

Motion to dismiss filed in Medina ethics case

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

On Jan. 21, the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) offered a procedural update on a motion it received to dismiss a complaint filed against Archuleta County Commissioner Veronica Medina.

The motion came in response to a case filed in June 2024. The IEC voted unanimously on Nov. 19, 2024, to deem the complaint nonfrivolous.

For more on that, see the Dec. 26, 2024, issue of The SUN.

What began as a response to that complaint subsequently arrived to

the IEC as a formal motion to dismiss on Jan. 16, according to IEC Executive Director Dino Ioannides at the Jan. 21 meeting.

“Since this is a dispositive motion, the 21-day period for response time has not run yet, so we don’t have a response from the complainant in this case,” Ioannides said. “You don’t have to take any action on this today while we wait for the response to come in.”

The motion to dismiss the complaint was signed by special counsel John S. Gleason of Burns, Figa and Will on behalf of Medina.

The motion to dismiss, including

■ See Ethics A10

Workforce housing deed restrictions, challenges discussed

By Clayton Chaney and Derek Kutzer
Staff Writers

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation’s (PSCDC’s) ongoing workforce housing project was a topic of conversation at multiple recent meetings, including the organization’s board of directors, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

Conversations included needed changes to the deed restrictions on the houses, as well as the PSCDC’s ability to sell them and challenges with the project.

The current initiative being spearheaded by the PSCDC is to build affordable homes for the area’s workforce on 35 lots donated by Archuleta County. Construction of 10 homes is currently underway.

The lots are located in the Chris Mountain II and Trails subdivisions, within the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association, and the homes are geared toward ownership for those in the workforce earning at or below 100 percent of the area median income (AMI).

Deed restrictions

During a regular meeting held on Jan. 21, the BoCC unanimously ap-

■ See Housing A8

Lady Pirate wrestling



SUN photos/Randi Pierce

The Lady Pirate wrestling team hosts a home dual for first time in program history Tuesday. The historic moment in local wrestling history was made better by the Lady Pirates’ 33-18 win over the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers.

Community group hears school buildings report, discusses next steps

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

A multigenerational group of more than two dozen parents, educators and community leaders gathered Monday evening inside Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) to begin mapping a vision for the future of educational spaces in Archuleta School District (ASD).

The group, the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC), will ultimately be tasked with making a formal recommendation to the ASD Board of Education about what to do with several of the district’s aging buildings and facilities, includ-

■ See School A8



SUN photo/Garrett Fevinger

Members of the Master Plan Advisory Committee discuss questions and ponder next steps after hearing reports detailing the condition of Archuleta School District buildings and facilities Monday night at Pagosa Springs Middle School.

Six board spots up for grabs in May health service district election

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Six spots on the Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD) Board of Directors will be up for grabs in the district’s May 6 election.

The board oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center, with the district serving Archuleta County, as well as portions of Hinsdale and Mineral counties.

The board approved a written resolution at its Jan. 21 meeting outlining many of the details of the election.

The following seats will appear on the ballot, per the resolution:

• The seat currently held by Kate Alfred, for a 4-year term.

• The seat currently held by Jason Cox, for a 4-year term.

• The seat currently held by Barbara Parada, for a 4-year term.

• The seat currently held by Martin “Marty” Rose, for a 4-year term.

• The seat currently held by Kathy Campbell, for a 2-year term.

• The seat currently held by Mark Floyd, for a 2-year term.

The terms of office for the existing directors will expire after their successors are elected and the successors take office.

It was noted during the meeting that typically there would be four positions up for four-year terms for the upcoming election, but resignations and appointments results in

■ See Election A8

County commissioners approve strategic plan

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved its 2025-2028 strategic plan during its Jan. 21 regular meeting.

The BoCC unanimously approved Resolution 2025-13, which adopts “the model and framework by which the county shall operate and adhere to in its service to the taxpayers and

residents of Archuleta County,” according to the agenda.

According to a press release, the planning group Civic* Possible assisted in the process of drafting the strategic plan, which began in May 2024.

“The result derives from a comprehensive set of tactics including several in-person community listening sessions in both English and Spanish, one-on-one interviews with both

County employees and residents with Civic* Possible staff, as well as online surveys conducted throughout the year,” the press release states.

During a work session held on Jan. 21, the BoCC heard a presentation from Jason Schneider, a principle with Civic* Possible who has been working with the county on its strategic plan for the past year.

Schneider explained that the strategic plan has been divided into dif-

ferent priorities that have initiatives, actions and milestones associated with them.

He commented that it has been a “fairly lengthy process” in working with the county to develop the strategic plan that will guide the county’s work for the next three years.

Schneider indicated that his work began with a discovery phase and took the data gathered into a plan-

■ See Plan A14

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Opinion

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OUR VIEW

A first for the Lady Pirates

We've witnessed a lot of firsts and historic moments lately.

We see history and firsts — for the good and the bad — all day every day, and, we've lived through times, moments and firsts that will be taught for generations to come.

But something we witnessed earlier this week stands out. It was different, and it was a first we were happy to finally see.

On Tuesday evening at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS), the Lady Pirate wrestlers were finally able to compete at home for the first time, nearly two years into the program's existence.

Girls' high school wrestling is one of the fastest-growing sports in our country. As of last spring, the sport had quadrupled over the prior decade, according to reports.

Earlier this month, the NCAA approved women's wrestling as a Division I sport, further showing the sport's growth and giving the sport's athletes more opportunities.

The Colorado High School Activities Association sanctioned girls' wrestling beginning with the 2020-2021 season.

And Pagosa Springs has been right in step with the trend.

It wasn't atypical to see a girl or two listed on the high school's roster over the years, but last year, girls' wrestling at PSHS transitioned from being one or two girls on the boys' team to having a dedicated girls' program.

The school also had its first-ever state qualifier on the girls' side last year with Laykyn Baxstrom.

This year, the program gained several new athletes and appears to be here to stay.

But, despite being in its second year and already having a state tournament appearance, the Lady Pirates hadn't done what almost every Pirate sport gets to do — compete in front of their family and friends on their own turf.

Until Montezuma-Cortez traveled to Pagosa Springs Tuesday, the Lady Pirates hadn't found a team willing to come to Pagosa to compete.

The Lady Pirate wrestlers were left to — like the PSHS swim team — travel if they wanted to compete with more than each

other and show their skills.

Fans had to follow the team on the road or track down live feeds to watch the team in action.

While, unfortunately, it doesn't look like our Lady Pirate swimmers will be able to host a home meet anytime soon, it was great to finally see the Lady Pirate grapplers on their home mat, displaying their skills, hard work, endurance and dedication.

It was even better to see them shake hands with the Lady Panthers after winning their first home dual ever.

Wrestling, like many other sports, is not for the faint of heart, and we commend these ladies for taking on this new challenge — and doing it successfully.

As coach Dan Janowsky has said multiple times, these athletes are trailblazers.

We hope to see more home meets in the future as our Lady Pirates continue to blaze new trails in Pagosa Springs athletic history and rise in the ranks of Colorado high school girls' wrestling.

Randi Pierce

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 30, 1925

By a decision of the United States Supreme court Monday morning, Colorado won in its dispute over the boundary between this state and New Mexico. New Mexico laid claim to a strip of land 500 feet wide and 200 miles long, but the court held that the Darling survey of 1868 should stand.

New Mexico contended that the boundary should follow the line fixed in the resurvey of Howard B. Carpenter in 1902. A bill passed in congress some years ago to place the land within New Mexico was vetoed by President Roosevelt and congress refused to pass it over his veto.

Monday's decision terminates a controversy which had its inception six years ago when New Mexico instituted suit in the United States district court seeking a change in the line of demarcation between the two states, and to set forever the dispute regarding the strip of land in the vicinity of Edith in Archuleta County.

A double killing in Archuleta county on August 25, 1920, when J.M. Archuleta and Jose M. Salazar lost their lives, was the result of the long controversy of the state line.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 27, 1950

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Giordano who recently purchased an interest in the Navapachute Camp, announced last week that extensive remodeling and alterations are planned for the resort during the coming year. Mr. and Mrs. Giordano, along with Steve Judisack of Walsenburg are the owners of the property and state that it is their plan to completely modernize the camp property within the next two years.

Work is now underway on the remodeling of the office and owner's residence and as soon as this is completed the old bath house will be torn down and a new, modern structure erected according to the new owners. They also stated that as fast as is possible the cabins will all be remodeled and modernized and rebuilt.

Repair of the outdoor pool and a general clean-up of the property are scheduled before the start of the tourist season. A modern property with all of the natural resources of the Navapachute will be a big step forward in the progress of the town and will provide many more accommodations for the tourists and those who come here to take the baths.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 30, 1975

The Jaycee sponsored snowmobile races last weekend drew estimated crowds of over 200 spectators and contestants on both Saturday and Sunday. The races were held at the school recreation complex south of town.

On Saturday the total number of entries for the family races was 110 snowmobilers. Some entrants were in more than one event but it is estimated that more than 50 people did participate in the events.

Sunday was the big day for the races with a total of 173 entries. Eleven communities other than Pagosa Springs were represented in these races. It was estimated that there were almost 400 people present during the day for the events.

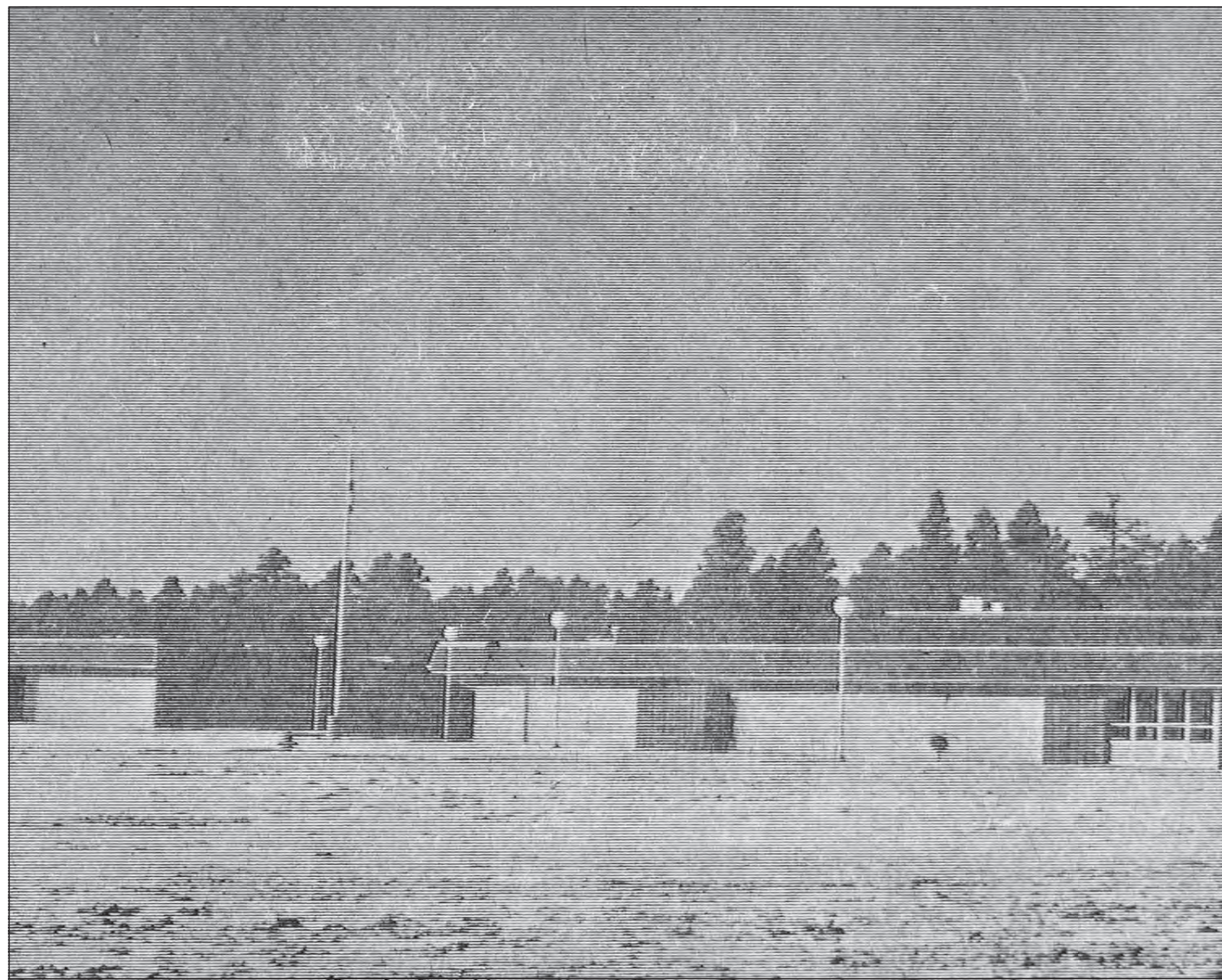
25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 27, 2000

Archuleta County is growing even booming — and we love it or hate it. We enjoy our county's special qualities and respect the strong desire of the people who live here to preserve the things they love. We also respect the desire of others to come here to live. But, as we see more development, more lights, and more traffic, we fear that there is less care being taken to nurture those special qualities that we love so well. So we grumble about it with one another. And we worry. Some of us try to find a way to warn others of what looks like a runaway horse coming our way. But it is difficult to find the right place to begin. How can we come together to corral the horse? Who will lead us?

That leader does not have to be found. He/she is here. That leader is each of us. True leadership cannot be achieved from the top down but must be taken on at the personal level. It has to happen in every family, neighborhood, school, church, business and health care facility. It begins with changing our attitudes toward our neighbors and ourselves. It requires reclaiming the building and nurturing of community that we put aside to pursue the materialistic aspect of "The American Dream." In that process we grew accustomed to an increasing sense of powerlessness. It's time to take up our stewardship again — treating every other as an equal, working together with respect and dignity.

LOOKING BACK



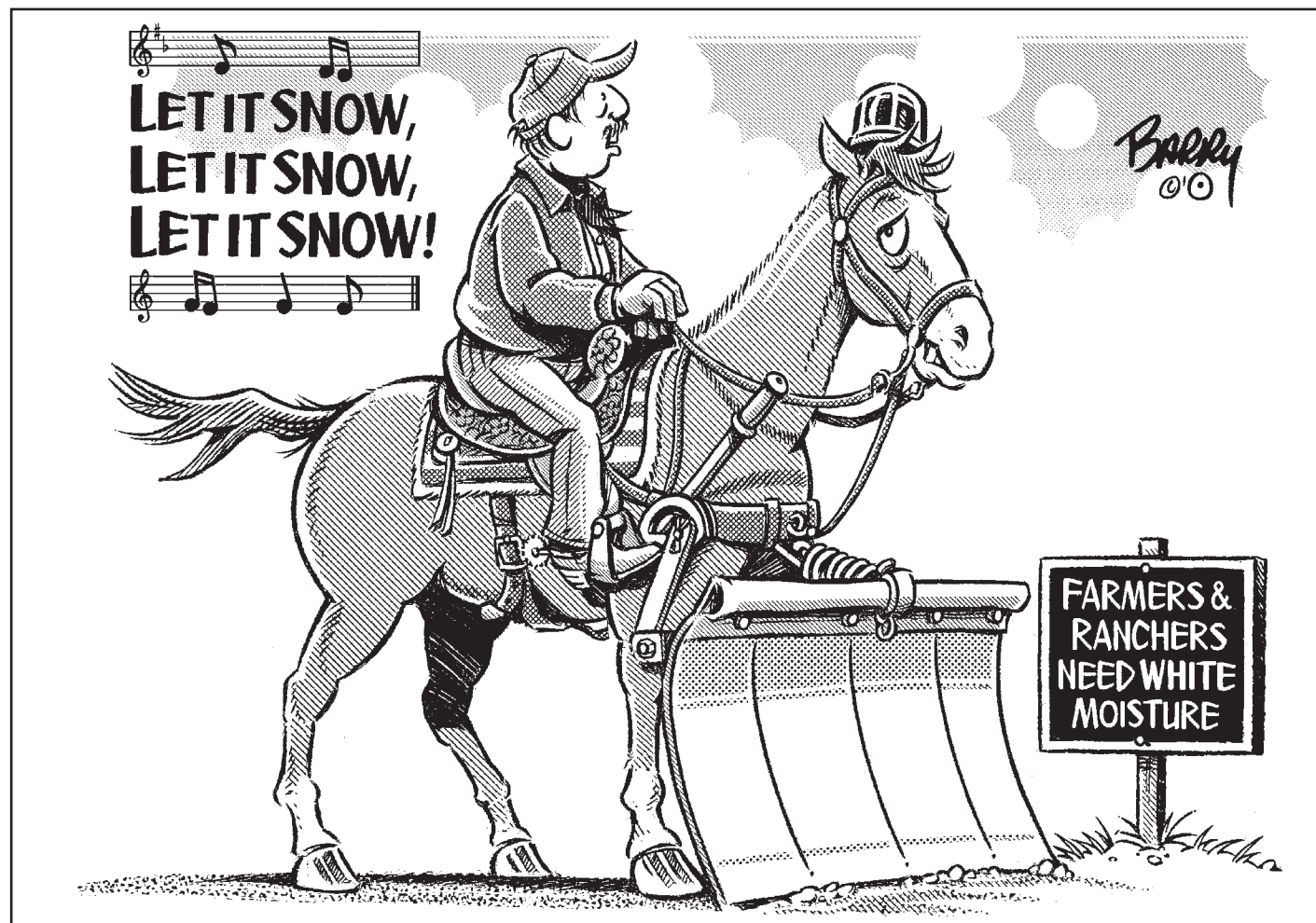
From the Jan. 22, 1970, Pagosa SUN — NEW SCHOOL — This is the new elementary school that is to be dedicated this Sunday. Dedication ceremonies are scheduled for 2 p.m. this Sunday, January 25. An open house, including refreshments, will be a feature of the dedication. This is the first public function held in the new school building and the general public is welcome, according to school officials.

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Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture		
				Depth	Type	Moisture
1/21	30	-10	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/22	33	-6	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/23	31	-4	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/24	37	-3	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/25	41	7	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/26	44	15	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/27	49	6	0.00	NA	0.00	



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.

Cultivated meat

Dear Editor:
In the aftermath of the California wildfires, we need to get more serious about addressing global warming, which increases the risk of such disasters. Among other things, our political leaders should support more public funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.
Animal agriculture is one of the biggest contributors to climate change. While the technology is still

being developed, scientists believe cultivated meat will require a fraction of the greenhouse-gas emissions that raising and slaughtering livestock does. Anyone who cares about preventing future disasters should support development of the revolutionary protein.
Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Do the hard work

Dear Editor:
There is a firehose of news and disappointments gushing out of our nation's capital — turns out reducing grocery prices is HARD, so nix that idea; it's also HARD to vet people, so release all the J6 insurrectionists, including the violent ones, because, you know, law and order; freezing information and stopping research in agencies that protect us from disease and food poisoning (what could possibly go wrong with that!); the war in Ukraine, amazingly, did not end day one; our fearless leader wants to clear out Gaza because it's such a mess — what's a little ethnic cleansing when there's so much potential real estate value! I could go on ad nauseam but there is one poignant

moment that sticks in my mind.
Nothing quite sums up the ethos of the new administration more than the response to Bishop Budde's plea to the president to show mercy on disadvantaged people in our country. She was not strident or bossy — she humbly asked the president to show compassion. For this, she was publicly reviled by the president, has received death threats and one distinguished legislator thought she should be deported! They rhetorically crucified her, all for preaching what Jesus said on the Mount.
But that was old school Jesus. Lately we've had prosperity gospel Jesus (Jesus wants you to be rich! Despite what he said about that camel and the needle — so old school!) and now: cruel Jesus. Predictably, our new administration is already defining what it means to be Christian. Coincidentally, it happens to be whatever they say it is, no matter how absurd, cruel or wrong headed.
I am not a practicing Christian but I defend the old school teachings of Jesus because it is part of a perennial, or universal, philosophy that transcends cultures, religions and millennia while providing guidance

for ethical living. I'm not going to lie, OG Jesus is my favorite Jesus. But what he insists we do is so HARD. Loving your neighbor as yourself? So hard. Then there's welcoming strangers, caring for others, visiting prisoners?! That is asking a lot and requires personal courage and sacrifice. Obviously, it is easier to follow the newer, shinier, gold-plated Jesus who promises rewards in this life and allows bad behavior.
Your religion can be your guidance, but it cannot be my shackles. That was the promise of this nation — freedom of and from religion. I don't think our current president is a religious, or even spiritual, man. He has co-opted religion, turned it on its head and many of his followers are willing to go along in order to achieve the "second coming" of Jesus. But what if it's OG Jesus who shows up? I bet he will be really mad. He TOLD us to do the HARD work.

But our new president doesn't like hard work, spiritual or worldly. It's so much easier to be cruel and turn us against one another. Don't let him do it. Do the hard work.
Lee Stopher

Dispatch board discusses approach in changing agreement structure

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Board continued to look at its structural agreement at its most recent meeting, following a change in operational oversight late last year.
In its last meeting of 2024, the board approved a resolution giving oversight of the dispatch center to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). The board opted not to have a final meeting in December 2024.
During the board's first regular meeting of 2025, held on Jan. 9, board chair Jason Webb explained it "seems things are in a much better place" in regard to daily operations at the dispatch center.
He mentioned that some of the human resource-related things have gone away and it "sounds like things are going in the right direction," with the new structure giving operational oversight to the ACSO.
"I think it was a benefit to not have that last meeting," he added, mentioning it gave staff and board members the chance to settle in with new changes.
Webb also noted that it doesn't feel like "a crisis time anymore."
During the Jan. 9 meeting, the board continued its discussion on the best way to approach making changes to the intergovernmental agreement (IGA).
"In the last few meetings, we've identified some shortfalls in the current IGA," Webb said, commenting that he'd like the board to have discussion on how it wants to take on the project of restructuring the IGA, adding an open session "has its downfalls."
He mentioned that in researching other dispatch boards, La Plata County has a committee instead of a board, which "takes things out of the open records purview."
Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux mentioned that the "committee makes the same decisions as the board would."

purchases for the center, "but you're not supposed to have to worry about whether any of your people are gonna get a person on the other end of the radio when they queue up."
Blizzard added that she would like to review the IGA in its entirety and would prefer to have something more "functional," so that the board members do not have to spend their days worrying if "dispatch was gonna implode."
She encouraged the board to "take a really hard look" at the functionality of the current IGA and make changes to have "something that is efficient and functional."
Le Roux commented that he has been "pretty vocal" in getting the dispatch board to where it is now, noting he is not in favor of changing things without reason.
"We've had more people at the helm of dispatch than we've had agency heads in most of the agencies," Le Roux said, explaining there have been four or five different directors in the past eight years.
"It speaks for itself," he added.
County Manager Jack Harper, also a board member, echoed Blizzard's comments, noting that he "100 percent" agrees that the dispatch board's purpose is to provide direction and give policy guidance, rather than taking on operational responsibilities.
The board discussed appointing current board members to a subcommittee to work on revising the current IGA.
Harper motioned to appoint board member and Pagosa Fire Protection District Chief Robert Bertam and Jason Webb to the subcommittee.
Harper also included that the board would consult with its legal council to see if it is possible to have a third member appointed to the subcommittee, noting that five members are needed

for the board to have a quorum, requiring compliance with the state's open meetings laws.
Harper indicated that if a third member is legally allowed to be appointed to the subcommittee, the third member will likely be Le Roux.
According to the Colorado law, all meetings of a quorum or three or more members of a body, which ever is fewer, at which any public business is discussed or at which any formal action may be taken must be open to the public unless an exception applies.
Harper's motion was unanimously approved by the board.
Data migration
During the Jan. 9 meeting, Blizzard also spoke about migrating the dispatch center's data with its current software provider, Oracle.
She explained that the dispatch center is currently spending approximately \$12,000 annually to have its data stored in an ID Network.
Blizzard noted that Oracle has a parallel system "that will take all of our data and store it"

Le Roux indicated there is no additional cost to the dispatch center to have this service performed.
Meeting locations and chair
The board also unanimously approved its meeting schedule during its Jan. 9 meeting.
The board will meet on the first Thursday of every second month at 8:30 a.m., with the location of the meetings yet to be determined.
Jason Webb will serve as chair of the combined dispatch board for a second consecutive year, as unanimously approved by the board.
Jason Webb explained that the chair position has historically been a rotating position, with the county scheduled to serve as the next chair.
However, Harper commented that Jason Webb had offered to stay in the chair position to see through the transition of restructuring the board's IGA.
"You have a great deal of insight," Harper said.
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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

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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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Goals & Accomplishments

SUN staff asked representatives of publicly funded agencies in Archuleta County to individually answer a trio of questions relating to the goals and accomplishments of themselves and their agencies at the turn of the year. Their answers will be printed in The SUN over the coming weeks. Answers are printed as received and are not edited.

Archuleta County

Veronica Medina, Chair, Commissioner District 3



What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2024?

1. Connecting with Constituents: We prioritized accessibility by holding regular meetings in Arboles and scheduling office hours, creating stronger connections, and ensuring every voice was heard.
2. Improving County Infrastructure: This year's major achievement was addressing road conditions. This progress has greatly improved safety and transportation for residents.
3. Advancing Leadership and Collaboration: A critical step was gaining acknowledgment from fellow county commissioners on the need for a county strategic plan. Additionally, hiring the right staff has strengthened our ability to serve the community effectively.

