

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 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.

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

Learn to Knit or Crochet. 2-3:15 p.m., Sisson Library. Come learn to knit or crochet. For ages 8 and up. All supplies will be provided.

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Pagosa Unplugged. 4-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Musicians of all abilities are invited to jam and sing with others. Call Susan at (970) 946-3396 for details.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details. A holiday potluck lunch will follow the meeting.

Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.

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.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experi-

ence is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Mahjong. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate stu-

■ See Calendar on page 14

HUD Publisher's Notice



**EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**

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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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!

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 northern pygmy owl.

This tiny owl once again showed up to be counted for the Pagosa Springs Christmas Bird Count. One of our young birders spotted one late in the day surveying its territory from a perch high atop a bare tree. This owl hunts most actively during periods of dawn and dusk, but is also often active during the day.

The northern pygmy owl, not much larger than a sparrow, easily goes undetected in its home in the mountain forests of western North America. It has a large, circular head with white speckles and white spots on its brown back. Yellow eyes and a sharp yellow bill confer a fierce look.

This owl lacks the adaptations for exceptional hearing that are found in nocturnal owls. These include asymmetrically aligned ears, flattened facial disks which funnel sound to the ears and silent flight feathers. Instead, pygmy owls rely more on vision and surprise to hunt prey, sitting quietly, ready to pounce. They mainly eat small birds, but also take small mammals, insects and reptiles. In winter they may move to lower elevations and look for an easy meal near bird feeders.

The northern pygmy owl is among the dozens of species of owls, hawks and falcons with "eyes in the back of the head". These feather patches that look like eyes give the appearance that the bird is always watching, both in front of and behind itself. Current theory on these false eyespots believes that for pygmy owls they are a method of defending themselves from their own prey.

Employing a bold strategy, small songbirds, which are the preferred food of these ferocious owls, will gather together in mobs to harass an owl into leaving the area, alert other birds to its presence and teach juvenile birds about this danger. Research has demonstrated that these birds are less likely to attack the owl from the rear if they think that they are being watched.

Using your hearing may be the best way to find these unobtrusive birds. The commotion created by mobbing songbirds, as well as the owl's high-pitched toots, may direct your eyes to this little hunter hidden in plain sight on the branch of a tree.

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



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THE ONE UNIQUE WAY TO HAVE A HEALTHY LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

"Why is that when kids do it, it's play, but when we do it, it's exercise?"

Running, skipping, swinging and jumping are what kids do all day and it's fun. Who says you have to stop once you grow up?

Today's excerpt will have you bouncing up and down just like you did as a kid- literally. The lymphatic system is the metabolic garbage can of the body. It rids you of toxins such as dead and cancerous cells, nitrogenous wastes, infectious viruses, heavy metals, and other assorted junk cast off by the cells.

The movement performed in rebounding provides the stimulus for a free-flowing system that drains away these potential poisons. Unlike the arterial system, the lymphatic system does not have its own pump. It has no heart muscle to move the fluid around through its lymph vessels.

There are just three ways to activate the flow of lymph away from the tissues it serves and back into the main pulmonary circulation. Lymphatic flow requires muscular contraction from exercise and movement, gravitational pressure, and internal massage to the valves of lymph ducts. Rebounding supplies all three methods of removing waste products from the cells and from the body.

James White, Ph.D., director of research and rehabilitation in the physical education department at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), has explained how jumping for health offers a true physical strengthening effect to the muscles. "Rebounding allows the muscles to go through the full range of motion at equal force. It helps people learn to shift their weight properly and to be aware of body positions and balance," says White.

An advocate of rebounding for athletic conditioning, White uses the rebounder in his rehabilitation program at UCSD. "When you jump, jog, and twist on this [jumping] device, you can exercise for hours without getting tired. It's great practice for skiing, it improves your tennis stroke, and it's a good way to burn off calories and lose weight," says White.

Source: "Rebounding: Good for the Lymph System." By Dave Scrivens. <https://www.wellbeingjournal.com>

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

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." *Philippians 4:13*

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from page 12

dents from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158. 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

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. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Emotional Freedom Technique Session. 10-11 a.m., Senior Center.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. After-school tutoring in reading and math for grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information or to sign up.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Socializing will start at 6 p.m., with the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. This month's speaker is David Lenderman.