What are your three top goals for 2025?

1. Collaboration for Progress: Partnering with my fellow commis-

sioners to ensure effective decision-making and forward momentum in service to our county.

2. Implementing the County's Strategic Plan: Aligning our initiatives with the county's long-term vision for economic growth, sustainability, and community well-being.
3. Infrastructure Expansion and Housing Focus: Improving infrastructure while addressing housing needs to support community growth and provide opportunities for all residents.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

1. Collaboration for Progress: Foster partnerships with state and local agencies to enhance resources and funding.
 2. Implementing the County's Strategic Plan: Establish clear benchmarks to track progress and maintain transparency, community engagement, and effective communication in the process.
 3. Infrastructure Expansion and Housing Focus: Invest in road and utility projects that meet the demands of a growing population. Collaborate with developers and housing advocates to address affordability and availability issues.
- Through collaboration, strategic planning, and community-driven efforts, 2025 will be a year of progress and transformation for our county, I'm committed to building on our 2024 successes to make a lasting difference for everyone in the county.

Warren Brown, Commissioner District 1



What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2024?

-The creation, of Archuleta County's Strategic Plan from a managerial standpoint, is our greatest accomplishment. When in place, this written plan will provide specific direction aimed at the achievement of precise goals. It will also inspire greater confidence in those looking to the County for leadership and as solid vision.

-Partnering with Community Stakeholders to create more Workforce Housing options. The majority of locals see housing as the primary obstacle to attracting and retaining employees. This has also been validated through our recent housing survey as well. Through this public and private effort, the county has been a major player in priming the pump for future workforce housing projects locally and at the state level.

-Improved responsiveness to road repair and maintenance requests. I believe across the board, these services have improved, but there is always room to do better. Having the Road and Bridge Advisory Board continue to meet and collaborate with these very knowledgeable community members has created a wider problem-solving approach to our age-old challenges concerning our roads.

What are your three top goals for 2025?

- Foster more of a positive working environment for Board of County Commissioners and staff.
- Create a growth management strategy.
- Participate in mitigation efforts to help Main Street businesses maintain patronage during the Main Street Reconstruction project.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

-In my opinion, we as a county, as a community and as a Board of County Commissioners, have succumbed to an unhealthy division. I would like to approach the new year with a greater sense of teamwork, agreeing to disagree if necessary. However, at the end of the day, striving to set our personal feelings aside without compromising our core principles, working in a collective effort towards the betterment of our community.

-So many demands have been and will continue to be placed upon our resources. These resources include county services and staffing, which are directly tied to the county budget. Beyond the county some of our impacted services include our water and electrical service providers.

I would like to see the BoCC engage LPEA and PASWD to see what can be done to collectively secure these critical resources for future home and business developments.

-In my opinion, the BoCC should continue to have a presence on the Main Street Board of Directors who can continue to assist with the efforts in planning and execution of mitigating the impact the Main Street Reconstruction project will have on our downtown businesses.

I think it would be prudent for the county to set aside funds which could be made available through a grant process to the businesses who are directly affected during the reconstruction project. Since the reconstruction project will directly affect the revenues of other stakeholders, the commitment of additional funds from these partners will go much further in the endeavor to save our downtown economy.

John Ranson, Commissioner District 2



What are your three top goals for 2025?

- a. Bring back 'financial discipline and restraint'. In my first term in 2008, Archuleta County was broke. We had no choice but to be disciplined in making financial decisions. Upon reviewing the past 5 years audits and budgets, we have serious work to do. There are departments that have grown over 30% ANNUAL over 5 years. Federal money will not be rampant in the next 4 years and the State of Colorado has a serious budget short-fall. We, as a County have to be prepared for restraint. It will be essential to streamline for future needs, including a real focus roads.
- b. Roads-this goal cannot be deemed 'doable' without succeeding in the first objective. As your Commissioner, it is my job to find additional

savings, grants or revenue to begin replenishing the 'Road & Bridge' Fund. This 'Fund' has fallen from \$9,000,000 to under \$2,000,000 over the past few years.

- c. Teamwork. As a CEO, I formed a very successful management team who worked together for 9 years. It is essential that we find and/or develop key people who believe in Archuleta County to help carry out 'goals and objectives'. All of that starts with 'leadership' at the top. As a Commissioner representing the people, I commit to working well with Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Medina. We may not, and should not, always agree but we as a group need to act like adults and move forward as a team.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

I will focus my attention to work well as a team. Relationships with my fellow Commissioners will be important to build. As a team, we can accomplish all of our goals together. A strong working relationship with our new County Administrator will also be a high priority. Finally, and in closing, we have to remember that we are hired by the voters and taxpayers.

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Goals & Accomplishments

SUN staff asked representatives of publicly funded agencies in Archuleta County to individually answer a trio of questions relating to the goals and accomplishments of themselves and their agencies at the turn of the year. Their answers will be printed in The SUN over the coming weeks. Answers are printed as received and are not edited.

Archuleta County

Jack Harper, County manager



What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2024?

As County Manager for Archuleta County, I prefer to not think individually, but rather, what are the collective accomplishments that the County has made in 2024. They are:

1. The outstanding rollout and success of both the Archuleta County Public Health Department, as well as the Water Quality Department. To be able to effectively start two departments from scratch is a tremendous feat, and one that everyone should be proud of! Our Public Health Department, which is led by Ashley Wilson, was able to seek and achieve multiple grants, hire employees, provide training, and be up and running in a very short timeline. The department continues to provide outstanding services, while continuing to find new programs to provide, such as the new SANE program. SANE stands for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Regarding Water Quality, which is led by Kevin Torrez, we have an outstanding group of employees. They have successfully been able to master and apply all the applicable rules and regulations for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems, pools, spas, and area hot springs. They also have a true customer service philosophy and are here to help.

2. Increased Road and Bridge production. Thanks to the leadership of Mike Torres, our Public Works Director and his highly capable team of employees, they were able to do 10.23 miles of new gravel on roads, 2.0 miles of chip seal on non-asphalt roads, 11 miles of chip seal on asphalt roads, 8.8 miles of asphalt recycling, and 2.5 miles of full depth reclamation work this past year. Overall road miles this year increased over last year, with 33.71 miles this year, and 15.0 miles last year.

3. Archuleta County Landfill back in compliance with the State of Colorado. During the proceeding years, the County's landfill has struggled to stay in compliance with the State for various reasons. This past year, however, thanks to the gallant work of the Landfill staff, the County landfill is now fully in compliance and all violations were corrected.

What are your three top goals for 2025?

Just as for accomplishments, I am listing what I believe the collec-

tive goals for 2025 would be. They are:

1. Continue to implement the Archuleta County Strategic Plan. The Board of County Commissioners will be adopting the strategic plan at their January 21st meeting. The strategic planning process so far has been very rewarding. The County received input from more than 650 different residents! We are very excited about the strategic plan, and we resolve to implement it in a successful manner, and to use it as the blueprint for what we do, and how we operate. Currently, departments are working on their goals and objectives for implementing and being able to evaluate the plan. This will be shared with the public as we are currently evaluating several public facing platforms so the residents can see the timeline of goals as we achieve them.

2. Work diligently to have outstanding relationships with our stakeholders. Archuleta County is striving to do better with our relationships. We want to have regular meetings with stakeholders, and potentially even have County liaisons with our stakeholders. Examples of this include the Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta School District, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Pagosa Springs Medical Center, and our various non-profits which do so much for our community. While this list is in no way exhaustive, it is meant to provide an example of what we are striving to do.

3. Continue to move forward with our capital projects, specifically, our buildings. We are excited to see how far along our Mountain Express Transit Center construction project has come! While initially met with delays due to underground infrastructure, and some extra blasting for more rock, we are very excited to see the progress once the building went vertical. If all comes together, we are hoping to open in late Spring. The next capital project will be to continue moving forward with the construction of a new County Administration building. The Board of County Commissioners has selected a site, and we are moving forwards with a Letter of Intent. So, the goal for 2025 is to be able to continue to move forward with this process and complete a purchase and sale agreement, and then to begin preliminary engineering and architectural design work.

What is your action plan to meet your goals?

Our action plan to meet our goals will be for all staff to be aligned with the Board of County Commissioners and their policy and direction for us. We realize that all County employees must work together towards the same common goals. We also realize that for us to be successful, we must work together with our stakeholders as ultimately, we all want what's best for the residents who live and work in Archuleta County, as well as our tourists.

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Pagosa Springs Police Department awarded Persons Who Wander grant

Staff report

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently announced that it has awarded a total of \$89,141 to nine different law enforcement agencies across Colorado, including \$13,678 to the Pagosa Springs Police Department (PSPD).

These Persons Who Wander grants will be used to purchase drones and GPS tracking fobs or watches, which will help to improve search and rescue efforts for individuals who wander.

"The Persons Who Wander grant program is critical in supporting law enforcement agencies in their efforts to keep our communities safe," said Chris Schaefer, director of the CBI. "These grants will provide them with the resources they need to quickly locate missing persons, especially those who may be vulnerable and prone to wandering."

In 2024, CBI issued 63 Senior

Alerts, which was one-third of all alerts issued statewide and more than all the Amber, Medina and Missing Endangered alerts combined.

The PSPD was awarded \$13,678 for a DJI M30T drone.

"Using technology, especially drones, to assist the Pagosa Springs Police Department locate missing persons is an effective and efficient method," PSPD Assistant Chief Brooks Brown wrote in a statement. "Drones can quickly cover large areas and provide real-time aerial views, which enhance search efforts, particularly in challenging or remote terrains. This technological advancement will significantly improve the department's ability to find vulnerable individuals, such as those prone to wandering, and ensure a faster, more coordinated response in critical situations."

The other law enforcement agencies receiving grants include:

- Mesa County Sheriff's Office:

\$17,775 for program literature and AngelSense units (fobs and watches).

- Louisville Police Department: \$10,000 for an annual subscription fee and a drone.

- Prowers County Sheriff's Office: \$10,000 for two Autel EVO II Dual 640T V3 Thermal Drones.

- Cortez Police Department: \$12,265 for drone pilot licenses and two Autel EVO II Dual 640T drones.

- Routt County Sheriff's Office: \$9,000 for a FLIR SIRAS Drone.

- Washington County Sheriff's Office: \$8,000 for a drone pilot certification class and a drone.

- City of Aurora: \$4,534 for AngelSense accessories.

- Elbert County: \$3,889 for a DJI Mavic 3 Pro Fly More Combo.

In 2022, Colorado lawmakers created the Persons Who Wander grant that provides nearly \$90,000 dollars to assist local law enforcement with recovery programs.

Sheriff's office announces Citizen's Academy

Staff report

The Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) recently announced it will hold its Citizen Academy this spring.

The ACSO's mission is to protect and serve the citizens of our county through innovative hard work and community partnership.

The Citizen's Academy is designed to provide an overview of this commitment and have an open dialog with community members.

The academy will start on April 1 and conclude on May 20. The classes will meet on Tuesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. at the ACSO Emergency Operation Command facility located at 777 County Road 600.

After kicking off with an introduction by Sheriff Mike Le Roux and his command staff, the topics presented during the academy will include:

- Statutory obligations of the sheriff.
- Patrol operations.
- Use of force and firearms.
- Animal control.
- Detention operations and programs.
- Courts and extraditions.

- Criminal case investigations/crime scene investigations.

- The Office of Emergency Management.

- Wildland firefighting.
- Search and rescue.
- Dispatch and public records.
- School resource officer.

"We want people to know that the whole point of this is for them to understand what we really do on a daily basis," Deputy Michael Dominguez said, noting that people sometimes have a skewed view of what sheriff's offices do due to things like TV.

It's not all responding to crimes, he explained, adding the ACSO is also part of civil issues, neighborhood projects, is involved with the community, and is a source for education for both kids through its school resource officer and adults.

The academy, he indicated, will also help the community and staff get to know each other as people and to let the community know the sheriff's office is here for them.

"That's the whole point of our existence," he said.

There will also be a special training where students will have the opportunity to experience scenario-

based training using the technology to simulate a law enforcement incident.

The academy's capacity is limited to 15. All applicants must be at least 18 years old and a resident or business owner in Archuleta County. The fee for the academy is \$20, which covers the cost of materials, and lunch served on field day.

The applicant must be 18 years of age. Any incomplete and/or unsigned applications will not be considered and will be disqualified.

Applications must be received by March 24. Seats are limited to 15 individuals; you will be notified by March 27 if you have been selected.

The application can be obtained at the ACSO front desk.

For questions, contact Dominguez at (970) 264-8426 or mdominguez@archuletacounty.org.

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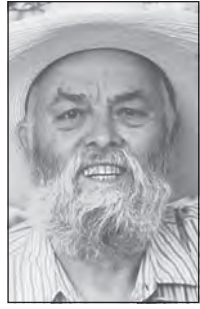
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Obituaries

Joe Bob Leake

In Loving Memory
Joe Bob Leake
Born Oct. 6, 1944
Died Jan. 19,
2025, at the age
of 80



Born in Lubbock, Texas, Joe Bob lived in Pagosa Springs for 49 years.

He's survived by the love of his life, Donna Leake, who he was married to for 61 years; his younger brother, David Leake; his three daughters, Shonda Martinez, Dawn Maez and Nicole Dunham; their spouses; nine grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; various cousins; and countless friends. He was known as Papa to his grandchildren, and his family was his entire well-being, his love and his life.

Pagosa Springs was very special to Joe Bob, and he always felt so blessed and loved by all the friends that he made here. He'll always be remembered for his love of the uniqueness in people and the joy he found through visiting with them. He never met a stranger he couldn't befriend and strike up a conversation with.

A skilled carpenter, Joe Bob built many of the first log cabins and homes in the area back in the 1970s. He was an avid cook, participating in chuckwagon events and competitions for 13 years. Later, he went on to drive school buses for Archuleta School District for another 13 years.

Papa was a regular mountain man and a skilled outdoorsman. He derived much joy from recreating in the mountains and playing in nature. A skilled hunter, Joe Bob could often be found hunting with the bows and arrows he crafted himself, or navigating the backcountry with his two mules.

We have no doubt that he's in a better place, enjoying the mountains in his changed and unhurt form, forever in the arms of his Lord Jesus Christ.

No services are planned.

Linda Kay Schoonover

Linda Kay Schoonover, 71, longtime resident of Pagosa Springs, passed peacefully Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, after a long battle with cancer. A joint come-and-go memorial service for Linda and Bill will be held at the Timber Ridge Clubhouse, 31 Shooting Star Drive, in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on Feb. 22, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon.



Linda was born July 7, 1953, to Verles and Leona Harris Flanagan in Dallas County, Texas. She spent her childhood years in Plainview, Texas, and Albuquerque, N.M., with her older siblings, Wallace, Jo, Gerald, Jackie and Gay Nell. Her sister, Evelyn, passed as a baby. Linda was the seventh child born in the seventh month on the seventh day — a sign that she would be the best kind of daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend — which she was. After high school she moved to Pagosa Springs, where she met the love of her life, William Ray Schoonover. They were married Dec. 20, 1971, and together they raised their children, Mark and Gale. Bill and Linda have three grandsons — Blake, Dillon and Bryan — and

three great-grandchildren.

Linda loved her family fiercely and had a constant presence in the lives of those she cared about. Whether it was offering a listening ear during difficult times or stepping in with practical help when needed, Linda's commitment to her loved ones was evident in every action.

Linda was a skilled teacher's aide who dedicated more than 37 years of her life to nurturing young children, and joyfully served the community through her work from 1984 to 2021. Every teacher fortunate enough to work alongside her can attest to her extraordinary qualities and the genuine joy she brought to the classroom.

Linda was a dedicated fitness enthusiast who embraced a wide range of activities, from Jazzercise and aerobics to yoga, step class and Pilates. Always eager to share her knowledge, she inspired and supported countless others on their own fitness journeys.

Linda was the ultimate giver, not out of obligation, but from a deep, genuine desire to see others happy and well cared for. Her generosity knew no bounds — she gave freely of her time, energy and resources to anyone who needed it. Whether organizing school events, helping a friend with a personal project or just offering a smile to brighten someone's day, Linda's kindness had a ripple effect that touched everyone around her.

In their retirement years, Bill and Linda found immense joy in caring for their sweet great-granddaughter, Moxie. She was the highlight of their days, filling their time with walks, playful activities and precious moments. Together, they embraced the simple joys of being together and surrounded by love of their growing family.

Linda not only loved deeply, but she also lived with a genuine kindness and light that made the world a better place for all who knew her. We will miss her deeply.

Linda is survived by her daughter, Gale Weber (Kenny Young); her grandsons, Blake Weber (Crystal Hess), Dillon Weber (Roma Kreeger) and her great-granddaughter, Moxie Weber; her siblings, Wallace Inge (Becky), Gerald Inge, Jo Andrews, Jackie Hobbs (Allen), Gay Nell Flanagan; grandson Bryan Schoonover; and great-grandchildren Willa Helen and Stanley; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was survived by her beloved husband Bill for less than 24 hours. She was preceded in death by her sister, her parents and stepson Mark Schoonover.

William Ray Schoonover (Bill)

A lifelong resident of Pagosa Springs, William Ray Schoonover (Bill), 75, passed Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025. A joint come-and-go memorial service for Bill and Linda will be held at the Timber Ridge Clubhouse, 31 Shooting Star Drive, in Pagosa Springs, Colo., on Feb. 22, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon.



Bill was born April 14, 1949, to Wayne William and Helen Lucille Schoonover. He grew up alongside his sister, Susan Schoonover, in Pagosa Springs, being ornery and having fun. After high school he met the love of his life, Linda Kay Flanagan. They married Dec. 20, 1971, and together they raised their

children, Mark and Gale. Bill and Linda have three grandsons — Blake, Dillon and Bryan — and three great-grandchildren.

From an early age, Bill had a love of cars. His parents owned a local wrecking yard, and he grew up towing and working on vehicles. He had an amazing talent of restoration and knowledge of classic cars. He worked alongside his parents until they retired in 1978. He then started his own business, Bill's Garage. He dedicated 48 years total to the industry before retiring in 2011.

Bill spent a lifetime in the automotive industry and, even after retirement, he maintained a loyal client base who trusted only him with their cars. He found joy in tinkering and working on projects in his garage, always staying connected to his passion for cars.

In August 1974, Bill completed the emergency medical technician (EMT) training course, building on his commitment to helping others in emergency situations. This training further fueled his passion for serving those in need, a drive that had already been evident in his work assisting individuals who required towing services. His dedication was later recognized with a special award for outstanding service and support to the EMT organization, underscoring his commitment to making a difference in his community.

Bill was an avid fisherman and spent countless hours on the lake, and camped often with friends and family. He found joy in the quiet rhythm of fishing and the camaraderie that came with it.

His love for the outdoors extended beyond fishing; he was also a dedicated gun enthusiast, sharing his knowledge and passion with his grandsons. Above all, Bill was deeply proud of his family. He cherished every moment spent with them.

In their retirement years, Bill and Linda found immense joy in caring for their sweet great-granddaughter, Moxie. She was the highlight of their days, filling their time with walks, playful activities and precious moments. Bill, always eager for adventure, continued to ride his motorcycle daily, savoring the freedom of the open road. Together, they embraced this new chapter.

His sharp sense of humor lives on through his family, who still laugh at the nicknames he gave each of them. Papa had a special way of making everyone feel unique. We will never forget his humor and wisdom.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Gale Weber (Kenny Young); his grandsons, Blake Weber (Crystal Hess), Dillon Weber (Roma Kreeger) and his great-granddaughter, Moxie Weber; his sister, Susan Hugel; grandson Bryan Schoonover; and great-grandchildren, Willa Helen and Stanley. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Helen Schoonover, son Mark Schoonover and his dear wife, Linda.

John Dudley Snider Sr.

Aug. 1, 1942-Jan. 23, 2025
John Dudley Snider Sr., of Pagosa Springs, Colo., passed away on Jan. 23, 2025, at the age of 82. He was born on Aug. 1, 1942, in Des Moines, N.M., the eighth of nine children.



He grew up riding horses and hunting on the Bosque. He graduated from Belen High School in Belen, N.M., in 1960.

John is survived by his devoted wife, Shirley Snider; his daughter, Jill Snider; his son and daughter-in-law, John and Angela Snider; and his cherished grandchildren, Bailey and Jude Snider. He is also survived by his brother, Jerry Snider, of Albuquerque, N.M., and his sister, Hada Templeton of Henderson, Tenn.

John spent most of his life working as a mechanic and had the reputation of being able to fix just about anything. He spent 30 years at La Plata Electric in Pagosa Springs, Colo. His passion was keeping up the small ranch he and his wife Shirley owned in Pagosa Springs,

where they raised longhorn cattle, horses and Aussie puppies.

He was an avid hunter, and his favorite day would be to catch sight of elk or deer in the forest.

As much as he loved to go hunting, he enjoyed the camaraderie of the campfire telling stories and making memories just as much.

John was actively involved in the VFW in Canyon City, Colo. He also spent time helping and volunteering with the Boy Scouts and 4-H. A generation of kids learned about mechanics, animals and swearing under his tutelage.

John will be remembered as an old cowboy with a hearty laugh, a twinkle in his eye and a never-ending supply of tall tales. We like to think he's up there in the high country, riding an old mule, swapping stories and basking in the sunshine.

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life in Pagosa Springs, Colo. in June. Internment will be at Fort Logan Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in his honor to The VFW of Canyon City: VFW Post 4061, 215 N. Cottonwood Drive, Canon City, CO 81212, (719) 275-9886.



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Conservation Helping Hand program open for applications

By Cynthia Purcell
San Juan Conservation District

The San Juan Conservation District and Pine River Conservation District are proud to offer a program, Conservation Helping Hand, to assist landowners with property in the Archuleta County and Pine River areas.

Are you interested in implementing a conservation practice on your property, but need help with the cost? We will be awarding grants to pay for 50 percent of your project, up to \$4,000.

Conservation practices to promote the use of planned grazing

systems, more efficient irrigation systems, and healthy forest restoration that will benefit both livestock and wildlife will be considered.

We will be accepting applications until April 24.

Applications will be reviewed by the elected board members and prioritized based on the targeted resource concern, environmental benefits and cost of implementation.

Funded project applicants will be notified by May 13. All projects must commence by July 1 and be complete by Sept. 26.

Technical assistance will be provided by Natural Resources Con-

servation Service (NRCS), and all approved projects must meet NRCS standards and specifications.

Applications are available at the NRCS Office in Durango (31 Suttle Drive), (970) 259-3289; or Pagosa Springs (505A County Road 600), (970) 731-3615. Please stop by or call for more information.

Obituaries

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

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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Business

December 2024 county unemployment rate drops slightly

By **Garrett Fevinger**
Staff Writer

Archuleta County's unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point in December 2024 to 4.4 percent, according to a report released by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) on Jan. 27.

That figure represents a slight decrease from November 2024's rate of 4.6 percent, according to the report, but an increase from December 2023, when the county's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent.

At 4.4 percent, the county's rate mirrored the state's average — with about 144,400 individuals unemployed across Colorado, according to the CDLE's survey of households from November to December 2024.

The national unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a point to 4.1 percent during the same time period.

In Archuleta County, the labor force numbered 6,655 in December 2024, according to the report — up from 6,622 in November.

A map provided by the CDLE

shows Huerfano County with the highest unemployment rate last month at 7.6 percent, followed by Las Animas County at 6.9 percent, Fremont at 6.6 percent and Rio Grande at 6.1 percent.

Slight decreases in unemployment rates were seen across the southwest region, according to the report, with La Plata County at a rate of 4 percent, Hinsdale County at 3.5 percent, Mineral County at a rate of 5.1 percent and Conejos County at 4.3 percent.

At the state level, "The number of individuals employed in Colorado decreased by 3,300 in December to 3,110,600, which represents 64.9 percent of the state's 16+ population," the release states. "The national employment-population ratio increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 60.0 percent from November to December."

Employers in Colorado gained 300 nonfarm payroll jobs during that same time period for a total of 3,010,000 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private-sector payroll jobs decreased by 800, while government added 1,100 jobs.

Nonfarm payroll jobs measure the number of workers excluding farmers.

According to the CDLE, private-industry sectors with significant job gains over the month were professional and business services with about 1,300 jobs added, as well as manufacturing, which added about 1,100.

In contrast, private-industry sectors with significant over-the-month job losses were found in leisure and hospitality with about 1,300 losses, and financial activities with about 1,200 fewer jobs.

"Since December 2023," the press release states, "nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 48,600, with the private sector growing by 32,600 and government adding 16,000 jobs."

Over the course of the year, the largest private-sector jobs gains were found in:

- Educational and health services at about 12,000;
- Professional and business services at about 7,400;
- Trade, transportation, and utilities at about 5,000;
- Construction at about 4,400; and

• Leisure and hospitality at about 3,600.

During that same period, the press release states, payroll jobs declined in Information with about 3,800 fewer jobs.

The press release notes that Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 1.6 percent, above the U.S. rate of 1.4 percent.

"Over the year, the average work-week for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.3 to 33.6 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$36.94 to \$39.63, three dollars and ninety-four cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$35.69," the report states.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced on Dec. 18, 2024, that it would suspend future releases of the Colorado's unemployment report due to data quality concerns.