Thursday, Jan. 9

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 will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Seminar: Interactive Workshop with Chris Mott. 12:30-2 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Making 2025 your best

year ever starts with your mindset. **T'ai Chi Chih.** 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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San Juan Stargazers. 7 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

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 Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Monday, Jan. 13

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross

Aragon Community Center. **Women's Fellowship.** 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Line Dancing. 9:30-11:30 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.

Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. The speaker will be Ashley Wilson of the Archuleta County Public Health Department.

Just Friends Book Club. Noon, Sisson Library. Friends of the Library members are invited to discuss "Lost Birds" by Anne Hillerman and choose books to read the rest of the year. Copies are available at the library. Please feel free to bring a lunch. For more information, email DonnaMoshier@icloud.com.

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

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Stretching and Mobility Class. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.

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.

Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta

■ See Calendar on next page

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Sunday Services & Programs @ 10:30
Meditation - Sundays @ 9 am

Jan 5: Meditation as social justice
In the words of a
Buddhist teacher

Jan 12: Going Deeper
Small Group Ministry Sharing Circle

Jan 19: Pilgrimage on the
Camino de Santiago
Story of a walking spiritual practice

Jan 26: Action Sunday!
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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details. A holiday potluck lunch will follow the meeting.

Tech Time. 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Hand and Foot Card Game. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

Introduction to Pickleball. 8:30-11

a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

Pagosa Catholic Quilters. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms. For more information, contact Maxine Everaert at quilters@ihmjp2.org.

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. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at ceflittlekids@gmail.com.

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. After-school tutoring in reading and math for grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information or to sign up.

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Thursday, Jan. 16

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 will provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Join for a film and

discussion on the topic of preparing for death.

T'ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30, Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc.

■ **See Calendar on next page**

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English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., Sisson Library. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. Mark can help you develop a plan to achieve your education goals. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

'A Walk in the Woods.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Jan. 17

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

WinterFest: Bonfire. 5-8 p.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 W. U.S. 84.

'A Walk in the Woods.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Jan. 18

WinterFest: Mass Hot Air Balloon Ascension. 8 a.m., west side of Pagosa Springs. See the balloons fill the winter sky in the Pagosa Lakes area. Parking on U.S. 160 to view the balloons is not permitted. Weather dependent.

WinterFest: BB Gun Biathlon. 9:15 a.m., Yamaguchi Park. A unique, fun freestyle ski event in which participants can either classic or skate ski while target shooting with Red Ryder BB guns provided by the Pagosa Nordic Club. There will be prizes for the top finishers and best costumes. Bib pickup will open for all races — 16K, 4K and KidK — at 9:15 a.m. The race fee is \$5 for Pagosa Nordic Club members and \$15 for non-members.

WinterFest: Skijoring. 10 a.m., Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo Grounds. Fast-paced, skillful riding of horses with riders and skiers over obstacles. Tickets begin at \$10 and can be purchased at <https://www.skisandsaddles.com/>.

WinterFest: Barkus Parade. 11 a.m., Town Park. A costumed menagerie of pets will parade around the downtown area. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

March for Equality. 11 a.m., Town Park.

WinterFest: Penguin Plunge. 1 p.m., San Juan River. Support your favorite nonprofits as representatives plunge into the San Juan River. Enjoy the view from the Riverwalk across from the Visitor Center.

'A Walk in the Woods.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Jan. 19

WinterFest: Mass Hot Air Balloon Ascension. 8 a.m., west side of Pagosa Springs. See the balloons fill the winter sky in the Pagosa Lakes area. Parking on U.S. 160 to view the balloons is not permitted. Weather dependent.

WinterFest: Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic. 9:45 a.m., Cloman Park. An introductory clinic for adults at beginning and intermediate levels. Weather dependent.

WinterFest: Skijoring. 10 a.m., Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo Grounds. Fast-paced, skillful riding of horses with riders and skiers over obstacles. Tickets begin at \$10 and can be purchased at <https://www.skisandsaddles.com/>.

'A Walk in the Woods.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. For tickets and show information, see pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Monday, Jan. 20

Indoor Pickleball. 8-11:30 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center.

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

Brain Fitness and Mobility. 10-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. For anyone 21 and older.

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

Healthy Aging and Yoga Therapy Class. 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN 264-2100

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Romeo
- 5 It's sold in bars
- 9 Canned meat since 1937
- 13 Pale anagram
- 14 More than suggest
- 15 Madcap comedy
- 16 Fluid rock
- 17 Like the fabled piper
- 18 Motionless
- 19 Be in charge of
- 21 Summer quencher
- 23 "Hondo", for one
- 24 Prickly shrub
- 25 Very skillful
- 27 Hoops grp.
- 30 Maintain
- 33 Sign before Virgo
- 34 Think tank nugget
- 35 Krasinski of Hollywood
- 36 Work shirker
- 38 In the vicinity
- 39 Quite often
- 40 Piece of pipe
- 41 Parody
- 43 Detail on some tickets
- 44 Acme
- 46 Medium's deck
- 48 Classic Dodge
- 52 Bond's drink
- 54 Franc division
- 55 Words to live by
- 56 Flower part
- 58 Iris's place
- 59 "Cheers" role
- 60 Coloring
- 61 Road turn
- 62 Vogue rival
- 63 Adjusts, as a clock
- 64 Means justifiers, at times

DOWN

- 1 Give the OK

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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55							56	57			58			
59							60				61			
62							63				64			

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- 2 Way off base?
- 3 Top picks, informally
- 4 Common rental
- 5 Lucky horse-shoe, e.g.
- 6 Get one's bearings
- 7 Go gray
- 8 AKC concern
- 9 Smooths, as wood
- 10 Made believe
- 11 Part of a plot
- 12 Prefix with physics or data
- 15 Like some speeches
- 20 Char, as a steak
- 22 Decorator's concerns
- 26 Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy"
- 28 Bridges of Hollywood
- 29 Org. for seniors
- 30 Cracked
- 31 Without help
- 32 Rigged court proceeding
- 34 River float, at times
- 37 ADA members
- 42 Zip
- 44 Kind of number
- 45 Actor's study, perhaps
- 47 Make amends
- 49 1999 film, "Any ___ Sunday"
- 50 Revise
- 51 Digests digests
- 52 Like some beds
- 53 Leaf-stem angle
- 57 Corn site

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Subscribe to The SUN PagosaSUN.com

100 years ago this month: historical events from January 1925

Special to The PREVIEW

The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in January 1925.

- Christiania, the capital city of Norway, is renamed Oslo on Jan. 1.
- Violence plagues Italy on Jan. 2 as part of the fallout of Benito Mussolini's crackdown on opposition newspapers. Though King Victor Emmanuel III refuses to grant Mussolini the dictatorial powers the latter requested, he grants the prime minister tacit permission to respond to the violence how he sees fit.
- Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the governor of Wyoming on Jan. 5, becoming the first woman elected to a gubernatorial office in United States history.
- Bhanupratap Deo is proclaimed as the new raja of the princely state of Kanker within British India on Jan. 8. The 3-year-old would rule until 1947, when the princely states are abolished as India gains its independence.
- The British submarine HMS L24 sinks in the English channel on Jan. 10. The submarine had collided with the Royal Navy battleship HMS Resolution, killing all 43 men aboard the L24.
- Al Capone survives an assassination attempt made by the North Side Gang on Jan. 12 in Chicago. Capone was conducting business inside a State Street restaurant when the rival gang riddled his car with bullets, prompting the mobster to order a bulletproof Cadillac.
- Joseph Stalin fires Leon Trotsky as commissar for military and navy affairs on Jan. 15. A prominent critic of Stalin, Trotsky is eventually murdered at his home in Mexico City by a Stalinist agent in 1940.
- Huddie Ledbetter, better known as "Lead Belly," is granted a full pardon by Texas Governor Pat Morris Neff on Jan. 16. The blues musician

had served seven years of his prison sentence after being found guilty of killing a relative over a fight for a woman.

- "The Gentleman Bandit" Gerald Chapman is arrested in Muncie, Ind., on Jan. 18. Chapman is apprehended thanks in part to informant Ben Hance, who is murdered in August in a killing that is believed to have been performed as retaliation for Chapman's incarceration.
- Roy Olmstead, a lieutenant in the Seattle Police Department, is indicted by a federal grand jury on Jan. 19. Olmstead is accused of smuggling alcohol into the country from Canada in violation of the Volstead Act.
- Curtis Welch, the only doctor in Nome, Alaska, sends an urgent message via radio telegram on Jan. 22. The message alerts all major Alaskan towns of an impending outbreak of diphtheria, while a second message sent to the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C., highlights the desperate need for antitoxin. Roughly 300,000 units of antitoxin are discovered in Anchorage on Jan. 26, temporarily containing the epidemic.
- Paul Newman is born in Shaker Heights, Ohio, on Jan. 26. The son of Theresa Garth and sporting goods store owner Arthur Sigmund Newman Sr., the younger Newman would grow up to become one of the world's most recognizable movie stars and a devoted philanthropist.
- A riot breaks out in Berlin on Jan. 27. Numerous injuries are reported as monarchists, communists and republicans clash during demonstrations held on the birthday of ex-kaiser Wilhelm II.
- On Jan. 28, nominee to the U.S.