While the CDLE notes that it "remains committed to producing high quality data and is working with the BLS to limit disruptions to all future releases," dates for those future releases have yet to be determined.

garrett@pagosasun.com

Chamber board appointments announced

By **Mary Jo Coulehan**
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

After a month-long voting process where all Chamber members were invited to vote for three incoming candidates out of six presented to the membership, the final selection has been announced.

Starting their 2025 board seat, with a term lasting three years, are the following new Chamber board members: Austin Marchand, Cindy Nobles and Rebecca Tenpenny.

We welcome these new directors to the board.

As a quick review, every year the Chamber board rotates off three

members and three new members come on the board. This keeps the makeup of the board fresh with differing personalities and ideas, and rotating between different types of businesses. We appreciate their commitment to a three-year term.

We also want to thank the other nominees who ran for the board: Elizabeth Brewer, Tom Sottek and Christina Gonzales.

We keep these candidates in the "wings" in case there is any transition on the board. Perhaps we can talk a few of these excellent nominees into running again next year.

If you are interested in sitting on the Chamber Board of Directors in the future, please contact Mary Jo,

executive director of the Chamber, for more information.

Gala tickets available

On Friday, Feb. 7, the Chamber will host its annual Gala and Community Awards at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

This is a fun night for the community as we get to network with many of Pagosa's businesses, meet businesses new to our area, enjoy an evening of good food and music, and honor a number of people and organizations in our community who contribute extensively to our town.

Tickets for this event are only \$35 for a full dinner, live music, a silent

auction and the awards. You may also purchase a table for you and your friends. This event is open to the public.

Dinner will be provided, Maxwell Miller will be performing live, and there will be some fun activities to engage you and allow you to enter the drawing for some free prizes, including an annual Chamber membership.

Perhaps you would like to attend and support one of the nominees?

Here are the nominees for this year:

- Small Business of the Year: PS Froyo, Echo IT and Sage.
- Non-profit of the Year: Build Pagosa, Aspen House/Aspen Services and the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs.

Volunteer of the Year: Mary Tighe, and Bill and Nancy Crouse.

Citizen of the Year: Kathleen McFadden, Larry Ash and Dee McPeck.

Two other candidates were nominated for Volunteer of the Year; however, they had already won that award.

Tickets are available online at www.pagosachamber.com or at the door. All of these nominees are deserving of recognition and support as they continue to give back to our lives and community. We hope to see you at this fun and exciting event.

Questions about the Gala can be directed to Anna Derring, membership coordinator, at (970) 264-2360.

LPEA unveils 2025 operational plan

La Plata Electric Association

The La Plata Electric Association Inc. (LPEA) has unveiled its 2025 operational plan, marking the end of a five-year strategic plan and setting the stage for a new one, developed with input from community members and stakeholders.

The updated strategy focuses on securing LPEA's energy future with an emphasis on sustainability, reliability and cooperative growth.

Developed by LPEA leadership, this plan meets the region's evolving energy needs with innovative solutions, highlighting grid resilience, fire mitigation and enhanced community engagement.

"This plan reflects LPEA's commitment to writing our own energy story," said LPEA CEO Chris Hansen. "This is a critical year for our energy transition as we secure all the energy needed for our bridge period. We will focus on reliability and ensuring a smooth transition. LPEA is securing clean energy for our community and creating a model for rural areas to build more sustainable futures."

The 2025 operational plan focuses on four key areas:

- Securing future energy supply: Securing the energy needed for the future by signing contracts and making strategic investments in diversified, dependable sources, while keeping affordability and local partnerships in mind.

- Ensuring reliability and resiliency: Modernizing infrastructure to minimize outages and adapt to evolving energy demands.

- Meeting north star targets: Advancing sustainability through emission reductions, energy efficiency programs, and beneficial electrification integration, while continuing to deliver the reliable, high-quality service expected from the cooperative.

- Advancing cooperative growth: Expanding member programs, fostering local partnerships, and driving economic development.

LPEA is also strengthening its commitment to wildfire prevention by prioritizing proactive mitigation strategies and investing in grid infrastructure upgrades. The cooperative is expanding fire prevention efforts which include risk assessments, creating defensible spaces, strengthening infrastructure and enhancing tree trimming in high-risk areas. The new clearing schedule along power lines and the use of advanced grid mapping tools and drones will further improve fire safety.

"Our role in wildfire prevention is critical, and as part of our 2025 operational plan, we are taking bold steps to protect our communities and infrastructure," Hansen stated. "By expanding our fire-mitigation efforts and using advanced tools like drones, we are making significant strides in reducing risks. This shared responsibility, together with our members and community partners, will save lives and property and safeguard our future."

A key component of the 2025 operational plan is expanded member collaboration and engagement. LPEA is committed to offering more oppor-

tunities for members to be involved in shaping the cooperative's future.

LPEA will host town hall meetings, listening sessions, surveys, member forums, the annual meeting and monthly board meetings to gather input from members.

Hansen also invites members to join him for informal "Coffee with Chris" sessions:

- Feb. 20, 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Pine River Library in Bayfield.
- Feb. 25, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Smiley Cafe in Durango.
- March 27, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Rise and Shine in Ignacio.
- April 8, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Root House in Pagosa Springs

By working closely with its members, LPEA aims to foster a stronger, more engaged community that drives the cooperative's growth and success.

Hansen will also provide monthly updates on the 2025 plan during LPEA Board of Directors meetings.

To read the full operational plan, visit lpea.coop.

About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta counties, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties.

LPEA is the fifth-largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members.

For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.

Health service district board sets 2025 meeting dates

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

On Jan. 21, the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), approved the district's annual resolution outlining its meeting dates, location and posting place for 2025.

The designations are required annually under state law.

According to the resolution, meeting notices will continue to be posted on the district's website, www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org, at least 24 hours prior to meetings.

Additionally, the resolution explains the district "must retain one physical location within the District boundaries designated for posting notice no less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting if the District is unable to post a notice online in the exigent or emergency circumstances, such as a power-outage or an interruption in internet service, that prevents the public from accessing the notice online."

That physical posting place, per the resolution, is at PSMC, located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.

The resolution also outlines the board's 2025 meeting schedule, with

the board's meetings taking place at PSMC.

The board typically meets at 5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exceptions of January, September, October, November and December in 2025.

The board's remaining 2025 meetings are Feb. 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Oct. 9, Oct. 28, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16.

Questions concerning meetings, the resolution notes, should be directed to the clerk of the board, Antoinette Martinez, at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd., (970) 731-3700.

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The project budget is up to \$15,000, and the submission deadline for Round 1 is March 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM (MT). To apply, visit <https://mypagosa.org/2025-call-for-artists>.

For questions, email agadomski@pagosasprings.co.gov.

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Housing

Continued from front

proved changes to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) deed restriction in place for the housing project.

Prior to the BoCC meeting, the PSCDC held a regular meeting on Jan. 15, at which Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke briefed the board of directors on the changes needing to be made to the USDA deed restriction.

“So, the USDA came back and [there’s] an issue with our deed restriction to where we capped the maximum amount that they could sell the house for,” Lashbrooke said, explaining that USDA loans normally pay market value on properties and carry a “silent second” amount that the buyer cannot afford to pay, “so they just have this main principal that is paid until house is sold” and then the silent second amount gets

paid back.

“We’re selling this house ... below market rate, like by a lot,” Lashbrooke added, noting the USDA wants to be able to sell the home at market rate.

She indicated that the PSCDC is currently trying to close on a home with a buyer using a USDA loan and that the buyer is at risk of losing the funds if the home cannot be closed on before Feb. 10.

Lashbrooke mentioned to the BoCC and the PSCDC board of directors that the deed restrictions needed to be modified before then in order to not lose the sale of one of its homes.

“I do have to modify the deed restriction,” Lashbrooke said during the Jan. 15 PSCDC meeting, adding that the USDA now “understands they’re getting this discounted house,” and therefore not putting a silent second amount on her finance

package.

Lashbrooke then briefed the BoCC on the matter during a work session the morning of Jan. 21.

“They kicked back our Archuleta County phase one deed restriction because there’s a couple rules that they had that we weren’t aware of,” she said.

County Attorney Todd Weaver mentioned the changes “weren’t significant.”

Lashbrooke noted one of the “biggest” changes is that the USDA does not want to have any responsibility to notify the county if a home goes into foreclosure, with that responsibility falling on the homeowner.

“The homeowner will sign this deed restriction understanding that,” she said, explaining that the county would receive written notice within 45 days of the home going

into foreclosure, noting the county would have the option to purchase the home.

Lashbrooke went on to mention another change in the “Rights of Mortgagees and Other Lien Holders” section of the deed restriction that initially stated if the home goes into foreclosure the banking institute that becomes the owner of the property will “make their best effort to keep the integrity of the deed restriction intact.”

There is no mechanism to do that, she noted.

Lashbrooke explained that the new paragraph states that it protects the USDA’s interest in the loan product.

“This is done on every Habitat for Humanity loan agreement and deed restriction,” Lashbrooke said.

According to the deed restriction attached to the Jan. 21 BoCC meeting agenda, the new paragraph states, “In the event of foreclosure or acceptance of deed in lieu of the first holder of the deed of trust on such property or unit; holder of such deed of trust acquires property through foreclosure or acceptance of deed in lieu, all restrictions pertaining to new purchaser (income limits, ownership, leasing, equity, resale etc) will be released.”

Fair Housing Act change

Lashbrooke then indicated to the BoCC that she would be approaching the board in February in regard to another change on the master deed restriction involving a Fair Housing Act violation.

She explained that it is a violation of the Fair Housing Act to require someone to work within Archuleta County.

“So, we’re going to have to remove that,” Lashbrooke said.

Weaver commented that the issue “really didn’t cross any of our minds” in that if the person is on disability and can’t work, then it is discriminatory.

He noted that someone drawing disability income can use that as qualifying income to apply for a home.

During its meeting on Jan. 15, the PSCDC board discussed the change needed on the master deed restriction involving the Fair Housing Act violation of requiring someone to work in Archuleta County.

Lashbrooke explained that she had been in contact with the Department of Housing in addressing the issue.

“They uncovered that requiring the individual to work in Archuleta County eliminates handicapped or elderly from being able to purchase these houses,” she said, adding, “my argument was, this is workforce housing, we’ve defined that from the very beginning.”

Lashbrooke mentioned that the requirement will have to be taken out and is a direct violation of the Fair Housing Act, adding, “We have to. We have no way around that.”

PSCDC board treasurer Chelle Keplinger commented, “So, we could sell these to people that ... have no

intentions of working here.”

Lashbrooke mentioned that the deed could be changed to say that it is a requirement to live in Archuleta County beforehand, which was pushed back by board president Sherry Waner, who expressed that businesses may be trying to bring employees in from outside of the county.

Board member Rosanna Dufour mentioned that the violation wasn’t “caught” by the consultant PSCDC hired to assist drafting the deed restrictions.

“Like nobody caught this,” Lashbrooke added.

The issue of the homes being built to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements was then discussed, with Lashbrooke explaining the 10 homes already built or currently being built have ADA-compliant front doors and hallways that make the homes “accessible” for persons in a wheelchair.

She noted that it is not a requirement to have the homes built ADA-compliant, mentioning that a home can be retrofitted to accommodate a person with a disability who is a qualified buyer.

Lashbrooke also noted that the amount of retrofitting needed to a home would also depend on the disability, noting the plan is to keep building homes with ADA-compliant front doors and hallways.

Keplinger noted that the PSCDC would be “happy to retrofit the house.”

Lashbrooke noted that the wording in the deed restrictions could potentially stay the same, with the addition of a clause that states “unless you are unable to work because of disability” or are retired.

Town council update

At the Jan. 21 town council meeting, Lashbrooke gave an update on the project.

Over the past year, the PSCDC partnered with BWD Construction to build 10 homes that are now available for ownership for those within the designated AMI level, Lashbrooke said.

“All 10 homes will have a [certificate of occupancy] by the end of January,” Lashbrooke told the town council, adding that two of the homes are under contract and that she is working with four other potential homebuyers on finalizing contracts.

For the remaining four homes, Lashbrooke explained that she’s beginning “a full-court press” on marketing to get the word out about these available homes.

The three-bedroom abodes range in price from \$389,000 to \$394,000, and the smaller homes, “just a hair under 1,000 square feet,” are listed at \$320,000, she said.

She added, “They are very nice homes. They’re pretty. And I think people will be proud to live in them.”

To help make this project “pencil,” the PSCDC has relied on various grants, such as Stronger Communities, More Housing Now and Local Capacity grants, as well as land donations from the county and fee waivers from the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, she explained.

The Stronger Communities Grant will go toward finalizing a housing assessment survey, expecting to be finished by the end of February, a slide show shared by Lashbrooke at the meeting states.

She also explained that the Local Capacity Grant funded the hiring of Jeff Sams as the multijurisdictional housing coordinator.

When opened to questions from the council, which is involved in a workforce housing initiative of its own, Mayor Shari Pierce asked Lashbrooke to describe “some of the biggest challenges that you might give us advice about as we’re moving forward.”

Lashbrooke noted that the biggest challenge was “dealing with the Department of Housing, and dealing with the grant funding that it took to make the project happen.”

She said that “the rules changed four times while we were in the middle of a contract. That is very challenging.”

She added, “Even last week, they sent my deed restriction back, which they had approved in September, so now I have to bring it back to the county commissioners to take one line out that says you’re required to work in Archuleta County.”

“That has been the biggest challenge and it almost made me want to quit my job, but I’m not a quitter,” she said.

She also mentioned “funding” as a big challenge and suggested planning on having enough funding “for things that you didn’t see coming.”

Pierce asked, “How many grants did you guys pull together to be able to build 10 homes?”

Lashbrooke replied that the total amount of grants that the PSCDC received was about \$2.2 million from five separate grants.

Pierce thanked Lashbrooke “for sharing that insight.”

“It will be helpful to us as we move forward with our project,” she said.

School

Continued from front

ing the elementary, middle and high schools.

“In the next four months we really need to learn a lot and really make some recommendations that the school board can consider for next options,” MPAC chair Lisa Scott said.

The committee began that process Monday by hearing reports and examining survey data describing the condition of the district’s schools, which were evaluated and scored by RTA Architects, a Colorado Springs-based firm hired to help facilitate ASD’s master planning process.

“You are going to tell me and us what will be the best way to move forward,” said ASD Superintendent Rick Holt, who summarized some of the questions facing the room: should the school district continue to maintain its existing properties and, if so, which ones, and at what price?

“Should we take a right and continue the way we have, or should we take a left and invest in schools?” Holt asked.

According to 166 survey responses collected at community meetings held last fall, Holt reported the feedback so far has directed the district to “invest in schools.”

But with more than 14,000 people living in Archuleta County, the relatively small sample of response was indicative of what Holt called the “challenge that we all have about getting the word out and making sure that everyone has accurate information in their hand.”

He noted, “It’s going to be a challenge for us to do that.”

Preliminary findings

In draft data sets projected inside the middle school library, Pagosa Springs Elementary School and the middle school buildings both received failing grades when evaluated for what RTA calls “educational adequacy.”

Helping define that term are more than 200 different metrics, which RTA later compiled to arrive at a measure of the buildings’ educational functionality and efficiency.

Using RTA’s point scoring system, the elementary scored 463 points out of a possible 840, essentially failing in areas that evaluated property boundaries and traffic flow, outdoor spaces and amenities, classrooms and team areas, as well as in safety and security.

Scored in many of the same areas, PSMS also performed poorly, earning 511 points out of a possible 924. RTA scored the school’s property boundaries and traffic flow, as well as its outdoor spaces and amenities, especially low, reporting those areas as functioning at 34 and 48 percent of optimal adequacy.

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) outperformed both the elementary and middle schools in RTA’s assessment, scoring 694 points out of a possible 944, earning a “C” average across the metrics.

RTA found PSHS could improve its signage, accessibility and furniture, and pointed to the school’s lack of an

auxiliary gym for sports practices and physical education.

There are about \$29 million worth of “urgent needs” among the three schools, according to RTA, with about \$19.6 million worth of those found in the elementary school.

RTA defines an urgent need as any item that “has failed or will fail within the next year or is not in code compliance.”

Those data points align with the collected survey responses, according to ASD and RTA.

“We asked how urgently [respondents] felt like issues at each of the schools should be addressed,” RTA’s Brian Calhoun said of the survey. “You can see very quickly that all the issues that we identified at the elementary school, respondents felt like they should be urgently addressed.”

Using the same scoring method, there are about \$35.6 million worth of “important needs” RTA identified among the structures — \$13.1 million at the elementary school, \$17.7 million at PSMS and \$4 million at PSHS.

RTA added up about \$15.4 million in “necessary improvements” (indicating an item “has failed or is serviceable, but does not affect student achievement”) and another \$8.3 million for “beneficial and long term improvements,” meaning items that require “attention in a longterm approach.”

Changing families

School demographer Shannon Bingham framed some of the complexities facing the MPAC as it begins to chart a course through the data presented.

“There’s a lot of things changing in the world of families and parents nationally that are affecting communities all over the western U.S.,” said Bingham, a longtime demographer practicing in the state. “One of the things that haven’t changed very much in this community are its school buildings.”

In his presentation, Bingham referred to the general area encompassing ASD as a resort community, with the three largest population cohorts belonging to residents between the ages of 60 and 74 years old.

Following the seniors, residents between the ages of 30 and 49 made up the next largest cohort, followed next by school-aged children between the ages of 5 and 19.

The preschool cohort was among the smallest across all age groups from under 5 to 85 years and older.

Those numbers, along with dramatic declines in birthrates for the past five years, lead Bingham to suggest that Archuleta County’s school-age population could remain relatively stable for the foreseeable future with one important caveat — affordability.

“That is one of the prime determinants of how many school-age children we should expect,” Bingham said.

He continued, “This community has always done an incredibly good job of maintaining its affordability.

Affordability is part of the vocabulary of all the planners that affect this community.”

And while that fluency has “helped us hang on to having a certain amount of children in the community,” according to Bingham’s count, “in general we have lost kids,” he said. “If we don’t continue to build affordable housing, we will continue to lose kids.”

Bingham pointed to new housing developments currently under construction in the area that are being built with low- and moderate-income households in mind, calling them a hopeful sign of future enrollment stability.

Those developments have the potential to “backfill the losses that we will experience from this generational change, and hopefully hold the enrollment levels of most of our schools about at what it is now,” Bingham said.

Next steps

Throughout Monday’s presentations, members of the MPAC and others in the audience appeared eager to support what ASD and its partners assured the group is not a foregone conclusion.

“We don’t have a predetermined solution at this point. We don’t have a predetermined timeline of when things are going to occur,” RTA’s Doug Abernathy said. “We really need your feedback as a community in order to drive this direction.”

That feedback began arriving almost immediately, with MPAC members and others in attendance questioning the district about potential costs to replace certain buildings and wondering how to navigate a sense of “campaign fatigue” lingering over the community.

“What I care about is quality of the teachers,” Leonard Martinez said. “If our facilities are preventing the high-quality teachers that we’ve had in Pagosa ... then we’re failing our kids in that way.”

Jeff Fuller, a “recovering superintendent” from Arizona, agreed, and asked how addressing the school buildings might impact the community’s future.

“I’m looking at the future of the community and what’s good for kids,” Fuller said. “That’s the whole future of our society. What are we doing for them? And is this it?”

Those questions and more will all be explored over the next four months as the committee parses RTA’s data and hears from the larger ASD community, according to Scott.

“We’re going to talk about school funding, bond capacity, our academic performance” and more, Scott said.

She added the MPAC will aim to formalize its recommendation to the ASD Board of Education by May, with additional MPAC meetings scheduled for February, March and April.

“All of that will take us to cost and what this is going to look like,” she said.

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Election

Continued from front

an increased number of positions on the ballot.

How the election will be held has not yet been determined.

“USJHSD will hold either a polling place election or a mail-in ballot election, as will be subsequently determined by USJHSD subject to compliance with all applicable laws then in effect. Such election will be held by USJHSD and does not have to be a coordinated election with the counties where the district is located,” the resolution explains.

If the only matter on the ballot is the election of directors and if, at the close of business on March 3 there are not more candidates than positions open,

the election will be canceled and the candidates will be declared elected on March 4, according to the resolution.

How to run

Self-nomination and acceptance forms are available in person from Designated Election Official (DEO) Antoinette Martinez the DEO or by sending an email request to DEO@PSMedicalCenter.org.

All candidates must file a completed Self-Nomination and Acceptance form with the DEO, with the completed form due by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Completed forms can be filed with Martinez either by emailing the completed form to DEO@PSMedicalCenter.org; by mailing the completed form

attention to the DEO at Pagosa Springs Medical Center, 95 S. Pagosa Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or by delivering the completed form to Martinez in person during office hours.

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Education

October count shows slight decreases in student enrollment across state

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

Data released by the Colorado Department of Education on Jan. 15 shows slight declines in the state's student enrollment count, with a 0.1 percent decrease reflected in pre-kindergarten through high school grades since 2023.

The October 2024 count, which the state uses to determine how much money each school district receives, showed 881,065 students enrolled in Colorado schools — a figure Education Commissioner Susana Córdova called reflective of “ongoing demographic shifts across the country, including in Colorado.”

Slight declines were observed in Archuleta School District (ASD), as well.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School had 511 students enrolled as of October 2024, or three students less than the year prior. Pagosa Springs Middle School counted 484 students, down from 489, and Pagosa Springs High School had 435 — 15 less than it did in the last count.

San Juan Mountain School saw enrollment increase by two students to 47, as did Pagosa Peak Open School, which counted 111 students — an increase of five from the year before.

Across Colorado, the highest enrollment increases were for Hispanic students, according to the state's re-

port, with 8,722 more students than the prior year.

“The increase mirrors the State of Colorado's larger demographic trends,” the report states, “which also show steady growth in the state's Hispanic population over the last two decades.”

Revised budget

Despite slight dips in local enrollment, ASD Finance Director Eric Burt reported during the district's revised budget hearing Tuesday, Jan. 28, that the district's total program funding increased, albeit slightly, by 0.35 percent to \$18,990,331.

“When we originally presented [the budget] we were looking at a 90-10 split between local and state,” Burt said during a preview of the budget at the ASD Board of Education meeting on Jan. 14. “We're now at 80-20.”

He added that the split is partly informed by local property values.

“Is that a readjustment, long-term, for the state?” board member Tim Taylor questioned.

“Just for this school year,” Burt replied. “Beginning of next month, we'll start talking about the '25-'26 budget and, as we look at those numbers, we'll make our best assumptions on where we think valuations will be for the coming year,” he said, before adding, “I think our initial assumptions will ... stay fairly much in line with where we're at right now.”

According to the revised budget

approved Tuesday, the total local share of the district's funding is \$15,286,751. The state's share is \$3,703,577.

The projected total revenue of all district funds is \$23,763,666.

“We were happy to see that there were no big swings in this one,” Burt said Tuesday. “We were able to keep it within very close distance to where we were in the adopted budget.”

ASD Superintendent Rick Holt praised Burt's calculations during the meeting, saying, “That kind of estimation, that far out, given the budget climate, and to hit it that close, is an impressive feat.”

Holt also reported to the board that recent executive orders issued by President Donald Trump freezing federal funding channels were not likely to impact the local school district, at least immediately.

“We've gotten some feedback from the state basically saying, ‘Hang in there, we don't think it will impact schools directly too much,’” said Holt.

He also noted the late hold placed on those executive orders by a federal court judge.

“[It's] going to take some time to work through that,” Holt said. “We're aware of what's going on. We're working with the department [of education] and working with our federal agencies to kind of navigate that. But, right now ... there doesn't seem to be any cut to direct funding that we would notice.”

garrett@pagosasun.com

Pagosa Springs Middle School releases second-quarter honor roll

By Anjelica Gallegos
Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter.

The following fifth-grade students made the honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Steele Forrest, Ivy Fort, Juniper Hertzke, Elliott Hickey, Joselyn Hirschberg, Kaden Karas, Xane Laursen, Ziva Logacz, Sadie Matyniak, Kenzie Miller, Zaen Mitchell, Jeri Moeller, Tanner Mote, Penelope Peck, Evan Pond, Jariah Portnell, London Rafferty, Sierra Rich, Bianca Rivera, Paige Rogacki, Eleanor Samu, Grant Saylor, Daphnie Skinner, David Smith, Kai Smith, Aria Taylor, Elise Tlachac and Kensington Wallace.

The following fifth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Louis Carroll, Rafe Halterman, Beatrice Iverson, Jachin Kossler and Jaxen Nielsen.

The following sixth-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Jacob Adams, Brooke Anderson, Ariah Archuleta, Grant Bliss, Hazel Blue, Kiley Braun, Taylor Cole, Mayley Evans, Dekklyn Fiorenza, Seamus Flanagan, Chauncey Forster, Savannah Graves, Molly

Hart, Russell Hudler, Cora Jackson, Kainoa Landry, Colle Looper, Sebastian Lujan-Parra, Dylan Luna, Kai Mathews-Davey, Ashlynn Mathis, Delilah Powell, Hannah Richards, Ana Romero-Gallegos, Rystle Ross, Samuel Sanchez, Tyson Sewell, Damien Turk, Lilyan Vega, Maheyla Witting and Kadence Zander.

The following sixth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Wynnona Buchner, Wyatt Buck, Naomi Gutierrez, Merick Halterman, Tia Henson, Sage Merrill-Exton, Kiara Patel and Nova Wilson.

The following seventh-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Camellia Bellina, Carlie Bridges, Zander Campbell, Callie Carothers, Kyleah Coss, Keyonah Daniels-Wesley, Shiloh Degelman, Miles Dempster, Olivia Diffey, Gavino Dozal-Navarez, Jacob Freeman, Kayleen Gonzalez, Kadence Inez, Cooper Laner, Mia Lucero, Derek Mendez-Cordova, Lucy Modern, Tuff Terrazas and Colten Ulibarri.

The following seventh-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Elias Becker Sweeden, Adam Candelaria, Elijah Hanto, Lillian Jones, Avitt Lee-Shaw, Edu-

ardo Marinelarena, Karlie Rose, Asher Smith, Livia Souza, Trent Tator, Harlee Taylor, Micah Tyler, Jaycee Wallace, Michael Wells and Francis Witting.

The following eighth-grade students made honor roll with 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Nathalia Arvizo, Rylan Ash, Brooklyn Baillio, Marcela Barnas, Charlie Barraza-Haymaker, Brailon Bowman, Bentley Briscoe, Treyson Cotts, Samson Dennis, Lily Gallegos, Ward Halterman, Derek Johnson, Elijah Julian, Analisa Kap-pauf, Elisa King, Delaney Kirkham, Bruce Kubelka, Logan Lamoreaux, Shawntee Largo, Whiley Lucero, Ahrianna Martinez, Brody Martinez, Kelsey Matyniak, Remington Mitchell, Jimena Moreno-Echavarria, James Morgan, Desmond Murphy, Jack Parker, Bella Pastolese, Dylan Rivera, Lily Rogacki, Izabella Scarpinato, Rylan Soden, Zyan Souza, Mason Sowerby, Wayde Sutherland, Ashton Tully, Peyton Vanatta and Riley Ward.

The following eighth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Drake Anderson, Laila Arieta, Abigail Barreraz, Avery Book, Kylie Coleman, Jayce Davidson, Olivia Fladwood, Alexander Forster, Corrina Galabota, Cole Hancey, Christian Henson, Quinn Howard, Raleigh Iverson, Ember Liverett, Brynn Looper, Juliana Ortiz, Arya Patel, Lily Peck, Valeria Pereyra, Laken Pitcher, Alan Renteria, Evelyn Rohwer, Sofia Souza, Kailey Vincent and Avery White.

Be Mine SALE
February 8th, 10am-3pm
Join us for our annual shrimp + champagne 'Be Mine Sale'

Special Guest
Leigha Cleveland
Michael Silberhorn (live music)

20% off SALE before event
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On The Wing camp scholarship offered for teens

By Jean Zirnhelt
Weminuche Audubon Society

The Weminuche Audubon Society is offering an incredible opportunity for an area student between the ages of 15 and 17 to attend a weeklong camp this June. If you have an interest in birds and exploring nature in beautiful surroundings, this is the camp for you.

On The Wing Camp, offered since 1993 by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, is based at the Cal-Wood Education Center outside Jamestown, Colo., near Boulder. Cal-Wood offers a remote and beautiful mountain setting on 1,200 acres of land.

A new adventure awaits each day when campers explore the birdlife in ecosystems from the grasslands, lakeside, aspen groves and foothills to mountain areas within Rocky Mountain National Park. Meet new friends from across the country with similar interests. With the small number of campers in the program and friendly, knowledgeable staff, the camp is designed to make your experience a blast from beginning to end.

Exciting guest speakers, hiking, birding, fishing and all-camp evening games are just part of the fun. Campers have the opportunity to

work in small groups to experience the science behind bird conservation by learning from professionals the techniques used, and assist in designing a research project tailored to individual camper interests.

The camp in 2025 takes place June 19-27. Detailed information on the camp may be found on the website birdconservancy.org.

To apply for the scholarship, students should submit an essay of 400-600 words describing his or her experiences in the outdoors and reasons for wishing to attend the camp, along with a letter of recommendation from an adult who is not a relative. Proof of health insurance is required by the camp. Submissions must be received by the Weminuche Audubon Society by March 1 and may be sent by email to weminuche.audubon@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 1087, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

The scholarship, which pays camp expenses, is awarded thanks to the generosity of Joan Ward, who has funded the scholarship since 2015. Only through this support is our chapter able to offer this opportunity. The scholarship fund was established in memory of Michael Ward, former chapter board member and supporter, and is named in his honor.



BJ Jones and Lars Schneider, owners, have spent a combined total of over 45 years in Pagosa Springs.

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The Blotter

Items listed in The Blotter report where an alleged incident occurred and the nature of the incident. Readers should not assume employees or owners of a place of business or a parking lot reported as the scene of an event are involved as perpetrators of the incident.

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office
Dec. 30 — Theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000-other (includes gas), County Road 600.

Dec. 30 — Unlawful to possess 4 gm> Schedule 1 and 2 ketamine or flunitrazepam, violation of protection order-criminal, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, U.S. 160.

Dec. 30 — Theft-\$300 to \$750 other (includes gas), third-degree criminal trespass, Dyke Boulevard/Indian Land Road/West U.S. 160.

Dec. 31 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Paradise Drive/South 7th Street.

Dec. 31 — Warrant arrest, Indian Land Road.

Dec. 31 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Paradise Drive, South 7th Street.

Dec. 31 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule II, IV or V, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, driving under the influence of drugs (all other), County Road 600.

Dec. 31 — Violation of protection order-criminal, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, careless driving, eluding a police officer, Navajo Trail Drive.

Jan. 1 — Second-degree assault-aggravated-family-strongarm, criminal mischief-\$1,000 to \$2,000 private, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, obstruction of telephone or telegraph service, Sam Houston Avenue/Arrowhead Drive.

Jan. 1 — Criminal attempt to commit, second-degree assault-aggravated-police officer-strongarm, violation of protection order-criminal, obstructing governmental operations, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, West U.S. 160, South Pagosa Boulevard.

Jan. 1 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.
Jan. 1 — Warrant arrest, Lemon Court.

Jan. 2 — Death investigation, Pike Drive.
Jan. 2 — Information only, Colo. 151.

Jan. 2 — Vicious dog with injury-bodily injury to domestic animal, Talisman Drive/San Juan Drive.

Jan. 3 — Information only, Oak Drive.

Jan. 3 — Disorderly conduct-petty, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Oak Drive.

Jan. 3 — Domestic violence, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, Crooked Road.
Jan. 4 — Death investigation, Coun-

ty Road 500.

Jan. 4 — Domestic violence, violation of protection order, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, County Road 975.

Jan. 5 — Possession of a controlled substance-Schedule III, IV or V, unlawful use of a controlled substance, violation of a protection order-criminal, drove motor vehicle off-highway when license under restraint, Lake Street.

Jan. 5 — Information only, County Road 988.

Jan. 5 — Agency assist, South 9th Street, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 6 — Information only, East Stollsteimer Road.

Jan. 7 — Menacing-misdemeanor, violation of protection order-criminal, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, Backswing Drive.

Jan. 7 — Warrant arrest, Trails Boulevard.

Jan. 7 — Driving under restraint, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, Trails Boulevard.

Jan. 7 — Trespass warning, Bastille Drive.

Jan. 8 — Information only, Canyon Circle.
Jan. 8 — Felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges, County Road 983.

Jan. 8 — Possession of a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia-possession, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, tail lamp violation, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 9 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.
Jan. 9 — Lost and found, Fairfield Drive.

Jan. 10 — Information only, Bobcat Lane/Navajo Place/North 8th Street.

Jan. 11 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Jan. 11 — Complicity in crime, second-degree assault-aggravated-nonfamily-strangulation, Prickly Pear Court.

Jan. 12 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Harman Park Drive, U.S. 160.

Jan. 12 — Trespass warning, Seminole Drive.

Jan. 12 — Information only, San Juan Street.

Jan. 12 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70-third-degree assault, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, harassment, Canyon Circle.

Jan. 12 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, East Golf Place.

Jan. 12 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, Edinburgh Circle.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

No report.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court:
Judge Anthony D. Edwards
No report.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Jan. 9 — Timothy Frederick Gaul, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Jan. 10 — Shannon Scofield, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Jan. 13 — Joshua J. Rivera, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Jan. 14 — Brittany Anna Kerns, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.

Jan. 14 — Samuel Smith Weil, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 14 — Kira Lynn Fulton, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 14 — Steven Michael Moody, license plates-expired, license plate tabs-unlawful display, fines and costs — \$142.50.

Jan. 14 — Zachary E. Winters, headlamps-failure to display, fines and costs — \$60.50.

Jan. 14 — Paul Andrew Bolin, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 14 — Stephanie R. Brock, speeding 20-24 over limit, fines and costs — \$291.50.

Jan. 15 — Kellin Micheal Vagneur, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Jan. 15 — Tara Roth, violation p/o-criminal, fines and costs — \$199.50.

Jan. 15 — Jolena Antonio, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 15 — Aubrey Paige Adoir, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 15 — Leland Roy Barmes IV, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$107.50.

Jan. 15 — Jade Naskell Childs, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 15 — Diane Jeanette Copeland, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Jan. 15 — Jacquelin D. Davis, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Jan. 15 — Jason Decker, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Jan. 15 — Justin R. Dowsett, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 15 — Ethan Gatske, driving under restraint, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$271.50.

Jan. 15 — Jorge Orlando Gonzalez Avila, weaving from traffic lane, fines and costs — \$170.

Jan. 15 — Robyn M. Griffin, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Jan. 15 — Darek C. Hammer, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$162.50.

Jan. 15 — Alexander I. Jamsa, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Jan. 15 — Austin G. Keller, drove a defective vehicle, fines and costs — \$120.

Jan. 15 — La Tarah R. Rivera, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Jan. 15 — Marti Mari Leighton, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 15 — Jesse Lewis, passed when prohibited, fines and costs — \$170.

Jan. 15 — Andrea Marie Michel, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Jan. 15 — Stanley P. Olson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Jan. 15 — Emma Anne Rice, driver's license-instruction permit violation, fines and costs — \$142.50.

Jan. 15 — Rosa Maria Romero, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Jan. 15 — Salvador Sanchez Acosta, speeding 10-19 over limit, license plate tabs-unlawful display, driving under restraint, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$165.50.

Jan. 15 — Benito Sanchez Lepe, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Jan. 15 — Gavin Taylor, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Jan. 15 — Cameron C. Tofoya, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Jan. 15 — Trenton A. Webster, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.

Jan. 15 — Roderick Howell Winborne, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Jan. 15 — Christopher Claydio Valdez, speeding 10-19 over, fines and

costs — \$190.

Jan. 15 — Joseph Paul Lussi, failure to stop/yield right of way, fines and costs — \$105.

Jan. 15 — Brandon E. Thrailkill, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$84.50.

Jan. 15 — Shaun A. Jackson, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$142.50.

Jan. 15 — Kiana A. Johnson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 15 — Antonio Herrera, license plates-unlawful display, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$164.50.

Jan. 15 — Dianne Marie Craig, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 15 — Magdalena Pina-Medina, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.

Jan. 15 — George J. Sefzik, speeding 10-19 over limit, alcohol-under 21-possess/consumption, fines and costs — \$260.50.

Jan. 15 — Oystyn R. Blanchard, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 15 — Tammie Rochelle Contreras, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$120.50.

Jan. 15 — Timothy M. McGinnis, reckless driving, fines and costs — \$276.50.

Jan. 15 — Deavon Marybeth Rodriguez Bowman, driving under the influence, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$720.50.

Jan. 15 — Gary Kay Morann Jr., criminal mischief-under \$300, 12 months probation, fines and costs

— \$734.

Jan. 15 — Austin Jefford Jones, driving under the influence-with prior conviction, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 10 days jail, 24 months probation, 48 hours community service, fines and costs — \$2,071.50.

Jan. 15 — Cody John Kiss, driving under the influence, 48 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$720.50.

Jan. 15 — Amanda Theresa Pearcy, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 15 — Phillip Jones, driving under the influence, 24 hours community service, 10 days electronic surveillance, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$720.50.

Jan. 15 — Liovaldo Holguin Aranda, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Jan. 15 — Luke Thompson, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 15 — Alexander Martin Seyer, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Jan. 15 — Farmer Rahul, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$127.50.

Jan. 21 — Amber R. Merfeld, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$98.50.

Jan. 21 — Grzegorz Gorgon, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

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

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson

Jan. 21 — Glen Canyon Lee Hunt, murder 2, 18 years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.

Booster Club to hold silent basket auction

By Aubrie Lingsbrook
Pagosa Springs High School Athletic Booster Club

The Pagosa Springs High School Athletic Booster Club will be hosting a silent basket auction on Friday, Feb.

7, during the home basketball games against Monte Vista.

The auction will begin at 4 p.m. in the high school commons and run until halftime of the boys' varsity game. Each sport from the high school puts together a creative,

unique, and fun themed basket for everyone to bid on.

All proceeds from the baskets go to that sport for possible purchase of uniforms, equipment and specific needs of the team. Come by to check it out and catch some great basketball games too.

Ethics

Continued from front exhibits, spans 24 pages.

In part of the motion, Gleason summarizes the June 17 ethics complaint filed by Ashley Springer against Medina — a licensed real estate agent — for allegedly failing to recuse herself and disclose potential conflicts of interest during Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners discussions around land purchases.

"[Medina] disclosed her association with Exit Realty and Ranch to the other commissioners publicly," the motion states. "She had nothing to do with the listing of the Highway

160 property and would receive no financial benefit had the property been selected."

It continues, "Furthermore, the county does not pay any realtor fees. Respondent also sought guidance from the County Attorney and was advised that the fact she was a realtor did not create a conflict sufficient for recusal."

The motion also quotes Colorado Revised Statute 18-8-308, defining potential conflicting interests as existing "when the public servant is a director, president, general manager, or similar executive officer or owns or controls directly or indirectly a

substantial interest in any nongovernmental entity participating in the transaction."

"The Respondent denies that she has violated any Colorado statute," the motion states, and calls Springer's allegations "mere labels and conclusions" and "rumor" that "are not entitled to the assumption of truth."

A copy of the motion was also sent to Springer, according to Gleason, who also notes that Medina fully participated in its drafting.

The IEC typically convenes monthly.
garrett@pagosasun.com

Public Meetings

The following meetings are subject to change.

Thursday, Jan. 30

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.

Monday, Feb. 3

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners and PLPOA Board of Directors joint meeting. 5 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners work session. 8:30 a.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxzZ099>, passcode: 4141885. For more information, 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=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxzZ099>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, pass-

code: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

San Juan Water Conservancy District work session. 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5.

San Juan Water Conservancy District special meeting. 5 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. Visit <https://www.sjwcd.org/> for Zoom option.

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



COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

GREAT POTENTIAL

2 buildings and one parcel. The front of the building is a gallery and workshop. The back unit is an office set up which was a clinic in the past. There is also a Quonset hut on the back of the property. The gallery fronts Highway 160 and parking is on Eagle Dr and Trinity Ln. Included with the gallery are gallery lights, display fixtures, refrigerator and office furniture. There are 2 offices in the gallery, the back unit has a formal reception area with 2 larger offices, 2 smaller offices and 2 more small flexible rooms. Also, the roof was recently replaced.




Eagle Drive
\$590,000
MLS # 819518

Cloman Industrial Park
\$380,000
MLS # 819174



.68 acre, 1440 square foot commercial building. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BTU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater. The doors and walls have a 90 minute fireproof rating. Walls are removable so the floor plan could be opened up. There is a kitchen sink, stove and dishwasher, half bath and the overhead door is 8' x 10'.

Mountain & Meadow Real Estate
office: 970.264.6673
409 Lewis Street
P.O. Box 3850
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR, BROKER
C: 970.759.8109
ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
www.shelliehogue.com



Public Notices

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF)
§1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District of La Plata and Archuleta Counties, Colorado.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th day of May 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 2 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms. Eligible electors of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO): **Rebecca Flinders of the Los Pinos Fire Protection District at 275 Browning Ave. Ignacio, Colorado, 81137 (970) 563-9501.**
The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business on **February 28, 2025** (not less than 67 days before the election).
Affidavit of Intent to be a Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business on **Monday, March 3, 2025** (the sixty-fourth day before the election).
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025.** Los Pinos Fire Protection District
Rebecca Flinders
DEO
Published January 30, February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (255840)

PUBLIC HEARING
The Town Council for the Town of Pagosa Springs will be holding a public hearing for the application of a new Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License, Two Chicks and a Hippie dba Two Chicks and a Hippie located at 135 Country Center Dr #B, in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Town Hall at 551 Hot Springs Blvd and/or remote by Zoom meeting. All people wishing to comment should be present at that meeting or have written comments in the office of the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2025.
Published January 30, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (256246)

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF)
§1-13.5-501, 1-13.5-1102(3), 32-1-905(2), C.R.S.
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and, particularly, to the electors of the Upper San Juan Health Service District d.b.a. Pagosa Springs Medical Center of Archuleta, and portions of Hinsdale and Mineral Counties, Colorado.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on the 6th day of May 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, four (4) directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and two (2) directors will be elected to serve 2-year terms. Eligible electors of the Upper San Juan Health Service District d.b.a. Pagosa Springs Medical Center interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO): **Antoinette Martinez (Designated Election Official) 95 S. Pagosa Blvd., (DEO Address) Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, (DEO Address) (970) 507-3814 (DEO Telephone) DEO@PSMedicalCenter.org (DEO Email Address) www.pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org (District Website)**
The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MST.
The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business (4:30 p.m. MST) on **February 28, 2025** (not less than 67 days before the election).
Affidavit of Intent to be a Write-In-Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the designated election official by the close of business (4:30 p.m. MST) on **Monday, March 3, 2025** (the sixty-fourth day before the election).
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, an application for an absentee ballot shall be filed with the designated election official no later than the close of business (4:30 p.m. MST) on **Tuesday** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025.**
UPPER SAN JUAN HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT d.b.a. PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER
By: /s/ Antoinette Martinez
Designated Election Official
Published January 30, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN.* (256250)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Sports

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates remain undefeated in league play

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team is 4-0 in 3A/4A Intermountain League play after successive victories against Alamosa and Montezuma-Cortez on Jan. 24 and 25 in Pagosa Springs.

The Lady Pirates also defeated the 2A Del Norte Tigers on the road Tuesday, bringing their overall season record to 10-4.

Against the Alamosa Mean Moose on Jan. 24, the Lady Pirate offense struck early to build a 12-point lead by halftime, limiting the visitors to seven and eight points for the first half. Pagosa would go on to score 32 more points during the 59-38 victory.

Elizabeth Currier led in scoring against Alamosa, adding 18 points to the team's total. Karsyn Shahan scored 12 points, followed by Kylie Ketchum's 11. Lexi Campbell and Kaila Limebrook each had six points on the night.

Shahan led the team's rebounding efforts with 10 total on the night, followed by Campbell's six. Adelyn Hittle and Currier each brought down five.

The Lady Pirates counted 13 turnovers against Alamosa, in addition to 14 assists and nine steals. The team sank seven out of 10 free-throw attempts.

Facing the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Jan. 25, the home squad's offense built a nine-point lead by the end of the first quarter that the Panther defense managed to quiet for much of the second.

By halftime, the Lady Pirates led 28-26.

But outscoring the visitors 29-10 in the third quarter helped build a lead that Pagosa never relinquished in its 69-47 win.

The Lady Pirate senior trio again

led the team's scoring efforts against the Panthers, with Currier adding 16 points and Shahan scoring 12. Ketchum finished the day with 10 points.

Limebrook and Shahan led the team's rebounding effort with five a piece, followed by Currier, Ketchum, Hittle and Amber Snarr, who all brought down four.

The team counted 13 turnovers and 11 steals against the Panthers, as well as 11 total assists — with Currier responsible for six.

The Lady Pirates made five of 11 free-throw attempts.

On the road for Tuesday's contest against the Tigers, the Lady Pirates again excelled from both ends of the court, limiting their hosts to single-digit scoring for three quarters and racking up double-digit points of their own throughout the 54-34 victory.

Against the Panthers, it was Shahan leading the team's offense with 16 points, followed by Hittle with 15 points. Ketchum and Currier each scored nine.

Shahan again led the team in rebounds with 10, followed by Ketchum's nine. Currier and Snarr each added four to the team's total of 33.

Pagosa's turnovers in Del Norte numbered to 16, with 13 steals and 11 assists. The team made seven of 13 free-throw attempts.

Coach Sarah Osborn could not be reached for comment by press time Wednesday.

Looking ahead, the Lady Pirates will face two additional conference opponents when they travel to Bayfield on Friday and host Centauri on Saturday.

Play against the Bayfield Wolverines, currently 0-4 in league play, is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Friday at Bayfield High School.

Hosting the Centauri Falcons, who stand undefeated in conference



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Elizabeth Currier goes up for a shot against the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers on Saturday in Pagosa Springs. Currier scored 16 points during the team's 69-47 win.

matchups at 5-0, tip-off is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Pagosa

Springs High School.
garrett@pagosasun.com

Pirates bounce back, go 2-1 over week

By Garrett Fevinger
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School boys' basketball team went 2-1 in a trio of games Jan. 24-28 that saw the Pirates rebound from a win with a loss and carry that momentum into a decisive victory on Tuesday.

Evaluating the team's one-point, 45-44 home victory over the Alamosa Mean Moose on Jan. 24, coach Wes Lewis described a team he knows is capable of more.

"I was disappointed in our play and effort Friday night even though we won," Lewis said. "I just didn't feel like we played to our potential on Friday night. That's kind of how we felt as a whole, as a coaching staff."

The Pirates led 14-12 at the end of the first quarter, with the Mean Moose holding a 23-21 lead at halftime. Alamosa held a 38-33 lead at the end of the third quarter before the Pirates rallied for the win.

Lewis continued, "I was proud of the guys to find a way to win," he said, adding, "There's an old saying that an ugly win beats a pretty loss, and I guess that's true, although it didn't really feel like that on the weekend."

The Pirates' play would rebound one day later in a hard-fought loss to the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers, who won 55-48.

"I was really happy with our effort and how we played on Saturday even though we lost," Lewis reflected. "Cortez is a really good team."

Against the Panthers, the Pirates led for the first quarter and a half of play and traded leads throughout the second, heading into the locker room tied 21-21 at halftime.

The third quarter again saw both teams seesawing for the lead, with Pagosa entering the final eight minutes of play leading by two.

But about two minutes into the fourth quarter, with the Pirates leading 40-39, Colt Lewis injured his right ankle, which caused him to exit the game.

The Pirates scored eight more points to the Panthers' 16 following his departure.

"We struggled with some turnovers right there after he left," Wes Lewis recalled. "Then they kind of settled back down and got reorganized and got a little bit better, but unfortunately, we went from a lead to a little bit of a deficit and just couldn't get back over the hump."



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Ty Richey battles for possession during Saturday's hard-fought defeat against Montezuma-Cortez. The Pirates are 4-10 on the season and 2-2 in league play.

Colt Lewis briefly attempted to rejoin the game in its final minutes, but soon exited for the remainder of the team's 48-55 loss.

"I felt really good about the effort," Wes Lewis said. "We just had some key turnovers... that really hurt us in some key times. Our turnovers led to uncontested layups for them and that was tough on us."

Minus Colt Lewis, whose status remains in question, the coach called Tuesday's win over the Del Norte Tigers a "bounce back" and credited a big offensive outing by senior Seth Zeigler, among others, for the 51-32 win.

"We played very well in Del Norte," he said. "We had a big game from Seth

offensively, had a big game rebounding from Jaxten Scheil. Luke Kinsley came in off the JV bench and played really well."

After Tuesday's win, the Pirates sit at 2-2 in 3A/4A Intermountain League play with their overall record at 4-10 as the team prepares to visit Bayfield on Friday and host Centauri on Saturday.

The game against Bayfield, currently 3-1 in league play, is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. at Bayfield High School.

Centauri is undefeated on the season, standing at 5-0 in league play and 15-0 overall. That contest is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. Saturday at Pagosa Springs High School.

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WRESTLING

Pirate grapplers take on eight opponents in busy week

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team competed in seven duals in a span of two days last week, winning two and dropping five, coach Dan Janowsky explains in an email to The SUN.

The team then hosted the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers Tuesday evening.

The action started on Friday, Jan. 24, with the Pirates traveling to Bayfield to compete in their first Intermountain League dual of the season.

"We had moments where we looked pretty good," Janowsky said of the team's performance.

The Pirates ultimately lost the dual 48-35.

Pagosa earned 24 points from forfeits by Bayfield in the 165-pound, 190-pound, 215-pound and 285-pound weight classes.

Two pirates won their matches — Colton Lucero in the 150-pound weight class and Anthony Manzanaras in the 106-pound weight class.

Janowsky notes in the email that Manzanaras and Lucero were the top wrestlers for Pagosa over the weekend, with "both finishing with 6 wins and 1 loss for the weekend."

In the dual against Bayfield, Manzanaras pinned his opponent in one minute and 58 seconds, earning six team points.

Lucero won on an 18-1 technical fall in 1:23, earning five points.

Janowsky mentioned that the Pirates gave up a total of eight pins in their dual against Bayfield, which heavily affected the team score on the night, he explained.

"We wrestled well the first half of the match," he said, adding that the Pirates weren't "stubborn enough in the second half of the matches."