Supreme Court Harlan Fiske Stone testifies before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. Stone is eventually confirmed by a 71-to-6 vote.

- After nearly a year of fighting and 14,000 deaths, the Khost rebellion against King Amanullah Khan is ended in Afghanistan on Jan. 30. The rebellion is ultimately unsuccessful, but many of the king's reforms are delayed until 1928.



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Fun facts about basketball

Special to The PREVIEW

Basketball is an exciting sport with a global footprint. Proof of the global popularity of basketball is evident on both the collegiate and professional hardwoods.

In fact, the National Basketball Association noted prior to the opening night of the 2024-2025 season that league rosters featured 125 international players from a record-tying 43 countries across six continents.

The popularity of basketball is undeniable. With so many tuned in to the exciting action, now is an ideal time for fans of basketball to learn some fun facts about the game:

- Michael Jordan, arguably the greatest player of all time, was once cut from his varsity high school team. Debates as to who is the greatest basketball player of all time will likely never cease, but many fans point to the man nicknamed "His Airness." Indeed, Jordan's many accolades include six NBA championships and six NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards. Fans can be forgiven if they read Jordan's impressive résumé and conclude his skills were identified as superior from the moment he stepped on a court, but the eventual five-time NBA MVP failed to make his high school varsity team in his sophomore year. Jordan ultimately used that as motivation, and averaged more than 25 points per game in his junior and senior seasons.

- Dunking was once illegal at certain levels. Few moments in a basketball game are as exciting as a thunderous slam dunk, but such feats were once outlawed in scholastic and collegiate competitions. Between 1967 and 1976, high school and college players were forbidden from

dunking, a rule that might have satisfied basketball purists and assuaged concerns about increasingly tall players dominating the game with simple baskets, but one that undoubtedly confused players. Indeed, in a 2023 media interview, former University of Detroit player Terry Tyler noted his confusion over the rule during his collegiate playing days. Interestingly, Tyler eventually competed in a competition celebrating the slam dunk when he signed up to participate in the 1986 NBA Slam Dunk Contest. That competition was ultimately won by 5-foot-7 Spud Webb, a victory that suggests concerns about taller players were misplaced.

- Two men are tied as the tallest players in NBA history. Height is a definite commodity in professional basketball, and two former players are proof of that. Gheorghe Muresan and Manute Bol, who were each 7-foot-7, currently hold the record as the two tallest men to play in an NBA game. Curiously, Muresan, whose NBA career ended with the New Jersey Nets in 2000, ultimately found himself the second-tallest player in a game played in 2007. In an appearance that was akin to a promotional endeavor by the Maryland Night-hawks of the American Basketball Association, Muresan was temporarily teammates with Chinese player Sun Mingming, who was measured at 7 feet, 9 inches tall by the Guinness World Records.

- Dribbling was not always part of the game. Skilled ballhandlers are a big part of the appeal of modern basketball, but dribbling was not always part of the game. In the early days of basketball, players moved the ball by passing it to one another, standing in place and then throwing the ball

to another player. Details are fuzzy, but basketball historians now credit players at Yale University in 1901 as the first to dribble in a game.

The global phenomenon of basketball has a rich and interesting history, and the game people love today once looked vastly different.

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ESTATE SALE. Ranch with home, barn and garages. House full of log style furniture and various collectibles. Barn with horse tack, Kubota tractor, 3 point attachments, horse trailer. Garages full of tools and other miscellaneous. CR 514, Ignacio, 9a.m.-3p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5. Sunday, 50% off. Address to be posted morning of sale through KP Pawn Durango Facebook or estate sales.net.

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HOMES FOR SALE

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4 OFFICE SPACES. Freshly remodeled, \$400-\$525. Well suited for spa services, 140-270 sq. ft. Beautiful spacious restrooms. (970)946-3232.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE for rent on 2nd floor with private bathroom. \$400/ month including utilities and WiFi. No smokers. No pets. Available Dec. 1st. (970)946-2728.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE SPACE in the Historic Metro Hotel. 239 SF, available Dec 2024. Call Jacque (970)946-7636.