Hawkin Kofke competed in the 113-pound weight class for the Pirates and was pinned in 5:12.

Eric Smith wrestled in the 120-pound weight class and was pinned in 3:14.

Gage Sams competed in the 126-pound weight class and was pinned in 1:52.

Stetson Osborn wrestled in the 132-pound weight class and was pinned in 5:40.

Hudson Mazur wrestled in the 138-pound weight class and was pinned in 5:40.

Tucker Jacobson wrestled in the 144-pound weight class and was pinned in 39 seconds.

Michael Thomas competed in the 157-pound weight class and was pinned in 3:26.

Ty Garcia wrestled in the 175-pound weight class and was pinned in 1:16.

Bayfield earned all 48 of its team points from pins.

Randy and Naomi Keyes

"We did a whole lot better on Saturday," Janowsky said, explaining the Pirates wrestled a total of six duals on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Randy and Naomi Keys Duals held in La Jara at Centauri High School.

Janowsky explained that the original schedule had the Pirates only competing in two duals on the day, which was intentional given that at this point in the season wrestlers are dealing with injuries, illness or simply being worn down.

He noted the idea was to give the Pirates some extra time to recover before heading into the regional tournament this weekend, but last-minute schedule changes lead to the Pirates competing in six duals on the day.

He added the schedule was "kinda tough on us," noting the Pirates have a "limited roster."

Janowsky also notes in his email that, "The dual meet line-up has been impacted by injuries and illnesses and we hope to have a more complete line-up this upcoming week and into regionals."

The Pirates won their first dual of the day against Antonito 42-12, with Manzanaras, Mazur and Osborn each pinning their opponents in their respective weight classes.

Manzanaras pinned his opponent in the 113-pound weight class in 1:38, earning six team points, while Osborn pinned his opponent in the 132-pound weight class in 1:34, also earning six team points.

Mazur wrestled at 138 pounds and pinned his opponent in 44 seconds, earning six team points.

Pagosa received a total of 24 team points due to forfeits from Antonito in the 120-pound, 144-pound, 150-pound and 215-pound weight classes.

Antonito received six team points due to a Pagosa forfeit in the 285-pound weight class.

There were double forfeits in the 106-pound, 157-pound, 165-pound, 175-pound and 190-pound weight classes.

The Pirates then lost their dual against Buena Vista 45-30.

Manzanaras competed in the 106-pound weight class and was able to pin his opponent in 51 seconds, earning six points for the Pirates.

There was a double forfeit in the 113-pound weight class.

Smith wrestled in the 120-pound weight class and was pinned in 3:22, giving six team points to Buena Vista.

Sams competed in the 126-pound weight class and was also pinned by his opponent in 1:24, giving up six team points.

Osborn wrestled in the 132-pound weight class and pinned his opponent in 34 seconds, earning six points for the Pirates.

Mazur was able to pin his opponent in 1:26 in the 138-pound weight class, earning six team points.

Jacobson wrestled in the 144-pound weight class and was pinned in 1:42, giving up six team points.

The Pirates earned six points due to a Buena Vista forfeit in the 150-pound weight class, and gave up 24 team points from forfeits in the 157-pound, 165-pound, 175-pound and 190-pound weight classes.

Jesus Serratos competed in the 215-pound weight class and lost by a 3-1 decision, giving up three team points.

Antonio Quezada competed in the 285-pound weight class and pinned his opponent in 56 seconds, earning six team points.

In their third dual of the day, Pagosa lost to Center 40-30.

The Pirates earned a total of 24 team points due to Center forfeits in the 106-pound, 132-pound, 138-pound and 215-pound weight classes.

Center earned 24 team points due to Pagosa forfeits in the 113-pound, 157-pound, 165-pound and 175-pound weight classes.

There was a double forfeit in the 190-pound weight class.

Smith lost to his opponent in the 120-pound weight class by a major decision of 22-14, giving up four team points.

Sams was pinned in the 126-pound weight class in 49 seconds, giving up six team points.

Jacobson was pinned in the 144-pound weight class in 31 seconds, giving up six team points.

Lucero defeated his opponent in the 150-pound weight class by a 7-2 decision, earning three points for the Pirates.

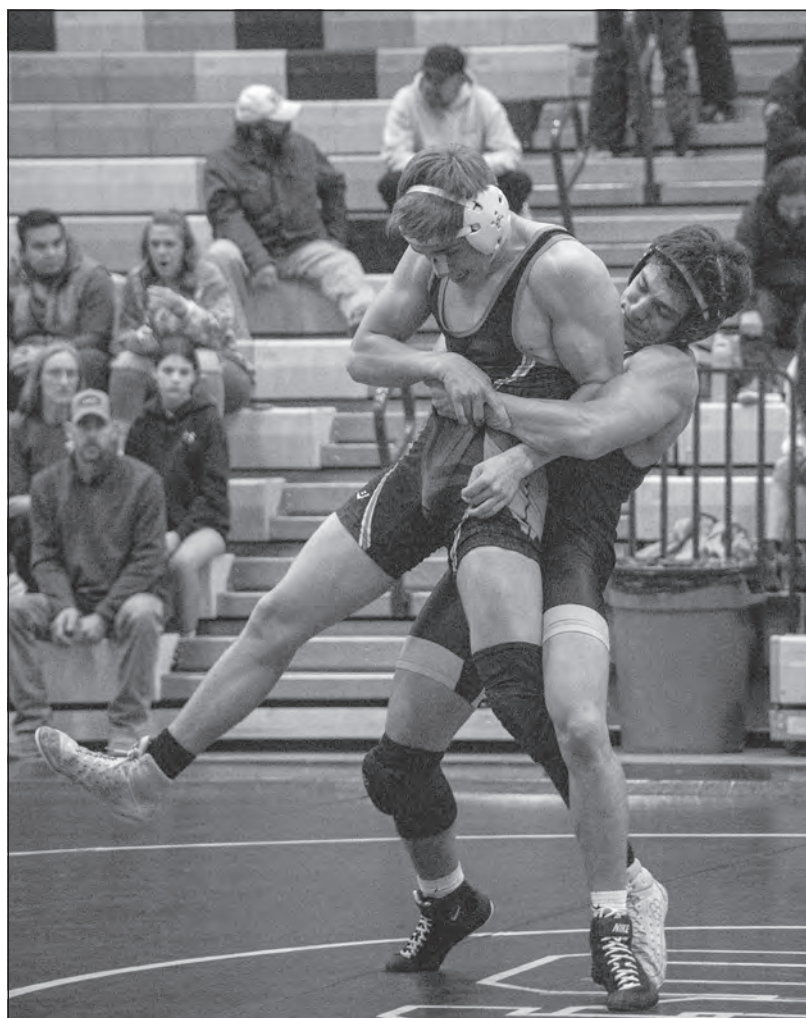
Serratos also defeated his opponent by a decision of 9-5 in the 215-pound weight class, earning three team points.

The Pirates then wrestled against Monte Vista, losing 57-12.

Monte Vista earned 30 team points due to Pagosa forfeits in the 113-pound, 157-pound, 165-pound, 190-pound and 285-pound weight classes. There was a double forfeit in the 175-pound weight class.

Manzanaras earned six team points for the Pirates by pinning his opponent in the 106-pound weight class in 37 seconds.

Smith lost his match in the 120-pound weight class by a 15-0 technical fall in 2:46, giving up five



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Colton Lucero battles with his opponent from Montezuma-Cortez in the 150-pound weight class during a home dual on Tuesday. Lucero was one of four Pirates to win their matches on the night.

team points.

Sams was able to pin his opponent in the 126-pound weight class in 5:06, earning six points for the Pirates.

Osborn was pinned in the 132-pound weight class in 2:24, giving up six team points.

Mazur was pinned in the 138-pound weight class, giving up six team points.

Jacobson lost his match at 144 pounds by a 16-13 decision, giving up three team points.

Lucero lost his match in the 150-pound weight class by a major decision of 12-4, giving up four team points.

Serratos wrestled in the 215-pound weight class and lost by a 5-4 decision,

Lady Pirates win first-ever home dual

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Tuesday, Jan. 28, was a historic night for the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team.

"Tuesday night was an historic night in Pagosa Wrestling history, as the first ever high school girls dual meet took place," coach Dan Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN.

Janowsky explains in his email that girls' wrestling is still "new" in Colorado, "so filling rosters is a work in progress."

The Pirates had six wrestlers ready to compete in Tuesday's dual, while the Montezuma-Cortez Panthers had five wrestlers in their lineup.

There were double forfeits in the 110-pound, 125-pound, 155-pound, 170-pound and 235-pound weight classes.

The Lady Pirates earned 18 team points due to Montezuma-Cortez forfeits in the 135-pound, 140-pound and 190-pound weight classes. The Panthers also earned 18 team points due to Pagosa forfeits, which came

in the 115-pound, 120-pound and 145-pound weight classes.

Bella Jackson wrestled in the 110-pound weight class, defeating her opponent by a decision of 15-10, earning three team points.

Madisen Stretton competed at 105 pounds and pinned her opponent in two minutes and 31 seconds.

Kylie Matyniak wrestled at 130 pounds and defeated her opponent by injury default to earn six team points for the Pirates.

Bayfield dual

The Lady Pirates competed in a dual alongside the Pirates boys' wrestling team in Bayfield on Friday, Jan. 24, winning 42-12.

Janowsky notes that this was the girls' wrestling program's first ever dual meet victory.

The Lady Pirates earned 30 team points due to Bayfield forfeits in the 110-pound, 130-pound, 135-pound, 145-pound and 235-pound weight classes.

Bayfield earned all of its 12 team points due to Pagosa forfeits in the 115-pound and 120-pound weight

giving up three team points.

In their dual against Centauri, the Pirates lost 63-13, giving up of 30 points due to forfeits at 157 pounds, 165 pounds, 175 pounds, 190 pounds and 113 pounds.

Centauri gave up 12 team points to the Pirates due to forfeits in the 285-pound and 120-pound weight classes.

Lucero earned the Pirates' remaining six team points by pinning his opponent in the 150-pound weight class in 1:32.

Sams lost his match at 126 pounds weight class by an 18-0 technical fall, giving up five team points.

Osborn lost his match in the 132-pound weight class by a major decision of 9-1, giving up four team points.

Mazur was pinned at 138 pounds in 3:23, giving up six team points.

Jacobson was pinned in the 144-pound weight class, giving up six team points.

Serratos was pinned in the 215-pound weight class in 38 seconds, giving up six team points.

Manzanaras lost his match at 106 pounds by pin in 44 seconds, giving Centauri six team points.

The Pirates won their last dual of the day against Trinidad 42-36.

Pagosa earned 24 points due to Trinidad forfeits in the 120-pound, 126-pound, 132-pound and 138-pound weight classes, while giving up 24 team points due to forfeits in the 113-pound, 157-pound, 165-pound and 175-pound weight classes.

There was a double forfeit at 190 pounds.

Manzanaras pinned his opponent in the 106-pound weight class in 3:17, earning six team points.

Jacobson pinned his opponent in the 144-pound weight class in 3:16 to

earn six team points.

Lucero pinned his opponent in the 150-pound weight class in 26 seconds, earning six team points for the Pirates.

Serratos competed in the 215-pound weight class and was pinned in 2:42, giving up six team points.

Quezada wrestled at 285 pounds and was pinned in 1:02, giving up six team points.

"They handled it really well," Janowsky said of the Pirates competing in seven duals over a two-day period.

He mentioned he was "real encouraged by the end of the day," noting the Pirates wrestled well in the later half of the day on.

"We were wrestling much better than we were in the middle of the day," Janowsky said.

Janowsky also commented on Lucero's performances, noting that he is "wrestling pretty well" and has "beat some really good kids over the last two weekends."

Montezuma-Cortez

The Pirates continued their regular season at home on Tuesday, Jan. 28, hosting a dual against Montezuma-Cortez.

Then Pirates defeated Montezuma-Cortez 66-11, "Again aided by a large number of forfeits," Janowsky explains in an email.

The Pirates earned 42 points due to forfeits by Montezuma-Cortez in the 126-pound, 132-pound, 157-pound, 165-pound, 175-pound, 190-pound and 185-pound weight classes.

There was a double forfeit at 106 pounds.

Manzanaras competed in the 113-pound weight class and pinned

■ See Wrestling A14



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Madisen Stretton works to pin her opponent from Montezuma-Cortez in the 105-pound weight class during the teams' dual on Tuesday. Stretton earned six team points for the Pirates by pinning her opponent in two minutes and 31 seconds.

classes.

There were double forfeits in the 190-pound, 170-pound 155-pound and 125-pound weight classes.

Jackson wrestled at 100 pounds, pinning her opponent in 3:05 and earning six team points.

Stretton also pinned her opponent in the 105-pound weight class in

3:01, earning six team points for the Pirates.

The Lady Pirates will finish their regular season this weekend as they travel to Del Norte to compete in the Rio Grande Showdown on Saturday, Feb. 1, with matches set to start at 9 a.m.

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SWIMMING



Photo courtesy Heather Miller



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Grace Cram takes to the water in Durango last week. Cram took part in nine events over two days.

Leah Blackman, near, and Gianna Shaeffer, far, swim in Durango last week. The team took part in two meets in Durango last week, with several Lady Pirates dropping times.

Lady Pirates notch second state qualification

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team secured another state qualification last week in Durango — the team's second of the season.

The team took part in a pair of meets in Durango last week with the Friday Nite Invite on Jan. 24 and the Saturday Invite on Jan. 25.

The state qualification came in the 200-yard freestyle relay Friday evening, when the squad of Asia Gorman, Grace Cram, Marlowe Hedgecock and Chloe Gantt logged a time of 2 minutes, 0.41 seconds to best the qualification time of 2:02.00.

The finish also landed the relay in third place at the meet and earned 24 points for the Lady Pirates.

Coach Heather Miller notes in an email to The SUN the team "worked a bit on sprinting this week to better prepare so they could get the time."

Miller indicates the week's meets were good, but showed room for improvement.

"Overall the meets were good with an amazing number of best times, but we had way too many relay false starts," she wrote. "We will work on relay starts again this week as well as working on starts in general."

The Lady Pirates took fourth behind Sargent, Durango and Gunnison in the Friday meet.

The meet kicked off with the squad of Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Gantt and Gorman taking fourth in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 2:20.66. That gave the team 22 points.

The squad of Cram, Gianna Shaeffer, Ruby Snell and Aubrey Gerdel took eighth and earned 10 points with a time of 2:43.55.

Brooklyn Trujillo took seventh and earned seven points in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 3:29.87.

Hedgecock led the Lady Pirates in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 30.72, with Hedgecock finishing fourth overall and earning 11 points. Shaeffer followed in eighth to earn five points with a time of 33.61. Blackman finished in 11th and earned two points with a time of 35.18 seconds. Gemma Slingerland followed in 12th with a time of 36.10, earning one point. Lucia Rivera

took 15th with a time of 40.75 seconds.

Gantt took second in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:14.72, earning 13 points for the Lady Pirates. Gorman finished fourth with a time of 1:36.72, earning 11 points. Cram earned 10 points with her fifth-place finish, swimming a time of 1:51.23.

Trujillo finished 15th and earned one point in the 100-yard freestyle. She logged a time of 1:31.61.

Three Lady Pirates took part in the 500-yard freestyle. Shaeffer finished seventh and earned seven points with a time of 8:08.91 — more than 38 seconds faster than her previous time. Gerdel finished eighth and earned five points with a time of 8:25.50. Kaiya Lyons finished ninth and earned four points with a time of 8:31.60 — more than 44 seconds quicker than her previous time.

The crew of Katelyn Fricke, Blackman, Lyons and Gerdel followed in fourth place and earned 22 points with a time of 2:17.56.

The squad of Snell, Trujillo, Slingerland and Shaeffer finished seventh with a time of 2:29.28.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, Snell finished 10th with a time of 1:45.71, earning three points. Rivera followed in 11th with a time of 1:54.97 to earn two points.

Three Lady Pirate squads took part in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The team of Hedgecock, Cram, Gorman and Gantt finished third with a time of 4:43.28, earning 24 points.

The team of Lyons, Blackman, Slingerland and Gerdel took seventh with a time of 5:38.47 to earn 14 points.

The team of Bella Gutierrez, Trujillo, Rivera and Fricke finished eighth with a time of 6:06.26.

The Lady Pirates finished third behind Durango and Gunnison at Saturday's meet.

Six Lady Pirates competed in the 200 free at the Saturday meet, with Hedgecock leading the team with a sixth-place finish. She swam a time of 2:37.64 — more than 13 seconds faster than her previous time — and earned nine points. Cram followed in seventh with a time of 2:39.64 to earn seven points. Gorman took eighth

and earned five points with a time of 2:41.22. Shaeffer finished ninth and earned four points with a time of 2:56.99. Slingerland followed in 10th with a time of 3:02.08, and Fricke took 11th with a time of 3:04.67.

Gantt took third in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:50.92, earning 12 points. Gutierrez logged a time of 4:27.03 to finish sixth and earn nine points.

Five Lady Pirates took to the water for the 50 free, with Gerdel taking fourth and earning 11 points with a time of 31.57 seconds. Lyons finished 10th and earned five points with a time of 35.70. Blackman followed in 11th with a time of 35.84 seconds to earn four points. Trujillo finished 12th and earned three points with a time of 39.65 seconds. Rivera finished 13th with a time of 39.97 seconds.

Gutierrez finished the 100 free with a time of 1:41.79 to take second and earn 13 points.

Gantt led the Lady Pirates in the 500 free on the day with a time of 6:38.10, which landed her fourth and earned 11 points in addition to being almost 12 seconds quicker than her previous time. Cram finished sixth and earned nine points with a time of 7:10.40. Hedgecock took seventh and earned seven points with a time of 7:17.16, which was 59.95 seconds quicker than her previous time. Gorman followed in eighth and earned five points with a time of 7:21.23.

The Lady Pirate squad of Hedgecock, Cram, Gorman and Gantt took second in the 200 free relay with a time of 2:05.38, earning 26 points.

Slingerland logged a time of 1:41.80 to take fifth in the 100-yard backstroke, earning 10 points.

Shaeffer garnered third place in the 100 breaststroke, earning 12 points with a time of 1:33.67. Gerdel took seventh and earned seven points with a time of 1:46.04. Fricke took eighth with a time of 1:46.35, earning five points. Rivera swam a time of 1:53.34 to finish ninth and earn four points.

In the 400 free relay, the team of Lyons, Fricke, Blackman and Gerdel finished third with a time of 5:35.06, earning 24 points.

Miller comments that the "tenacious"

ity" of the team's swimmers stood out to her at the meets.

"You could see how determined they were to do their best and really get after each race," she wrote. "Especially Gianna Shaeffer in the 50 free on Friday she cut over 2 seconds which is super impressive for a short race and cut nearly 40 seconds on her 500 free. Marlowe Hedgecock had amazing races in the 200 and 500 free, cutting lots of time and nearly a minute off the 500 free. Kaiya Lyons also cut just over 44 seconds on her 500 free. I could go on and on but the whole team really swam well and we are looking forward to more great swims this weekend."

The Lady Pirates will cap off the regular season at the Western Slope conference meet on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction.

Action is set to begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday.

"Our goal this weekend is to have some fun and drop more time," Miller wrote. "We are really starting to rest this week and work on specific race strategies and speed. This should bring us even more best times and earn us second swims, getting to swim again in consolations or finals on Saturday."

randi@pagosasun.com

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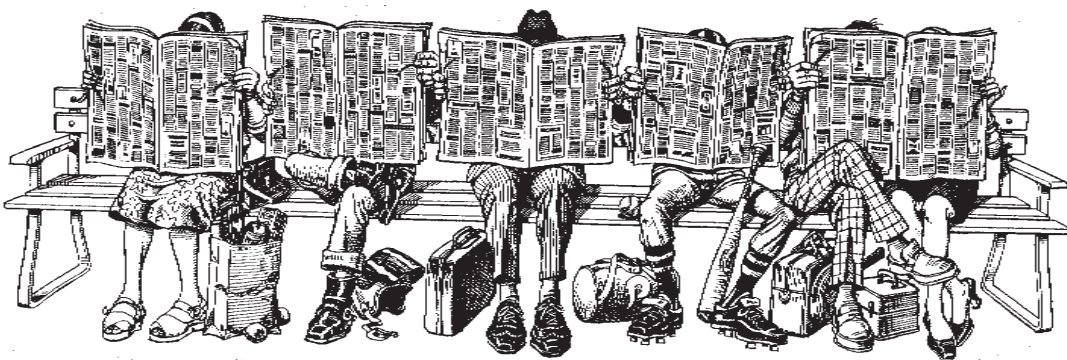
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Plan

■ Continued from front

rening phase. During the discovery phase, Schneider indicated that 45 interviews were conducted “with local community members that were recommended by you and your staff,” noting a lot of the interviewees were representing key stakeholders in the community.

He also noted there were four listening sessions held for community members to give input on different topics, noting that one of the sessions was held entirely in Spanish.

There were 37 participants total in those listening sessions, Schneider noted, along with “just over” 500 survey responses to “let us know how the county is doing.”

Next began the planning phase in which Schneider and his staff sat down with 18 county employees for four hours to discuss all of the information and responses gathered in the discovery phase.

He mentioned that following the sit-down with county staff, four more public listening sessions were held, noting one was held in Arboles and one was held entirely in Spanish again.

He explained that the listening sessions focused on the information gathered in the discovery phase and places county staff were thinking about focusing on.

Schneider indicated that another survey was sent out, this time receiving just over 100 responses, with all the information being brought back to county staff for another four-hour meeting.

Schneider indicated that more than 800 contacts were made throughout the community and through those contacts, “we heard a lot.”

He noted that some of the responses contained contradicting concerns and visions for the community, but that, more or less, the main response was, “We’re really excited about the direction the county is going.”

“It’s all moving towards a less reactionary county and a much more proactive county about how do we take care of our citizens,” Schneider said.

He added that some of the main concerns brought forth by community members included infrastructure concerns and turnover rates with county employees.

Schneider also mentioned there were a lot of concerns from residents stating they are unaware of who provides what services to the community.

“As this is the first strategic plan, it’s really about culture,” Schneider added, noting there is a desire of county staff to come together, same with the residents, but there is confusion about who is in what role.

Schneider went on to explain that the three top priorities identified are stewardship through development, infrastructure improvements and strengthening community partnerships.

“A number of residents are concerned that the community’s changing faster than they understand and don’t know how to fit into it,” Schneider said, explaining that stewardship through development will help address this concern.

“People move here for quality of life and they want to make sure that’s protected,” he added.

Schneider also commented on the need for strengthening community partnerships, saying, “because there are so many entities involved in tak-

ing care of the community, it’s really making sure the information flow and trust is the primary currency between everybody.”

Commissioner Veronica Medina commented that this plan is what she envisioned for the community.

“I really like where you brought us and how you really rallied staff,” she said.

Commissioner Warren Brown noted that plans “are not a waste of time” and that he is “ready to see this set in.”

Commissioner John Ranson mentioned that plans can tend to “end up on a shelf,” but that he was impressed with the work done by Civic* Possible. “I really like what you’ve done and the product that’s been delivered.”

Schneider mentioned there was an “initial hesitancy and skepticism” with staff when initially starting the strategic plan process, but that the more staff saw the BoCC stepping back and allowing room for employees and community involvement, “the more enthusiasm picked up.”

Ranson asked Schneider if he had any suggestions on how to communicate and work more efficiently with other agencies.

“I think it’s huge,” Ranson said, noting he hasn’t always seen that at the county over the years.

Schneider noted a military ideology in that it’s best to “go slow, to go fast” and to never assume that everyone has all the information, calling it “humility.”

He noted the “less polite” way is by saying, “We all need to get over ourselves.”

The entire strategic plan can be viewed on the county’s website at www.archuletacounty.org/203/Strategic-Plan.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Wrestling

■ Continued from A12

his opponent in 4:34, earning six team points.

Smith wrestled at 120 pounds and lost by a 21-5 technical fall, giving up five team points.

Mazur was able to pin his opponent in the 138-pound weight class in 5:23, earning six team points.

Vinny Fish competed in the

144-pound weight class and was pinned in 1:20, giving up six team points.

Lucero pinned his opponent in the 150-pound weight class in 2:53, earning six team points.

Serratos competed in the 215-pound weight class and was able to pin his opponent in 2:53, earning six team points for the Pirates.

Home dual Saturday

The Pirates will finish their regular season this weekend at home when they host another Intermountain League dual against Alamosa on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Matches are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

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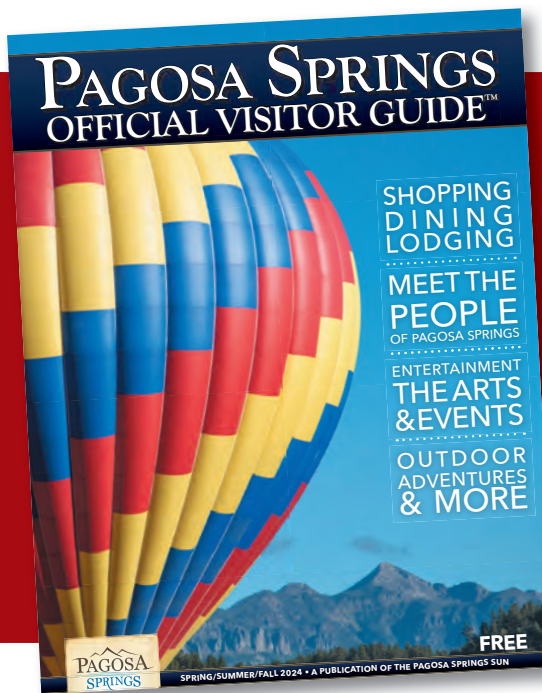
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preview

ARTS & LIFE

Whatchamawhozits Children's Theater

Improv class registration open



Photo courtesy Whatchamawhozits Children's Theater

January 30, 2025

Registration open for Whatchamawhozits Children's Theater Improv Class

By Laura Moore
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Registration is now open for kids to join the Whatchamawhozits Children's Theater Improv Class.

This improv class — taught by Thingmajig Educational Director Laura Moore — is a super fun and creative class filled with a combination of improv games and acting for the stage.

Improv is not only fun, but is extremely beneficial for developing more complex characters in scripts, learning to create on the fly, hone public speaking abilities and strengthen acting choices. Improv skills help the actor with listening, quick thinking, concentration skills and so much more.

The class runs every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. from Feb. 7 to April 18 (no class March 28) with a showcase on April 25 at 6 p.m.

Kids are welcome to come snack and relax after school between 1:30 and 2 p.m. before the class starts. School bus routes drop off within a short walking distance to the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The class is open to kids 8-14 years old. Space is extremely limited. Registration links can be found at www.pagosacenter.org.



Photo courtesy Whatchamawhozits Children's Theater

Registration is now open for the Whatchamawhozits Children's Theater Improv Class at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. The class will run every Friday afternoon from Feb. 7 to April 18 and is open to kids 8-14 years old.

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- Thursday**
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Jason Rose, 5 p.m.

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Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society to meet Feb. 1

By Carolyn Paschal
Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society

The Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting this Saturday, Feb. 1.

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 video presentation by Crista Cowan entitled "Naturalization Records: What They Tell Me and Where To Find Them."

Did your ancestor become a U.S. citizen? Join Cowan as she shares why naturalization documents are so

important and what you can discover in these files.

Cowan will explain the history of naturalization and the valuable genealogical information these records may contain, such as dates of arrival, family members, point of departure and port of arrival.

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 local area. We are a

member of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, where we have access to professional speakers from across the state. Our society has also partnered with the Town of Pagosa Springs in its ongoing efforts to research and improve our local cemeteries.

Visitors are encouraged to attend our meetings.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Paschal at carolyn-paschal@gmail.com or check out our website, pagosapeakgs.org.



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Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group to meet virtually Feb. 4

By Dion Hollenbeck
Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group of Durango

The Man 2 Man Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Feb. 4 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.

Mount Allison Grange to host game night

By Sheri Rochford Figgs
Mount Allison Grange

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Mount Allison Grange, 2622 County Road 329 in Allison, will host a game night' at 4 p.m.

Bunco, 31, and other games will be offered.

This is a potluck.

Join us for some family fun. This event is open to the public.

For more information, contact Sheri Rochford Figgs at (970) 749-0614 or arboleshiker@gmail.com.

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Photo courtesy Hott Fund Memorial

Four historic Archuleta County buildings are part of a preservation project that is underway: the Blanco Basin schoolhouse, the Smith cabin, the original Harman homestead cabin and Fort Lewis officer's cabins.

Hott Fund Memorial seeks photos, stories and information on historic Archuleta County buildings

By Kelli Ford
Hott Fund Memorial

The Hott Fund Memorial is reaching out to the community to help preserve four historic buildings located at the fairgrounds in Pagosa Springs.

These buildings represent key pieces of Archuleta County's history, and we are eager to gather any memories, stories or photographs from those who may have connections to them.

If you have recollections, artifacts, or photographs — especially from when the buildings were in use — we would love to hear from you. Our goal is to collect this information to help replicate and preserve the buildings for future community enjoyment.

To engage with the community and collect valuable input, we are hosting three informal, drop-in meetings.

There is no formal presentation — just an opportunity to chat with us (Kelli Ford and JR Ford) about the project.

The meetings will take place in the

4-H Exhibit Hall, near the Hughes Pavilion at the fairgrounds, on the following Saturdays:

- Feb. 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Feb. 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Feb. 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The following buildings are part of this preservation project:

1. The old Blanco Basin schoolhouse: Built before 1936, this schoolhouse served as Ruby M. Sisson's classroom from 1936 to 1948. In 1988, it was moved to the Fred Harman Art Museum.

2. The old Smith cabin: Built in 1880 by George and Serena Smith, this cabin is one of the oldest structures in Archuleta County. It was originally located in "Hell's Hip Pocket" 7 miles west of town along an old wagon road from Pagosa to Durango.

3. The original Harman homestead cabin: Circa 1891, this cabin originated from the Harman family's original homestead, located about 5 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs, now the San Juan River Village.

4. Fort Lewis officer's cabins: Originally located on main street in Pagosa Springs as part of a military

outpost in 1878, one of these four cabins was later moved to the Macht (later Hott) Ranch on Four Mile Road. It seems that several of our local families lived in the cabins in the late 1800s. We would appreciate information regarding any of the cabins.

Please note that our team works on this project one day a week, so we appreciate your patience in receiving responses. If you have any information or would like to contribute, please reach out to us via email at hottfund@gmail.com or by phone at (970) 903-1570.

About the Hott Fund Memorial

RD Hott, a longtime local and the son of Fern Macht Hott and Dailey Hott, was passionate about preserving the western heritage of Archuleta County. After his passing, the Hott Fund was established to honor his legacy.

The fund supports efforts to preserve the area's history and culture, while also providing opportunities for youth and the community to engage with and learn about western heritage.

Cabin Fever Book Sale slated for Feb. 8


By Leslie Cole
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Friends and Foundation

Stock up on books for winter reading at the Ruby Sisson Library's Cabin Fever Book Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8, at the library.

You'll find a broad selection of new and gently used books at bargain prices, including children's books and young adult fiction.


Buy one, get one free if you are a teacher, nurse, first responder or Friend of the Library with proof of membership or employment.

You can join the Friends of the Library at the book sale or online at pagosalibrary.org. As part of this community of library supporters, Friends members have access to the Just Friends Book Club, social events and special volunteer opportunities, and are entered into a monthly book giveaway.



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February 17: The End is Never the End — Rev Sean Neal-Barron
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February 23: Action Sunday!
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About SAN JUAN EATERY

Hello! I'm Amanda, the Owner and Operator of San Juan Eatery. I've been part of the restaurant industry in Pagosa Springs for over 10 years. Recently, my team and I decided to embark on an exciting new adventure by creating **San Juan Eatery** — a place that blends my love for food with my passion for animals.

For those who don't know me yet, I'm a big animal lover. My husband, Eddie, our son, Nick, and I live on a small ranch filled with dogs, horses, cats, goats, and chickens. I have a deep passion for rescue work, and we actively foster animals through LASSO Horse Rescue and Rugby's Rescue, a local nonprofit dog rescue organization.

You might notice that some of our menu items have playful names — these are inspired by our own rescued animals at home. Since we can't bring our furry family to work, we thought naming menu items after them would be a wonderful way to celebrate them and share their stories with you.

At San Juan Eatery, we're committed to giving back. That is why we donate 1% of our sales each month to a local rescue or animal nonprofit. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, where we feature our chosen organization of the month.

We hope you enjoy your dining experience with us. If there's ever anything we can do to improve, please don't hesitate to let us know — whether in person or by email.


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First Growers and Producers Forum of 2025 set for Jan. 30

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is happy to announce the first Growers and Producers Forum of 2025 today, Jan. 30, at 4 p.m. at the library.

The topic is hot water, to be specific our local resource, geothermal hot water, and its role in agriculture.

Our main presenter is Kirsten Skeeahan, who was employed by Pagosa Verde in 2015 when this small startup together with the U.S. Dept. of Energy and the Colorado School of Mines, was deeply involved in locating and drilling for sources of geothermal water here in this county. Their objective: produce heat for greenhouse production year-round. Skeeahan will share her experience with that venture.

Courtney King, a local architect who counts among her accomplishments the site plans of the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership, will bring along some photos and impressions of her recent trip to Iceland, specifically that country's huge investment in greenhouses powered

by geothermal heat.

We expect this first forum of 2025 to be very worth your while. In fact, we expect the same of your attendance at the regular monthly forum. And here is the reason: We intend to deal with a variety of topics intended to make us think of the role of grower or producer on a broader stage. Take, for example, the topic of world hunger. How are we, growers and producers of Archuleta County, connected to that issue? What meaningful action can we take? Let's see.

A recent letter signed by 150 Nobel Prize and World Food laureates (see World Food Prize Foundation website) foresees a World Hunger Catastrophe in the next 25 years without political and financial backing to develop "moonshoot" technologies.

Exaggeration? It's hard to hand it off as such, given the uncomfortable twin truths of the numbers (700 million hungry worldwide and growing) and the implications of climate on water and food production.

Still wondering how we fit into this scenario? Just take a look at what

this group of experts identifies as local action:

1. Prioritize local, seasonal, and Indigenous foods whenever able.
2. Eat everything in your fridge before it goes bad.
3. Elevate farmer voices and success stories in your communities.
4. Use our voices to move institutions.

Sound like something you are already doing or could do? These four make up a large part of the Healthy Archuleta agenda; what better place to see it in action than at the Growers and Producers Forum? This is what the forum is all about.

Join us and contribute to creating local "moonshoot" technologies aimed at increasing the local food supply and work toward its equitable distribution. Create community, share knowledge, learn and take action.

To learn more about Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or send us an email at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

Stargazers' next meeting slated for Feb. 6

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

The monthly meeting of the San Juan Stargazers will be on Thursday, Feb. 6.

We are meeting at the regular time of 6 p.m. for our social and snack time. Please bring something to share, if possible. We will be at our regular location — the United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. Please use the convenient parking lot and side door that leads into the kitchen and fellowship hall. We keep the front doors to the church locked.

For the next two months we will use the time from 7 to 7:30 p.m. at our meetings to brainstorm new ideas for our summer night sky programs. Chimney Rock has at-

tained International Dark Sky status, and we need to make changes and improvements in the program accordingly. If you have suggestions, please bring them.

From 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. we will have our Great Courses recorded program on the solar system.

I like to remind myself when I look up at the numerous stars visible in our night sky that each star we see is the center of its own solar system which we cannot see without a very powerful telescope like the James Webb. Planets that are not in our own solar system are called exoplanets. Only the star is visible because it is creating the energy within it to shine and be seen.

Our Great Courses programs are recorded and presented by outstanding astronomers. They are so enjoy-

able and we learn so much.

Ann Marie Kemp has a wonderful surprise for us on how members can make better use of these programs.

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 meetings or on our website. Check out our continuously changing website, sanjuanstargazers.org, for new information and spectacular photos.

We can be your helpful connection to exploring our extraordinary universe.

Candlemas and Blessing of the Throat to be held Feb. 1-3

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Springs Catholic Community

This coming weekend the Pagosa Springs Catholic Community will be celebrating Candlemas at its three regularly scheduled Saturday and Sunday Masses.

Rich in tradition, Candlemas is a yearly Christian ceremony that is celebrated 40 days after Christmas and signifies the conclusion of the Christmas season. Recognized by a variety of Christian faiths, the celebration commemorates the presentation of Jesus and Mary's purification at the

temple in Jerusalem.

Candlemas marks the return of light, protection and prosperity given to humanity through the coming of Jesus Christ.

Parishioners and guests are encouraged to bring candles to be blessed, which will serve as a reminder throughout the year that Jesus Christ is the "Light of the World."

Candlemas will be held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church this Saturday, Feb. 1, at 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, at 9 a.m. There will also be an 11:15 a.m. Sunday Candlemas

at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Unrelated, but also entailing candles, is the "Blessing of the Throat." A special Mass will be held on the Feast Day of St. Blaise, the patron saint of throat ailments, at 8 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 3. During the Mass held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, attendees will have an opportunity to have their throats blessed.

Pope John Paul II Catholic Church is located at 353 S. Pagosa Blvd and Immaculate Heart of Mary is at 455 Lewis St.

For more information, visit Ih-mjp2.org.



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Unitarian Universalists announce February schedule

By De Anna Hoyle
Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

"You must cherish one another. You must work — we all must work — to make this world worthy of its children." —Pablo Casals, Catalan cellist, composer and conductor.

I begin this month thinking about the nearly 100 people marching in downtown Pagosa at the March for Equality in mid-January. Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship members and friends participated, carried the UU banner and helped to get the word out in the local paper. We also added Action Sunday this past month as we gathered to put together care bags and discussed how to practice living our shared values with love at the center.

You can read more about the shared values of UU at <https://www.uua.org/beliefs/shared-values>.

Personally, I planted seeds in a small pot near my window, and they have sprouted.

When I see my grandchildren online, I am reminded that my presence is to simply be there with them. In those short moments of connection, I am planting tiny seeds of hope, mostly for myself, and reminds me that the ground I walk on is holy ground.

May the sustaining friendships and connections you make be seeds of hope for you.

Sunday services and programs

Feb. 2

Meditation practice: 9 a.m.
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m., "Exploring the Nature of Prayer, Consciousness, and Quantum Physics" with Julie Loar.

Prayer is a universal human expression that exists in every human culture and is a practice found in religions across time. Prayer is a way

to communicate with the sacred, divine, the transcendent realm or the supernatural. In our time, quantum physics is revealing the interconnectedness of the universe, what we may think of as "god" and the nature of consciousness.

Philosopher of science Ervin Laszlo has said, "We are beginning to see the entire universe as a holographically interlinked network of energy and information, organically whole and self-referential at all scales of its existence."

Loar will help us explore the question: What might be the relationship between prayer, quantum physics and consciousness?

Loar is a long-time resident of Pagosa Springs and is an award-winning author of eight books and dozens of articles. She has served the Pagosa UU Fellowship on both the service planning team and steering committee.

Feb. 9

Meditation practice and dharma talk: 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Going Deeper Sharing Circle: 10:30 a.m.

We come together in this small-group setting to share with one another and practice deep listening. We explore themes of recent topics, and leave space for reflection and for whatever else is on our hearts. Come make friends in this lightly facilitated group. Light refreshments are offered.

Feb. 16

Meditation practice: 9 a.m.
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m., "The End is Never the End" by the Rev. Sean Neil-Barron (streamed sermon).

The radical 19th century Unitarian minister and theologian Theodore Parker shared the following in a sermon in the 1850s: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches

but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight, I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."

We may be more familiar with Martin Luther King Jr.'s reference in his speech from 1968, which used this quote as inspiration.

Neil-Barron, associate minister of Foothills Unitarian, will take us on a journey with his sermon from the series "No Matter What Happens."

Neil-Barron states, "No matter what, there is a mess to clean up, all around you ... just because hope seems to be gone does not mean hope is at an end."

Join us for a dive back into our partnership with Foothills Unitarian Church and this timely theme.

Feb. 23

Meditation practice and dharma talk: 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Action Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Jean Smith, Pagosa UU's representation to the Pagosa Outreach Connection (POC), will share about the work of POC as we create a path to building community while putting our values into action. We will also have letter-writing resources to let our voice be heard.

Blood drive to be held Feb. 4

By Sharee Grazda
Special to The PREVIEW

Many heartfelt thanks go out to the local donors who gave a total of 55 lifesaving units of blood product at our last drive on Dec. 17, 2024.

Our next drive at Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive,

will be Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact local volunteer Sharee Grazda by text or call at (970) 946-2760.

You may also call Vitalant at 1-877-25-VITAL or go to Vitalant.org. Many thanks.

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Jimmy Carter: 'Do this — not that'

By Richard Gammill
PREVIEW Columnist

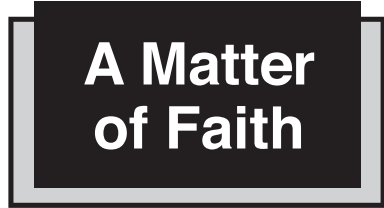
Jimmy Carter, after a successful term as governor of Georgia, returned to his home in Plains. Instead of resuming full-time peanut farming, he embarked on an unlikely campaign for the presidency of the United States. His journey from "peanut farmer to president" was a quintessential "only in America" story, resonating with an electorate disillusioned by the Watergate scandal.

Four years later, Carter's bid for a second term faced a different fate. His presidency was marred by challenges, starting with the energy crisis that caused gasoline prices to skyrocket and led to long lines at gas stations. The Iran hostage crisis, which concluded on his last day in office, seemed to signal the end of his political career. Despite his significant achievements and humanitarian efforts, many voters deemed him too ineffective to continue in office.

Time Magazine's cover story on Carter includes a telling quote: "Jimmy Carter is the only person in history for whom the presidency was a stepping stone."

On his last day in office, the message was clear: "Do this — not that." His time in the White House had ended, but it marked the beginning of a new chapter in his life, one that would allow him to serve his country and live out his values in a different way.

In the 40 years following his presi-



Jimmy Carter's life teaches us that when we are forced to stop doing one thing, we can still find new ways to contribute.

dency, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter's accomplishments nearly eclipsed his time in the White House.

Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1976, gained widespread recognition when Carter donned his tool belt and highlighted the U.S. housing crisis. His efforts mobilized thousands of volunteers and helped the nonprofit organization provide home ownership to countless families.

In 1982, the Carters established the Carter Center, which has undertaken numerous projects, including

disease eradication, mental health advocacy and conflict resolution. The Center played a pivotal role in the global effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease, reducing the number of cases from millions in the late 1980s to just a handful in recent years. Jimmy Carter was also active in election monitoring, justice advocacy and peace negotiations worldwide.

In 2002, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Additionally, he became known as America's most famous Sunday school teacher.

Jimmy Carter's life teaches us that when we are forced to stop doing one thing, we can still find new ways to contribute. Whether it's losing a job, facing early retirement, experiencing a debilitating illness, going through a divorce, losing an election or any other crisis, we can shift gears and begin anew. God is not through with us yet.

Who knows? This may turn out to be the best and most satisfying period of our life.

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.

H&R BLOCK
is happy to announce that
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has joined our office!

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Call for Artists: Pagosa Springs Mural Project

The Town of Pagosa Springs invites artists to leave their creative mark by designing a mural for the Geothermal Building along the riverwalk and main street. This highly visible location offers a unique canvas to create an inspiring work that captures the spirit of Pagosa Springs. Imagine your art flowing with the energy of the town's world-famous hot springs, symbolizing renewal, vitality, and a deep connection to place.

The project budget is up to \$15,000, and the submission deadline for Round 1 is March 5, 2025, at 5:00 PM (MT). To apply, visit <https://mypagosa.org/2025-call-for-artists>.

For questions, email agadomski@pagosasprings.co.gov.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute a lasting symbol of community pride and artistic vision!



SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The presentation at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center at 11 a.m. on Sunday will be "The Influence In Your Life of the 5 People Closest to You."

Upgrade your subconscious with Zhena, author and health advocate. A love donation will be accepted.

Upcoming events

Feb. 4, 5:30 p.m.: Illuminations presentation on "El Camino Experience" with Rica Potenz and Thomas Davenport. Enjoy their spiritual journey with a beautiful slide show presentation. A love donation will be accepted.

Feb. 13: Thursday Sacred Valentines Heart Blessing and Ceremony with Jenelle Syverson and Shayla McClure. Receive heartwarming cacao, chocolates, wine, self-love affirmations and rewards to celebrate your heart's journey. Sign-up now for your spot. The cost is a \$33 donation. Contact (970) 510-0309.

About us

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

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

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

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at 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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Learning from stray bullets

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

The proverbial bullet came from nowhere. Ricocheting through my whole body, ripping through the files of my mind, I wondered what on earth happened. I've dodged a lot of bullets, but this one got me, and it's a doozy. Coughing, stomach flu, fever and lightheadedness tried to strip the very life out of me. It drove me to my bed.

I've always considered my mind as a steel trap. I can remember every person's name, dates and every scripture reference from Genesis to Revelation. I thanked the Lord for such a strong memory and a clear mind. But this bullet had the power to destroy.

There is always a lesson to be learned. The mind is very valuable and vulnerable, and those whose mind is slipping need our compassion and help with ordinary things.

My daughter Angel said, "Mother, you were talking to someone on the television remote instead of the phone. It wasn't Siri you were talking to. Your brain has stopped working. Remember it's red for the right ear. You can't lose your mind. We need you."

I told her I felt my brain flatlining, even smells and taste buds diminished. Nothing computed. Five days later, sparks sliced through the air, brilliant flashes of creativity bounced and skipped in my head. I envisioned books I had written. Tall, shaped books about pine trees, and short, stubby books about dumpy little trees. I asked her, "Did I ever publish books like that?"

"No, I would have remembered those."

"Thank God I wasn't moved to do something like that."

My mind activated again; I drafted an invisible letter to the world. I didn't sleep all night, too sick to get out of bed and pick up a pencil, or go to the computer, I just needed to write. The same few lines went round and round in my head as I wrote to the world.

Artist's Lane

The next morning I thanked the Lord I was too sick to write anything down about everything on my mind. I was getting well, but, in the process, I realized the fragility of the mind. Sanity came back to me before I did something really stupid. I'm thankful for that.

Yesterday, stopping me in my tracks, was a halt before the next big project on the horizon. Today, it means taking time to enjoy my Sweet Al. I studied him in his recliner and thought about how much he is cherished and how much we must keep him close and safe.

I told our son his dad is a gift from heaven. He is so precious. He said, "I know. I left home at 17. I didn't have a relationship with him for 40 years. I came home to take care of him and love him. I'll do anything he needs."

And yes, our son has. He honors him with great respect and now takes care of his dad like a father takes care of a young son.

People ask me how my Sweet Al is. I tell them he is starting to slip a little. He's slipping from the world or the world is slipping away from him. Little decisions are too big. More than one thing bumfuzzles him. He says it's scary when he doesn't remember where he is. Oh, my gosh, that tears my heart out.

Today, I have brought life in a little closer. Every minute counts — listening to his stories, filling in names when he tries to explain things around him, always staying one step ahead of him for his safety. I can't do enough for this precious man I've loved and cherished for 65 years.

Our youngest daughter keeps him young. She takes him to church, his favorite place to go.

Afterward, it's a Big Gulp, laugh-

ing like two teenagers and discussing silly things.

I realized why my Sweet Al and our daughter find much enjoyment with each other. They are so much alike. They are both servants for this family. They are gifts from God. They will do anything for any person in this family. They live for family.

Final brushstroke: So, when these stray bullets come, we need to recognize the lessons. God often has to change the course of our days so we take notice around us. He is teaching me to take care of the minutes and hold on to the moments that will bring comfort later.

Readers' comments

"Read your article this morning, made me think of this big tree we saw in Alabama last month.

"Always thinking and praying for you and Al. In the love of Christ, Gregg H."

"Betty, That little teaser to communicate sure does work on me sometimes. . . .What's on your mind? O.k. here is a piece of my mind! The world has gone mad and actions taken by myself and others is living proof! I am just saying, "The absolute best thing I could receive from anyone who might think of me during this holiday season is the inexpensive holiday greeting."

"Those phone calls, texts, cards, letters, video calls etc. let me know I am valued by you like no gift could ever convey. You might even bless me more by sharing your life events through pictures and words.

"The holiday greetings seem to have been tossed out the window as an accepted community building event only to be replaced by gift giving that causes anxiety, unrealistic expectations, and financial folly. To some I must sound like a bah-humbug. To others, I hope to sound like the voice of reason from generations past. Please, less gifting and more conversing! Soapbox now set aside. Paige W."

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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Friends announce book sale, new guidelines for donations

By Carole Howard
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

Please mark your calendar for next Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. when the Friends of the Library will host a popup book sale in the large meeting room of the library with the theme "Cabin Fever."

The Friends' book sales are an ideal way for you to expand your home library and also purchase reading treasures for your loved ones, with all proceeds used to supplement the library collections and fund other projects that benefit your library.

Also, please note that the Friends have just announced new guidelines for donations to the library that you will want to make note of.

Books on time-sensitive topics that can quickly become out of date are wanted only if they have been published within the last five years. These subjects include politics/current events, health and medicine, sports/exercise, business, technology, science, education, and travel guides. Not accepted are reference materials, textbooks and nonprint material like CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, VHS or cassette tapes because they do not sell at Friends of the Library sales.

When the library is open, high-quality used book donations are gratefully accepted at the front desk — not down the outside returns slot at the library or the drop box at City Market, please.

No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints and all books should be in excellent condition, please.

Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks with New York Times best-selling authors continue in February with three opportunities for you to interact with bestselling authors.

Next Tuesday, Feb. 4, at noon Sabrina Scholts will discuss "How We Create Pandemics From Our Bodies to our Beliefs."

Library News

Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 5 p.m. will showcase Waubgeshig Rice, author of "Moon of the Turning Leaves," speaking on dystopian tropes from an Indigenous perspective.

Feb. 18 at noon will feature Lee Hawkins, author of "I am Nobody's Slave," discussing "How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free."

For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Friday Flix tomorrow

Enjoy a PG movie and free popcorn from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 31.

LEGO play Saturday

Kids aged 6-11 are invited to play with LEGOs on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 11 a.m. to noon. Bring your own LEGOs or use ours to free build.