HIGH-VISIBILITY EAGLE DRIVE location with large signs facing 160. Nicely renovated with two offices, large flexible space, bathroom, plenty of parking. \$1,800/ month includes utilities. Call/ text (970)444-2124.

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PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

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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.

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2 AND 3 BEDROOMS AVAILABLE Call (720)869-8877. Hickory Ridge Apartments.

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH townhome across from Pagosa Lake available in January. Garage, fenced backyard, and deck overlooking the lake. Perfect for a couple or roommates. Pets negotiable. \$1650/ month plus some utilities. Nicole (970)398-1645.

3 BED/2 BATH San Juan River Village. Clean, pristine and ready for you. 3/2 in highly desirable San Juan River Village. 2 level master on first floor. 5 min to town, 20 min to Wolf Creek. Water views and beautiful mountain views, first last deposit. Local landlord with great tenant history. No pets, no smoking, lots of storage, including indoor and outdoor storage. \$2300/ month. 6- and 12-month options available. Text (970)582-0148 for application.

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2100/ month. (318)347-6100.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SPEND some time in a two bedroom cabin, here is the spot. A month or more, new flooring, new appliances, heated with electric and wood stove that keeps it warm. \$1,500 per month. It all depends on how long you'd like to stay. Can be furnished or not. Please leave a message, (970)731-2010.

LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

VERY NICE AND CLEAN DUPLEX UNIT 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Close to City Market. \$1900 /month. (970)946-2768.

COMMERCIAL

BAR AND GRILL IN ARBOLES on 1 Acre for \$380,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

GAS STATION, CONVENIENCE STORE comes with nine long-term leases, high producing. \$1,650,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PRIME BUSINESS LOCATION Large building and land. \$1,250,000. Motivated seller. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

1.1 ACRE WITH RV GENERATOR and system tank, circular drive in, tall cool pines. NO HOA! \$75k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.1 ACRE WITH TALL PINES on flat buildable land with drive in. NO HOA! \$70k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.19 ACRES WITH VIEWS OF NAVAJO LAKE. All utilities nearby. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

1.48 ACRE LAND. Highway frontage. \$99,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

.28 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 FLAT BUILDABLE ACRES. Great mountain views, water cap and driveway in. Power to the property, fully fenced, corners marked. \$300k. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

.35 ACRE LAND County Road 982 frontage \$55,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

FANTASTIC VIEWS with electricity, concrete floor garage on 1 acre for \$195,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.



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Photo courtesy David Lenderman
 An example of a photo composed to create a sense of depth. David Lenderman will speak at the Jan. 8 Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting.

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Pagosa Springs Photography Club to meet Jan. 8

By **Andy Butler**
 Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club is meeting on Jan. 8 at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., but you can come early to socialize and chat about photography at 6 p.m. Everyone's welcome to join us. Just enter the church through the side door next to the parking lot.

This month's speaker is David Lenderman. He'll give a multipart presentation. He'll start with a short slideshow set to music showing some of his favorite photos. Then, he'll talk about why depth is important in photography. He'll show you how to make flat photos look more interesting and engaging. Lenderman will share practical compositional techniques that anyone can use to add depth to their own photos, no matter what camera you have.

The last part of Lenderman's presentation will be about an AI music generator. With AI music programs, you can easily make your own music. As image creators, we often need the perfect soundtrack for our slide-shows or videos, and now you can make your own. Lenderman will explain how to use the music generator

and show you examples of the music you can create.

Lenderman has been an avid photographer for over 25 years. He specializes in underwater, travel and wildlife photography. He's been to six of the seven continents looking for amazing scenes and fascinating animals. In 2022, Lenderman and his wife moved to Pagosa Springs so they can enjoy the natural beauty of Colorado and the warm, friendly community. Lenderman often speaks at photography and dive clubs, and he loves sharing his knowledge and inspiring other photographers.

Did you get a new camera or lens for Christmas? If so, joining the Photography Club would be an awesome way to learn more about photography and get tips on using your gear.

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club is open to everyone who loves making and viewing great photos. Our members use cameras of all types, from smartphones to medium format. We have educational programs, image sharing and discussion, photo outings, and contests to help each other improve our photography.

Club membership is just \$25 per year. You can apply for membership on our website at <https://pagosaspingsphotoclub.org/about/>.

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