Shakespeare read-aloud

Shakespeare fans of all ages are invited to join in reading aloud "The Comedy of Errors" that began Jan. 13 and will run Mondays through Feb. 24 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the free Shakespeare Read Aloud Club. This is an all-ages program. Call Jenny at (240) 426-7887 for more information.

High school math tutoring

Free high school math tutoring for ages 14 and up takes place Mondays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Registration is required.

Music fun Monday

Pagosa Unplugged is free from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, for amateur musicians who would like a safe, supportive, non-bar setting to play, sing or both with other people. For information, contact Susan at (970) 946-3396.

Spanish conversation

Practice your Spanish in a free group setting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. There is no minimum skill level needed.

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

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ continued from previous page 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 to 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.

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.

Healthy relationships for teens

Next Friday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 3 p.m. is the latest in the free monthly healthy relationships series hosted by Rise Above Violence, a local non-profit organization.

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.

Downloadable books

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 library, then enter your library card number and four-digit PIN. Library staff are happy to help you set up your device if you need assistance.

Large print

"Remember When" by Mary Balogh is part of the Ravenswood historical romance series set on an English estate. "The Ruse of Shadows" by Sherry Thomas is part of the Lady Sherlock murder mystery series set in Victorian England.

Nonfiction

"The Message" by Ta-Nehisi Coates looks at how our stories expose and distort our realities. "From Strength to Strength" by Arthur C. Brooks outlines new rules from middle age on for peace and happiness. "A Mile at a Time" by Travis and Mark Macy documents a father and son's inspiring Alzheimer's journey during a 400-mile marathon. "The Yard Girls' Guide to Kid Knits" by Julie Carles and Jordana Jacobs provides fast, colorful patterns for babies and toddlers. "The Road to Character" by David Brooks documents how the world's great thinkers and leaders have built strong inner characters. "The Spamalot Diaries" by comedian Eric Idle documents how Spamalot got to the Broadway stage. "Madam Secretary" by Madeleine Albright is her memoir with a new epilogue. "Wayne Goddard's \$50 Knife Shop" shows how to get started without investing in fancy gear. "A Man of Two Faces" by Pulitzer Prize-winner Viet Thanh Nguyen is a memoir of a Vietnamese American. "This Boy's Life" by Tobias Wolff is an updated memoir.

Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"The Unwedding" by Ally Condie centers on a divorcee vacationing at an elegant resort hosting a wedding.

"Holmes is Missing" by James Patterson and Brian Sitts is a Holmes, Margaret and Poe mystery. "Presumed Guilty" by Scott Turow is a legal thriller.

Other novels

"The Divorcees" by Rowan Beaird is set in a Reno "divorcees ranch" in the 1950s. "The Agony and the Ecstasy" by Irving Stone is a special edition celebrating the 500th anniversary of Michelangelo's David. "The Winds of War" by Pulitzer Prize-winner Herman Wouk is the World War II classic. "From Sand and Ash" by Amy Harmon feature a Jewish woman being sheltered from the Nazis in a convent.

Books on CD

"Defense Protocol" by Andrews and Wilson is a Tom Clancy Jack Ryan adventure. "Golden Hour" by Brett Battles is a Stuart Woods Teddy Fay and Stone Barrington mystery.

Thanks to our donors

This week we want to thank St. Patrick's Episcopal Church for its donation of books and John Penter for his generous monetary donation.

Quotable quote

"You were born to win, but to be a winner you must plan to win, prepare to win and expect to win." — Zig Ziglar (1926-2012), American author, salesman and motivational speaker.

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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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Jan. 30

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. 2-3 p.m., 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.

Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum. 4 p.m., Sisson Library. Kirsten Skeehan will talk about geothermal water and its role in agriculture.

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. 31

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.

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free. Those under 18 must have an adult chaperone. For more information, contact (970) 264-2167.

Friday Flix. 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For all ages. Join for a family-friendly film and snacks.

Saturday, Feb. 1

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Wrestling: Crossover Duals. 9 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Pagosa Peak Genealogical Society. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 434 Lewis St. The program will feature a video presentation on "Naturalization Records: What They Tell

Me and Where to Find Them." For more information, contact Carolyn Paschal at carolunpaschal@gmail.com or visit pagosapeakgs.org.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your own LEGOs or use the library's to free build.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 2:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Centauri.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Centauri.

Monday, Feb. 3

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

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.

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

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

Shakespeare Read Aloud Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join in reading "The Comedy of Errors" aloud together. For more information, call Jenny at (240) 426-7887.

High School Math Tutoring. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Math tutors are available for ages 14 and up. Registration is required.

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.

The Alpha Course. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. A series of video talks with discussion breaks about questions of life. Dessert, coffee and child care will be provided. Register at pagosabiblechurch.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

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.

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.

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

■ See Calendar on next page

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WHY YOUR BODY LOVES EXERCISE

Isn't it interesting how the body reacts to regular exercise versus consistent inactivity? Your body loves exercise and activity. Today's excerpt explains why. Want to feel better, have more energy and perhaps even live longer? Look no further than exercise. The health benefits of regular exercise and physical activity are hard to ignore. And the benefits of exercise are yours for the taking, regardless of your age, sex or physical ability. Need more convincing to exercise? Check out these ways exercise can improve your life.



No. 1: Exercise controls weight.

Exercise can help prevent excess weight gain or help maintain weight loss. When you engage in physical activity, you burn calories. The more intense the activity, the more calories you burn. You don't need to set aside large chunks of time for exercise to reap weight-loss benefits. If you can't do an actual workout, get more active throughout the day in simple ways — by taking the stairs instead of the elevator or revving up your household chores.

No. 2: Exercise combats health conditions and diseases. Worried about heart disease? Hoping to prevent high blood pressure? No matter what your current weight, being active boosts high-density lipoprotein (HDL), or "good," cholesterol and decreases unhealthy triglycerides. This one-two punch keeps your blood flowing smoothly, which decreases your risk of cardiovascular diseases. In fact, regular physical activity can help you prevent or manage a wide range of health problems and concerns, including stroke, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, depression, certain types of cancer, arthritis and falls.

No. 3: Exercise improves mood. Need an emotional lift? Or need to blow off some steam after a stressful day? A workout at the gym or a brisk 30-minute walk can help. Physical activity stimulates various brain chemicals that may leave you feeling happier and more relaxed. You may also feel better about your appearance and yourself when you exercise regularly, which can boost your confidence and improve your self-esteem.

Source: "Exercise: 7 benefits of regular physical activity." <http://www.mayoclinic.org/>

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

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100:3

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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.

Online Author Talk: Sabrina Sholts. Noon, virtual. "The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs" with Sabrina Sholts. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

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.

Conversational Spanish. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required.

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, Feb. 5

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., Pope 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.

Thursday, Feb. 6

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: Emotional Health with Cheri Minnier-Wells. 12:30-2 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The topic will be "Matters of the Heart: How to Lower Stress and Find Peace in Your Life."

T'ai Chi Chih. 2-3 p.m., 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.

San Juan Outdoor Club. 6-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Dustin English, member of the Upper San Juan Search and Research team and skilled avalanche awareness trainer, will give a talk on avalanche risks that we might encounter when venturing into our local mountains during the winter. He will provide helpful advice on recognizing potential avalanche terrain and discuss some tools that we should consider having with us when we ski or snowshoe in certain areas. He will also recount some of

his and his team's experiences with avalanches and the search and recovery efforts. The meeting starts with a social half hour at 6 p.m. with light refreshments, with the meeting following at 6:30 p.m. Those with last names beginning with G-Z are asked to bring a snack/appetizer or desert to share. For more information, email sanjuanoutdoorclub@gmail.com.

■ See Calendar on next page

**HUD
Publisher's Notice**



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

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

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

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!

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

Friday, Feb. 7

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.

Rise Above Violence: Healthy Relationships. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Learn about healthy relationships with Rise Above Violence.

Tween/Teen Takeover. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. The large meeting room and some of the computers will be saved for tweens/teens to use and spend time with friends.

Pagosa Springs Athletic Booster Club Basket Auction. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School commons area, 800 S. 8th St.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Monte Vista.

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala. 6-8 p.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. An evening of live music, food, a cash bar, silent auction and the presentation of the Community Award winners. Tickets are \$35 and available at pagosachamber.com until Feb. 5.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Monte Vista.

Saturday, Feb. 8

Cabin Fever Book Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Friends of the Library members, teachers, nurses and first responders can buy one, get one free with proof of membership/employment.

Chess Club. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Sisson Library. Learn how to play chess with quick lessons and game time or practice your skills. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Archuleta County Democratic Party Biennial Reorganization Meet-

ing. 10 a.m., virtual. Register at archuletaadems.org.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join new or experienced knitters to get help with your project, or sit and knit.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 2:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Ignacio.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Ignacio.

Game Night. 4 p.m., Mount Allison Grange, 2622 County Road 329, Allison. Bunco, 31 and other games will be offered. Join for family fun and a potluck. Open to the public. For more information, contact Sheri Rochford Figs at (970) 749-0614 or arboleshiker@gmail.com.

Monday, Feb. 10

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

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.

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

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

Shakespeare Read Aloud Club. 3:30-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join in reading "The Comedy of Errors" aloud together. For more information, call Jenny at (240) 426-7887.

Deepening the Faith Classes. 6-8 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

The Alpha Course. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. A series of video talks with discussion breaks about questions of life. Dessert, cof-

fee and child care will be provided. Register at pagosabilechurch.org. 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**

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 American tree sparrow.

European settlers in North America, reminded of a bird on the continent they left behind, gave the American tree sparrow a name that really doesn't fit. Instead of in trees, these birds are more likely found on the ground, where, in winter, they search for food in weedy fields, brushy edges of woodlands, crop fields and overgrown gardens.

Even their breeding areas in far northern tundras are scrubby areas at or above the northern treeline, and usually have only a few small trees used by males to perch and sing their sweet songs. These regions, which stretch across Alaska and northern Canada, provide the abundant supply of insects, spiders and snails which birds eat and feed to their young during breeding season.

In winter, American tree sparrows range across northern and central North America. From fall through spring their diet is almost exclusively vegetarian. In small flocks they scratch and peck at the ground, hop up at bent weeds and fly up and beat their wings against grass heads to dislodge seeds. Flocks communicate with musical two-note calls while foraging. Where they live around people, they readily eat seeds under bird feeders.

These sparrows need to take in around 30 percent of their body weight and a similar proportion of water each day to survive. Comparing to a human, this would mean a person weighing 150 pounds would daily need to take in 45 pounds of food and five gallons of water.

American tree sparrows are identified by a rust-colored cap and eyeline, plain gray chest with a central smudge spot and bi-colored bills, dark on top and yellow on bottom. They are known as "winter chippies," a nod to the similarities shared with chipping sparrows, a common summer sparrow that migrates south in winter.

Due to troubling long-term population trends, Partners in Flight lists these birds in the category of Common Birds in Steep Decline. The loss of weedy field habitats in their winter range is thought to be a contributing factor.

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



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The guide will be mailed in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN to subscribers. A digitally enhanced version of the guide will be online at PagosaSUN.com and ExplorePagosa.com. The Pagosa Area Tourism Board will provide a link to this guide on visitpagosasprings.com.

To ensure that your business is represented in Pagosa Springs' largest and most comprehensive visitor guide, call or email Shari today.
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Fast facts about slow cooking

Special to The PREVIEW

Slow cooking is a popular way to prepare meals. From barbecue to simmering to braising, the methods of slow cooking vary considerably.

Many people may not realize that slow cooking can be a healthy and beneficial way to prepare food.

The following are some advantages to cooking low and slow:

- **Save money:** Cooking foods slowly helps to tenderize them, which bodes well when utilizing more fibrous or dense cuts of meat. Consumers looking for ways to save more on their monthly food bills can lean on slow cooking to produce delicious results with cheaper cuts.

- **Reduce the number of dishes:** Those who do the majority of their cooking in a slow cooker can mix ingredients that are typically prepared separately. Putting them together in the crock saves time and energy cleaning up.

- **Convenience:** Slow cooking allows cooks to step away from the

kitchen and engage in other activities. Most slowly cooked foods only require sporadic check-ins while cooking.

- **Nutrient-dense meals:** The United Kingdom-based supplement firm Wild Nutrition notes that because of the low temperatures utilized when slow cooking, the nutrients within foods cooked slowly remain more stable than they do when employing other methods of cooking. This means slow cooking may deliver more beneficial vitamins and minerals than other methods of preparing meals.

- **Soften ingredients while cooking:** Slow cooking at a low temperature for several hours will soften up tough root vegetables.

- **Intensify flavor:** Cooking over a long period of time can increase flavor, enabling cooks to use less sugar, salt or other ingredients that are often relied on to add more taste.

Slow cooking is a convenient and beneficial way to prepare healthy, nutritious and flavorful meals.



Be Mine SALE

February 8th, 10am-3pm
Join us for our annual shrimp + champagne 'Be Mine Sale'

Special Guest
Leigha Cleveland (Native Silversmith)
Michael Silberhorn (live music)

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Shop & Wish List



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Photo courtesy Dave Marston

Morning Glory natural bridge, Grandstaff Canyon, is just outside a wilderness study area on Bureau of Land Management land near Moab, Utah.

Hey, Utah, Americans love our public lands

By Aaron Weiss
PREVIEW Columnist

If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over while hoping in vain for different results, then Utah's leaders surely need to talk to a mental health professional.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court summarily dismissed Utah's land-grab lawsuit, which had gained the support of 12 states. It was the latest in a string of unsuccessful attempts to wrest control of public lands from the American people.

Why Utah persists in its quest to privatize its priceless assets of public land is puzzling. Managed by the Bureau of Land Management, these lands are cherished by mountain bikers, hunters, hikers, campers and photographers. Many connect to national parks and monuments, and it's hard to imagine that selling them off would ever be a popular move.

In its complaint, the state argued that the U.S. Constitution prohibits the federal government from holding "unappropriated" public lands indefinitely, and that those lands must be handed over to the state. Aside from the state inventing its own definition of the word "unappropriated," the lawsuit relied on a selective reading of the Constitution that the Supreme

Opinion: Writers on the Range

Court rightfully ignored.

The state paid \$500,000 to the lawyers who wrote this failed complaint and spent more than \$1.3 million on a public relations campaign aimed at convincing Utahns that the state would be a better steward of public land than the federal government. Add that to the roughly \$4 million the state has wasted on failed public land seizure attempts in the past decade, and you come up with nearly \$6 million squandered.

Public lands make a lot of money for Utah. Outdoor recreation generated \$9.5 billion in economic output in 2023, according to the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis. And it's growing at an annual average of 8.4 percent — the highest of any state. Utah's world-famous national public lands draw millions of visitors to the state each year, who then spend money at hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other businesses.

■ See Writers on next page

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Karate move
- 5 Farm implement
- 9 Retro hairdo
- 13 Wrangler rivals
- 15 Jackie Chan's "Rush ____"
- 16 Within view
- 17 Construct
- 18 Leaving no will
- 20 Possible, as a plan
- 22 Audiophile's setup
- 23 Quiet
- 24 Rating unit
- 25 Fall guy
- 28 Honey bunch?
- 32 Suffers from
- 33 Outback dog
- 34 Quebec follower in the NATO alphabet

DOWN

- 1 Sail's corner
- 2 Medal earner
- 3 Justice League enemy
- 4 Type of truck
- 5 Longtime TV host
- 6 Like Silver's rider
- 7 Ump's call
- 8 Take forcibly
- 9 Waiting place
- 10 1991 film, "Cape ____"
- 11 Part of A.P.R.
- 12 Cookie since 1912
- 14 Put into words
- 19 Beatles surname
- 21 Get cracking
- 24 Wall Street worker
- 25 Soda shop order
- 26 Barker's successor
- 27 Time's partner
- 29 Insignificant sort
- 30 Unearthly
- 31 Did a cobbler's job

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15				16			
17						18				19			
20					21				22				
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25	26					27			28		29	30	31
32				33						34			
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40				41		42				43		44	
45						46					47		
			48		49			50					
51	52	53					54					55	56
57						58				59			
60					61					62			
63					64						65		

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- 36 "Frasier" and "Maude", e.g.
- 38 Grave danger
- 41 Mail-order pioneer
- 43 Yangtze and Yellow
- 47 Pull up stakes
- 49 Tin or titanium
- 51 First word in magic
- 52 Popular jeans
- 53 Nerdy sort
- 54 Fit to be tried
- 55 Storage cylinder
- 56 Card game combo
- 58 Topeka to NYC dir.

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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Credit for Caring Act aims to support family caregivers

By Rose Chavez
PREVIEW Columnist

Family caregivers are holding up our country's broken long-term health care system. They often dip into their savings or cut back on their own health care — giving beyond their capacity — to provide support for those they love.

It's time these sacrifices were recognized — and you're part of a special group that can make a real difference to help.

New lawmakers from Colorado are in office, and Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI), in partnership with AARP, are pushing for them to prioritize much-needed financial relief for family caregivers.

We're supporting a bipartisan bill that would give working family caregivers a tax credit of up to \$5,000. This is important: Family caregivers spend an average of more than \$7,000 out of their own pockets while caring for their loved ones. There are so many family caregivers — in fact, more than 48 million people across the country care for an older loved one. That's more than the population of Texas and New York combined. And the

Senior News

power of family caregivers is undeniable: The value of their unpaid labor is over \$600 billion every year.

Family caregivers have long been ignored and overlooked. We will not let that continue. And new lawmakers in Colorado and across the country can make a big difference by moving a caregiver tax credit forward.

We are urging passage of the bipartisan, bicameral Credit for Caring Act (Senate Bill 1670/House Bill 3321) that would provide a new, nonrefundable federal tax credit of up to \$5,000 to eligible family caregivers to help address the financial challenges of caring for older parents, spouses and other loved ones while remaining in the workforce. The vast majority of individuals 50-plus (92 percent) support a federal tax credit for family caregivers.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the U.S. care system, helping

parents, spouses and other loved ones live independently in their homes, providing about \$470 billion annually in unpaid care. This care ultimately helps save taxpayer money by delaying or preventing expensive nursing home stays and hospital visits, though often at the cost of caregivers' own financial security (including out-of-pocket expenses), and physical and emotional health. AARP believes family caregivers have earned support as they take on these costs and responsibilities, which have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than three out of four family caregivers (78 percent) incur out-of-pocket costs due to caregiving. Caregivers spend on average nearly \$7,000 annually on care-related expenses. These personal contributions will likely grow in the future. Forty-five percent of family caregivers reported at least one adverse financial impact due to their caregiving responsibilities, including taking on more debt,

■ See Senior on page 19

Writers

■ continued from previous page

The federal government spends more than \$300 million a year (adjusted for inflation) to manage public lands in Utah — a cost the state would have a hard time covering were its land-grab effort to succeed. A 2014 study commissioned by state lawmakers found that the state would be able to pay that cost only if it were to aggressively ramp up oil and gas drilling or sell off some land.

Currently, Utah benefits from the federal management dollars flowing in annually, as well as \$50 million in direct payments to counties containing public lands, and \$90 million in federal oil and gas royalties.

Despite this beneficial arrangement, the state's lawmakers have continually treated public lands like a burden, not an asset. Utah lawmakers have been trying to seize control of national public lands since the 1980s. Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch introduced a bill in 1981 that closely mirrors the recent Supreme Court complaint. Then, in 2012, Utah state lawmakers passed the Utah Transfer of Public Lands Act to take control of essentially the same public land identified in the Supreme Court complaint.

Efforts continued in 2017 when Utah Republican Representative Jason Chaffetz filed a bill to transfer federal land to the states. He was


forced to withdraw his bill after hunters and anglers loudly protested. Today, Utah Republican Sen. Mike Lee is pushing legislation that would make it easier to sell off public lands to developers, claiming that the lands are necessary to build affordable housing.

Most Utahns don't want what their representatives keep trying to achieve. Public lands are incredibly popular in Utah and throughout the West. Polling by Colorado College found that a majority of Utahns — including Republicans — support conservation of public lands over their exploitation for oil and gas.

Though it's hard to believe, the state will most likely continue its crusade to seize and sell off public lands, wasting even more taxpayer money in the lower courts.

Utahns should tell their leaders once and for all to stop wasting their time and money on this wild goose chase and embrace the ongoing gift of American public lands — not the grift of trying to sell them.

Aaron Weiss is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, writersontherange.org, an independent non-profit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He is deputy director of the Center for Western Priorities. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of *The SUN*.



Trinity Anglican Church

A leper said, "Jesus, touch me and I'll be clean." Jesus did. He was. A Roman soldier said, "Jesus, my very sick servant at home, will be healed, now, if you just say the word." Jesus did. He was.

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2 buildings and one parcel. The front of the building is a gallery and workshop. The back unit is an office set up which was a clinic in the past. There is also a Quonset hut on the back of the property. The gallery fronts Highway 160 and parking is on Eagle Dr and Trinity Ln. Included with the gallery are gallery lights, display fixtures, refrigerator and office furniture. There are 2 offices in the gallery, the back unit has a formal reception area with 2 larger offices, 2 smaller offices and 2 more small flexible rooms. Also, the roof was recently replaced.



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MLS # 819174

.68 acre, 1440 square foot commercial building. There is enough property to build another building or make a large wrap around parking lot. There is a 3000 BTU gas heater and a 40 gallon hot water heater. The doors and walls have a 90 minute fireproof rating. Walls are removable so the floor plan could be opened up. There is a kitchen sink, stove and dishwasher, half bath and the overhead door is 8' x 10'.



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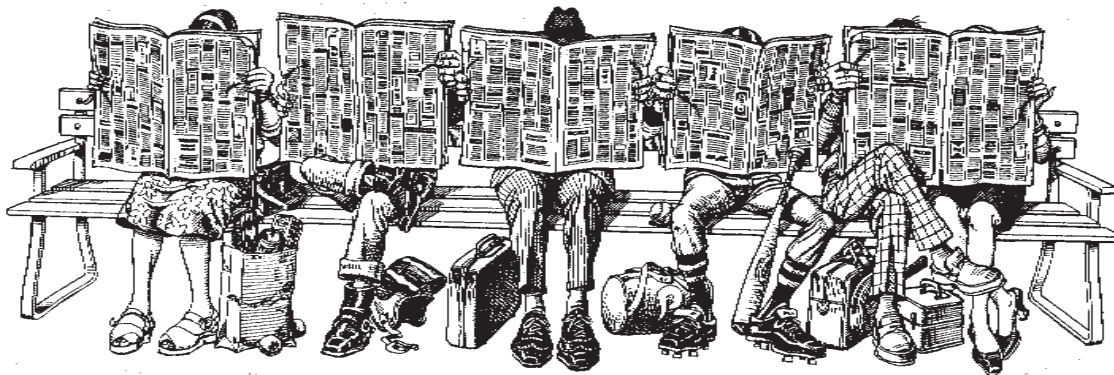
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Senior

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leaving bills unpaid, and sacrificing current and future savings.

But, if working family caregivers age 50-plus have support, the U.S. gross domestic product could grow by an additional \$1.7 trillion in 2030. Too often, employed family caregivers leave the workforce or reduce their hours to fulfill their caregiving duties, which can result in a loss of income, retirement savings, benefits and career mobility. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly increased these risks with services family caregivers depend on, such as adult day services, being closed, further shifting the responsibilities to family caregivers.

The Credit for Caring Act would help working family caregivers offset the cost of some caregiving expenses such as a home care aide, adult day services, home modifications, assistive technology, respite care, transportation or other supports that help them and their loved ones. The bill, unlike the existing child and dependent care credit, would help family caregivers who care for non-dependents or who do not live with the person they are assisting.

Eligible family caregivers assisting loved ones of all ages would receive the credit if the care recipient meets certain functional or cognitive limitations, or other requirements certified by a licensed health care practitioner.

The amount of the credit would be 30 percent of the qualified expenses paid or incurred by the family caregiver above \$2,000, up to a maximum credit amount of \$5,000. Individuals with higher incomes would be ineligible for the tax credit, and the bill includes provisions to prevent double-dipping with existing tax provisions.

A federal tax credit for family caregivers has strong support across party lines among individuals 50-plus, with 96 percent of Democrats, 95 percent of independents and 87 percent of Republicans supporting it.

Valentine's Day Soirée

Join us for the first Pagosa Springs Valentine's Day Soirée: Fine Food and Wine Pairing on Feb. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ross Aragon Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Enjoy a selection of exceptional curated wines, savory appetizers and delicious chocolates, all crafted by local artisans. Live music from the gifted Gus Palma will enhance the evening's ambiance.

The soirée will also feature a silent auction with unique items and fantastic door prizes. This event invites everyone — singles, couples and groups — to enjoy an unforgettable evening while supporting ASI.

Tickets are limited, so don't miss out. Purchase tickets at <https://givebutter.com/ValentinesWinePairingSoiree>, call (970) 264-2167 or visit our office.

Why fundraise?

Poverty rates for individuals aged

65 and older in Archuleta County have risen from 5.2 percent to 9.0 percent, impacting approximately 1,300 individuals.

The soirée is crucial for raising funds to support essential health and social services for vulnerable older adults and family caregivers in our community.

Poverty in rural America presents barriers to vital resources for all age groups, but older adults are especially vulnerable, including experiencing barriers to: health care, healthy food and affordable housing, among other critical supports.

ASI operates independently as a nonprofit, relying on public and private funding, donations and more than 70 community volunteers. Unfortunately, funding sources have been unstable, making your support vital for our efforts to serve the community effectively.

Impact of ASI

Since 2023, more than 1,000 unduplicated older adults and caregivers in Archuleta County have benefited annually from our signature nutrition program, which offers nutritious meals served in a welcoming environment.

In 2024 alone, we provided approximately 35,000 meals, including deliveries to homebound older adults, a convenient grab-n-go service and dine-in/socialize options.

Annually, we also serve more than 600 unduplicated older adults and caregivers via facilitating quality referrals to local organizations/agencies, providing social connection and support through various activities, including community clinics, fun games, educational classes, discussion groups, and creative and empowering community events.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

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

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

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

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

for scrapbooking and more.

New time for T'ai Chi Chih

The Senior Center offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti Popovich each Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfill-

■ See Senior on next page

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

ment 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 effortless are the guiding principles in this practice.

All classes will be free for older adults (age 55 and better) and will last approximately one hour.

No special clothing or equipment is required.

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

Brain fitness and mobility program

Join us Mondays through March 3 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at the 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 life-long optimal health functioning.

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 Feb. 12.

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 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

■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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 ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Bingo

The Senior Center continues to host free community bingo games twice a month on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The dates to kick off 2025 are Jan. 31, Feb. 14 and 28, and March 7 and 21.

Bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes from local businesses for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required. Help us create an intergenerational community.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

For more information, contact us at (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.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Open to all. 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. 30 — Cod and shrimp Veracruz, roasted asparagus, garden salad, vanilla yogurt, fruit and milk.

Friday, Jan. 31 — Chicken and dumplings, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, cranberry nut muffin and milk.

Monday, Feb. 3 — King Ranch chicken casserole, pinto beans, garden salad, fruit, cherry pie and milk.

Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Pasta primavera with Alfredo sauce, wilted spinach, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit, muffin and milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 5 — Greek chicken pita with cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, tzatziki sauce, lemon orzo, garden salad, fruit, baklava and milk.

Thursday, Feb. 6 — Beef stroganoff over egg noodles, roasted asparagus, garden salad, fruit, carrot cake and milk.

Friday, Feb. 7 — Jerk chicken, Caribbean beans, tropical fruit salad, cottage cheese, garden salad 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 pick up 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

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■ See Senior on next page

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venient 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 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. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with

those you have missed over the last couple of years.

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/>.

Informative.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
264-2100

HAVE MEDICAID?

Non-emergency medical transportation to anywhere in Colorado and border state approved cities for Medicaid insured rides to and from Medicaid providers

Pre-approval and 24-hour notice required.

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Call WJP/A1 Taxi to get yourself set up.

970-731-4081

Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc

Call 970-731-4081 for scheduling

PUC # 16400, DOT# 2842985, MCT# 0021

Safe2Tell Colorado

(877) 542-7233

Anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family or your community.

Half Page Ad

Buy One, Get One FREE!

For the month of **February only**, purchase a **1/2 page ad** in The Pagosa Springs SUN or PREVIEW, get the **second week FREE!**

Requirements: A minimum of 2 half-page ads must run in February 6 through 27, 2025 editions.

Must be the same ad for both insertions, runs do not need to be consecutive. Business' main office must be located in Archuleta County.

Offer not available for color ads. Limited to the first 10 advertisers.

**It's the Best Deal of the Year.
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Call your friendly, knowledgeable and experienced advertising representatives to reserve your advertising space today.

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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

Publishing Visitor Guides in Pagosa Springs for over 30 years
Publishing the Official Newspaper of Archuleta County since 1909

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without
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Exterior Staining & Painting
All bids given during spring will include discount.

Highest Quality Products
Commercial and Residential Work • Fully Local
Spent over \$80,000 at our local Sherwin Williams last year in products

BOOK NOW FOR 2025

Unsure? Ask us for a FREE estimate
We stained over 75 homes in 2024!

Ask to see some of the 600+ residential and commercial properties we've stained in the area.



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Classifieds

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.



Loving Dog Care by Leslie N.

Text pet info to: 469-667-4480
Look for info on: leslieslittles.com

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References and reviews available

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All Massages include a Soak!



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Downtown Pagosa 264-4040

THINK HAIR THINK ELIZABETH 970-903-5152

THE RUBY SISSON LIBRARY Foundation & Friends is seeking an Executive Director to provide strategic direction and achieve fundraising objectives for the organization. Director will identify, define and develop funding sources to support existing capital campaigns as well as lead the development, writing, and submission of grant proposals. \$22/hour DOE, insurance stipend and PTO available. Email resume to: foundation@pagosalibrary.org

1 KENMORE PROPANE gas dryer, works great- \$75. 1 Reliance electric hot water tank 50 gallon- \$250 like new. Call/ text (970)309-6067.

2003 VW TDI, 285K miles, runs good but needs transmission work. \$2.5 OBO. Call (970)946-9148.

LOST GARMIN 300 hand-held dog tracker on 1/20/25. Highland parking lot, Pagosa Lakes. Call Rob (970)846-8584.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosaprisngs.com. Deadline for advertising is February 21, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified. **PagosaSUN.com**

235 Bastille Dr • 7 Days a Week

Daily Planner

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MEDICINAL MONDAY : FRESH "J" TUESDAY : WACKY WEDNESDAY : THRIFTY THURSDAY

DIXIE & MARY'S MEDICINALS

30% OFF

30% OFF FRESH JOINTS

BATCH VAPES & WYLD PRODUCTS

30% OFF

30% OFF ALL WANA & TASTEBUDS

BOGO FRIDAY

BUY ONE INCREDIBLE OR NOVE & GET ONE

50% OFF

SMOKIN SATURDAY

SOLVENTLESS CONCENTRATES 15% OFF MIX & MATCH ALL OUNCES \$99 OUT THE DOOR

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Widest Selections
Kindest Budtenders
Award Winning Flower

TO DO LIST

- Uptown Shopping at
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- Check the Plants in the
- Live Grow!!!
- Ask about Fresh Strains
- Tell my friends!!!

SHOPPING LIST

- Edibles for Sleep
- Medicated Bath Bomb
- Joint Relief Cream
-
- 50% Off Flower
- 50% Off Concentrate

NEW! Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local >> Place Your Classified Ad

All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m. • Too Late To Classify deadline: Tues., 3 p.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING? Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/ text (303)815-8569. www.al-anon.org.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING. Wednesdays, 5:30 at Pagosa Bible Church. Use side entrance. Call Bailey for details at (719)588-7572.

PAGOSA AA: M-W-F 5:30p.m. Mens' meeting Tuesday 5:30p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at noon. 315 N. 2nd St., County Road 200 (.2 miles off 160). Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only; ID 858 319 763, password 754 234. Call Kathi (970)946-1482 or Central Office (888)333-9649.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 21, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m. Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

SERVICES

CLEANING WITH ATTENTION TO DETAILS. Residential and commercial. Please call Julie (970)946-8229.

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING. Reasonable prices. Linda Lemo, (970)507-0176.

HANDYMAN SERVICE. Noah's Ark Enterprises. (970)901-5298.

HOME IMPROVEMENT: Drywall, Floors, Windows, Doors, Plumbing, Kitchens and Bathrooms, Siding, Decks, Snow Removal! (970)844-0554.

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Have your plans drawn now.
Don't wait!
Be ready to start your house,
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SERVICES

SERVICES



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UNITS AVAILABLE**

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in most cases

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Tankless water heater
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Located in Pagosa Springs

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RICHARD DECLARK ELECTRICAL is available for all your electrical services from remodels to new construction. I have been in Pagosa for 15 years, no job too small or too large. (970)903-1456.

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RIVERSTONE CARPET CLEANING. 25 cents/sq. ft. and \$3 per stair. No hidden charges. Owner/operator 20 years experience. Professional, trustworthy and punctual. 100% eco-friendly. Call Mike at (970)403-9222. Credit cards accepted with no fee. Hallways and closets always free.

ROOF REPAIRS, LEAKS, RESCREWS, INSPECTIONS. 35+ years experience. Call Jeff at Blair Roofing. (970)903-6556.

SNOW PLOWING/ SHOVELING. Commercial and residential. Call now to schedule. Eric (970)946-2061.

TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL HOME SERVICES, (760)835-1041.

TOO MUCH ON YOUR TO-DO LIST? I'm here to help. Marlene (719)850-3055.

REMODELING NEW ADDITIONS COMMERCIAL



BWD
(970) 731-9700

PAGOSA SPRINGS STORAGE has all size units available. 24 hour access, gated, with security cameras. Call for specials. (970)731-0007 www.pagosaspringsstorage.com.

PROFESSIONAL SNOW REMOVAL. - Residential and Commercial. Fully insured. Shovel and salt upon request. Call now for quote. (970)946-4450.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/ HOME CARE checks, providing snow removal, landscaping, handyman services. Call Eric (970)946-2061.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

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Snow Removal



FIRE & ICE

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Storage units & parking spots
Special rates available
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Detail Oriented, Trustworthy & Reliable Cleaners
For All Your Housekeeping & Window Cleaning Needs
Find us on Google & Facebook

Text/call Kim (970) 946-6446

TRAVELING PUBLIC NOTARY Services. Call or Email Renea Harris (512)576-1795 or travelnotary81147@gmail.com. Small fee applies for service and travel.

TREE FELLING, TRIMMING, REMOVAL and lot cleaning! MTN Forestry specializes in hazardous and technical tree trimming and removals. Call anytime for a free quote! (970)403-6396.

WE HAUL. WE WILL haul off anything but your marijuana or your mother-in-law. No job too big or too small. We also move buildings. We don't haul pigs. Dan Snow (719)849-8873.

WEBSITE DESIGN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL AD EXPERT. Available to help grow your business. www.mgmpagosa.com Text: (928)246-1321.

HEALTH

AMMA LEE SPIRITUAL LIFE COACH. Get unstuck. Call (970)779-0185.

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions at hot springs! Introducing Quantum Reset. Also, cranial sacral, bodywork, massage. Serving Pagosa 27 years, Dr. Dean and Amanda, (970)844-0645, (970)903-5309.

HELP WANTED

1ST SOUTHWEST BANK, a locally owned CDFI community bank, is seeking a **Personal Banker** and a **Teller**. FSWB offers competitive compensation, generous benefits, & career development. Join FSWB's award-winning team dedicated to supporting rural Colorado's agricultural, nonprofit, and small businesses. For details and to apply, visit fswb.bank/about/careers. EOE.

ARCHULETA SENIORS INC. is accepting applications for a kitchen assistant. Join our positive professional team in a commercial kitchen dedicated to serving the older adults in our community. Hours are typically 7 am to 3 pm, part-time with weekends off, supporting a healthy work-life balance. Competitive pay, daily meal provided and health benefit stipend provided. Potential for advancement through in-house training. Call (970)264-2167 or stop by the Pagosa Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is looking for painters and finish carpenters. Work year round! Paid time off 48 hours per year. Paid holidays and bonuses. Pay will be based on experience. Please bring resume to Colorado Dream Homes office 2283 Eagle Drive 8-5, or call (970)731-3071 for information. You can also submit a resume to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com.

COME AND JOIN THE COLORADO DREAM HOMES TEAM! In business for over 30 years. We work year-round, very busy. Full Time 8a.m. -5p.m. (1) hour lunch. Monday thru Friday. Position available for purchasing decorating items for clients and tracking client expense budgets on Excel. Assistant to the lead decorator, in time this position will become the lead decorator. Client filing. Fill in answering phones. Must KNOW EXCEL! Paid time off 48 hours per year, paid holidays, bonuses. Starting pay \$20.50 per hour /Salary 40 hour week. 30 day review then raise eligible, based on knowledge. Must have good people skills, and will be working directly with owners. Happy working environment! Please call (970)731-3071 for information or drop by our office, 2283 Eagle Drive, or you can email resume at coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com. Position open immediately.

EMPLOYMENT: PLPOA DCS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT A full-time position, including benefits, with the Department of Community Standards in the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association. Under the direction of the Department of Community Standards Manager, the Administrative Assistant is responsible for performing a variety of routine and complex clerical, record-keeping, and administrative functions to support the operation of the Department of Community Standards. Permitting, planning documents, construction knowledge, and bilingualism are a plus. Please submit a resume and reference letter(s) to the Administration office at 230 Port Avenue, attention DCS Manager, or email DCS.MGR@plpoa.com; the application close date is February 15, 2025.

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED CARPENTER- SUBCONTRACTOR OPPORTUNITY We are seeking a skilled carpenter to join our team as a subcontractor. Must have experience in residential construction, including framing, trim work, cabinetry, and custom builds. Requirements: Proven carpentry expertise with references. Ability to read plans and follow project specifications. Own tools and transportation. Valid liability insurance (required). This is a subcontractor role, offering competitive pay and consistent work for the right candidate. Call (970)507-0845 or email your details to info@rootdesigncompany.com.

GENERAL LABORER NEEDED Full time. Assorted Duties. Please send resume or work history to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com. Phone (970)264-5000.

GROWING, LOCALLY OWNED home health team looking for caring, compassionate CNAs and Nursing Assistants (willing to train) to help individuals maintain independence at home. We provide complete care management based on individual needs and preferences. We offer competitive wages and certification assistance. Contact cathy@compassionate-care.solutions or (970)507-0051.

MALT SHOPPE NOW HIRING. Apply in person between 9a.m. and 2p.m.

MASSAGE THERAPIST -position open at Healing Waters Resort & Spa! We are looking for someone proficient in deep tissue and therapeutic massage to join our small team of therapists - medical or sports therapy background a plus! Must be available weekends. If this sounds like you, let's talk! Email Kanaka at sales@pshotsprings.com or drop your resume by Healing Waters Resort & Spa at 140 Hot Springs Blvd. Soaking included with employment.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

PAGOSA THERAPEUTICS AND THE GREEN HOUSE are looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to share their knowledge and help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. Come join a growing company with opportunities for advancement and involvement in outreach events. Please email your resume to employment@jandjinc.net.

HELP WANTED

Archuleta Housing is looking for a Director of Operations

The ideal candidate has great organizational skills and is motivated to excel.

Experience in Property Management, Property Maintenance, and Business Administration desired.

Real Estate License a plus.

Must have a valid drivers license and submit to a background check.



Please email resume and cover letter to ed.archhouse@gmail.com

Or call and speak to Carol Riley at 970-946-2972

BWD Construction is NOW HIRING!



Office Assistant:
Detail oriented,
tech savvy, must be
able to lift
incoming orders.



TERRY'S COLORADO HOME SUPPLY AND ACE HARDWARE IS SEEKING A MOTIVATED, DEPENDABLE, DETAIL ORIENTED INDIVIDUAL FOR SALES IN OUR FURNITURE DEPARTMENT.

Product or home design familiarity is a plus; proficient computer skills, exceptional communication, people and customer service skills are a must have.

Job requires working in a team atmosphere, high level of professionalism, and building long term

customers through a dynamic service repertoire.

Starts at \$18/hr with benefits. Full time/40hr week.

Applicants will need to be available for weekends and holidays. Apply in person at 525 Navajo Trail Drive.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 21, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

SECRETARY/ FRONT DESK team member wanted. Willing to train. What we do matters! We make people's lives better through excellent customer service. We show up every day, work hard, and make a great living serving our patients. We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off! We work in a beautiful facility with great pay, 401K, & bonuses. Gain a sense of fulfillment by helping people! E-mail resume to office@pagosasmiles.com.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FOR SALE



Walmart Pagosa Springs Supercenter

In-person hiring event

Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8

Walk ins welcome from 10am-2pm

Full Time and Part Time positions available
Starting pay \$18-\$25 *position and qualifications dependent

Start the application process at
www.walmart.com/careers

ELITE RECYCLING DISPOSAL

We currently have a **Route Truck Helper/Tipper** position open.

The starting rate for this position is \$19 / hour. Helpers ride on the trucks and empty trash carts and dumpsters. A valid driver's license is required, as helpers do a variety of tasks including cart delivery, shop cleaning, light mechanical and washing trucks and carts. We offer a competitive benefits package including a matching 401k Plan with opportunities to earn safety bonuses. We are committed to first-class service, where safety and people are our top priority!

Applications can be picked up at 250 Industrial Circle in Pagosa Springs, Colorado or call our office at (970)731-2012 or email tanner@elite-recycling.com to request one.

Elite Recycling and Disposal, a division of Bruin Waste Management, LLC is a rapidly growing organization with services expanding the Western Slope of Colorado.

SEEKING MORTGAGE LOAN PROCESSOR: Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is seeking an independent contractor with a heart for first time buyers to package USDA Direct loans. Applicants should expect seasonal full-time hours with a firm start date of February 24th for required USDA packager training. NMLS license preferred. Contact Leah at director@habitatarchuleta.org to apply.

CONTRACTOR SALES

Ponderosa Lumber is seeking a customer service oriented individual to assist contractors with purchasing building materials. Knowledge of building materials is necessary.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing excellent customer service
- Completing required paperwork
- Providing product information
- Data Entry

Please apply in person at

Ponderosa Lumber
2435 Eagle Drive or call (970) 731-4111

SMALL MOTEL AND RV PARK hiring part-time maintenance person. 20 hours per week. Pool and spa knowledge helpful but not required. Pay depending on experience. Call (970)731-5345 for more information.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a **Building Code Official** in the Development Division. The individual selected for this position shall be responsible for coordinating building inspections and permit-related activities. Performs a variety of routine and complex technical, professional, and administrative work in plans review and analysis, inspection, and enforcement to determine compliance with all applicable building codes and ordinances as well as accepted standards relating to buildings within Town limits. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire an **Equipment Operator I** in the Public Works Division. The individual selected for this position will perform a variety of entry-level, skilled, and technical duties related to the construction, installation, maintenance, and repair of the Town's streets, sidewalks, alleys, and related infrastructure. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosasprings.co.gov and select Employment.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) Thrift Store plays a vital role in supporting our animal shelter and its mission to care for and rehome animals in need. This year, we anticipate challenges due to road construction on Highway 160, which may impact in-person sales. To offset potential revenue loss, we need help launching online sales through platforms like eBay and Facebook Marketplace. We're looking for a creative and motivated individual to join our team as a **Part-Time Online Sales Coordinator**. This role is essential in ensuring we continue to generate critical funds to support our shelter and animals. If you have experience in online product marketing, primarily ebay and FB marketplace, we would love to talk to you. Please send your resume, a brief cover letter, to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org. Time on-site as needed to take photos and coordinate inventory; the remainder of the role can be performed remotely. Help us develop and execute a plan to have an online presence and make a difference for animals in our community while growing our online sales! 16.00 -19.00 per hour DOE.

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

REACH TOURISTS COMING TO PAGOSA SPRINGS with the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide, summer edition. Promote your business to your customers in 30,000 copies of the guide. These will be distributed locally at The Springs Resort, Walmart, Wyndham, the visitor center and other area establishments, at welcome centers throughout Colorado and mailed to SUN subscribers. View the guide on pagosasun.com, explorepagosa.com and visitpagosasprings.com. Deadline for advertising is February 21, 2025. Distribution of the guide will begin in late April. Call The Pagosa Springs SUN today for rates and information at (970)264-2100 or email shari@pagosasun.com.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

4 STUDDER COOPER SNOW TIRES for Subaru Outback. Used one winter. 225x60 R18. \$200 cash. (970)903-8571.

ASPEN, DOUG FIR AND PINE Free delivery. (970)903-0731.

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? Pine/ Aspen mix available. \$350 a cord or \$600 for a HUGE dump truck load! Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine and aspen. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

GOLD FOR SALE. One ounce krugerrands for sale for \$60 over spot at San Juan Trading Post. By appointment only. Ask for Ryan (970)946-2409.

LOG HOME KIT For Sale: 4 bedroom /3 bath /1,032 sq. ft. of wrap around porch. \$65,000. (817)771-6261 for specs and plans. Located in Pagosa Springs, CO.

NEW 20' CONTAINERS FOR SALE or rent. We deliver to homes or businesses. Pagosa Springs Storage (970)731-0007.

OUTDOOR VEHICLE STORAGE SPACES available. 16', 20', 25', plus indoor 12'x20'. Winter specials starting at \$60. Pagosa Springs Storage. Gated with security cameras. (970)749-1500.

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SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

LIVESTOCK

MIXED GRASS HAY for sale. \$10 per small bale. Call/text (970)903-7499.

PETS

ADOPT FROM THE Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You'll be amazed at what we have to offer, www.PagosaHumane.org.

AKC FRENCH BULLDOG PUPPIES Blue/ Gray. Ready to go Mar. 21, health tested parents, chipped, wormed, shots, lifetime support. \$3,500. (719)640-6404. www.Dun-eViewFrenchies.com.

DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM. Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

LOVING DOG CARE BY LESLIE N. Text Pet Info to (469)667-4480. Boarding, day care, drop ins, house sitting. References and reviews available. Look for info on: leslieslittles.com.

AUTOS

2013 GMC SIERRA 2500 HD SLE 4X4 extended cab. 43,000M, excellent condition, tow package, all highway miles, never used to plow, leather, 6.0L gas., \$31,000. (303)807-9672.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba



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YARD SALES

ATTENTION TREASURE HUNTERS! Lost Contact Info. Recently, I lost most of the contact information from those who reached out about Estate Sales By Elizabeth, LLC (Dropped the phone and hadn't backed things up!). If you contacted me or joined our exclusive text list, please get in touch again to stay updated on upcoming sales and deals! I will keep a paper copy this time. Text (719)291-2318 to rejoin. I apologize for the inconvenience—your next great find is waiting! Happy hunting! Follow me on Facebook also: Estate Sales by Elizabeth, LLC.

BE SURE TO CHECK for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

PRIVATE OFFICE Uptown at 543 Park Ave. 10x12 \$175 price includes utilities. (970)300-9444 or info@pagosastorage.com

TWO UNITS in West End Plaza—419 sq. ft. and 1477 sq. ft.—available the end of February. Call Gina (970)880-0910 for more info.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

2 BEDROOM 2 BATH townhome across from Pagosa Lake available Feb 1. Garage, washer/dryer, fenced backyard, and deck with a view. Pets negotiable. \$1650/month. 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. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

LONG-TERM RENTAL. Lake Pagosa/ mountain views, 2 bedrooms, 3rd bedroom/ office, 2 1/2 baths, 3 decks. \$2300/ month, some utilities included. No smoking, pets negotiable. Available March 1. (505)250-5362.

COMMERCIAL

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.

HOMES FOR SALE

3 BED 2 BATH 2 car garage. 3.9 acres. 5 shares of water. Detached 1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Great views. \$585,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

3 BED 2 BATH with office and privacy fence. Irrigation. Ignacio. \$440,500. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

HOMES FOR SALE

3 BEDROOM 2 BATH. Workshop. 20 acres. Great views of the La Plata. Ignacio. \$475,000. 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.

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

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.

.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.

VERY MOTIVATED SELLER. 4 acres. Great views, access to river. Electric near. \$175,000. Give Deb Archuleta at Archuleta Properties a call (970)903-2817.

PagosaSUN.com



All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



Photo courtesy CSU Extension
Cindi Galabota is Archuleta County's new Colorado State University Extension director.

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SILVER DOLLAR LIQUORS

CSU Extension welcomes new director

By **Cindi Galabota**
 PREVIEW Columnist

Extension Viewpoints

Hello, Archuleta County. My name is Cindi Galabota and I am your new Colorado State University (CSU) Extension director. I am very excited to serve our community in this role and look forward to getting to know you in my new position.

A little bit about me: I grew up in De Pere, Wis., a suburb of Green Bay. I fell in love with our natural world at a young age, having spent my summers at our family cabin in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. I attended Ohio Wesleyan University and have a BA in environmental studies and zoology. My husband, Scott, and I have lived in Colorado for 25 years, with the last 20 years in beautiful Pagosa Springs. Scott is a teacher at Pagosa Springs Elementary School and we feel very fortunate to be raising our two children here. Our oldest graduated from Pagosa Springs High School in 2024 and is attending CSU in Fort Collins.

I have spent the past 20 years bringing critical resources, services and programs to the people who make the fabric of our community so special. I have built homes with Habitat for Humanity, helped finance new construction with a bank, supported our businesses through the Pagosa Chamber of Commerce and, most recently, raised funds for our small but incredible Ruby Sisson Library.

I am thrilled to continue to support the people of Archuleta County through CSU Extension. I have always known the importance of CSU Extension in our community, but I did not realize the extent of its support. In fact, for over 100 years, CSU Extension has helped people in Colorado find the answers they need for a healthy home life, successful

business and thriving community.

The CSU Extension office in Archuleta County is located at the County Fairgrounds at 344 U.S. 84. We are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (we close for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.). Stop in and say hi to us!

Our staff includes Terry SchAAF, administrative assistant; Becky Jacobson, 4-H coordinator; and Tonya Steadmon, county fair coordinator.

CPR and first aid classes

CPR and first aid certification classes are offered every other month at the CSU Extension office, generally on the third Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost for the classes is \$80 for combined CPR/first aid and \$55 for CPR, first aid or recertification. Call the Extension office at (970) 246-5931 to register.

Check out the online option on our website, <https://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu/>.

Archuleta County royalty court 2025

Applications for the Archuleta County royalty court for 2025 are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 12, and tryouts are at 4 p.m. on Feb. 19. Email archuleta-countyfair@gmail.com or call (970) 264-8424 for more information and to receive an application.

For these and other events, please check out our Facebook page at Archuleta County Extension or call the office at (970) 264-5931.

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